



Cosplay Central Crown Championships 2024 - Rules for the New York Comic Con Regional Qualifier

The Cosplay Central Crown Championships are comprised of a series of competitions held at ReedPop events, selected global Partner Events, and the Championships Final. The USA Final and Cosplay Central Crown Championships Global Final will be hosted at C2E2, Chicago, in 2024.

This Competition is being held in connection with New York Comic Con at Javits Convention Center, 655 West 34th Street, New York, New York 10014 taking place from October 12-15, 2023.

How it Works

Entrants will be assessed by the judges in the following categories:

- **Needlework** – Cosplay constructed primarily through sewing, stitching, embroidery, etc.
- **Armor** – Cosplay constructed primarily by molding and shaping its outer layers using acrylic, EVA foam, Worbla, Wonderex, cardboard, etc.
- **FX** – Cosplay that primarily features animatronics, optical effects, mechanical effects, special effects makeup, prosthetics, etc.

The Judges will select the top entry in each category, each will receive a medal.

The top 3 overall competitors as determined by the judges, regardless of whether or not such Competitor was the chosen winner for their category award, will receive the following prizes:

1st Prize

- \$1000 and Medal
- Automatic entry into the USA Final at C2E2 2024 (Dates to be announced)
- Two (2) weekend passes for NYCC 2024
- Travel from US locations* to Chicago and accommodation (arranged by ReedPop) to attend the USA Final at C2E2 2024 *or equivalent cost for participants from Canada or Mexico
 - Please refer to rule #27 for more detailed information regarding travel and accommodation.

2nd Prize

- \$500 and Medal
- Two (2) weekend tickets to New York Comic Con 2024

3rd Prize

- \$250 and Medal
- Two (2) weekend tickets to New York Comic Con 2024

Rules:

1. All entrants must be 18 or older to compete in the Cosplay Central Crown Championships.
2. Applications are open to registered citizens or permanent residents of the USA, Canada and Mexico
3. Online registration will open from **July 13th, 2023** until **August 23, 2023 at 2pm PST/4pm CT/5pm EST**. Places in the competition will be confirmed no later than **August 30, 2023**.
4. At application each entrant must submit a minimum of one (1) reference image, two (2) images of the costume they wish to enter (with allowance for minor unfinished elements) and a written description which may offer details about the design and construction process, materials, and the choice of costume.
 - At application the costume being entered should be 70% complete.



- If selected the costume description and facts provided will be used to create an introduction for the stage presentation. ReedPop reserves the right to edit introduction material for time and content.
5. All selected entrants are responsible for all expenses related to competing in the Championships Qualifier at New York Comic Con including all lodging and travel to and from the convention center. All contestants must have a badge valid for Saturday at New York Comic Con. Entrants are responsible for their own belongings. ReedPop is unable to provide a secure area for personal items.
 6. Entrants may participate in the Crown Championships only once per year. Applicants must not register multiple times with multiple costumes. An entrant can only enter once across all qualifier events and only wear one costume.
 7. Group entries are not permitted.
 8. Entrants must comply with the ReedPop costume, weapons and props rules and will be subject to security checks on entry to New York Comic Con.
 9. Costumes for the Crown Championships must represent an existing or recognizable character or element from the pop culture realm, including comic books, movies and television, video games, anime, manga, theatre or fantasy. Characters or elements from bands, musicians and drag acts are not eligible.
 10. Entrants must have made the costume they are using in selection events and the Final by themselves.
 11. All significant visible costume elements that can safely be made without assistance must have been constructed entirely by the competitor; If it is impossible or unsafe for a single person to make a costume element, assistance for simple tasks such as holding things in place is acceptable.
 12. It is acceptable to use bought wigs, shoes, and accessories such as spectacles etc. Simple, largely insignificant base layers such as a leotard or pantyhose are similarly permitted. Any customization such as styling a wig or modifying shoes must be the sole work of the entrant.
 13. Costumes used for the Championships Qualifier or Final must not have been used for any previous international cosplay or costume contest final. Additionally, costumes that have previously participated in a Championship Qualifier at a ReedPop event are not eligible to participate unless there have been significant modifications to the original costume.
 14. The costume should not exceed 2.5m/8ft in any one dimension, and the entrant should be able to safely move in the costume with limited assistance and the costume must not impede the finalist's ability to get on and off stage. The ReedPop team reserve the right to intervene should they believe a costume is not safe to participate on stage.
 15. All costumes should provide enough coverage to be worn in public and should be in good taste and appropriate for a family-friendly show.
 16. Costumes cannot be obscene or offensive, including insensitive or unnecessary use of makeup, nor endorse any form of hate or any hate group. Gore, graphic violence, or other objectionable elements may also be grounds for disqualification as determined by the judges or ReedPop.
 17. Costumes cannot promote alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, firearms/weapons (or the use of any of the foregoing), any activities that may appear unsafe or dangerous or any particular political agenda or message.



