

Cosplay contests for East European Comic Con this year will take place between 2-3 September 2023. **The General Cosplay Contest for this year will include both Solo and Group categories. Selections for the European Cosplay Gathering (ECG) will be held in the Solo and Group Categories, one entry being the winner.**

Please read the rules below.

1. General regulations.

- This set of Rules describes the exact way in which the Cosplay Contest of the East-European Comic Con will take place.
- **Each and every one of the participants must read, accept and respect the given Rules.**
- The **GROUP** cosplay competition takes place on **Saturday, 2nd of September 2023, between 12:30 and 14:00, the maximum capacity of registrations being 20.**
- The **SOLO** cosplay competition takes place on **Sunday, 3rd of September 2023, between 12:00 and 14:00, the maximum capacity of registrations being 45.**
- **Registrations will start on Monday, 10th of June 2023 and will close on Monday 17th of June, at 23:00. In the event of reaching maximum capacity before the closing date for any of the two categories, there will not be accepted any registration for that particular category.**

2. Registration

General Cosplay Competition (GCC) –

The participants for this competition must be at least 16 years old in the day of the competition. **Participants below 18 years of age must produce a written statement/declaration signed by one of their parents or legal tutors, who will authorize the under-aged competitor's participation.** The declaration will also include a copy of the Identity Card belonging to the parent/tutor who signed.

European Cosplay Gathering (ECG) –

Participants must be at least 18 years of age and of Romanian citizenship in order to participate.

- A. Registration to this Competition will be done by filling the registration form published on the [Website](#). Any registrations sent after the posted deadline will not be taken into consideration.
- B. Modifications to the registration form will only be accepted up to the final date and time of registrations. After that, all information there is considered to be final. The participation in the competition will be confirmed via email in maximum 10 days after the registration period has ended.
- C. The number and type of prizes will be:
 - a. **SOLO Category - Best solo cosplay, Best Prop, Best Technique**
 - b. **GROUP Category - Best overall, Best costumes, Best Performance**

- c. **ECG finalist**
 - d. The Comic-Con staff may add or change the prizes, in case of emergency and according to the Jury's advice.
- D. A participant will not receive two prizes on the same day (e.g. Best Technique and Best Prop at the same time).
- E. Each participant must compete with the costume they announced during their registration.

3. General conducting rules

- A. Obscene gestures or words towards the other competitors, volunteers, Jury, audience or people in charge/organizers are strictly forbidden.
- B. The participants must follow instructions given by Staff at all times. Any noncompliance will result in a penalty.
- C. The Jury's decision is final, cannot be revoked and must be accepted as such. All potential issues and disagreements can only be expressed outside the event's location, in order not to disturb the other competitors or spectators. Participants are permitted to ask the Jury for supplementary explanations in private, only after the awards ceremony has ended.
- D. All participants must be present in due time for the cosplay activities (judging and stage performance).
- E. If participants fail to show up for the competition without previously announcing at least 24 hours before the prejudging, they will be banned from competing in any Comic Con partner events for a period established by the organizers according to the gravity of the situation. An emergency phone number will be provided via email at registration.
- F. If participants fail to answer the emails sent by the organizing team that need to clarify issues regarding the registration, they will be disqualified from the competition.
- G. Those who do not respect these conducting rules will be disqualified from the contest.

4. The organization and the sequence of events of the competition

- A. Competitors may bring props to use on stage, as long as these do not interfere with the development of other performances or events which are being carried out on stage (due to their weight, heaviness or the time needed to move them around etc.). For time saving reasons, bringing and taking out the props on and off the stage must not exceed 2 minutes in total. **Competitors are not allowed with confetti, fake snow or any other props made of small parts that are hard to get off stage or hard to clean. Liquids are forbidden on stage (water guns, full bottles...), even in a closed container.**
- B. Jumping off the stage or any other stunts that may hurt participants or spectators are strictly forbidden.
- C. **Pointing weapons towards the jury members or audience during the skit is forbidden.**
- D. **For their own safety, participants are not allowed to get closer than a meter to the edge of the stage.**

E. Types of costumes accepted:

a. General Cosplay Contest (GCC)

