



## **COMIC CON AFRICA CHAMPIONSHIPS OF COSPLAY RULES & REGULATIONS**

### **What is Cosplay?**

Cosplay is a term that comes from a combination of the word's "costume" and "play".

It gives fans a chance to express their fondness for fictional characters by dressing up and acting like their favourite characters.

Over the last six years, Cosplay has grown at a substantial rate in South Africa and throughout Africa, allowing South Africa the opportunity to compete at an international standard.

Cosplay originated in the United States of America at the 1st World Science Fiction Convention in 1939.

Cosplay is better known for its Japanese sub-culture links. Japan made it popular with their anime and manga characters and their love of visual expression.

This live-action art form is not limited to Japanese culture and we encourage people of all ages, ethnicity, shapes and sizes to join us and take part in the Comic Con Africa Championships of Cosplay.

## 2020 Championships of Cosplay Prizes

### 2020 Comic Con Africa Champion of Cosplay:

- 1 (one) VIP Ticket for C2E2 2021 (held in Chicago, USA);
- R10 000.00 (Ten thousand Rand) Cash;
- Economy Airfare to Chicago for C2E2 2021;
- Hotel accommodation for 1 (one) nights in Chicago for C2E2 2021;
- Automatic entry into the Final Round of the Crown Championships of Cosplay at C2E2 2021; and
- A Medal or trophy

### 2020 Comic Con Africa Champion of the Needlework Division:

- 2 (two) 4-Day Tickets for Comic Con Africa 2021;
- R3 500.00 (Three thousand five hundred rand) Cash; and
- A Medal or trophy

### 2020 Comic Con Africa Champion of the Armour Division:

- 2 (two) 4-Day Tickets for Comic Con Africa 2021;
- R3 500.00 (Three thousand five hundred rand) Cash; and
- A Medal or trophy

### 2020 Comic Con Africa Champion of the Construction Division:

- 2 (two) 4-Day Tickets for Comic Con Africa 2021;
- R3 500.00 (Three thousand five hundred rand) Cash; and
- A Medal or trophy

### 2020 Comic Con Africa Champion of the Masters Division:

- 2 (two) 4-Day Tickets for Comic Con Africa 2021;
- R3 500.00 (Three thousand five hundred rand) Cash; and
- A Medal or trophy.

**No Cosplays, or remakes of cosplay that have placed in ANY previous South African cosplay competition(s) may enter.**

**Please note that if you want to be considered for Cosplay Champion, you must enter either “Solo” or “Masters” as well as “Construction”.**

**Please note that it is not guaranteed that you will be judged by the international judges before the finals.**

**Please note that the previous year’s Comic Con Africa Champion of Cosplay (the overall winner) will not be eligible to compete for 1 (one) year after they have placed. Therefore, the Champion of Cosplay for 2019 will not, as any character, be eligible to compete in 2019 and will only be eligible to compete again in 2021. The Champion of Cosplay for 2020 will not be eligible to compete in 2021 and will only be eligible to compete again in 2022.**

**Please note each contestant can only enter 1 (one) Cosplay into the Competition. You can enter the same Cosplay into multiple divisions.**

## When and Where?

The Championships of Cosplay will be held on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at Comic Con Africa, hosted by Reed Exhibitions and Reedpop at Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand, South Africa. The competition finals will take place on the main stage on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

All entrants need to check-in with GES at the registration desk located at Cosplay Central at any time from the Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and at least 1 (one) hour before their judging time slot.

You can confirm your registration and receive your entry badge at this time.

**No entry/registrations will take place over the weekend, you must register online!  
No cash will be accepted on the day!**

All entrants, except the skits division, will be judged in the judging room near Cosplay Central throughout Thursday (24<sup>th</sup> September 2020) and Friday (25<sup>th</sup> September 2020). An email will be sent out to all participants, confirming the judging times a week prior to the event (17<sup>th</sup> September 2020).

The skit division judging takes place at content zone 1, Hall 4 on Friday (25<sup>th</sup> September 2020) afternoon. An email will be sent out confirming the judging order for skits a week before the event (17<sup>th</sup> September 2020).

The finals and prize giving ceremony will take place on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 12:00. If you have made it into the finals you will receive an email and SMS on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020 informing you.

Successful contestants will need to be at the finals judging on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020 in the Cosplay entered into the competition. Judging will be done in the form of a stage show.

If you make it to the finals, you will be required to bring a 100-word description of your Cosplay (how you made it) that will be read out by the emcee. This must be **TYPED** and **PRINTED** on an A4 piece of paper and given to the organisers on the day of the finals. If we do not receive this in the requested format you may not be allowed to go on stage as it is part of the finals judging process.