18. Costumes must not defame, misrepresent or contain disparaging remarks about Cosplay Central, ReedPop and their products, or other people, products or companies, or communicate messages or images inconsistent with the positive images and/or goodwill with which Cosplay Central and/or ReedPop intends to associate the Competition; Costumes cannot depict, and cannot themselves, be in violation of any law.
19. All accepted entrants must check in to sign a waiver and attend craftsmanship judging on the contest day. If accepted, ReedPop will notify entrants when and where check in and the craftsmanship judging will take place.
20. Entrants must appear in costume at the time of their judging. Construction or progress pictures should be brought by the entrant to their judging session; not supplied electronically. Failure to appear for judging will result in disqualification
21. Each Entrant will present their costume on stage. Music will be provided by the ReedPop Team. Stage dressing is not permitted
22. The safety of the audience, staff, and other participants must not be compromised. This means that pyrotechnics, fireworks or any other methods of creating or causing a naked flame or explosion are forbidden; anything that may litter the stage (e.g., glitter or confetti) or make it slippery or sticky is similarly banned. The use of lasers, regardless of strength, is not permitted by the venue. Self-generated vapor as part of a costume may be permitted for use on stage following assessment by the ReedPop team
23. Costumes in the qualifier will be judged on Accuracy or Design and Ambition (30% weighting) and it's Construction (70% weighting). The stage presentation will not be scored directly but may be taken into consideration if the stage presentation reveals flaws or benefits of the costume's construction.
24. The judges will assess all entries and make the following designations:
 - The top entry as determined by the judges in the Needlework, Armor or FX categories. ReedPop reserves the right to adjust the categories or number of category awards given at any time in its sole discretion based on entries received.
 - The top three (3) overall competitors of the New York Comic Con Regional Qualifier as determined by the judges regardless of whether or not such Competitor was the chosen winner for their category. The First place overall winner will move forward to the USA Final as the selected New York Comic Con Regional Winner.
25. The judges' decisions are final, and no further negotiation is permitted. There is no obligation on ReedPop or the judges to provide feedback.
26. Selected Finalists are expected to wear the costume that they qualified in for the National Championships Final.
27. The selected Finalist will receive Travel costs to attend the final, organized by the ReedPop Team, with the following stipulations:
 - This will cover **one round trip** to Chicago for the the finalist only, to be reimbursed by ReedPop with a budget of \$450. This can be used for road travel or a flight and the cost of **one checked bag**.
 - i. If flying – the finalist will receive a reimbursement of up to \$200 for ground transportation from the Chicago airport to the Event site and from the Event site back to the airport.
 - ii. If Driving – the finalist receives a reimbursement for the cost of parking at the venue or designated hotel.
 - One hotel room for up to two people will be arranged and provided by ReedPop. Checking in Thursday of C2E2 and departing on Sunday (3 Nights)
 - Any other costs relating to travel are also the responsibility of the selected finalist, including insurance, transport to and from departure airport, and any visa/ESTA related costs.



28. Each entrant grants to Reed Exhibitions, a division of RELX Inc. ("Management"), its employees, agents, and assignees, the absolute and irrevocable right and permission to photograph, film, reproduce, portray and/or otherwise exploit the name, voice, appearance, photograph, image and/or likeness of such entrant at New York Comic Con and/or in the Competition (collectively, "Likeness"), and to use the results and proceeds, without limitation, in materials produced by Management in any and all media, in perpetuity. Competitor hereby waives any claim to compensation for use of such Likeness. Competitor agrees that Management owns the images and all rights related to them. The images may be used by Management in any manner or media without notifying Competitor, such as the Cosplay Central website, publications, promotions, broadcasts, advertisements, and posters, for advertising or other related purposes. Competitor waives any right to inspect or approve the finished images or any printed or electronic matter that may be used with them.

