

Competitions and the Guild

Transparency Statement

Introduction

The Guild of Nerds is committed to running fair, inclusive, and transparent cosplay competitions. Our goal is to create a positive experience for all entrants, ensuring that judging is conducted with professionalism, integrity, and impartiality. Below, we outline the key principles and practices that guide how our competitions are organized and judged.

Judging Panels

Guest Judges

Our judging panels primarily feature guest judges, ensuring a diverse range of perspectives and expertise.

Variety of Expertise

Panels are carefully selected to represent a variety of skill sets, experiences, and backgrounds, reflecting the diversity of the cosplay community.

Competitor Representation

A majority of the judges on each panel will have experience as competitors in cosplay competitions. We do not require that our judges have won a competition to judge.

Avoiding All-Member Panels

We strive to avoid having all-member judging panels wherever possible to ensure impartiality and a range of viewpoints.

Guild Director Involvement

The Guild's directors and show management teams are not involved in judges' decisions. In rare cases where a Guild director or show management team member must serve as a judge, an impartial third party will be present during all judging discussion to ensure fairness.

Unconscious Bias Training

All judges must complete unconscious bias training to ensure evaluations are fair and equitable for all participants.

Competition Eligibility

Ineligible to Compete

Individuals with staff passes, or cosplay team provided passes (e.g., judges and judges handlers, cosplay zone volunteers) cannot enter with these kinds of passes. Creator guests, panelists and vendors are able to enter.

Member Eligibility

Guild Directors and Members cannot enter competitions at any show the Guild has structured, even shows they are not actively volunteering at.

Volunteer Eligibility

Guild Volunteers are eligible to compete in Guild structured and facilitated competitions so long as they are not actively volunteering at that show. Volunteers are not involved in competition facilitation or administration.

Non-Guild Structured Competitions

For competitions that the Guild has not structured, members may enter. This includes shows such as ECG, and other international qualifiers. In situations where the Guild is facilitating such qualifiers, only Directors will be involved in the administration and facilitation of those shows, and thus will be the only ones ineligible to compete.

Our Commitment to Entrants

The Guild of Nerds takes pride in fostering a positive, inclusive, and supportive environment for all cosplayers. By adhering to these guidelines, we ensure that our competitions uphold the values of transparency, fairness, and respect.

Thank you for trusting us to celebrate your creativity and dedication to the art of cosplay.