**Please do not contact us via email during the Event as we will not be able to respond to your query. All queries will be dealt with at the information area at Cosplay Central.**

**Please note that if you pull out of the Cosplay competition at any point you will not receive a refund on your entry fee.**

## Eligibility to enter the Contest

### Eligibility

- By entering the contest, you agree to abide by the rules herein and the general expo/event rules as set out by Comic Con Africa, Reed Pop and Gallagher Convention Centre. We reserve the right to disqualify any entrant for reckless conduct or the non-adherence or transgression of any rules.
- All participants must obtain their own Comic Con Africa tickets before the Event. Tickets are available through Howler and entrants must be available on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020 for judging and for the finals and the prize-giving ceremony that will take place on the stage on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- We may make concessions for non-Johannesburg-based entrants; however, this will be at the discretion of the organisers. Such allowances may result in additional costs (such as shipping costs for prizes) which may be for the account of the winner.
- By registering for the Comic Con Africa Championships of Cosplay, you agree to allow GES, Comic Con Africa, Reedpop, Reed Exhibitions and any sponsors and/or partners they have to use your images, stills and videos for promotional and administrative purposes on any platform or medium. By entering the Comic Con Africa Championships of Cosplay, you agree that such images / video material may be utilized without prior consent or editing. You therefore agree that you willingly consent to such use and that any such use shall not be regarded as an infringement on your privacy in any manner whatsoever.
- Staff and members of GES and its sponsors may enter the Championships of Cosplay contest as long as their staff duties are fulfilled. Comic Con Africa Cosplay judges, family members of judges and contest administrative staff and direct prize sponsors may not enter the Comic Con Africa Championships of Cosplay contest.
- The judges are in no way affiliated with GES, its sponsors / partners, the organiser, Comic Con Africa, Reedpop and Reed Exhibitions.
- The judges' decisions are final and shall not be subject to any review or appeal.

## Comprehensive Rules

### Rules: General

The rules as listed below shall be applicable to Cosplayers who are entering the Comic Con Africa Championships of Cosplay 2020. The said rules shall not be applicable to general Cosplayers dressing up for the convention / Event (if you are Cosplaying but do not wish to enter the contest, you are free to do so).

**No Cosplays, or remakes of cosplay that have placed in ANY previous South African cosplay competition(s) may enter.**

- GES, Comic Con Africa, Reed Exhibitions, Reedpop and/or the event organisers are not responsible for any Cosplayers or their props.
- Cosplayers need to be responsible and courteous to other expo / event visitors.
- Comic Con Africa is a family friendly event.
- Cosplays may not exceed a PG -13 rating. If you feel unsure that your Cosplay meets these standards, please contact GES for further information.
- Contestants are responsible for all expenses related to competing in the Comic Con Africa Championships of Cosplay 2020 including but not limited to all lodging and travel to and from Gallagher Convention Centre.

- Entrants must provide a written description that the emcee will read during their appearance on stage. This may describe the details of the Cosplay and / or provide a story about the character being portrayed.  
You may offer details about the construction process, materials, number of work hours spent on the creation, or anything else of interest that might impress the judges and fans. This description is limited to *100 (one hundred) words* and will not be read should it exceed the said number of words allowed. This needs to be *typed out and printed* on an A4 sheet. The content of the description shall be the responsibility of the participant, Comic Con Africa, Reed Exhibitions, Reedpop and GES shall not be held liable or responsible should the content be inaccurate, defaming or infringing on any copyright laws. The participant therefore indemnifies the organiser, Comic Con Africa, Reed Exhibitions, Reedpop and GES against any claims that may arise as a result of the content submitted by the participant.
- Cosplays cannot promote:
  - sexual misconduct and / or the incitement thereof,
  - alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco,
  - firearms / weapons (or the use of any of the foregoing),
  - any activities that may appear unsafe or dangerous,
  - any particular political agenda, hate speech, or similar message.
- Cosplays cannot depict, and cannot itself, be in violation of any law.
- Please refrain from wearing and / or using any substances that may potentially interfere with another participant's Cosplay. If you are wearing body paint and / or make-up, please make sure it will not come in contact with others. Do not bring anything on stage that could damage the other participants' Cosplays. Do not leave anything on stage at any time before or after your appearance.
- Nudity will not be accepted.  
All Cosplays should provide enough coverage to be worn in public and should be in good taste and appropriate for a family-friendly show. Gore, graphic violence and / or other objectionable elements may be grounds for disqualification as determined by the judges or Comic Con Africa Staff. Such decisions shall be final. Please contact GES if you have concerns around whether your Cosplay is suitable or not.
- Wings, large props, and / or large Cosplays will be allowed as long as they do not exceed 2,5m (two comma five meters) in height and 2m (two meters) in width.  
If possible, make wings and other parts that form part of your Cosplay detachable. We request that you be safe and aware while on stage. Each contestant will be responsible for ALL damages to the stage, lighting, technical aspects or any Gallagher Convention Centre property, should the damage be caused by the contestant and / or their Cosplays. By entering and participating in the contest; you indemnify and hold harmless the organiser, Comic Con Africa, Reed Exhibitions, Reedpop and GES for any damages directly or indirectly caused by yourself and / or suffered by you as a result of such participation, including but not limited to injury, illness, allergic reactions or death as the case may be.
- Your Cosplay must allow for movement with only limited assistance.
- Your Cosplay may not impede your ability to get on and off stage. Furthermore, your Cosplay cannot be constructed on stage.
- Offensive language of any kind is not allowed— racial and / or sexual epithets or profanity will not be allowed and may lead to removal and immediate disqualification from the competitions and removal from Comic Con Africa.
- No sexual activity or contact, real or implied, will be allowed and may lead to removal and immediate disqualification from the contest and Comic Con Africa.