29. Release: By accepting a prize, each winner agrees to release and hold harmless ReedPop and its direct and indirect subsidiaries, suppliers, distributors, advertising/promotion agencies, and prize suppliers (if any), and each of their respective parent companies and each such company's officers, directors, employees and agents, from and against any claim or cause of action, including, but not limited to, personal injury, death, or damage to or loss of property, arising out of participation in the Cosplay Central Crown Championship or receipt or use or misuse of any prize.

30. ReedPop reserves the right to cancel, suspend and/or modify the Cosplay Central Crown Championship, or any part of it, if any fraud or technical failures or any other factor beyond ReedPop's reasonable control impairs the integrity or proper functioning of the Cosplay Central Crown Championship, as determined by ReedPop in its sole discretion. ReedPop reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify any individual it finds to be tampering with the entry process or the operation of the Crown Championships or to be acting in violation of the Rules or in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner. Any attempt by any person to deliberately undermine the legitimate operation of the ReedPop Comic Con Championships of Cosplay may be a violation of criminal and civil law, and should such an attempt be made, ReedPop reserves the right to seek damages from any such person to the fullest extent permitted by law. ReedPop's failure to enforce any term of these Rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision.

31. Limitation of Liability: ReedPop is not responsible for: (1) any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by entrants, typographical errors, printing errors 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 Crown Championships; (4) technical or human error which may occur in the administration of the Crown Championships 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 an entrant's participation in the Crown Championships or receipt or use or misuse of any prize (provided always that ReedPop or its employees or contractors are not negligent in any way in relation to such injury or damage). If, for any reason, an entrant's entry is confirmed to have been erroneously deleted, lost or otherwise destroyed or corrupted, that entrant's sole remedy is another entry in the Crown Championships, if feasible. If the Cosplay Central Crown Championships, or any part of it, is discontinued for any reason, ReedPop, 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.

32. Employees, staff, crew or guests of ReedPop or any associated company and their immediate families, and persons connected with the Championships e.g., prize sponsors or judges and their agents are not eligible to enter the Cosplay Central Crown Championship.

33. These rules shall be governed by the laws of the state of New York, including, sections 5-1401 and 5-1402 of the New York general obligations law but excluding to the maximum extent permitted by law all other conflict of law provisions, and the obligations, rights and remedies of the parties hereunder shall be determined in accordance with such law.



APPENDIX A

Detailed Description of Judging Criteria

The Championships are judged by three independent guest judges who interview and closely assess the Finalists' costumes in addition to assessing how the Finalists display their costume on stage.

This document provides greater guidance to the judges of what is expected in their marking, as well as greater clarity to Finalists, event organizers, and of course our audience as to the mechanics and thought processes behind the judging.

The assessment of Finalists is as follows:

- Costume judging will take place before the stage presentation and assess the accuracy or design of the costume against provided source images and the quality and complexity of the construction. Each Finalist is given equal time with the judges.
- The Stage presentation will not be scored directly but may be taken into consideration if the presentation reveals flaws or benefits of the costume's construction.
- The weighting for each of the judging criteria is as follows:
 - Accuracy or Design and Ambition- 30%
 - Construction – 70%

This document examines these areas including standards for scoring bands and how the different elements of each of those scores may interact.

Note that in recognition of the wide variety of costumes possible and the judge's knowledge and experience, the elements considered within each category are not intended to be exhaustive and the weighting among the elements of the scores is left to the discretion of the judges on a costume-by-costume basis. Ultimately ReedPop, Partner events, and Finalists must respect the judges' decision, the judges' interpretation of the rules and guidance and the judges' assessment of the costume.

Accuracy or Design & Ambition

This score is an assessment of how closely the costume matches the source material OR the design and interpretation skill employed by the Finalist to create original costume designs inspired by pop culture icons. Judges will also consider the ambition or complexity of the design.

It is the responsibility of the Finalist to provide high quality reference images which clearly depict as much of the character they are representing as possible, at a suitable resolution that detail is clearly visible. Original designs should also be supported by concept sketches and inspiration references.

If a Finalist with an original concept has commissioned a professional artist to render their design, this will be judged under the Design category, providing the Finalist is able to discuss in detail the background research and concept choices to arrive at the final design. Where there has been a more intensive collaboration and input from the commissioned artist, this may be judged on accuracy or a blend of the two categories, at ReedPop and the judges' discretion.