

# MASTERS DIVISION RULES

1 - The cosplay must be at least 75% homemade.

2 - Commissioned cosplays and store-bought cosplays are not eligible for entry\*\*

3 - Original Characters (OC) cosplays are not eligible for entry\*\*

4 - Full cosplay changes are not permitted once a cosplay has been entered. If you wish to change your entry you must withdraw the current entry and re-submit with the new cosplay. (Minor changes to detail are allowed however, contact the cosplay team if you wish to change your entry, [cosplay@sunnyconanimeexpo.com](mailto:cosplay@sunnyconanimeexpo.com))

5 - Any cosplays which have already won awards at previous events are not permitted. Cosplays that have placed 2nd or lower (at any event nationally or internationally) or just entered but not placed will be permitted. Also previous winners (Anyone who places 1st in Masters) from previous years SunnyCon will not be permitted entry. We have added this gap year for winners to allow a varied and more open contest. Former winners are once again allowed to enter after a one-year break. Any entrant found to have entered a winning cosplay will be disqualified.

6 - Costumes must be family-friendly. Please bear in mind that SunnyCon Anime Expo will have attendees of all ages and any cosplay deemed too age inappropriate may require modification or be refused entry. All costumes need to be tasteful and the bare minimum of coverage that is allowed at the events will be that of bikini i.e private parts must be fully covered at all times (SunnyCon staff have discretion in what is or is not acceptable, it is unfortunate that this has to be stated) This means body paint latex pasties, etc are not considered adequate body coverage without additional clothing being worn over it. Thongs are prohibited unless covered by shorts, skirts, capes, etc.

7 - Group entries are permitted and any prize won would have to be shared among the group.

8 - Contestants are required to bring with them a scrapbook\*\*\* detailing how the cosplay was created. This must be handed to the cosplay coordinator at the cosplay desk before the contest takes place.

9 - Contestants are required to attend a post-judging session with the cosplay judges. Failure to do so may result in disqualification. We advise being 5 minutes early and preparing for the event.

10 - Entrants must hold valid SunnyCon Anime Expo 2025 tickets.

11 - Entrants must be 16 or over on the day of the contest. 16 / 17-year-olds must hand in a signed parental form to the cosplay Co-Ordinator to be eligible for entry. (Forms available upon request)

12 - All contestants are to gather 30 minutes before the contest at the backstage area. If you show up late you run the risk of disqualification. Please be sure to plan as all entrants must be punctual as lateness can throw off the schedule which impacts other events and performances.

13 - Our stage usually has access via Ramps. We will have a member of staff available to assist you getting on and off the stage

**14 - All contestants must be available for the SunnyCon Anime Expo closing ceremony for the announcement of the winners. Failure to do so will lead to an invalid entry and any winnings forfeited to the contestant in the next place. This ceremony will take place on Sunday next to the charity auction and closing ceremony. You do not have to be in costume to collect your prize, however, in cases of emergency, an exception may be made, speak to the cosplay coordinator if you have any questions.**

**15 - Entries will close 1 WEEK before the Expo. There will be NO on the day sign up.**

**16 - Any props must be under 2 meters in length and must not contain any sharp, cutting, or pointed edges that could cause physical harm (commonly referred to as LARP safe). Any prop guns must have an orange cap or otherwise be obvious that it is non-functional. Any toy guns (such as Nerf guns) must be kept unloaded, failure to follow the weapon rules may result in prop confiscation or you may be asked to leave the convention. Please exercise common sense when traveling to and from the convention with any prop weapons. There will be limited spaces in the cosplay contest, once the spaces have been filled up you will be given the option to be placed on a reserve list or have your entry withdrawn.**

**This contest will have 3 prizes 1st, 2nd, and 3rd and the prizes will be as follows;**

**1ST: £500**

**2ND: £250**

**3RD: £100**

**Abusive or intimidating behavior toward our staff will not be tolerated and will result in disqualification. It is your responsibility to be at the contest at the correct time (30 minutes before the start of the contest) and to follow staff instructions, failure to do so may result in delays to the contest and you may be disqualified. Only contestants, guardians, and assistants (if required) will be permitted backstage, please see a member of the cosplay team for details. Winners are required to submit their bank account number and sort code to us after the closing ceremony. All prizes are paid via bank transfer within 2 weeks of the end of Sunny Expo with a period of due diligence to ensure all entries have met the rules above.**

**\* Homemade refers to the costume having been made by the cosplayer, with store-bought, commissioned, or pre-made items (made specifically for the cosplay) making up no more than 25% of the total costume. Any evidence of this can be shown in the scrapbook. Items bought but modified may count as homemade, however, this decision is up to the cosplay team, if you are unsure please ask a member of the cosplay team for confirmation.**

**\*\* Completely original characters will not be allowed in the contest, since there is no way to judge accuracy fairly and consistently. Non-humanoid characters may be portrayed as human only so far as is required for a character to be a costume and not a prop. Fresh takes on characters (old Link, steam-punk Mario, etc.) must be justified, with references, and may suffer from accuracy penalties. If you are unsure, email/ask the cosplay team for clarification. Ultimate discretion for what is/is not allowed lies with the cosplay team/judges**

**\*\*\* The scrapbook is how we make sure that the costume truly is made by the contestant, you will be required to explain how you made the cosplay. This can be as detailed as you wish.**

**Scrapbooks must be handed to the Cosplay coordinator before the contest takes place. Failure to do so can seriously harm your chances of winning and in some cases will lead to disqualification. A scrapbook is evidence that you have handmade the cosplay and shows your hard work. Please remember to keep a scrapbook and update it regularly. Scrapbooks will only be accepted as a physical copy; digital copies will not be accepted. You are welcome to claim your scrapbook by the end of the convention, any scrapbooks not claimed will be disposed of. Copyright and Disclaimer SunnyCon Anime Expo TM and their partners will reserve the right to use any footage or images taken from participation in the SunnyCon Anime ExpoTM Masters/ Rising Star/ Non-Competitive Cosplay contests. By entering you agree to these terms.**

**SunnyCon Anime ExpoTM reserves the right to make amendments and changes to these rules and the contest at any time and all entrants will be informed if changes are made.**