- Comic Con Africa, Reed Exhibitions, Reedpop and GES reserves the right to cancel, suspend and / or modify the contest, or any part thereof, if any fraud, technical failures and / or any other factors beyond Comic Con Africa, Reed Exhibitions, Reedpop and GES's reasonable control and that may impair the integrity or proper functioning of the Contest, as determined by GES SA or Comic Con Africa in its sole discretion. Comic Con Africa reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify any individual if there is evidence of tampering with the entry process and / or the operation of the contest; or to be acting in violation of the official rules of this or any other connected / partner promotion or in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner. Any attempt by any person to deliberately undermine the legitimate operation of the contest may be a violation of criminal and civil law, and, should such an attempt be made, Comic Con Africa, Reed Exhibitions, Reedpop and GES reserve the right to seek damages from any such person to the fullest extent permitted by law. Comic Con Africa, Reed Exhibitions, Reedpop and GES's failure to enforce any term of these official rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision.
- Limitations of Liability: Comic Con Africa, Reed Exhibitions, Reedpop and GES is not responsible for: (1) any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by entrants, typographical errors, printing errors and / or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the Contest; (2) technical failures of any kind, including, but not limited to malfunctions, interruptions, or disconnections in phone lines or network hardware or software; (3) unauthorized human intervention in any part of the entry process or the Contest; (4) technical or human error which may occur in the administration of the Contest or the processing of entries; or (5) any injury or damage to persons or property, which may be caused, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, from any entrant's participation in the Contest or receipt or use or misuse of any prize. If for any reason an entrant's entry is confirmed to have been erroneously deleted, lost, or otherwise destroyed or corrupted, the entrant's sole remedy is another entry in the Contest, if it is possible. If the contest, or any part of it, is discontinued for any reason, Comic Con Africa, Reed Exhibitions, Reedpop and GES or any associated Sponsor, in its sole discretion, may elect to hold a random draw from among all eligible entries received up to the date of discontinuance for the prize(s) offered herein.
- Be clever, not crass! If you think your Cosplay or presentation might be too risqué or offensive, it probably is. If you have a question about your content, please feel free to ask GES if it is allowable.
- Contestants may not use stage time to make any political, religious, sexist, racist, insulting, and / or other demonstrations unrelated to their performance. If this is done it may lead to your immediate disqualification from the competition and removal from Comic Con Africa.
- Providing false information on the registration form could disqualify you. We respect your privacy and won't use your contact details for anything other than this event. You are protected by your local data protection laws.
- We reserve the right to close registration at any time and / or in the event that the maximum capacity of entries is reached.
- Contest organisers reserve the right to update the rules if needed to abide by external rules and / or due to legal implications, as and when brought to our attention.
- All decisions made by the organisers are final. Comic Con Africa, Reed Exhibitions, Reedpop, GES and sponsors/partners reserve the right to disqualify any entrant on reasonable grounds pertaining to the Cosplay rules, conduct, irresponsible behaviour and / or any other matter we deem plausible.
- The Judges' decisions are final, and winners will be announced during the prize giving of the Comic Con Africa Championships of Cosplay show taking place on the main stage on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020.



Non-contestant Cosplayers must adhere to the expo / event rules which include:

- Outfits must be family friendly;
- Weaponry and props must be safe;
- Cosplayers must respect other Cosplayers and expo visitors; and
- Comic Con Africa is not responsible for the behaviour of its patrons towards Cosplayers although we will respond to any requests for assistance.

Rules: Weaponry and Special Effects

- No fire, flame, smoke, fog, dry ice, wind machines, lasers, pressurized gasses or liquids, unless pre-approved by both GES and Comic Con Africa's fire marshal and / or show security may be brought on site or used during the contest. These may only be used for final on-stage performances.
- No messy substances that are wet, dry, or oily may be used.
- The use of any bodily fluids (including but not limited to blood and saliva) is strictly prohibited for health and hygiene reasons. Any, and all, Cosplays and props are subject to random checks by Comic Con Africa security and health and safety officials at their discretion and should such Cosplays not comply with the aforementioned rules, it may be confiscated with immediate effect until end of day. Failure to adhere to the rules may result in your removal from Comic Con Africa.
- Entrants must abide by the following general weapons policy:
  - Whilst walking around the convention / event, ALL weapons must to be sheathed, concealed and safety tipped or otherwise made non-lethal. This includes fake weapons with sharp points, edges or excessive weighted bulk.
  - You may draw your weapons at the convention for photographs, but you are then required to put them away again for safety reasons.
  - Pointing weapons at anyone not Cosplaying is not allowed, unless they give express permission in the case of a photo or video being taken.
  - Weapons may be displayed for photos, videos, judging and stage performances without safety measures in place, provided that the person acts responsibly. This is at the discretion of the organisers.
  - Weaponry may be confiscated (until end of day) if the organisers receive complaints or feel that the object is a danger to others.
  - Cosplayers are responsible for the handling and safety of ALL props or weapons brought into the expo. Any injuries to other expo-goers will be dealt with severely. Comic Con Africa, Reed Exhibitions, Reedpop, GES and sponsors / partners are not liable for any injuries, loss, theft or damage incurred.
- At the discretion of security on site, the following may be allowed:
  - Plastic and metal shields;
  - Lightweight plastic / lightweight PVC props / lightsabres;
  - Toy guns, as long as they do not look like real ones and cannot function or shoot projectiles and have an orange tip on the barrel. The barrel of all prop firearms must be covered with a brightly coloured cap/s;
  - Prop bows will be allowed provided that all arrows have soft tips made of foam or cardboard.

If any of the above items are deemed unsafe by Comic Con Africa, Reed Exhibitions, Reedpop and / or GES, they will not be allowed inside the venue. The said items will only be allowed as long as they are deemed safe and will not cause harm onsite to any other parties at the event.

- The following items are forbidden at Comic Con Africa:
  - Functional firearms (including but not limited to air soft guns, BB guns, cap guns, paintball guns and pellet guns);
  - Realistic replica firearms (including but not limited to reproduction, fake or toy guns that can be confused for functional firearms);
  - Functional projectile weapons (including but not limited to blow guns, crossbows, long bows, silly string, slingshots, water balloons and water guns);
  - Sharpened metal-bladed weapons (including but not limited to axes, daggers, hatchets, knives, kunai, shuriken, swords, sword canes and switch blades);
  - Explosives (including but not limited to firecrackers, PopPops, fireworks, or smoke bombs);
  - Chemical weapons (including but not limited to mace and pepper spray and stink bombs);
  - Blunt weapons (including but not limited to brass knuckles, clubs and nunchaku);
  - Hard prop weapons (including but not limited to props made of metal, heavy chain, fiberglass, PVC, wood and glass);
  - Instruments that cause excessive noise levels like vuvuzelas, grenade whistles, airhorns and grenade horns;
  - Whips;
  - Aerosol mustard (including but not limited to spray paint cans, aerosol cans, pepper spray, mace); and
  - Drones.

#### Rules: 3D Printing

3D printed props and armour are allowed to be entered into the contest as long as they adhere to the following conditions:

- The prop / armour needs to be assembled, painted and finished by the Cosplayer.
- If it has been commissioned from a 3D printing company, the Cosplayer will have to submit a certificate / letter from the company stating that they only did the printing of the piece(s).
- Cosplayers that own their own 3D printer will be required to submit progress pictures of the Cosplay piece(s) being printed.

#### Portfolio

Comic Con Africa will place images of each contestant that is entering the Comic Con Africa Championships of Cosplay on their website before the competition. The following will be required from each contestant:

- A picture of the contestant in or out of Cosplay. This picture does not need to be of the Cosplay that the contestant is entering into the competition.
- The name that will be shown on the website is the contestant's preferred name. This will be filled in by the Cosplayer on the entry forms.



## Finals

On Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020 the championship finals will be held on the main stage.

All those who have taken part in the contest need to be available to take part in the final judging on that day. Below is the procedure on how this will take place:

- On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020 the top 5 (five) from each category will be contacted via phone call / SMS and email by one of the GES Cosplay administrators.
- The top 5 (five) contestants in each category will need to be available for the final judging that will take place on the main stage at Comic Con Africa on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- The contestants will be required to wear the Cosplay that has been entered into the competition on that day for the judging and the stage show.
- Finalists will be required to have a 100-word description of their Cosplay that will be read out to the judges and crowd by the emcee on the day during the stage show. This needs to be **TYPED** out and **PRINTED** on an A4 sheet. If descriptions are not in the format mentioned above, the relevant finalist may not be able to go on stage for the final judging at the organiser's discretion.

## **How to Enter**

You can only enter online – there won't be any "on-the-day" registrations due to the time it takes to process the entries and judging time. No cash whatsoever will be accepted on site. All payments must be made in advance by the stipulated date/s.

**No Cosplays, or remakes of cosplay that have placed in ANY previous South African cosplay competition(s) may enter.**

**Please note that if you want to be considered for Cosplay Champion, you have to enter either "Solo" or "Masters" as well as "Construction".**

All Cosplays entered must fall within one of the following categories to be valid:

- Pop Culture: Fictional character from any comic book, TV series or movie, movie, cartoon or novel. This is not limited to any geographical location. It can include characters from Bollywood and Korean Dramas as an example.
- Gaming: Fictional character from any game from any platform (computer, console, mobile, tabletop, card game, etc.)
- Anime/Manga: Fictional character from any Japanese sub-culture (printed, written or animated). Those doing Korean/Chinese characters from written or animated formats fall under this category
- OC: Original Character of your own creation.

Should you choose to Cosplay an OC (Original Character) the following will also be needed:

- Provide the judges with a character bio and be prepared to explain how your OC fits into a fictional universe.

## Divisions Overview

### Main Entry Divisions

Each entry will be counted separately and will have a separate entry fee. There are 6 (six) main entry divisions – see the Detailed Divisions Breakdown below for further information:

- Solo (for the individual, will be considered for Cosplay champion);
- Construction (for the individual that only wants to be judged on how the Cosplay was put together)
- Group (for groups consisting of 2 or more people. Cannot be considered for Cosplay champion);
- Skit (for performers, cannot be considered for Cosplay champion);
- Representation (cannot be considered for Cosplay champion); and
- Master (All master Cosplayers to enter this division and they will be considered for Cosplay champion).

### Sub-Divisions

After you have chosen which division you would like to compete in you need to choose which sub-division you would like to compete in. This is a section that has been added in order to create different judging breakdowns for each section.

- Needlework Cosplay (only within solo and masters); and
- Armour Cosplay (only within solo and masters).

All judging sheets can be found below to ensure the process is transparent.

### Skill Levels

After you have chosen your division and your sub-division, please choose which skill level you would like to compete under.

- Beginner/Novice (casual);
- Intermediate (experienced); and
- Masters (semi-professional and professional. This skill level is only available for the Construction division).

