

Nordic Cosplay Championship: Canadian Qualifier



The Nordic Cosplay Champion is a craftsmanship and performance based cosplay contest. CSC Fancon is proud to host the Canadian qualifier for NCC and will select a cosplayer to represent Canada at the NCC Finals held at NärCon Sommar in Linköping, Sweden.

How to Enter

Cosplayers wanting to participate can apply to the NCC Canadian Qualifier through our official Google Form. Selections are made by a council of talented cosplayers from various disciplines. Entry is not first-come, first-served, and submission does not guarantee participation.

General Information

By participating, all contestants acknowledge that they have read and agreed to these rules.. NCC Canada upholds the values of fair play, inclusivity, and good sportsmanship. Any instances of bullying or damaging another cosplayer's property will result in immediate disqualification.

NCC staff and judges may refuse entry or disqualify any contestant for inappropriate behavior or rule violations.

By entering the competition, all participants consent to being photographed and filmed during the event, with the resulting media potentially used for NCC Canada's promotional purposes, including but not limited to social media, websites, and future marketing materials.

Eligibility

- Must be 18 years of age or older on the day of the competition.
- Must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident with Canada as their primary residence.
- Contestants must be able to travel to Sweden for the NCC Finals—typically held late July at NärCon Sommar—and must have, or be eligible for, a valid passport for this time period. A valid passport must be secured at least five months prior to travel. Failure to do

so will result in disqualification, and the runner-up will be selected to represent Canada at the NCC Finals.

- Contestants may not enter if they:
 - have represented Canada at the previous NCC Finals.
 - have judged or participated in another country's NCC qualifier for the current NCC Finals.
 - have represented another country at the NCC within the last 5 years.
- Must purchase a valid CSC Fancon Saturday or Weekend event badge. Selected contestants will be asked to provide proof of badge purchase prior to the event. Contestants will be required to be present on the Friday of the CSC weekend for rehearsal and other pre-show events as noted prior to the event.

Costume Rules

- Costumes must be based on a published, fictional character with an official reference image. No original characters or fanart designs are permitted in this competition.
- Costumes must be constructed by the contestants themselves and contestants are expected to be able to give an account of how all details of their costume were made. Store-bought and modified costumes are not permitted in this competition.
- Costumes that have previously won awards may be reused, as long as they have never appeared on an NCC stage. Once a cosplay has been presented at any NCC event, it is no longer eligible for competition.
- Costumes must be fully completed prior to arrival at the competition. Only minor travel-related repairs are permitted. Incomplete costumes upon arrival may result in point deductions or disqualification.
- A build book documenting the build process of the costume is required and must be submitted in advance of the competition by a specified deadline.
- All contestants must attend a craftsmanship judging appointment in full costume with their hand-held props.

Performance Rules

- Performances must be between 90 and 150 seconds long.
- While costumes entered in previous competitions can be reused, a new performance must be created for the NCC stage. It must be easily distinguishable from the performance used in a previous competition.
- All performance audio must be pre-recorded, as live microphones will not be available to contestants. Audio content must be royalty-free or copyright-free. The use of AI-generated music, sound, or video content is not permitted under any circumstances.

- There will be a video backdrop available for contestants to use to enhance their performance. If a video is not submitted, the screen will remain black during the performance. NCC Canada will not create video backdrops for the contestant. The use of AI generated videos is not permitted.
 - The addition of audio captions to your video backdrop is optional. If you do add captions, please place them at the **top of the video**.
- All required audio, and optional video content if applicable, must be submitted to the contest organizers by the deadline provided.
- Contestants are allowed up to three (3) stage props. Each prop must be constructed so that it can be safely and quickly moved by at most 2 people.
- Contestants are allowed to have up to one (1) assistant with them on stage. The assistant may be in costume and have speaking/singing lines, but they must not have a role equal to the contestant in the performance. It should be 100% obvious who is the contestant and who is the assistant.
- It is prohibited to take the performance outside of the stage, except into the side wings where the contestants enter and exit the stage. Contestants are not permitted to leave the stage by any other means, nor should any of their props or costume leave the stage area. Breaking this rule will result in disqualification.
- Use of fire, smoke generating items, and messy substances (including but not limited to water, bubbles, blood capsules, confetti poppers) is prohibited. Streamer poppers may be permitted provided the streamers remain attached to the release mechanism and they are approved by the NCC Organizer.

