



The Retro Event Cosplay Comp: Bad-Ass Guide & Entry Rules

Welcome to the Retro Event Cosplay Competition!

Beginners, pros, and people who super-glued their costumes to the kitchen table... kia ora!
This is your moment to show the crowd how legends are made – one dodgy seam at a time.
If it's built, not bought, you're already winning.



Registration & Eligibility

📄 **Digital entries only** – there will be no sign-ups on the day.



Entry Deadline: Saturday, 1st November



Event Date: Saturday, 8th November

ENTRY FORM IS ATTACHED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DOCUMENT

Please Note: Entries **cannot be changed** once submitted.



Costume Requirements

- Costumes can be from **any media** (retro or modern), as long as you provide **clear visual references**.
- You **may wear your costume or have someone else model it**.
- Costumes must be **PG and family-friendly**:
 - No nudity, highly revealing designs, or excessive gore
 - Painted surfaces, adhesives, and coatings must be fully sealed
 - Bodysuits or tights recommended for exposed areas



If your costume's already taken home a trophy here, it can't enter the competition again.
You're welcome to show it off on stage – just bring something new if you want to compete.

Construction Rules

This is a **craftsmanship-based** competition.

- **70% or more** of the costume must be **made by you**
 - The other 30% may include base items (e.g. shoes, wigs, thrifted/closet finds), but **must be visibly modified**
- Aim to **complete as much of your costume as possible** to showcase in your construction log
- You may **reuse a costume** from previous competitions **only if it hasn't received any awards**

🎨 Fan art interpretations are allowed, but you must submit both the **fan art** and **official design references**, with explanation of how the design was adapted.

✗ Realistic police or military uniforms and realistic replica weapons are not allowed.

If your cosplay could get someone tackled by actual security... it's a no-go.

Submission Requirements

All entries must be submitted as a **single PDF document (max 10 pages)** including:

- **High-quality reference image(s)** of the character
- **Diary log/progress documentation** that includes:
 - Materials used and why
 - Techniques applied (e.g., sewing, molding, painting)
 - In-progress and close-up images of costume details
 - Notes on problem-solving, trial and error, and final adjustments
 - Wig styling, makeup application, prop construction (if applicable)

💡 Judging relies heavily on your PDF submission. Judges will have a printed copy, so make it clear, detailed, and easy to follow.

Judging Process - Read or face the cosplay gods

- All submissions get eyeballed by the judging panel before the big day – no surprises, no last-minute foam explosions.
 - If you're accepted, you'll get an email with your **prejudging time and location**. Check it. Don't ghost it.
 - **Turn up 10 minutes early** – fashionably late is not a personality trait here.
 - If you're running late, flick us a message ASAP. We'll try help, but no promises – this isn't Uber Eats.
 - Only the contestant goes in for judging. A helper can haul your massive prop, but they've gotta bail before the panel starts grilling you.
 - Need accessibility support? Sweet as. Just let us know on your form so we can sort it properly.
-



Judging Criteria

Judges will assess the following areas:

Construction & Technique

- Fabric choice and quality
- Seam finishes, hems, and overall fit
- Patterning and tailoring
- Craftsmanship in armor construction and painting

Accuracy & Detailing

- Faithfulness to reference images
- Silhouette match
- Embellishments, lining, buttons
- Attention to small details and character accuracy

Props & Materials

- Creative material use
- Durability and portability
- Blunt edges and safe construction
- Paint, design, and surface finishes

Wigs, Makeup & Prosthetics

- Wig styling and colour match
 - Makeup application and prosthetic blending
 - Use of sculpting, molding or casting where applicable
-

? Judging Interview Questions

You may be asked:

- What are you **most proud of** in your costume and why?
 - Were there any **surprises or challenges** during the creation process?
 - What techniques were new to you?
 - What would you improve if given more time?
-

🔪 Prop & Weapon Policy

Safety comes first. **All props must comply** with the following:

☑ Allowed:

- Made of foam, resin, EVA, Worbla, plastic, rubber, wood, fabric
- Blunt-edged or clearly fake/fantasy in design
- Toy weapons with **disabled functionality** (proof required)

✗ Not Allowed:

- Realistic firearms (including replicas, lighters, vapes)
- Sharp, heavy, or metal weapons (e.g. knives, swords, axes)
- Sports equipment (e.g. bats, paddles, clubs)
- Working power tools or unsafe materials
- Bows with **taut strings** or metal tips

Size Limit: No prop should exceed **2 metres** in length or **10kg** in weight
Oversized costume? Email us in advance so we can help accommodate your needs.



Prizes & Recognition

We will be awarding prizes in the following categories:

- 🏆 1st Place
 - 🥈 2nd Place
 - 🥉 3rd Place
 - 🛡️ Armor
 - 🌱 Youth Award
 - 👥 Group Entry
 - 🌟 Honourable Mentions & Judges' Commendations
-



On the Day

- Got a massive sword, wing span of a Boeing, or a full mech suit? Storage for large props or sets is sweet as – just give us a heads up first.
 - If your costume can't fit through a doorway without turning sideways... maybe practice the shuffle. Be mindful of the crowd.
 - No safety hazards please. If your cosplay could accidentally impale someone, we'll have to bench it.
 - Be like Superman: Be kind, inspire, hype each other up, and let's make this a badass celebration of pure creativity. Be Excellent to each other...and party on dudes 🌟 ✨
-



Website & Contact

Questions or unsure about a costume or prop?

Emilio (PR Assistant): 📧 emilio.retrocityevent@gmail.com

Arrol (Event Organizer): <https://www.theretroevent.co.nz/>

The Retro Event: Bad-Ass Cosplay Competition Entry Form Thing

Name: _____

Age (if under 18): _____

Social Media ID/Handles: _____

Character Name: _____

From (show/game/book): _____

Event Entering (e.g. The Retro Event Vol. 6): _____

Category: _____

Please supply details of your costume below

What percentage of your costume was:

- **Purchased:** _____ %
- **Handcrafted:** _____ %

(Note: At least 70% of your costume must be made by you.)

Were there elements that you purchased and then modified? Or were specific elements purchased any specific elements for screen accuracy?
(e.g., authentic garments or accessories that match the character design, excluding mass-produced replicas)

If yes, please list and describe:

Achievements & Challenges

What is something you are especially proud of in this cosplay, and why?

Were there any surprises, challenges, or breakthroughs you experienced while making the costume? Describe briefly.