

Rules for Cosplayers at Herofest 2019

Programm

- **Friday** (Catwalk): Everything and everyone, including bought costumes and original designs. Time on stage is at max. 30 seconds.
- **Saturday** (Maincontest): only self-made costumes, NO original designs. Only officially licensed characters with clear reference pictures.
 - Best Armor wins CHF 400.- (Cosplay constructed primarily by molding and shaping its outer layers using acrylic, EVA foam, Worbla, Wonderflex, cardboard, and/or similar costume construction methods.)
 - Best Needlework wins CHF 400.- (Cosplay constructed primarily through sewing, stitching, embroidery, and/or similar costume construction methods)
 - Best Performance wins CHF 400.- (Best overall performance)
 - Best In Show wins CHF 400.- (Doesn't matter what costume construction methods were used, overall winner)

Time on stage is at max. 2 minutes.

- **Sunday** (Contest): only self-made cosplays including original designs. Two categories to enter: Masters and Beginners. Judging criteria stay the same for both categories. It is not permitted to enter both categories.
 - Masters: For experienced cosplayers, who aren't first-timers
 - Beginners: For first-timers, newer cosplayers with limited experience
 - Contest lead may bump you up into a higher category if they feel your overall skill level is too high for beginners. If you are unsure in which category to compete, you may send us an e-mail.

Time on stage is max. 2 minutes.

Prices:

Masters: 1st Price: 450.- CHF, 2nd Price: 350.- CHF, 3rd Price: 250.- CHF, Best Performance: 350.- CHF

Beginners: 1st, 2nd, 3rd no-cash prizes will be announced on site

General information

- Cosplayers have a room to change into their costumes. Sanitary facilities are available, showers included.
- There will be opportunities to have your photos taken.

General Rules

- Each cosplayer can only use one costume per contest
- It is **not** allowed to participate in both contests with the same cosplay (this does not apply to the catwalk on Friday)
- Each cosplayer must send in reference pictures of their character from the front and back
- Each reference picture has to be labeled including your **name** and your portrayed **character** so they can easily be identified and matched. The same goes for your

music files. Please label everything so it is **clear** which files belong to which character.

- Each costume has to be **self-made**, you are only allowed to buy small parts, such as shoes. However, at least 80% must be selfmade. Bought parts that are weathered or altered can be counted as self-made, if it is not recognizable as bought anymore. Bought parts will not be judged. Contestants in the Beginner's Category may have costumes that are at least 60% selfmade. Contestants have to clarify which parts are selfmade and which are not.

If your costume includes techniques such as lasercut and 3D-printing, **ALL** files must be 80% self-made as well! It is not allowed to use bought files/templates and/or thingiverse or similar open source websites. If the judges hold any doubts, you have to be able to proof you made everything yourself. If the judges find that you did not make 80% overall yourself, you will be disqualified.

- You must wear the costume by yourself, it is not allowed to use a model.
- You must wear your costume for the full duration of the contest, including price ceremony.
- You are not allowed to participate with a costume you already won a price with.

Allowed Cosplays

- Friday (Catwalk): Everything and everyone, including bought costumes and original designs.
- Saturday: only self-made costumes, NO original designs. Only officially licensed characters with clear reference pictures.
- Sunday: only self-made cosplays including original designs

Costume rules

- The costumes must not be too open. The torso, private area and bottom must be properly covered. This rule applies to both sexes. Vulgar actions are also forbidden, regardless if it is in character or not. If in doubt, send an email with pictures attached.
- If those rules are violated, you will not be able to participate with the costume in doubt.

Maximum dimensions of the costumes:

- Clothes can have no more than 2 meters width
- Tails or dragged material can lie no further than 1 meter away from the carrier's feet
- Wings can have up to 2 meters of wingspan, and each individual wing can only have a wingspan of 1 meter.
- The height of the costume including wings and crowns can not be higher than 2 meters 50 centimeters
- Make-up and colour applied to the costume cannot "lose colour"
- Costumes that imitate military uniforms from the year 1900 onwards are not permitted. We ask cosplayers to consider their moral and legal responsibilities concerning symbolism and art.

- Weapons out of metal must be fixed tight to the body, any loose parts will be checked by the weapons check.
- Gas masks and Latex full-face masks are strictly forbidden. Motorbike helmets are similarly banned. Motorbike helmets fall under the same category as military clothing.
- Fursuits and Morphsuits/Zentais are allowed

Accessories

- Horned hand bands and neckbands must be inspected to ensure that the spikes are dull
- The clothing should have no harsh or sharp edges
- Everyday objects like walking sticks and umbrellas are allowed
- Eye lenses are allowed

Rules for weaponry

General rules:

- For many cosplay's weapons are a must. Yet it is important to abide by the Swiss law that limits what we can do as event organisers and what you can do as cosplayers. These rules must be understood and followed.
- All visitors take weapons with them at their own risk and are reasonable for any damages caused.

Allowed weapon replicas:

- Generally, weapons and weapon replicas are forbidden in Switzerland. Here we will outline the Swiss weapons law:
People that walk around with a replica of a weapon jeopardise the security personnel and the visitors of the exposition, because security has to make the assumption that your weapon is real. This could lead to the police being called and a bad experience for everyone involved.
- Pretend fighting is only allowed on stage during the cosplay contests
- Excluded from these rules are objects that are obviously fake, and would appear to anyone as children's toys and completely harmless.

The allowed weapon replicas must follow these rules:

- They are made of foam, rubber, paper, soft plastic and worbla
- LARP-Weapons ("Live Action Role Play" - generally made out of foam or latex)
- Weapons and sticks made out of wood, paper, plastic, soft material, foam or thermoplastic as well as objects made out of a combination of these materials are allowed up to a length of 2 meters
- Non-functioning bows without real tendons are allowed, but can only be 1 meter 50 centimeters big. Quivers are allowed yet only with fake arrows
- Horse whips are allowed up to 1 meter of length. Other whips are allowed up to 1 meter and 50 centimeters

Further limitations on weapon replicas - forbidden materials

- Big loose chains of metal

- Large wooden baseball bats
- Soft-Air weapons

Stage rules

- The use of pyrotechnics or any other flammable material is forbidden
- Air snakes, flying paper or any other similar demonstration elements are only allowed to be used in a contained area on the stage, always within reach of a human hand.
- No liquids can dirty the stage. Best not bring liquids on stage in the first place.
- Contest entries with animal companions must replace their live animal with a plush counterpart.
- The appearance of any given costume must be in "good taste", being too rowdy, violent or obnoxious does not ring with the audience or the jury.
- There is no minimum time you have to be on stage, but please do NOT overrun the limit of 30 secs (Friday)/ 2 minutes (Saturday/Sunday).

Requests (for example asking if a certain costume is allowed) and the reference photos can be sent to cosplay@herofest.ch

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