

## OPEN DIVISION RULES

1. Pre-registration is required for the Page to Stage Costume Contest. There is NO onsite registration for the contest. You can pre-register by filling out the form found here:

<https://forms.gle/VX8ZDLwrMXHfPuDC9>

A. Contestants must register in one of three skill categories:

1. Novice: Novices may or may not be new to competition, but may not have won a major award such as Best in Show, Best Novice, Best Construction, or Best Presentation in any Regional or International Competition (including events like SDCC, WorldCon, NYCC, Anime Boston, CostumeCon, etc.) Novices must have made at least 50% of their costume, though items like undergarments, shoes, wigs, and pieces not essential to the overall aesthetic of the costume may have been purchased and modified.

2. Intermediate: Intermediate (formerly Journeyman) may have won as many as three major awards in any Regional or International Competition (as defined above). Intermediate competitors are required to have made at least 65% of their costume, though items like undergarments, shoes, wigs, and pieces not essential to the overall aesthetic of the costume may have been purchased and modified.

3. Advanced: Advanced (formerly Master) is the division for any competitor who has won more than three major awards in any Regional or International Competition (as defined above) or for competitors who are professionals in a craftsmanship field including costuming, prop making, acting as a costumed character, theater professionals, seamstresses, leather smiths, metallurgists, etc. Advanced competitors are required to have made at least 75% of their costume, though items like undergarments, shoes, wigs, and pieces not essential to the overall aesthetic of the costume may have been purchased and modified.

There is no group division for the Page to Stage Costume Contest. Competitors wishing to enter as a group should enter the category that applies to the most experienced costumer in their group and must include the names of each group member and their costume on the registration form.

2. Documentation must be submitted by 11:59pm, August 21, 2024. Documentation submissions are outlined in the section below titled "[Submitting Documentation.](#)"

3. You must have a valid membership to Dragon Con 2024 to compete or watch the contest.

4. You must follow Dragon Con safety protocols in all contest areas and during the contest. Masks, PPE, DME, and service dogs are permitted and do not require costuming or adornment to use for the contest. The judges will not assume that the equipment is a part of the costume and will only judge the equipment if it is costumed or adorned AND the costumer requests that the equipment be considered.

5. Costumers may only enter one costume in a single skill division. Contestants in the Open Division may accept an invitation to the Invitational Division if they receive one after entering in the Open Division, however, they will forfeit their spot in the Open Division if they choose to compete in the Invitational,

and Vice Versa.

6. No costume is no costume. A wearable prop is not a costume. Nudity is not permitted.

7. The contest is a pre-judged, cat walk/fashion show competition based on the costume and its presentation during pre-judging and appearance on stage. Each contestant will be given time to enter the stage, have the MC read their costume description (provided on the pre-registration document), and then exit the stage. Attempting to speak from the stage is not permitted and will result in disqualification.

8. 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.

9. No profanity allowed on stage including messages on signs, props, or costume pieces.

10. No political or religious statements on costumes, props, signs, or are to be spoken or yelled from the stage.

11. Use of makeup or alteration to skin pigment must not replicate natural skin tones of another human race.

12. No use of flash pots, smoke effects, strobe effects, open flame, projectiles, or pointing prop weapons at judges or the audience is permitted. All prop weapons must be appropriately peace-bonded and approved through Dragon Con Safety before they may be considered by the judges.

13. Costumes must be self-contained and must fit within a reasonable amount of space within the room/stage area. No more than one handler is permitted backstage for large costumes. Page to Stage Costume Contest cannot provide handlers to assist with large costumes.

14. Open Division Contestant Check in is on August 31, 2022 from 5:00pm to 5:30pm. Contestants must arrive at the pre-judging area no later than 6:00pm and check in with the Open Division Admin in the Hyatt Embassy Hall (Fantasy Literature Track Room). Contestants will be called by the judges for their pre-judging session. Pre-judging will last between 2 to 3 minutes for Novices, 3 to 4 minutes for Intermediate (formerly Journeyman), and 4 to 5 minutes for Advanced (formerly Masters). You can be as creative as you would like in your pre-judging presentation, however, the following questions must be answered:

1. Who are you? State your name, your character's name and literary reference, or that it is an original interpretation of a literary character, and provide some reference photo or passage that gives the judges an idea of 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 of the creation process, detail the techniques and materials you used, or give information on the websites, professionals, or other sources you used to design and make 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? Show the judges your passion for the character and the craftwork that you did to create it.

