

WCS Participation Rules

1. One team of two cosplayers will represent each country or region.
2. In order to participate in a preliminary round, cosplayers must provide, to the satisfaction of the preliminary round organizer, proof of citizenship or residency of the country or region holding the event. Participation as a representative of a country or region is permitted the organizer or license holder is satisfied that the cosplayer is in the process of obtaining permanent residency in the specific country or region, and the corresponding residence status has been obtained under the legal system of the concerned country or region. In cases where regional affiliation is more relevant than national affiliation, or under joint systems such as confederations, participation is permitted as representative of the country or region to which cosplayers consider they belong. However, after participation as a representative of a specific country or region, participation as a representative of a different country or region is not permitted for 5 years from the year of participation, despite any changes in the cosplayer's place of residence or nationality. The organizers of the corresponding country or region should be contacted for any question regarding the eligibility for participation and should they deem it necessary to be reviewed by the World Cosplay Summit Secretariat, the organizations and cosplayers shall adhere to the findings of that review.
3. Participants shall be aged 18 and over.
 - ✂ If they are under 18, they must have the consent of a guardian. Participation is allowed only if the permission of a guardian is obtained, and they are able to come to Japan on their own. Age restrictions may vary from country to country.
4. Participants shall be able to travel to Japan and participate in activities during the period of the World Cosplay Championship. In case it is not possible to travel to Japan, participants shall be able to participate in the schedule of the Championship and in the awarding ceremony via a remote online connection.
5. The organizers of preliminary round events are granted the right to select the representatives by a method of their choice. In the event that a change of representatives cannot be avoided, the organizers of preliminary round events can appoint new representatives provided that they meet the requirements for participation. In such cases, the organizers of preliminary round events shall duly inform the WCS Executive Office of the change of representatives and the grounds for the selection of the new representatives.
6. The two members of the team must wear costumes belonging to the same Japanese manga, anime, video game, or tokusatsu work. Also, these must be hand-made by the contestants themselves.
 - ✂ Characters from dôjinshi (fanzine), anthology works are not permitted.
 - ✂ When doing a costume from a game, the character must be recognizable of Japanese origin. (i.e. not a Disney or Star Wars character even though the game may be made in Japan.)

✂ It is permissible to a limited extent for family and friends to help with costumes however it is preferable that costumes are hand-made by the contestants themselves.