



Anime Los Angeles 8 Masquerade Official Rules and Documents

Welcome to the Anime Los Angeles 8 (2012) Masquerade! I'm your competition director, Lindsay Tallman. There are 3 main sections here: the first is the rules (i.e. the things that can get you disqualified). The second explains how division placement works. The third section contains additional information to help you plan your skit (not necessarily rules, but strong suggestions). Also included are the instructions the judges will be receiving, so you know what they're looking for.

“Presentation” and “Workmanship” judging are entirely separate. There is a judging panel for Presentation and a judging panel for Workmanship. Each panel selects and gives its own awards. Workmanship judging is not required, and the decisions and deliberations of the Workmanship panel have no influence on the Presentation panel, or vice versa.

Please remember, this competition is not all about you. It is all about you and your fellow competitors. By respecting the rules and procedures of this competition, you help ensure that everyone receives equal and fair treatment. We're attempting to give stage time to as many entrants as we can support, while attempting to counter complaints that favoritism and politics influence competitions by providing a fair and safe environment in which to compete.

The Rules:

If you violate any of these rules, you will be disqualified and dropped from the competition.

1. All contestants **must** be members of Anime Los Angeles. If the maker and presenter are different people, both must be members.
2. All solo entries are granted **90 seconds** on stage. All entries with 2 or more participants are granted **2 minutes** on stage. You may use less time, but if you exceed the limit, you will be ineligible for any award. Additional time for large groups or exhibition entries will be given on a case-by-case basis.
3. The standard **PG** rule applies for both costume and content, as this is a family-friendly competition. No costume is "no costume." The director reserves the right to screen entries for content, and inappropriate material will be grounds for rejection or disqualification.
4. Purchased “complete” and rented costumes may not be entered. Costumes that have been assembled (i.e. “closet cosplay”) or altered in a significant way may be entered.
5. A costume may not be entered in competition if it has won "Best in Show" or "Best in Open/Master Division" at another competition. It may be entered in the Exhibition Division (not in competition).
6. Each presenter may only appear on stage in a single entry. One body, one presentation.
7. No live animals are allowed on stage with the exceptions of a) people and b) service animals.
8. No materials or effects that will leave a mess on stage or in the green room are allowed (this includes glitter, confetti, streamers, silly string, etc). No materials or effects that may ruin another entrant's costume are allowed.

(Rules cont'd)

9. No pyrotechnics or any other sorts of open flame are allowed.

10. All unusual parts of your skit (including planned falls, costume changes, empty stage time, or other special effects) must be reviewed with us before the Masquerade Desk closes on Saturday. You can surprise the judges and the audience, but don't surprise the crew.

11. Attending the contestant meeting is **required**. Check the program book or schedule grid for the time and location (it will be Saturday morning). Contestants not present at the meeting will be dropped from the competition.

12. Tech rehearsals are **required**. You will sign up for a time slot when you turn in your forms, and you must attend your scheduled rehearsal. If tech doesn't know what to do for an entry, the contestant(s) won't be allowed on stage and will be dropped from the competition. We recommend you bring any large props or costume pieces with you so there aren't any surprises trying to get on or off stage.

13. If you're going to have large props or plan to pre-set or leave things on stage, you should bring your own ninjas to get them on and off stage.

Division Placement:

Most entries will be placed in the Novice, Journeyman, or Open Division. A group entry will be placed in the division appropriate for its most experienced member. The Journeyman Division has been created for the 2012 competition, and is designed to both provide a more protected Novice Division for our contestants, as well as a middle step prior to entering in the Open Division. Any questions about division placement should be brought to the director for discussion.

If you're not sure whether you should consider a past competition to be a major regional competition or a local competition, please ask the director. The size of the event and number of entrants in the competition will be considered.

For this competition, any person who made more than half of his or her annual income from costuming in any of the last 5 years qualifies as a "professional." Any competitor may enter in a more advanced division than he or she is placed.

Open:

- Any competitor may enter in the Open Division.

Journeyman:

- Professional costumers may not enter in the Journeyman Division.
- If you have won an award in the Open, Master, or other top-level division at a major regional competition (eg. San Diego Comic Con, FanimeCon, or AnimeExpo), you may not enter in the Journeyman Division.
- If you have won any award at Anime Los Angeles in the Open Division, you may not enter in the Journeyman Division.