After you have met with the judges, you must remain in the pre-judging area until it is time for the stage presentation. If you need to leave to go to the restroom or for any other reason, please notify a Page to Stage Costume Contest Volunteer BEFORE you leave. Once pre-judging is over, contestants will be lined up in their stage presentation order which will be determined by the Costume Contest Coordinator.

Those contestants with a reasonable need to go on stage first will be prioritized in each skill level.

Skill levels will be presented in the following order: Novice, Intermediate (formerly Journeyman), Advanced (formerly Master). Accommodations will be made on a case by case basis to ensure that each costume is presented in the best way possible for viewing by the audience and judges on stage. After you exit the stage, please return to the backstage area and remain there until awards are announced. Those who receive awards will return to the stage, and all other contestants will then be dismissed from the backstage area.

If you require a reasonable accommodation under the ADA, please email [fantasy@dragoncon.org](mailto:fantasy@dragoncon.org) with the subject line "Open Division ADA Request" with the nature of the accommodation that you require. The Fantasy Literature Track Director, Costume Contest Coordinator, and/or Dragon Con Disability Services will respond to your request to facilitate the request to the extent available.

15. Judges' decisions are final. Prizes and awards will be given onstage during the awards presentation.

#### On Stage Presentation Information and Rules

If you would like to present a skit during the Open Division, you may. Contestants will be given 60 seconds on stage AFTER the emcee announcement is read to perform a family friendly skit appropriate to showcase their character and its literary source. You may bring props and backdrops onto the stage, provided that you can take them on and off the stage as part of the skit and remove them quickly at the end of your 60 seconds. Your audio will begin as soon as the last word of your emcee announcement is said by the emcee. Contestants who remain on the stage after the 60 second mark will be escorted from the stage by our SAFETY TEAM DEADPOOL (you may use this to end your skit if you wish, it is not a disqualification so long as it is appropriate).

The stage dimensions are 18 feet deep by 32 feet wide and there is a mobility ramp on stage left. There

is a backdrop on the back of the stage, but no back edge or front edge to the risers. Please plan your performance accordingly.

Contestants are NOT REQUIRED to do a skit, it is optional. If you do not wish to do a skit, and we do not receive audio for you, then we will select 1 of 5 audio files for your entry that are themed for fantasy, sci-fi, renaissance, techno-pop, or hero (comics). Your stage presentation will be based on your presentation of the costume while the audio is playing, though you do not have to remain on stage for the full 60 seconds and can do a fashion style runway walk instead.

#### Rules for Stage Presentation:

1. You may not leave the stage at any point during the skit, either to the sides or off of the front, including stage diving, crowd surfing, or trust falling.
2. Projectiles, fire and smoke effects, strobe lights, bubbles, and drones are not permitted as any part of the performance.
3. No nudity. No costume is no costume. If your costume includes transitions onstage, please be certain that no part of the costume can accidentally reveal private parts.
4. Skits must be family friendly and portray the literary character to be scored for literary interpretation. You may certainly create audio or use songs that are not part of the character universe, so long as they are appropriate to the character. Humorous skits are certainly welcome, but this is not a parody competition. Keeping that in mind, please feel free to be creative and entertaining.
5. No speaking, singing, screaming, or statements from the stage. You may create audio that includes speaking, singing, etc., but it will be reviewed and may be censored for any words that are considered in violation of the ages 13+ family friendly nature of the show.
6. No political statements.
7. When in doubt, consult the contest coordinator. You can email any questions or concerns about your planned performance to [fantasy@dragoncon.org](mailto:fantasy@dragoncon.org).