RULES:
The following criteria must be met to avoid disqualification:

- Entrants must be 13 years of age or older. Children under the age of 13 are not allowed to participate, even as part of a group
- Entrants may perform in costumes they did not make
- Fan Expo staff, guests, volunteers, and current judges for the year of convention are not allowed to compete in the Masquerade.
- FAN EXPO reserves the right to disallow any contestants on basis of appropriateness of costume and performance. FAN EXPO and all FAN EXPO events are a family friendly convention. Nudity and simulated nudity are strictly prohibited. Costumes that are deemed to be racist, obscene, or otherwise derogatory will not be allowed to compete. Costumes with hate symbolism such as swastikas, KKK hoods etc. will not be allowed to compete.
- All applications will be approved by our masquerade team. FAN EXPO HQ staff has the final say on all entries. Their decisions may not be appealed.
- Entrants must be able to wear their costumes for 2+ hours without incurring medical distress such as overheating, lacerations, excessive strain on muscles etc. Entrants who are deemed to be in medical distress by EXPO staff will be removed from the competition and escorted to first aid. This decision cannot be appealed.
- All special effects and props must be pre-approved by the Expo staff prior to the day of the masquerade. Please surprise the audience, not the staff. All information supplied to FAN EXPO will be held in the strictest of confidence. Any electrical effects must be self-powered. FAN EXPO retains the right to disallow any prop for any reason.
- Costumes must be able to fit through doors to the event and be able to take the stage (special circumstances may require contestants to walk in front of the stage)
- Any prop or weapon must have passed inspection and be approved by the Weapons and Prop Compliance Team prior to the contest.
- Entrants must leave the stage as clean as it was when they first walked on it. Glitter, confetti, silly string, etc. will not be allowed on stage.
- Absolutely no flame or pyrotechnical props are permitted due to fire regulations. FAN EXPO's primary concern is public safety.
- Animals are not allowed for the competition, with the exception of service animals.
- Individual music must be free of copyright and pre-approved by masquerade organizers
- This is a performance based competition.
- Once registration closes (four weeks prior to convention), no other applications will be accepted.
- Entrants are not allowed to perform in the event if they previously won a major award with the performance in other masquerade or performance based events

REGISTRATION:

- Each prospective contestant must complete the online registration form to be considered for a spot in the competition
- Registration does NOT guarantee a spot in the Masquerade, as all applications are reviewed.
- There will be no on-site registration for the event
- Entrant numbers for this year's competition will be capped at 20 (10 entrants per division).

- Once pre-registration has closed, prospective contestants will be informed if they have qualified for the contest or not. A wait list will be available for those who did not initially qualify.
- Only one entry per cosplayer/group is permitted.

Contest Registration will require the following information:

- Name(s)
- Cosplay Handle or Preferred Name (This is the name our host will introduce you by on stage, not the costume you're in)
- Age(s)
- Division (see below)
- Your Cosplay Character(s)
- Where the Character(s) is from
- Photo(s) of the character(s) that is being cosplayed
- Photo(s) of the costume's current look
- A description of your on-stage performance
- A single paragraph introducing your costume to the audience, for our host to read on stage if you are selected for the competition. A maximum of 3-4 sentences are requested. Contest Organizers and FAN EXPO HQ reserve the right to request adjustments or modify this paragraph for length, clarity, or content that they deem inappropriate. Please do not include at the start who you are cosplaying/where it's from as we will already have that information provided.
- Social Media (Instagram, TikTok, Youtube, etc)

DIVISIONS:

All contestants must select their respective divisions based on experience:

- Beginner division: contestants with limited to no experience participating in masquerade or skit based competitions
- Experienced Division: contestants who have competed in previous masquerade or skit based competitions and won major awards
- Divisions are set based on the highest level of experience from their team member

JUDGING

Contestants will be scored on metrics by our judges:

- **Performance**: your presentation on stage to the judges and audience
- **Uniqueness**: having a unique and creative performance fitting to the cosplays performing on stage
- **Media**: the sound and quality of the media provided for the performance, plus coordination of timing between on stage and sound played

PERFORMANCE

- On-stage performances accepted for the event include skits, dances, idol performances, magic and more. Regular cosplay showcase are not allowed. Please describe your performance to ensure it's ok with the masquerade team
- All types of cosplay are welcome, from anime to gaming, comic books to horror, sci-fi to pop culture.
- Performances must be between 90 seconds to 150 seconds in length. No performances will be accepted under 90 seconds or longer than 150 seconds in time.
- All audio must be sent two weeks prior to the show to the masquerade team for review. You audio length will highlight the exact length of your skit.
- Contestants participating in the Masquerade are also allow to register and compete in the Masters of Cosplay (separate registration must be filled out)

ON-STAGE PORTION

- All contestants are required to appear on stage. Contestants are asked to arrive at the designated area one (1) hour before the contest begins. At this time contestants will be organized as per their assigned order determined at check in.
- Only registered entrants are allowed in the staging area. Please be aware that this means friends, children not participating in the contest, and animals (except for certified service animals) are not to accompany entrants. Should a contestant require a handler to accompany them, this must be cleared with the masquerade organizers in advance.
- Costumes must allow freedom of movement to navigate stairs.
- Contestants are to arrive at the staging area in costume. Please, no sewing, gluing, spray painting, soldering, or welding in the staging area.
- You MUST be in costume during the on-stage portion

What to expect on stage:

- The hosts will read the contestant's write up sent from their registration
- Contestants will walk from their entrance on one side across the stage to the opposite side exit, unless otherwise noted.
- Participants will take their designated spots on stage and inform the organizer when ready
- Entrants must leave the stage as clean as it was when they first walked on it. Glitter, confetti, silly string, etc. will not be allowed on stage.
- Absolutely no flame or pyrotechnical props are permitted due to fire regulations. FAN EXPO HQ's primary concern is public safety.

- Lighting requests (e.g. turning the lights up or down or off) will not be accepted
- Profanity or statements regarding religious, political, or any activities that are deemed unsafe will result in immediate disqualification from the competition.
- The throwing of anything at the audience is not allowed. This will result in disqualification from the contest.
- Live animals will not be allowed to take the stage unless they are service animals, especially pigeons or doves
- Once the last contestants has exited the stage, the judges will deliberate. Contestants must remain in the staging area at this time. Contestants are not permitted to leave the staging area to join family or friends