Prizing Information

- The winner of the NCC Canadian Qualifier will receive one (1) round-trip flight and hotel accommodations in Linköping, Sweden during the Nordic Cosplay Championship Finals at NärCon. Flight airline and class will be determined by the organizer. The organizer will pay baggage fees for one (1) carry-on item and one (1) normal checked item. The winner is responsible for any oversize charges or additional baggage fees. The winner may purchase flight upgrades at their own expense.
- If the winner can not or chooses not to participate in the NCC Finals at NärCon, the prize will be provided to the runner up of that year's competition. No cash value will be given to the winner or runner-up if they can not or chose not to participate.
- This prize is non-transferable and only valid for the official winner representing Canada and cannot be deferred to a later time.
- Any changes in travel arrangements must be approved by the NCC organizers.

Disqualification Criteria

To maintain the integrity of the competition, the following actions will result in immediate disqualification:

- Submission of false information or plagiarized work in the build book or costume.
- Submission of purchased, rented, or commissioned costumes.
- Major performance changes after submission without approval of NCC Organizer.
- Unsafe or dangerous behavior on stage or backstage (e.g., unauthorized use of fire or props).
- Harassment, bullying, or abusive behavior toward any staff, contestant, or judge.
- Failure to comply with stage procedures or judge instructions after a warning.
- Costume not completed by time of arrival (unless travel damage repair).
- Use of an original character, fanart, or unlicensed character design.
- Repeated lateness to or absence from scheduled events such as judging, rehearsals, and performance.
- Failure to submit required documentation on time.
- Any violation of event safety, cosplay, or prop policies of CSC Fancon. (Refer to Appendices A & B for full policy details.)

Judging Criteria

Each judge awards contestants a score out of 25 points. These scores will be used to help determine the winner and runner-up of the NCC Canadian Qualifier.

The scores will not be released to the public or participants.

Craftsmanship – 10 points

This category evaluates the technical execution, material choices, and accuracy of the costume based on the character reference. The focus is on the final result, not just the effort or learning curve involved.

- Craftsmanship will be judged based on clean execution, material suitability, and accuracy to the reference image.
- Judges will assess technique, finish, structure, and detail without factoring in the contestant's physical body type.
- Self-drafted patterns or 3D modeling work by the contestant is highly valued.
- Use of pre-made patterns (sewing, embroidery, 3D print files) is permitted, but should make up less than 10% of the total costume.

- Store-bought or commercial patterns must be significantly adapted.
- The following items may be purchased and do not need to be made by the contestant:
 - Wigs, footwear, tights, undergarments, and electronics (e.g., lights, fans).
- Material choices that reflect the character's era, setting, or context will be awarded additional points.
- Wig styling and makeup are considered part of the craftsmanship score and must be done by the contestant.

Performance – 10 points

This category evaluates how effectively the contestant uses the stage to bring their character to life, tell a story, and engage the audience. The focus is on clarity, creativity, emotional impact, and execution.

- How faithful the character is portrayed, both in action and context.
- Judges will evaluate confidence, engagement, and emotional delivery, including facial expressions, body language, and the pacing and timing of the performance.

Use of Assistants

- Assistants are allowed to participate but must support the performance without becoming the focal point. Their presence should enhance the main narrative or staging and remain clearly secondary to the contestant.
- Misuse of assistants—such as overshadowing, upstaging, or distracting from the main performer—may result in low scoring.

Audio & Technical Execution

- Judges will consider the overall quality of audio, including clarity of dialogue or music, clean mixing and balance, smooth transitions and appropriate timing.
- Poor sound quality or mistimed cues can negatively impact performance scores, regardless of content.

Likeness – 5 points

This category focuses on how well the contestant captures the essence of the character, both visually and through their performance. The goal is to reflect the look, personality, and spirit of the source material in a cohesive and convincing way.

Character Embodiment

- Contestants will be evaluated on how accurately and convincingly they portray the character, combining visual elements with performance choices.

