

## **Big Lick Comic-Con Cosplay Contest Rules & Guidelines (Revised 10/12/2020)**

*Due to COVID-19, there are changes to the registration and pre-judging for our Cosplay Contest. Please read the information below and contact us if you have any questions.*

### **Registering as a Contestant**

Cosplay Contest registration will be done entirely online for the October 2020 event. Registration will end on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 11:59pm EST. You must be pre-registered through the form at the end of these guidelines to participate in the cosplay contest. In order to register and participate you will need to read, understand, and submit the required information, and follow the rules laid out below. Big Lick Comic-Con and the Cosplay Contest Director reserve the right to remove any contestant from the Cosplay Contest, or move a competitor to a different division, if they determine there has been an infraction of these rules or that a costume is deemed offensive.

*When registering, you will be required to choose the division that you wish to compete in. These divisions are explained below.*

### **Competition Divisions Explained**

*Competition divisions are used to promote fairness in competition so that costumes are judged based on the experience level used to create or assemble them. Judging for each division is based upon the understanding of these divisions, and so it is important to register for the division that best describes your personal experience as a costumer/cosplayer.*

Children's Division: The Children's Division is for children competing in costumes that were bought for them, that they assembled themselves from bought items, or that they have made themselves and is open for any child under the age of 13. *Costumes made by an adult for a child to wear must be registered in division that the adult whomade the costume would normally compete in to ensure fairness for children who wish to compete on the merits of their own cosplaying or costuming ability.*

Novice Division: The Novice Division is for any person over the age of 13 who has never won a costume contest division award or overall award, such as Best Novice or Best in Show.

Journeyman Division: The Journeyman Division is for any person over the age of 13 who has previously won "Best Novice" or an overall award such as "Best in Show" or "Best Construction" in at least one (or as many as three) previous costume contest(s).

Masters Division: The Masters Division is for any person over the age of 13 who has previously won three or more division awards or overall awards in previous costume contests, or, for any person who is a professional seamstress, costumer, actor/actress, or costumed character.

Group Division: The Group Division is for two or more people who wish to compete together in the same costume theme, no matter what their individual division would be. While judging for the Group Division, judges consider the levels of all participants and judge based on the highest division of the costumed participants. For example, if a group consists of two journeyman and a novice, the group would be judged based on the criteria for journeyman, as it is the highest division of the costumed participants in that group.

### **Cosplay Contest Rules:**

**Masks and social distancing are required in all back stage areas and during contestant line up.** Masks may be worn on stage, whether or not they match the costume, and no deductions will be

made by the judges for wearing a mask or using any other PPE or medical equipment that the costumer/cosplayer requires.

All contestants must be pre-registered, through the form at the end of this document, by October 29, 2020 at 11:59pm EST. No registrations will be accepted online after that time and no registrations will be taken on site.

Contestants can only enter in one division.

Contestants under the age of 13 must be accompanied by a responsible adult over the age of 18 back stage at all times.

No skits on stage.

No nudity. No costume is no costume.

Cosplay is not consent. Contestants violating other contestants personal space or found to be in contact with other contestants physically without their consent will be removed from competition.

No profanity allowed on stage. That includes messages on signs or clothes. Anyone who violates this may be disqualified from the competition.

No political or religious statement on stage. Anyone who violates this may be disqualified from the competition.

Use of makeup or alteration to skin pigment must not replicate natural skin tones of another human race. "Black facing" is strictly prohibited.

Do not use any sort of projectile at all! Nothing must leave your person while you are on the stage. Anyone who violates this rule may be disqualified from the competition and may be asked to leave the convention area.

No flashpots, explosive devices, or similar special effects are to be used. Anyone who violates this rule may be disqualified from the competition and may be asked to leave the convention area.

All prop weapons must conform to the Guidelines, which is as follows:

1. Live steel weapons must be peace-bonded and must be approved by security prior to being allowed onstage.
2. Prop firearms must be non-functional and have a colored tip to designate them as safe, and must be approved by security prior to being allowed onstage.
3. Whips, chain weapons, and flails must be looped and secured and may not be swung or flailed.
4. Bows and crossbows may not have a taught string and may not be accompanied by bows with any form of rigid or pointed tip.