**Please note that if you want to be considered for Cosplay Champion, you have to enter either “Solo” or “Masters” as well as “Construction”.**

## Detailed Breakdown of Divisions

### Solo Division

- If entering the Solo Division, you will need to complete the online solo entry form, pay the appropriate fee and register at the registration area at Cosplay Central at least 1 (one) hour before your judging slot at the event.
- You may enter the same Cosplay in the Solo Division as well as the Skit Division. Each entry counts as a separate entry and will be subject to separate entry fees and prize allocations.
- Solo Division scores will be considered for Cosplay champion.

Construction Division

- If entering in the construction division, you will need to complete the online Cosplay construction division entry form, pay the appropriate fee and register at the registration area at Cosplay Central at least 1 (one) hour before your judging slot at the event.
- This is a separate contest that runs alongside the Cosplay contest that focusses on the Cosplay's construction only.
- Only handmade Cosplays qualify and need to be entered by the Cosplay maker.
- The Cosplay needs to be at least 75% crafted.
- The creator/maker of the Cosplay may enter their Cosplay whether they are entered into the main Cosplay contest or not. Enter using the online form only.
- The Cosplay will need to be presented and modelled for the judges by the Cosplay maker or a model of their choice. The model will be considered a prop for the purpose of showing off the Cosplay.
- Construction division scores will be considered along with the entries from Solo or Masters Divisions scores for the Cosplay champion.

Groups Division

- Groups need to assign a group leader who is responsible for the payment and registration of the group.
- Group leaders will need to complete the online group entry form, pay the appropriate fee(s) and register the group at the registration area at Cosplay Central at least 1 (one) hour before your judging slot at the event.
- Each member of the group will need to pay an entry fee. If the group is made up of 3 people, you will need to pay R300.00 for the group.
- You may enter as a group even if someone in the group has entered the Solo, Skit, Construction or Representation contest as well.
- Groups will be judged as a group and not by individual participants, although each member of the group may be looked at individually during judging
- Groups may not enter the Construction Division. That division is only for individuals.
- If one member of the group is disqualified, the entire group may be disqualified.
- The cost for groups is the same rate as for individuals. Each person in the group will need to pay his/her registration fee. This needs to be paid together as one amount.
- **Groups will NOT be considered for Cosplay Champion.**

Skit Division

- Skits are a separate division and require a separate entry form.
- Skits can be entered as solo or a group.
- Commissioned or bought Cosplays may be entered under this division ONLY.
- When entering in the Skit Division, you will need to complete the online skit entry form, pay the appropriate fee and register at the registration area at Cosplay Central at least 1 (one) hour before your judging slot at the event.
- If you enter as a group each member of the group will need to pay an entry fee. If the group is made up of 3 people you will need to pay R300.00 for the group.
- Skit Division requires you to do a performance as part of your marking criteria.
- Skits may not be longer than 2,5 (two and a half) minutes for solo skit entries.
- Skits may not be longer than 3 minutes for groups of 2 – 4 (two to four) and no more than 4 (four) minutes for groups larger than 4 (four).
- If you go over the time limit points will be deducted from your final score.

- Skits will **NOT** be allowed during the 1-on-1 judging process. They must be entered into the skit division and performed on the stage on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020 in the afternoon. Times will be communicated.
- Music for a skit must be provided in a high-quality MP4 format only, and MP4 format for videos. These need to be emailed or sent via WeTransfer, Google Drive or Dropbox to [Cosplay@ges-sa.com](mailto:Cosplay@ges-sa.com) at least two weeks before the competition and no later than 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020. This is so we can ensure that the videos and / or music work and can be given to the stage managers to be successfully played on the day. We cannot accept any videos or music on the day.
- Please note that you will not lose any marks if you do not have any music or video aspects during your skit.
- Skits will **NOT** be considered for Cosplay champion.

### Representation

- If entering in the representation division you will need to complete the online representation division entry form, pay the appropriate fee and register at the registration area at Cosplay Central at least 1 (one) hour before your judging slot at the event.
- This division has **NO** skill levels.
- This division allows those who have bought and commissioned Cosplays to enter, though you can also enter this division if you have made the Cosplay yourself.
- The focus of this division is for those who can embody a character. You will be judged on your overall look and how well you can become or act like the character.
- This differs from skit as you **MUST** be able to do improvisation in your character's specific style as the judges will request you to do specific tasks such as: how would your character act during a plane crash.
- There is a separate prize for this division.
- Representation division scores will **NOT** be considered for Cosplay champion.

### Master Division

**Those entering under masters will go through a screening process beforehand. This means that even if you apply to compete under masters you may be moved to a different category. Those who qualify after the screening can then compete under this division.**

- There will be no sub-division prizes i.e. Needlework and Armour. However, you will still be required to select a sub-division in order to get the correct marking sheet.
- There you will be required to submit a planning schedule/portfolio 1 (one) week before the competition and no later than 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 so as to give the judges time to read through it and prepare for your judging slot. Points will be awarded for the quality of prep work and planning that goes into the Cosplay. This portfolio should include pictures and details of how you went about designing and creating your Cosplay and can also contain information regarding specific skills or techniques that you used or had to learn in order to complete this Cosplay.
- If you do not submit a portfolio you can still compete on the day, but you will not get marks for that section.
- No portfolios will be accepted on the day.
- At least 90% of the Cosplay has to be crafted.
- If entering in the Master Cosplayer Division you will need to complete the online Master Cosplayer entry form, pay the appropriate fee and register at the registration area at Cosplay Central at least 1 (one) hour before your judging slot at the event.
- Master division scores will be considered for the Cosplay champion.

