



## July 2011 MANCHESTER MCM EXPO MASQUERADE ENTRY RULES

The MCM Expo Cosplay email address is: [cosplay@mcmexpo.net](mailto:cosplay@mcmexpo.net)

Announcements and updates for the Manchester 2011 Expo Masquerade:  
<http://www.mcmexpogroup.com/forums/viewforum.php?f=314>

Please contact us via email or the forum if you have any questions about the Cosplay Masquerade at the Manchester MCM Expo. We recommend consulting the forums for updates, including changes to these rules due to matters beyond our control.

Supporting material such as reference pictures, progress pictures, performance descriptions, and details of group members can be submitted after you register. We recommend sending them to us as soon as possible even if we cannot immediately confirm your place.

### Main Rules

The Masquerade is an opportunity for people who have made costumes to display them on stage.

#### **A costume is eligible for entry if:**

- It has been largely constructed by the person wearing it on stage for solo entries, or by one of the group members on stage for a group entry. Using bought shoes and wigs is acceptable.
- +  
• Bought costume elements are not designed specifically for cosplay, and have been modified extensively. Some small accessories like glasses or ninja headbands are acceptable.
- +  
• It has not been entered into the Masquerade at a previous MCM event. Costumes that have previously been entered into competitions at events not connected with MCM are acceptable.

#### **OR**

- It is being worn by someone under the age of 12 years old. A parent or guardian must sign the entry form on the day for any entrants under 12 years old.
- It is part of a performing group and **some** elements are modified general clothing.
- The MCM Cosplay Team have agreed special circumstances for your entry.

Commissioned and bought costumes, or costumes mostly made up of bought general clothing are not suitable for the Masquerade, and will not be permitted. This includes joining groups with some members in eligible costumes.

We understand that this means some characters cannot be easily portrayed, however the nature of the event and the high demand for places makes this necessary.

Original costumes can be entered if supported by concept sketches and an explanation of the inspirations behind the costume.

You may be filmed or photographed during the Cosplay Masquerade, and MCM or its sponsors may wish to use your image for advertising and promotional purposes. By entering you agree to this.

The Cosplay Team reserve the right to reject applicants at their discretion. Failure to provide evidence in a timely manner that your costume is eligible if asked may result in losing your place. Failure to sign in at the Cosplay Desk by 13:00 on the day of the Masquerade may mean losing your entry place or eligibility to be judged for the competition.

As this is a family show costumes of an adult nature may not be entered.

## **HOW TO ENTER**

You may apply to take part in advance by filling in the Masquerade entrance form on the website.

Advance Registration opens for the July Manchester MCM Expo Masquerade on **02/07/11** and closes on **23/07/11**. Entries before or after this will not be accepted.

As spaces are limited entry to the Masquerade is on a first come, first served basis. A number of places will also be available on the day on a first come, first served basis.

Note that we can only allow up to eight people on stage at a time, and less than this if costumes are particularly large or bulky. If your group is larger than this then we will split you into smaller groups and discuss your preferred stage order with you.

Groups are just as eligible to win prizes as solo entries. Note that groups will always be judged as a whole and not merely by the best costumes in the group.

You can supply music for your entry- please send it in a separate email clearly labelled "music for (name of entry)" by 23/07/11 at the latest. MP3 format is preferred, please do not supply DRM protected tracks from iTunes or similar sources. You may request music if you do not have the track you would like played, however we can make no assurances that we will have the track in question. Tracks will be played when you go on stage, until you come off stage, so please adjust them if necessary with this in mind if you want any pauses or a particular section to play.

**WE CANNOT ACCEPT AUDIO TRACKS ON THE DAY**

## **PERFORMANCES**

After registering on the website, please email [cosplay@mcmexpo.net](mailto:cosplay@mcmexpo.net), describing your performance in as much detail as possible.

What makes a Performance?

If you want to do more than walking and posing on stage, why not consider performing?

Here are some examples of performances:

- Performing a dance or 'dance off' to one or more songs
- Miming a song (you can always use a prop microphone!)
- Re-enacting a dramatic scene with the characters  
- as a twist, try a mashup with characters doing a scene from a different source!
- Make your own short scene such as an alternate ending
- Do a short comedy performance or a skit
- Pinch a comedy act and adjust it to suit your characters

The length of performances will be limited by the decisions of the MCM Cosplay Team. Singing, dancing, and solo performances will typically be limited to two minutes with one minute thirty seconds recommended; all other performances will usually be limited to three minutes maximum.

Performances have to provide their own props, and microphones are not available. Energetic performances involving e.g. running or martial arts displays will require further assurance regarding the skills of the performers, and we reserve the right to interrupt performances for safety reasons.

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We can only accept a single sound file for an entry, which we will start to play when you come on stage and continue until the track ends. Consider including a short quiet piece of music at the start of the track to give you time to get into position.

Music and audio tracks must be submitted by **23/07/11** at the latest, we cannot accept tracks on the day. We reserve the right to refuse tracks that are not good enough for the audience to be able to hear clearly. We particularly recommend sending in voice recordings early, so that we can test and inform you if it needs to be improved with plenty of time before the Expo.

Performance entries will be eligible for the 'Best Performance' prize as well as Best Costume and Judge's Choice prizes. The judges may choose to award a special prize to recognise that both a performance and the costume quality were outstanding- a 'Best in Show' award.

### JUDGING

The contest element is open to ages 12 and up.

If you wish for your costume(s) to be judged competitively, you need to make yourselves available at Expo before the Masquerade for judging of your costumes construction and accuracy.

Be aware that groups will be judged as a whole, and not just on the basis of the best or worst costumes.

For a costume to be judged competitively a picture or photo reference of the character / costume they are representing **MUST** be provided in advance or on the day.

Do not rely on the judges knowing the character!

You will be judged against this reference so it is advisable to make it good! If possible, also provide any other information regarding the costumes construction such as an 'in progress' photograph.

A good reference picture will focus judges on the best sections of the costume.

Consider getting several angles of the character and put them all together on a single sheet.

Progress pictures are useful when talking to the judges- being able to discuss your techniques and even better what problems you overcame can make you a winner!

Entries will be judged on Accuracy and Construction before you go on stage.

- A high Accuracy score (maximum points available is 10) will be awarded for correct colours, details, patterns, hair style etc.
- A high Construction score (maximum points available is 10) will be awarded for good workmanship, variety of techniques used, and finish.
- Entries will also be judged on your stage presence (maximum points available is 5) which includes affecting the character's mannerisms and how well you present your costume on stage, for example.

The judges' decision is FINAL.

Please respect the judges and the other participants by accepting their decisions.

Thanks for reading!  
MCM Cosplay Team

Further questions or feedback?

Email: [cosplay@mcmexpo.net](mailto:cosplay@mcmexpo.net)

Forum: <http://www.mcmexpogroup.com/forums/>

Facebook: [Cosplay @ MCM Expo](#)

DeviantArt: [CosplayatMCMExpo](#)