- i. Cosplay inspired by any character (manga, anime, series, games, animations, movies etc.) or by a real person (actor, singer, media personality etc.) is accepted, as well as crossplay, genderbend cosplay. Human versions of animal characters are allowed as well, but might get lower points for resemblance with the reference, as well as genderbend versions. Cosplay inspired by fanart is allowed, as long as the artwork is made by a well-known artist and not by the cosplayers themselves.
- ii. Cross-over cosplay from any franchise, following the same rules as fanart, that the reference material may not be made by the participant.

b. European Cosplay Gathering (ECG)

- i. Participants may perform in costumes representing characters from anime, manga, comics, video games, movies, TV series, comic books, J-Music, and stage musicals. The costumes must have official reference therefore, personal creations and fanarts are not allowed in this contest.
- ii. For the ECG selections bought costumes are not allowed. All costumes presented by the participants must be hand-made at least for 80%.

F. The cosplay competition has two stages:

- a. Judging, during which the participants will meet with the members of the Jury to discuss and present their self-crafted costumes and props. This phase will take place before the stage performance **in strictly defined time intervals**, behind closed doors (public will not be permitted access). Each solo participant will have a **maximum** 3-minute time discussion with the jury. The time slot granted to the cosplayer is non-negotiable, and if missed, we will not grant another one, resulting in disqualification from the contest.
- b. Stage performance, during which the competitors will put on display the costumes they have created, together with their skits/performances. This part of the contest will be carried out in the presence of the jury and the public, on the main stage.

G. Timeframes given to the participants on stage are:

a. Solo Category - up to 1:30 minutes for each participant.

b. Group Category – i. Duo participants have 2m30 maximum.

ii. Trio participants have 3m00 maximum.

iii. Quartet participants have 3m30 maximum.

H. The cosplay area will be for judging and changing only. Storage will not be available for personal items at either location. Stage props are exempt from this policy.

I. Participants will be allowed in the cosplay area on the day of competing, together with a helper, only if necessary. The helper can also be a stage ninja and will not be counted as participant.

J. A solo participant using a Stage Ninja will have 1m30 maximum for their performance.

K. The Stage Ninja is someone selected by the participants. The Cosplay Organizers will not provide a Stage Ninja.

- L. The Stage Ninja is an assistant on stage that can help the participants in various ways. They can operate various devices or props, puppeteer stage props, assist with costume change, and many other tasks imagined by the participants, as long as they remain hidden from the audience view. Stage Ninjas are not allowed to wear any costumes.
- M. The participants from the Group category must wear costumes from characters of the same source (for example, Cloud from Final Fantasy VII and Ariel from Little Mermaid cannot belong to the same group). It is allowed to mix sources of different opuses from the same license (example Soul Calibur 2 and 3)

5. Requirements included in the registration form and useful information about it:

- A. You will need to fill in a name, nickname, email address and phone number. Nicknames will be used for introducing the participants on stage. If there is no nickname, the real name will be used.
- B. Collage of images of the chosen character for the competition (called reference photos), out of which at least one has to show the full costume (3:4 image ratio, minimum resolution demanded:800x600). These images must present different angles of the same costume, with the purpose of informing the Jury in the best way possible.
- C. Images snapped during the stages of crafting the costumes (WIP or work in progress photos), which explain to the Jury clearly the concept or the idea used by the participant (optional) – maximum 10 photos or 10 collage photos.
- D. (Optional) Image of completed costume being worn by the participant.
- E. An audio file with the sound of the skit or the performance. The format must be .mp3 to 128, 160 or 192 kbps with CBR. The audio file will be **no greater than the limits established on point 4F**. Video files are not accepted. Please do not send links to YouTube or ask us to edit your audio files. participants must provide their own audio support.
- F. A short description of the stage performance, required so that the volunteers can intervene as fast as possible, in case of need. Please do not tell us the idea behind your performance, but exactly what you plan to do on stage (e.g. I will walk from side to side and then do some fighting moves / I will do a dance the first 30 seconds and then I will do a dramatic monologue/etc.). Please try to keep it concise, you have a 500 characters limit.
- G. For a good organization, all the documents must be named according to the requests in the registration form.
- H. Other requirements and observations (props that will be brought to stage, important details etc.). EECC does not provide any stage props for the participants (except for a table and a chair if needed)! All the participants must bring their own props for the competition!
- I. **The designated time on stage for the Cosplay Contest is 1h 25 minutes for Groups and 1h 55 minutes for Solo.**

6. Judging rules for all the costumes:

- A. The share of scores is 50% craftsmanship - 50% performance:

- a. The craftsmanship score is 50% of the total and is detailed as follows: 20% resemblance to the reference (overall aspect, proportions, colors, textures), 20% technique (quality of work, choice of materials, difficulty of techniques, cleanliness of work) and 10% complexity (number of techniques and types of materials used, overall difficulty of the costume).
 - b. The performance score is 50% and is detailed as follows: 25% performance plan (how well thought is the performance, if it represents the portrayed character(s), if the props are properly used within the performance plan, sound quality) and 25% stage presence (acting and mimic, movement on the stage, lack of stage fright).
- B. The Jury members will be announced on the event's website and social media. The staff may change members of the Jury, in case of emergency. Any attempt to contact the jury before the competition with the intent of manipulating the competition results is strictly forbidden.
- C. The rules for the finals of European Cosplay Gathering (ECG) season 12 can be consulted [here](#).

7. **Weapons and costumes policies**

- A. Weapons and costumes must be created in an unprofessional manner, in order to be admitted to the contest. The term "unprofessional" means that a costume must be made by the participant, by a member of the team or by a family member, with direct involvement of the participant in the creative process.
- B. Access to the contest is allowed for bought costumes and "closet cosplay", as long as the fact is specified to the Staff and Jury. The participant should be aware that the costume itself will not be scored as part of the final grade. Participants with bought costumes that fail to notify the Staff and Jury will be disqualified and will not be allowed to participate in future editions.
- C. According to legislation, we are obliged to establish some limits for the accessories and props permitted during the contest: knives, swords, Shuriken etc. have to be made from non-metallic materials. In some particular cases, metal props are accepted, but only with the agreement of the Staff. Contact us at cosplay@comic-con.ro for details and further confirmation. The objects must not have sharp edges (the blades have to be blunt) or tips (which have to be rounded). **The bows will not have wire** and the arrows will not have pointy tips. Guns and replicas of weapons must be marked with a yellow or orange circle on their tip, indicating that they are fake.
- D. Prohibited items:
- a. Replica swords/katanas/other bladed weapons made of metal
 - b. Weapons with any type of ammunition (plastic balls, staples etc.)
 - c. Airsoft weapons
 - d. Metal chains longer than 20 centimeters (if they are longer, they must be made of another material or plastic).
 - e. Fire-crackers, fireworks, glitter, confetti, pyrotechnical devices or anything that can jeopardize the competition. **Smoke/fog machines are not allowed.**

- E. Parts of costumes that are made of metal are allowed, as long as they are not dangerous to the visitors of the convention, meaning no sharp edges or pointy edges/tips. In case somebody brings a costume that can be deemed as dangerous, the staff will kindly ask the cosplayer not to wear the costume in the venue or he/she will be asked to leave the premises. Anyone not respecting these rules will be disqualified.
- F. The performances will be PG13. Any gestures, obscene dances or with sexual implication are not allowed on stage. Exhibitionism is not accepted. Jokes with sexual innuendo are not allowed, unless the non-sexual meaning is at least as easily understood as the sexual one. Offenses will result in a penalty.
- G. Costumes must be also within public decency limits. East European Comic Con is targeting a wide audience-range (as well as under-aged children), so the performers must wear costumes which are not offensive and can be viewed by the general public. The minimum accepted is a bathing suit. Any type of thongs, see-through or very small underwear will be covered by a cape/ short pants/skirt/dress etc.
- H. The costumes worn in the competition and during the event will not have markings or reenact people or characters associated with homophobia, misogyny, misandry, racism or any other aspects that can harm human rights, ethics and integrity.

8. Clauses and final terms

- **The participants will benefit from up to a 60% discount of the final ticket value on the day they participate if they register the cosplay competition. The Confirmation of their participation in the competition will be validated only after the ticket payment.**
- Before signing up, the participants will make sure that they have read the full Regulation and that they have understood all the Rules. For any questions or issues, the e-mail address cosplay@comic-con.ro is at your service.
- The organizing team and the staff have the right to change and modify the Rules and Regulations without any prior notice.
- The exact timeframes for the judging, the stage performance and all the other events will be communicated via email to the participants and will be thoroughly respected. Please check your emails on a regular basis to see if you have received any news from our team.
- East European Comic Con reserves the right to publish media content (photos and videos) and use them to promote the event and the cosplay competition. By registering the competition and accepting the terms, the participants agree the conditions mentioned above.