## Sub-Divisions

In order to ensure fair judging, we have sub-divisions. Please make sure you select the appropriate sub-division on your entry form as you will be judged accordingly. If you feel that your Cosplay fits into both divisions, please select the division you would most like to highlight on the Cosplay. (i.e. if you think the needlework aspects were more detailed or harder to make than the armour aspects select that division.)

### Needlework Cosplay

- Cosplays that are 70% sewn/cloth material compete under this division.
- Sewn/cloth Cosplays contain fabric materials such as cotton, twill, mini matt, linen, etc.
- A unique marking sheet is created for this division in which the judges focus on sewing aspects.
- You can enter this section even if there are armour aspects on the Cosplay as long as the majority of the Cosplay is sewn/cloth.
- Needlework division scores will still be considered for the Cosplay champion.

### Armour Cosplay

- Cosplays that are 70% armour compete under this division.
- Armour Cosplays contain materials such as EVA Foam, craft board, cardboard, thermoplastics etc.
- A unique marking sheet is created for this division in which the judges focus on armour aspects.
- You can enter this section even if there are sewn/cloth aspects on the Cosplay as long as the majority of the Cosplay is armour.
- Armour Division scores will be considered for the Cosplay champion.

## Skill Levels

In an attempt to ensure fair judging, we have skill levels. Please make sure you select the appropriate skill level on your entry form as you will be judged accordingly.

The judges have the power to move you to a higher skill level.

### Master (Semi-Professional to Professional)

- The Master level is intended for skilled Cosplayers with significant to extensive Cosplay experience and/or at least one or several Cosplay related awards.
- Professional actors and actresses or groups who perform or Cosplay professionally at or outside the convention circuit are required to compete at this level.
- Professional Cosplayers, tailors, patternmakers, seamstresses or people who take commissions for creating Cosplays or other clothing are required to compete at this level if entering the Cosplay division.
- Cosplayers/crafters with significant experience making Cosplays may enter this division.
- At least 90% of the outfit must be crafted.
- Those competing under masters must submit a portfolio at least 1 (one) week beforehand. This is to allow the judges time to read through the portfolios. Please also note that the portfolio has to be in a PDF format that does not exceed 15MB in size. The portfolio must not have a lock on it or be password protected as we need to be able to print the portfolios to have available for the judges in the judging room in Cosplay Central on the judging day so that they may refer to it.

- If there are any Cosplayers who use the same portfolio for Patreon rewards or any other rewards, please note that we at Comic Con Africa and GES will not hand them out to anyone other than the judges and will not distribute them online or physically to anyone. You are protected by local data protection laws.
- Anyone who chooses to enter in this division may do so but please note that there is a screening process beforehand. You will receive an email stating if you have passed the screening process or not.

#### Intermediate (Moderate)

- The Intermediate level is intended for people with some Cosplay experience that is not a first-timer or novice.
- Intermediate entrants must have previously entered into at least two Cosplay competition, even if they never won anything.
- Cosplay makers with some sewing or designing experience must enter under this skill level for the Cosplay division.
- At least 75% of the outfit has to be crafted or have been altered.
- Anyone who chooses to compete in this division may do so.

#### Novice (Casual)

- The Novice level is intended for first time Cosplayers or a Cosplayer's first time entering into a Cosplay contest, who may or may not have Cosplayed casually before.
- It is also for those who have never entered a Cosplay contest before or only entered once before and are now entering casually.
- First time Cosplay makers with little to no sewing/crafting experience must enter this skill level for the Cosplay contest.
- At least 60% of the Cosplay must be crafted or have been altered.
- Anyone who chooses to compete in this division may do so.

### **The Judging Process and Marking Sheet**

Entrants are required to be present on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and/or Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020 for judging. Judging will take place throughout the day on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020. You will be required to book a time slot for your meeting with the judges (as per the registration form. If you miss your judging session, you may be disqualified. Judging sessions may run late and if so, you are required to wait.

**No Cosplays, or remakes of cosplay that have placed in ANY previous South African cosplay competition(s) may enter.**

**Please note that if you want to be considered for Cosplay Champion, you have to enter either "Solo" or "Masters" as well as "Construction".**

All judging, except skits, will take place by an independent panel in a semi-private setting in a 1-on-1 basis. Skits judging will take place on the stage. Please note that any entry may be reclassified by the judges if they feel it is appropriate.

Entrants will need to schedule their time with the judges by booking a time slot online when registering. You will be notified by email to confirm your time slot prior to the event.



On the day:

- You must register at Cosplay Central when you arrive at the event at least 1 (one) hour prior to your time slot.
- When arriving for your time slot on the day, you will be allocated on a first–come, first-served basis.
- You will need to be dressed and ready 1 (one) hour before your judging slot.
- If you miss your time slot, we cannot guarantee time to reschedule and you may forfeit your entry.
- Judging slot times may run late. We will do our best to avoid delays, but should they happen, you are required to wait in the designated area until you are called upon.

### Marking Sheets: Solo Divisions

#### Needlework Division:

Below is the marking sheet for the Needlework Division. Those who have entered under Novice and Intermediate will use the sheet below.

Judging Criteria	Score
Neatness	10
Construction	10
Fit	10
Character Portrayal	10
Overall	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

Masters needlework will have a similar marking sheet except there will be a section for portfolio making the total out of 50 for Masters.