Novice:

- Professional costumers may not enter in the Novice Division.
- If you have won any award at a major regional competition (eg. San Diego Comic Con, FanimeCon, or AnimeExpo), you may not enter in the Novice Division.

(Divisions cont'd: Novice)

- If you have won any award in the Novice Division at the Anime Los Angeles Masquerade in 2011 or prior years, you may not enter in the Novice Division.
- If you have won more than 3 awards in local competition (conventions under 1000 members), you may not enter in the Novice Division.

Young Fan:

- The Young Fan Division is only open to competitors under the age of 15 who have participated in the design and construction of their costumes.
- If a costume is entirely adult-designed and adult-constructed, it may not be entered in the Young Fan Division.

Exhibition:

- Any presenter may enter in the Exhibition Division.
- The Exhibition Division is a presentation-only division. Exhibition entries are not judged for either presentation or workmanship, nor are they eligible for any award.

Hints and suggestions:

The following information will help you ensure you get the most out of the competition.

- This is an Anime and Manga cosplay competition. Please respect our theme. While entries won't be turned away based on source material alone, be aware that the judges are instructed to consider theme when granting awards.
- All entrants are encouraged to participate in workmanship judging. You can't win a workmanship award if you're not judged! You may elect to have only a part of your costume judged, such as a prop or wig, rather than an entire costume, or an individual within a group may be judged separately.
- If you're entering a recreation costume, bring documentation. A letter-size color photocopy or color print of your source should be sufficient to show the judges what you're trying to recreate. Digital media (including laptops and digital cameras) or full artbooks/reference books are not appropriate; paper, please. (Please note: We can't print your documentation for you, though there's a FedEx Office you can use in the hotel lobby.) We will make an effort to return your documentation to you if desired.
- Don't plan on having access to power on stage. It won't be there. Extension cords all over the stage aren't safe!
- Don't plan for complex lighting. The default lighting cue is: lights go up, music starts, you come on at stage right, you leave on stage left, music stops, lights go down. If you desire anything other than default lighting or music cues, discuss it when you check in at the Masquerade Desk, and also with the crew during your tech rehearsal, and we'll do our best to accommodate your requests.
- Don't plan on using a microphone. During presentations, the MC is the only person with a microphone. Spoken narrative must be pre-recorded or provided as a script for the MC. You may attempt to speak from stage, but it's a big room with a big audience; spoken dialog will be more effective if it is pre-recorded as part of your presentation audio track.

(Hints and Suggestions cont'd)

- Speaking of pre-recorded, we will accept CDs and MP3 files. The "5-copy" rule is a good guideline. Terrible things can happen to CDs; make a master and 4 copies. Pack them in separate bags. We've seen too many people lose their only copy of their audio. If you are providing an MP3, please include the name of your contact person and entry name in the filename. This works best if the file is provided via a USB storage device. We **are not** able to play or rip music off portable MP3 players, such as iPods.
- If you think a personal or business relationship with a judge will make it difficult for the judge to be objective, please talk to us. We will consult with the judging panel, and we'll come up with a reasonable course of action.

Judges' Instructions

- "Excellence deserves award" is your watchword.
- This is an Anime and Manga cosplay competition. Please consider this theme when granting awards.
- Be serious in granting awards. A serious award with a funny name is fine. Please don't grant an award if you don't think the entry has real merit. No "joke" awards.
- You are encouraged to award "Best in Show" and "Best in Division" (for each division) if you find such awards are appropriate. For all other awards, please judge each entry on its own merit.
- For each award granted, please identify the entry and the competitor being granted the award. For example:
 - You wish to give a child a presentation award for a costume made by an adult. Name the child.
 - You wish to give a workmanship award to the person who did all the beading on a group entry. Name that person.
- If you need help identifying the appropriate person to grant an award, ask your clerk or the Masquerade staff.
- Competitors who have entered recreation costumes are asked (but not required) to provide as documentation a color photocopy or print of the image the costume is based on. You may ignore any documentation beyond that.
- If you think a personal or business relationship with a competitor will make it difficult to be objective in your judging, please talk to both the director and your fellow judges about the problem, and we'll come up with a reasonable course of action.