- Likeness is not about physical resemblance or body type, but about how well all elements—craftsmanship, styling, and performance—work together to convincingly bring the character to life.

Accommodations

We want to ensure everyone has the best experience possible during the NCC qualifiers. If you require any accommodations or support throughout the event, please don't hesitate to reach out to the NCC organizers using the contact email provided below.

- If you need assistance with anything—such as early prop drop-off, adjusted rehearsal times, or other logistics—please let us know in advance. We'll do our best to make arrangements, though please understand that some limitations may be beyond our control.
- Schedule changes can happen! Rehearsal times and event timing are subject to change, so we strongly encourage you to keep an eye on your inbox for official emails leading up to and during the event.
- For clarity: glasses, medical devices, tattoos, and piercings are all absolutely welcome and allowed. We celebrate individuality and accessibility.

Contact & Questions

If there's anything we can do to make your experience more comfortable or accessible, we're here to help!

Contact: nccteamcanada@gmail.com for more information or clarification. Please ensure you have the subject line as "NCC Contestant Question - [cosplay handle]" so we are able to respond to you quickly.

Good luck, and thank you for helping showcase Canadian cosplay talent to the world!

Appendix A: Cosplay Policy

Cosplay Policy

- Please be mindful that CSC events are **FAMILY FRIENDLY**. Attendees are encouraged to dress modestly, avoiding excessively revealing or provocative attire. Failure to follow this rule may result in denial of entry.
 - Cosplays cannot have offensive imagery (offensive language, symbols, or images that could be deemed inappropriate)
- Cosplay and costumes must cover a reasonable amount of your body acceptable for a public situation. Minimal coverage is the area covered by universally acceptable swimwear (bikini or trunks).
 - Exposed backs are allowed
 - Footwear is required
 - Body paint and glitter must be non-transferable
- Cosplays and props should not be able to cause injury to other attendees, ensure all sharp points are capped, taped, or dulled.
- Cosplays or costumes impersonating law enforcement, safety personnel, venue staff, or security are strictly prohibited.
- Any cosplays or props with wheels (skateboards, roller skates, etc) are prohibited within the venue building unless otherwise discussed with CSC.

Appendix B: Weapon and Prop Policy

A Weapon is defined as any item that the criminal code or CSC staff considers to be a weapon. All weapon props must be inspected by CSC staff prior to entering the venue.

- The following weapons are illegal in Canada and absolutely illegal at Worlds Collide, examples include:
 - Firearms of any kind, bali-song(“butterfly knife”), switchblades, brass knuckles, spiked wristbands, morning stars, concealed knives, hand crossbows, nunchucks, batons, tasers, mace, arrows, bolts
 - Foam replicas are permissible, but may require a label indicating the prop
 - Please review the Canada Border Service Agency and Justice Canada’s policies regarding illegal weapons
- The following weapons are not allowed in Worlds Collide for safety reasons
 - Airsoft/BB/pellet guns, pistols, rifles, or similar devices
 - Replica firearms made from metal or solid resin (that may be indistinguishable from real firearms at a distance)
 - Close imitations are allowed so long as they cannot fire and are made from acceptable material like foam
 - Props that are capable of firing a projectile (bullets, arrows, bolts), Nerf guns, and similar options are allowed if they are unloaded at all times
- Weapons cannot have sharp edges (knives, swords, shields), excessive weight, or any other features that can be harmful to other event attendees.
- Lasers are strictly prohibited. Light sabers are permitted if it is not made of glass.
- Weapon props may be required to have an orange safety tip at the venue but may be removed during short photography and competition purposes.

The CSC Team retains the exclusive right to deny entry if props do not meet our safety criteria. All props must be visible and inspected upon arrival. Real weapons are strictly prohibited as props, and the ideal prop should not be made of metal, steel, or glass.

Ontario laws and regulations ([Criminal Code of Conduct](#)) must also be adhered to in addition to the listed rules. Failure to comply with the Cosplay and Weapon policy may result in removal from the event.

Please refer to our website for additional safety protocols and contact cosplay@cscmarketplace.com should you have any questions.