#### Armour Division:

Below is the marking sheet for the Armour Division. Those who have entered under Novice and Intermediate will use the sheet below.

Judging Criteria	Score
Neatness	10
Construction	10
Finishes	10
Character Portrayal	10
Overall	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

Masters armour will have a similar marking sheet except there will be a section for portfolio making the total out of 50 for masters.

Construction Division:

Below is the marking sheet for the Construction Division. Those who have entered under Novice, Intermediate and Masters will use the sheet below.

<b>Judging Criteria</b>	<b>Score</b>
Neatness	10
Construction	10
Techniques	10
Overall	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>

Representation Division:

Below is the marking sheet for the Representation Division.

<b>Judging Criteria</b>	<b>Score</b>
Presentation	10
Character Portrayal	10
Overall	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

Group Division:

Below is the marking sheet for the Group Division.

<b>Judging Criteria</b>	<b>Score</b>
Neatness	10
Construction	10
Group Presentation	10
Character Portrayal	10
Overall	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

Skit Division:

Below is the marking sheet for the Skit Division.

<b>Judging Criteria</b>	<b>Score</b>
Outfit/Cosplay	10
Presentation	10
Entertainment Value	10
Character Portrayal	10
Overall	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

For a complete breakdown of what the judges will be looking at please refer to the marking booklet.

## Marks

Your marks and judges' feedback will be made available 1 (one) week after the Cosplay competition and will be available for you to receive at any point for up to 1 (one) year after the event. You can request your results by emailing which competition you would like your results for, your name and entry number to [Cosplay@ges-sa.com](mailto:Cosplay@ges-sa.com)

Please note that we do not provide the judges' names on the feedback and results and no contestant is allowed to contact the judges after the competition to dispute their results. All enquires/disputes will be handled by GES and you can email [Cosplay@ges-sa.com](mailto:Cosplay@ges-sa.com) if you have any complaints or comments.

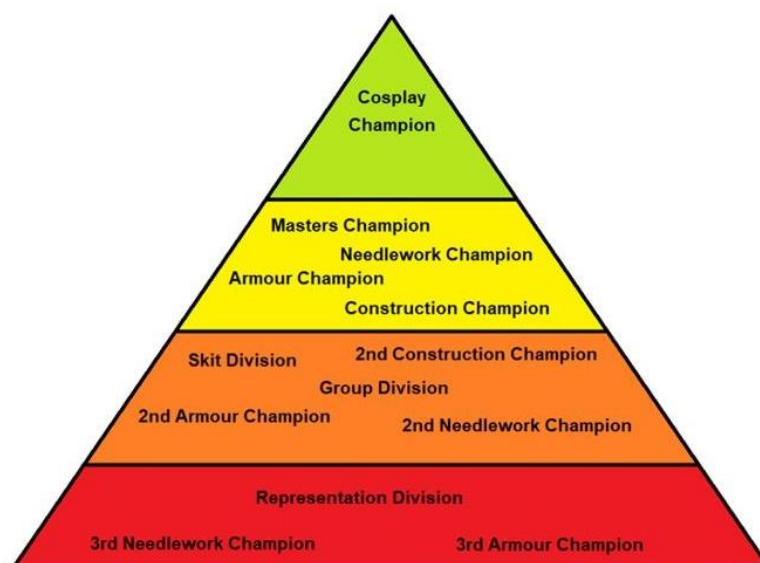
## Prizes

Cosplay champion prizes as listed on page two (2). Please be aware that the Cosplay champion will be representing Comic Con Africa at the C2E2 Crown Championships of Cosplay in 2021. The winner will need to adhere to C2E2's Cosplay rules and regulations.

Prizes will be awarded for each division namely: Needlework, Armour and Masters as mentioned on page two (2).

There are separate prizes for the Skit, Representation, and Masters Divisions.

- Winners will be picked out of the various skill levels such as Novice and Intermediate for the Needlework and Armour Divisions.
- Any possible additional prizes have not as yet been confirmed and will be announced at a later date.
- The Youth and Representation Divisions will receive the lower value in prizes.
- If a group should win, one prize will be awarded, and it will be up to the group as to how to divide or share it among themselves. No additional prizes will be awarded to groups.
- Cosplay champion is the total highest marks from Needlework and Armour Divisions (Novice and Intermediate contestants are considered for Cosplay champion) and Masters. Those who have entered Masters will have the portfolio marks removed from their total marks when considered for Cosplay champion.
- If you place as the overall champion, you will not be eligible to win any of the other prizes.
- Each entrant is only eligible to win one prize.



We will also have the following certificate prizes:

- Best Wig
- Best Prop
- Best Newcomer
- Green Leaf (best use of recyclable materials on the Cosplay)
- Most Creative Techniques
- Judges' Favourite

### Skits Stage Show

Only Skit Division entrants will be allowed on the stage to do their skits on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020. All other Cosplayers will not be allowed on stage unless called upon to accept an award or are a finalist.

