**LAG Fest 2016 Cosplay Contest Rules  
Email: lagfestcosplay@gmail.com**

**General Entry Guidelines**

* A costume that has won a major award may be entered under the following conditions:
* At the discretion of the directors (if the audience, competitors, and judges are significantly different);
* The costume is entered as an exhibition piece;
* **OR**, the competitor is willing to enter in a more experienced skill division.
* Purchased or commissioned costumed are **ONLY** allowed as exhibition pieces, and are **NOT** eligible for any awards.
* You must have constructed or altered at least **60%** of the costume.
* While we are a gaming convention and put a strong emphasis on gaming costumes, manga, Japanese anime, etc., costumes from sci-fi, movies, American comics, Korean sources, original designs, etc. are also allowed for entry.
* The cosplay directors reserve the right to refuse entry to any entrant for any reasons.

**Regulations, Rules, and Guidelines**Read these rules and regulations carefully, please!

* This is a family friendly convention.
* Costumes must maintain a **PG-13** rating. No excessive violence, sexual content, exposed bodies, etc. This pertains to both skits and costumes.
* All awards are presented at the judges’ discretion. That being said, in order to be eligible for an award, you must have made at least 60% of your costume. If you are the maker of a costume, but have a “model” wearing it, you are also eligible for an award, but you **MUST** be present at pre-judging.
* You may still enter the contest if you did not make your costume, but as a walk-on only. You will not be eligible for any craftsmanship awards.
* Please be sure to bring at least one color reference picture with you. While the judges are highly skilled, it is unfair to ask them to know what every anime or sci-fi character is. Bringing a reference picture will ensure that they can accurately judge you. If you are entering with an original character, a drawing is fine.
* Costume judging is **NOT** open to the public. Only participants, handlers, and parents of those in the YOUTH category will be allowed inside.
* Children aged 12 and under will be judged separately in a YOUTH category. Parents are required to accompany those in this category.
* You MUST attend the cosplay pre-meeting or you will be cut from the show.
* Registration forms will be available on the LAG Fest website, and during the convention on Friday and Saturday at the Cosplay Sign-Up Booth until we run out of spaces. You can guarantee entry into the contest by filing out your entry form no later than November 11, 2016 at: TBD
* You must turn in both your reference picture and your completed entry form no later than Saturday, before pre-judging.
* Nothing is to be left on the stage. You may also not dirty the stage. If it goes on with you, it comes off with you. You may also not throw anything into the audience or at the judges. Examples include: props, glitter, confetti, water, petals, etc.
* For safety concerns, any battle or fight scenes must be done at ¾ speeds, and one leg must remain on the stage at all times.
* Cosplay is for everybody, and all cosplayers must be treated with equal respect at all times. Respect is your secret word.
* Skits are NOT allowed into the contest.
* Groups are allowed, but only 8 people are allowed on the stage at one time.
* If you are a group, only use **ONE** group registration form and use the back if necessary.
* Competing in multiple groups is not allowed.
* If any contestant becomes unruly or disruptive during judging or the contest, you will be asked to leave and disqualified.
* Professional costumes are not allowed to enter. A professional costumer is anyone who makes a significant portion of their income from costume design, construction, or sales.
* Class restrictions are strictly enforced. If any competitor is found to have entered a class below their skill level, the competitor will be immediately moved to a higher class. If a competitor is found to have intentionally entered a class below their skill level (also known as sandbagging), the competitor risks immediate disqualification.
* LAG Fest encourages competitors to bring costumes to our competition that have not previously won awards. However, we will accept those costumes that have only won awards at conventions of a smaller size (calculated by attendance). Any entrant found to be entering a costume which has previously taken a major award at a larger convention (also known as sandbagging) will be immediately disqualified, and risks being banned from future competitions.
* When entrants are in the cosplay room, in pre-judging, and backstage for the show, the staff and judges monitor their sportsmanship. Rude remarks, put-downs, or other unsportsmanlike conduct will have consequences. Egregious cases may result in immediate disqualification. Competitors will not be notified if they have been disqualified, and judges are not permitted to discuss the judging process or the results. This is to protect entrants, judges, and staff, as well as to maintain the professionalism of the contest.