All judging for cosplay will be done while applicant showcases costume while on stage. Judging for construction will be done prior to the cosplay contest based on the documentation that you submit when you register online. Costumes will be judged on creativity, authenticity to character inspiration and originality to character, and realism.

Costumes must be self-contained.

Participants in the Cosplay Contest are not allowed to use unaltered store-bought, professionally made, or rented costumes. Store-bought, professionally made, or rented props, wigs, and/or costume pieces, however, are allowed.

Do not enter or exit the stage except at the designated points.

Each contestant may only enter one costume into competition.

Large elaborate costumes must be handled by the contestant and/or assistants the contestant brings to help. Big Lick Comic-Con will not be able to provide assistants.

Big Lick Comic-Con and Cosplay Contest Director reserve the right to move a competitor to a different division or refuse to allow a competitor to compete if a costume is deemed offensive or against the rules.

Judges decisions are final. Awards will be given for Best Child, Best Novice, Best Journeyman, Best Master, Best Group, Best Family Cosplay, and Best in Show. Due to the unpredictable size of groups, a prize for each member cannot be guaranteed. Other awards may be given at the discretion of Big Lick Comic-Con and the Cosplay Contest Director based on the recommendations of judges including Honorable Mentions or awards like "Best Use of Masks or PPE", "Best Sci Fi", etc. No specific prizes or awards are specifically implied or guaranteed, and prizes may be substituted at the discretion of Big Lick Comic-Con.

All applicants must arrive at the stage area by a pre-determined time, to be announced, to line up for costume contest. Pre-judging is required for all constructions and assembly awards, but will be done prior to the contest without the presence of the contestant this year. Pre-judging will be done through submitting documentation with your registration.

### **Pre-judging**

*\*\*\*There is NO pre-judging requirement for the Children's Division, although children may submit documentation if they would like to and it is encouraged if they made the costume themselves. Adults may assist with children's documentation.\*\*\**

**What is documentation?** Documentation is information that tells the judges about your costume. Your documentation will speak for you instead of presenting the costume to the judges in person for this event. Focusing on details and aspects that the judges would normally be able to see up close is essential due to the social distancing format of this Cosplay Contest.

You can be as creative as you would like in your documentation presentation, however, the following questions must be answered:

1. Who are you? State your name, your character's name and fandom, or that it is an original creation if it's not based on any existing character, and provide some reference photo that shows the judges what the character should look like.
2. What did you make/buy to create/assemble the costume? Tell the judges about the work that you did. You can add in photos or videos of the creation process, detail the techniques and materials you use, or give information on the websites, professionals, or other sources you used to find your costume pieces.
3. Why did you choose this costume? What spoke to you about this character that made it THE character for you to portray? What was the thing that made you want to make this costume?

### **Documentation format**

Your documentation must be submitted in one of two formats.

#### Option 1: Written/PDF

1. The PDF can be no longer than 4 pages of 12 pt font, single spaced, and may include as many photos as you'd like that document the creation process as long as the file size is less than **2.0MB for individuals**.
2. The PDF can be no longer than 4 pages of 12 pt font **per costume**, single spaced, and may include as many photos as you'd like that document the creation process as long as the file size is less than **3.0MB for groups**.
3. The PDF may not include photos or language that would be considered lewd, obscene, or reference any props or items that are prohibited in the Cosplay Contest rules.

Option 2: Video

1. **Individuals** may submit a video of 90 seconds or less in MP4, WMV, MOV, or AVI format detailing the costume and creation process.
2. **Groups** may submit a video of up to 3 minutes or less in MP4, WMV, MOV, or AVI format detailing the costume and creation process.
3. This video is not a skit or performance, and should not be done as the character that you're costuming.
4. If you have difficulty uploading your documentation video using the form below, you may upload your video to YouTube, Google Drive, or any other sharing service and submit the link by using the "Written/PDF" instructions above and including **ONLY** the link to your video.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Email Address:

Division:

- Children's
- Novice
- Journeyman
- Masters
- Group

If entering in Children's Division, name of adult that will be present backstage:

Legal Name(s): (If a group entry, list each group member separated by commas)

Stage Name/Cosplay Name: (N/A if going by Real Name)

Name of Character/Cosplay:

City/State:

Best Method of Contact at Big Lick ComicCon:

Name of the person(s) who made the costume:

I have read the above rules and guidelines and agree to abide by them. (Type "yes" and your real name.)

Documentation Upload: