

Cosplay Contest Polymanga Swiss Cosplay League Rules

The **Polymanga Swiss Cosplay League (PSCL)** is a national individual competition that brings together cosplayers selected during pop culture events across Switzerland for a common final. For the past 4 years, **Japan Matsuri** has been chosen as the event to select a contestant who will go on to compete in the final, which will take place at the **2m2c – Montreux Music & Convention Centre** during **Polymanga**, approximately between the end of March and the beginning of April 2027.

During the event, several other cosplay competitions will also be held, including the selections for the **World Cosplay Championships (pairs category, with the final in Nagoya, Japan)** as well as qualifiers for the finals of four different international contests that will take place in major European cities: the *Extreme Cosplay Gathering*, the *Europa Cosplay Cup*, the *International Cosplay League*, and the *Tournament of Champions*.

REGISTRATION

Registration for the Cosplay Contest can be done in two ways:

1. **Pre-registration:** Through a dedicated form available on the official *Japan Matsuri* website. Online registration will remain open until **Saturday, September 19, 2026, at 6:00 PM.**
2. **On-site registration:** By **Saturday, September 19, 2026, at 6:00 PM** at the Info Point during the event. The participant must fill out the registration form (downloadable from the official website) and submit the music track or video.

NEXT STEPS AND GUIDELINES

3. **Pre-judging:** This consists of a preliminary review and evaluation of the cosplay by the jury.
4. **Work-in-progress images:** Each participant must provide photographic material proving the making process of their cosplay.
5. Only participants of Swiss nationality, with a valid residence permit, or with official residence in Switzerland are allowed to take part.
6. The costume and accessories must be self-made for at least 80% of their entirety (according to the Polymanga regulations).
7. Since only one participant can compete in the SCL, group registrations are not allowed for this specific contest, and participation must therefore be individual.

In addition to the registration form, participants are also required to complete the release form, which can be found on the official *Japan Matsuri* website.

We also ask participants to provide an image of the character they are portraying, in order to allow the jury to better evaluate the similarity with the original.

REGISTRATION VALIDATION

1. Each participant **must present themselves at the Info Point of the event by 11:30 AM on Sunday, September 20, 2026**, bringing a valid ID and the signed release form.
2. Participants must report to the judges' booth at **13:00 PM** for the pre-judging (in full cosplay with photographic documentation at hand).
3. Only individuals who are **18 years of age or older at the time of the final (April 2027)** are allowed to participate.

ANY PARTICIPANT WHO FAILS TO ARRIVE WITHIN THE DESIGNATED TIME WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE CONTEST. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

NOT ALLOWED (According to the Federal Weapons Act):

- **Bladed weapons:** any offensive or sharp weapon made of iron or steel such as daggers, swords, machetes, bayonets, etc.
- **Firearms:** any weapon capable of firing cartridges or explosive projectiles such as rifles, pistols, fireworks, firecrackers, etc.
- **Incendiary weapons:** any weapon intended to ignite objects or cause burns to people.
- **Liquids:** any type of liquid product, regardless of composition.
- **Any product or substance that could soil or damage the stage or equipment:** firecrackers, smoke bombs, flour, confetti, glitter, foam, etc.
- If the chosen character carries weapons, these must in no way be dangerous either to the cosplayer or to others (spectators and judges).
- Any performance in bad taste (e.g., discrimination against minorities, sexual acts, obscenities, vulgarities, etc.), any violation of applicable laws, or any failure to comply with rules and common sense will result in immediate disqualification from the contest and interruption of the performance.
- Chosen cosplays must not offend the sensibilities of the audience. It is strictly forbidden to use props such as fake blood splashes or severed limbs. However, the use of fake blood is permitted as makeup or as part of details already present on clothing and accessories.

PERFORMANCE

Each participant may provide, if desired, a video or audio file to be played during the performance. If only an audio track is provided, a background image can be projected.

1. **THE MAXIMUM PERFORMANCE TIME ALLOWED IS 1 MINUTE AND 30 SECONDS.**
2. **Audio Track:** It must be a single file in **mp3 or wav** format. Other formats will **NOT** be accepted. Links to YouTube, Dailymotion, or other hosting sites are not allowed.
3. **Video Track:** It must be a single file in **mp4 or avi** format. Other formats will **NOT** be accepted. Links to YouTube, Dailymotion, or other hosting sites are not allowed.
4. Only JPG/JPEG or PNG formats will be accepted for the reference image (links to Google Drive or similar services are NOT permitted).
5. If you wish to project a video with music, a **single combined file** MUST be submitted.
6. If you wish to project an image with music, a **single combined file** MUST be submitted.
7. Neither the audio file nor the video file may exceed the maximum performance time allowed. **No exceptions will be made**; otherwise, the files will **NOT** be accepted.
8. The organization is **NOT** able to modify audio or video files. Therefore, any files that do **NOT** comply with the specified requirements will **NOT** be accepted.
9. If a participant arrives with audio and video provided as **separate files**, they will **NOT** be accepted.
10. **If the audio/video files exceed the time limits specified** (see point 1), the organization reserves the right to reject them without exceptions. Additionally, **any performance that exceeds the allowed time limit** (even in the case of live dialogues or monologues) may be **interrupted**.

PROPS AND STAGE ITEMS (upon request during registration)

- A microphone may be made available.
- A table and chairs can be provided.
- Large or heavy props may be brought in, but participants are responsible for transporting them to the venue and placing them on stage independently (friends, family, or helpers must purchase an entry ticket).

- Small props may be placed on stage by the organizers prior to the performance.
- It is not possible to store props or costumes for the SCL at the venue, either before or after the contest.

JURY

The jury will evaluate each contestant based on overall resemblance to the character (a reference image must be provided during registration), performance and interpretation, difficulty, and the craftsmanship of the costume and accessories.

The jury's decision is final and cannot be appealed.

The organizers reserve the right to modify these regulations at any time. For any questions, you may contact the staff at the following e-mail address: cosplayjm@gmail.com