Those performing are to gather behind and to the right of the stage 30 minutes before the skit's competition will start. If the contestants are not in the correct place 30 minutes for your skit, you may not be able to compete as we will remove your audio visual from the line up and it may become difficult to read you without that context. **Please make sure you arrive on time.**

### Stage Rules

- You won't be able to change the lighting or stage layout, so prepare accordingly. Stage layout will be communicated with entrants as soon as it has been confirmed.
- Respect other Cosplayers participating in the ceremony and that need to get to and onto the stage.
- Although we do our best to make the stage show run smoothly, mistakes and errors do happen. We rely on 3<sup>rd</sup> parties to assist with the event. We appreciate your understanding.
- No jumping on or off stage – please use the officially designated stage entrances and exits ONLY.
- When called up to perform or to receive a prize, please follow instructions and remember to pause for photos and videos before leaving the stage.
- In the event that you are unable to collect your prize, you will be contacted after the event to arrange delivery.
- The use of smoke machines, smoke bombs, liquids, confetti, streamers, explosives, projectiles, and fire are prohibited on stage and in the venue.

### Finals

On Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020 the finals will be held on the main stage at 12:00. All those who have taken part in the contest need to be available to take part in the final judging on that day. Below is the procedure on how this will take place:

- On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020 the top 5 (five) from each category will be contacted via phone call/SMS and email by one of the GES Cosplay Administrators.
- These top 5 (five) contestants in each category will need to be available for the final judging that will take place on the main stage at Comic Con Africa on the Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- You will be required to wear the Cosplay that you entered into the competition on that day for the judging and the stage show.

- You will be required to have a 100-word description of your Cosplay that will be read out to the judges and crowd by the emcee on the day during the stage show. This has to be **TYPED** out and **PRINTED** on an A4 sheet. If it is not in this format you may not be allowed to go on stage as this is an important part of the judging.
- After this final judging we will go straight into the prize giving.

### Additional Information

#### Payment

- If you would like to cancel your entry from the Cosplay competition at any point you will not receive a refund on your entry fee.
- There is an entry fee of R100.00 to compete in the Comic Con Africa 2020 Championship of Cosplay. Should you wish to make a cash deposit the fee is R105.00 to cover bank charges.
- You will need to pay for each division you enter. For example, if you enter Solo, Representation and Skit divisions you will need to pay for all three of them at once so your total will come to R300.00.
- Each member of a group will need to pay an entry fee. This applies to those who have entered the Group Division or have entered Skit Division with a group. So, if the group is made up of 3 people you will need to pay R300.00 for the group.
- We **DO NOT ACCEPT CASH** at the registration table at the event.
- You can pay via EFT payment directly into our account. Payment needs to be made no later than Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 to give sufficient time for the deposit to clear. Please send the proof of payment to [Cosplay@ges-sa.com](mailto:Cosplay@ges-sa.com) once payment has been made.
- All payments must be done before Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, if we have not received your payment or proof of payment by this date you will not be allowed to compete.
- We accept cash deposits, but you must include the cash deposit fee mentioned above.

#### Banking Details:

Gaming Entertainment Solutions Nedbank,

Greenstone Branch Code: 102210

A/C: 1077626126

Business Current Account

Ref: CCA20 + Your Name

Please email your proof of payment to [Cosplay@ges-sa.com](mailto:Cosplay@ges-sa.com)

#### Expo Queues, Overcrowding and Overheating Warning

GES and Comic Con Africa cannot guarantee entrance and queue times. It is the participant's responsibility to arrive early and make the necessary arrangements.

**Please note that Comic Con Africa will not allow any pass outs. Pass outs will only be granted in case of an emergency.**

- The designated Fire Marshal may close the expo doors at any time due to crowd limitations regardless of if you have a ticket or have already been inside the event.
- The event has outside feature areas. Please ensure that your Cosplay outfit has adequate ventilation and is easy enough to remove if needed. Drink plenty of water and keep yourself cool. Also, please make sure you apply sunblock and bring an umbrella.
- There will be limited changing rooms available. It is recommended that you arrive at the event in full Cosplay or most of your Cosplay.
- The event provides emergency medical facilities.

## General Cosplay Expo Guidelines

We as Comic Con Africa, Reedpop and Reed Exhibitions and GES fully ascribe to and uphold the "Cosplay is NOT Consent" manifesto and will endeavour in our capacity to advertise this etiquette. Comic Con Africa, Reedpop, Reed Exhibitions, GES and our sponsors and partners are not responsible for event-goers and their behaviour towards Cosplayers. However, we have security in place to respond to any safety alerts received by Comic Con Africa staff, security, info booths, or at the Organiser's Office.

- Please stay alert.
- Be firm but remain calm in situations out of your comfort zone.
- Speak up! Tell convention goers to stop or move away if they are disrespecting your personal space. Explain that their actions are not acceptable.
- Communicate with expo-goers/visitors and other Cosplayers.
- Respect other Cosplayers and expo-goers. This goes a long way to them respecting you in return.
- Expo-goers can be misinformed about Cosplay so educate them in a calm and respectful way.
- Expect strange questions, photos, people wanting to touch props and looks from the expo-goers. This is normal and we encourage interaction with expo-goers, unless of course lines or boundaries are crossed.
- Remember to buddy-up! We don't recommend that you wander around the convention alone. Have your friends, family or fellow Cosplayers back you up.

**Harassment of any kind, including stalking, deliberate intimidation, unwelcome physical attention, physical assault and battery, will not be tolerated at Comic Con Africa. If it's illegal outside the venue, it's illegal inside the venue. Harassment is grounds for removal from the show without refund as well as potential legal action. We want Comic Con Africa to be a safe, open and accepting environment for all fans. If you are a victim of harassment at the show, please contact the Comic Con Africa staff, security, info booths, or the Organisers Office immediately.**