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Cosplay Contest and Stage Rules at HeroFest 2023

Programm

- **Friday (Catwalk):** Everyone may participate, including bought costumes and original designs. Time on stage is max. 30 seconds. It is not possible to have your own music. No judging by the jury, no prizes, just fun!
- **Saturday (Main Contest):** *This contest is for experienced cosplayers*
Self-made costumes only, 80% of the cosplay must be self-made. Only officially licensed characters with clear reference images. No groups.

Prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

- Best Armor wins CHF 450.- (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 450.- (Cosplay constructed primarily through sewing, stitching, embroidery, and/or similar costume construction methods)
- Best Performance wins CHF 450.- (Best overall performance)
- Best In Show wins CHF 450.- (Doesn't matter what costume construction methods were used, overall winner)

Time on stage is max. 2 minutes.

There must be at least 6 participants registered so that the contest can be held. Otherwise it will be canceled without replacement!

- **Saturday (Qualifikation Polymanga Swiss Cosplay League)**
Self-made costumes only, 80% of the cosplay must be self-made. No groups. Only cosplayers living in Switzerland are eligible for the Polymanga Swiss Cosplay League qualification.

Only officially licensed characters with clear reference images.

Time on stage is max. 2 minutes.

The final evaluation is composed as follows: Cosplay Evaluation criteria 80% & stage show 20%.

Prizes: 1st place is the representative of Herofest at the Final which will be held at Polymanga 2024. In addition, travel to Polymanga + hotel + meals on site will be paid for the cosplayer. Accompanying persons can stay in the same hotel room but pay for their own travel.

This contest will be integrated in the Main Contest!



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- **Sunday (Open Contest):** Self-made costumes only, 60% of the cosplay must be self-made. No groups.

Time on stage is max. 2 minutes.

Prizes: 1st, 2st and 3st place, prizes without cash, will be announced on site.

There must be at least 6 participants registered so that the contest can be held. Otherwise it will be canceled without replacement!

- **Sunday (Qualification AnimeS Cosplay World Stars Bulgarien)**
The winners of the qualification will be sent by us to Bulgaria and may represent Switzerland at the AnimeS Cosplay World Stars (ACWS) in June 2024.

The time on stage is min. 5 minutes and max. 8 minutes

Conditions of participation

- This competition is for groups of 2-3 people.
- Only cosplayers residing in Switzerland are allowed to participate.
- A minimum age of 18 years is required. It must be guaranteed that the participants:in June 2024 have a valid passport and are allowed to enter Bulgaria.
- Cosplays that have been used in other competitions and/or have won a prize in other international competitions are not allowed. The costumes for the finals may be the same as those worn during the qualification for the ACWS
- Only officially licensed characters
- Characters must be of the same medium, but may be from the same universe (e.g. Marvel, Dragon Ball, One Piece ect. Characters can also be from a different timeline or have never met in history).
- English is an advantage. If the performance is in a language other than English, participants must add subtitles in English.
- The skit must be at least 5 minutes and no longer than 8 minutes.
- Costumes and/or performances of a racist, misogynistic, pornographic, homophobic or extremely violent nature are strictly prohibited.
- At least 70% of the cosplay must be homemade. It is not allowed to use a model..
- A maximum of 3 bulky probs are allowed. Bulky is defined as maximum size 2x2m and/or weight over 15kg. Keep in mind that you will have to transport the probs to Bulgaria.
- Probs may be shown to the jury if they are homemade.

The exact judging criteria can be found here: [For Cosplayers](#)

The final evaluation will be as follows: Evaluation criteria 40 % & 60 % stage show

[Here](#) you can find the rules which will be valid in Bulgaria in June 2024!



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General Contest Rules

- The number of participants may be limited to a certain number depending on the competition.
- There is a minimum number of participants for a contest to be held.
- The number of participants can be limited.
- The jury's verdict cannot be appealed and is binding. It cannot be subsequently corrected. Legal recourse is excluded.
- No ranking will be made and only the winners will be published. The ranking of other participants remains unknown.
- 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 if available. The more pictures you submit, the better they can be judged.
- Each reference picture has to be labeled including your **cosplay 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 self-made. 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 AWCS may have costumes that are at least 70% self-made and contestants in the Open Contest may have costumes that are at least 60% self-made. Contestants have to clarify which parts are self-made and which are not.
If your costume includes techniques such as laser-cut 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 prove 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 the prize ceremony.
- You are not allowed to participate with a costume you have already won a prize with at HeroFest.
- The minimum age is 16 years. For ACWS and PSCL qualifications, the minimum age is 18.
- By participating in the Cosplay Contests, participants accept any exploitation of their image in photo, film or sound. In addition, cosplayers give permission to use their image for promotional purposes of the contest in the future



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Allowed Cosplays during the contest

- Friday: Self-made costumes only, NO original designs. Officially licensed characters with clear reference pictures only.
- Saturday (Catwalk): Everything and everyone, including bought costumes and original designs. No judging by the jury, no prizes, just fun!
- Sunday: Self-made cosplays only

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.

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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