



## AUTO ASSEMBLY 2014 COSPLAY COMPETITION RULES – PLEASE READ

**Greetings, robotic costume lovers!**

It's that time again - Auto Assembly's official Cosplay Competition is back! Which means it's time to get creative and celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> year of the Transformers... in costume!

The competition itself couldn't be simpler - buy an Auto Assembly 2014 **weekend** pass, dress up as a Transformer and come have fun! Okay, so we've added a few additional rules to make things interesting, but it's all quite straight forward! Just make sure you have a read before you get your staples in a twist!

### REGISTRATION

1. **YOU NEED A WEEKEND PASS** to Auto Assembly 2014. A day pass will not do as the Cosplay Competition takes place during the Saturday evening show, which is for **WEEKEND PASS** holders only.
2. If you are under 16 years of age, a parent / guardian will need to register for you.
3. You or your parent/guardian should pre-register for the competition by completing the entry form at [www.autoassembly.org.uk](http://www.autoassembly.org.uk) and returning it by email to the cosplay co-ordinator. His email address is [billy@autoassembly.org.uk](mailto:billy@autoassembly.org.uk)
4. **The online pre-registration deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014**
5. If extra places are available, you may be able to register on the Saturday itself at the registration desk. You must read and agree to the rules before registering. The deadline for registering on the day is 6:00 pm Saturday.
6. Online entrants will be notified by email if they are accepted. On-site entrants will generally be first-come, first-accepted, although preference may be given to younger entrants, so please pre-register to avoid disappointment.
7. All entrants (or their parents/guardians where applicable) are required to read, understand and agree to the Cosplay Competition rules.

### GENERAL

Costumes must be Transformers related. (...no, really). But you can choose from any era / sub line of Transformers at all. But avoid Pirates. We don't get it and neither does anybody else... ☺

Each entrant will be allowed to show off their costume during the Saturday evening event in true catwalk fashion. Short performances to accompany your costumes are permitted as long as these are no longer than 2 minutes in duration and on the understanding that they are family friendly in nature. These may be cut short if people start to boo you, hurl fruit, or generally, just get bored and leave on your account. (Please see Pirates guidance note, above)

Special requests for A/V, line-up order, etc should be made on the entry form; we really will do our best to accommodate your requests, but can make no guarantees. Thanks for understanding.

Do not attempt to keep secrets from or surprise the Auto Assembly Committee. We aren't going to leak your secrets in chat rooms or forums. Tell us everything so we can help you plan!

Cosplay entrants can, have, and will be rejected by the Auto Assembly Committee for reasons of safety, indecency, liability, oversize, lack of room, significant deviations from entry form data, violations of UK laws, or violations of Auto Assembly convention policy. The Auto Assembly Committee reserves the right to refuse access to the convention to any persons. (so please be nice).

## **TIME**

**The Cosplay Competition will take place during the Saturday evening event.** Please refer to Auto Assembly Programme for specific times.

Please meet the Cosplay Coordinator Billy Edwards in the foyer outside of the Kings Suite (near to the convention hall) before the competition. If you get lost, please walk towards the main convention hall and ask a member of the hotel / AA staff for directions to the Kings Suite. The proceed to feel embarrassed, because everything you need is on the same corridor ☺

IT'S OK. WE'RE LAUGHING **WITH** YOU.

Please allow 20 minutes or so to ensure we have everything we need.

## **YOUTH REQUIREMENTS**

All entrants who require parental permission to attend Auto Assembly 2014 due to age restrictions/other reasons, must have parental/guardian permission to enter the Cosplay contest as well.

All Youth entries (ages 16 & under) must be accompanied by at least one (1) parent or legal guardian at all times. Seriously don't worry about it, you will still look cool.

## **JUDGING**

The Judging Panel may be composed of Auto Assembly 2014 guests, attendees, or any other person the Cosplay Co-ordinator deems appropriate. Auto Assembly staff are not allowed to stand as judges in case of conflict of interest, the sole exception to this rule being the Cosplay Co-ordinator who may be called upon in the event of a tie (but it's never happened yet).

Judges are free to present as many, or as few, awards as they see fit. Judges' decisions are final. Harassment of or interference with Cosplay judges, whether before, during or after competition, will result in disqualification.

## **SCORING**

**PLEASE NOTE – the following categories are guidelines only. Judges retain the discretion to abandon their score charts in favour of a different scoring method (and often do), providing the cosplay co-ordinator is satisfied that the judging has been fair.**

**Originality** - This is a combination of how original the costume idea is, as well as the character itself. We are not looking for the entrant to be the latest in a line of 1,000 G1 Bumblebees here...!

**Creativity** - This covers the creativity involved in making the costume, techniques used and the amount of work and time that has gone into making it.

**Appearance** - This covers the overall aesthetics of the costume and also takes into consideration the accuracy/success of it in relation to the interpretation of the design.

Please note that the Judges decisions are **final**.

## PRIZES

The main prize is the honorary title of Auto Assembly Cosplay Champion 2014. At the time of writing there are no "physical" prizes, but if this changes we will let you know ☺

## "WEAPON" POLICY

It goes without saying that real or replica weapons are not allowed. (please see "Prohibited" section). If you are creating a Transformers weapon that could potentially be mistaken for a real world weapon, you must clear this with the Cosplay Co-ordinator first. Finally please do not carry weapons around the public areas of the hotel. People won't understand.

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

None of the following items will be permitted at Auto Assembly 2014; you may be ejected from the convention if you attempt to bring these items into the building;

- Guns or props that fire objects
- Realistic looking toy weapons
- Live steel weapons with edges, such as daggers or swords
- Spray weapons, such as mace
- Projectile weapons, such as bows or slingshots
- Live flame, fireworks, flash paper, sparklers, or strobes (sealed flashbulbs may be used, however)
- Electric weapons, such as tasers or cattle prods (if you even own a cattle prod, I don't want to be your friend)
- Aerial acrobatics
- Performances must be suitable for a family audience - regard them as something akin to a PG rating, including language which is appropriate for our younger convention goers
- No nudity or partial nudity. No costume is no costume and you risk ejection from the hotel and the convention - and be warned, Birmingham is very cold. So, No Circuit Breaker cosplays please
- Entering more than once. No repaints please :)

Other toy or "prop" weapons must be deemed safe to be carried or peace bonded. If you are unsure about this, contact the Cosplay Co-ordinator BEFORE bringing anything to the convention with you.

Commissioned costumes, props, wigs, etc may not be submitted; likewise, commercially available costumes which have received no or very little modification will not be allowed - you have to make your own costumes people!

For the avoidance of doubt, we will only say this once – if you turn up in a onesie and claim you made it yourself, we will throw water at you until you fall down. Fair warning ☺

You may not enter a costume that has previously been entered into an Auto Assembly Cosplay Competition, **without** the prior consent of the Cosplay Co-ordinator. (He remembers, so please don't try ☺) Returning entries will be subject to a points deduction at the Cosplay Co-ordinator's discretion.

Finally, only the Cosplay Coordinator may make decisions in case of disputes over rules, eligibility, disqualification, line-up order and other special requests, etc. His decisions are final. The Cosplay buck stops at the Co-ordinator.

Good Luck!

Auto Assembly 2014 Committee ☺