

RULES

Cosplay Pole Kontest

by Irene Gollin

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INTRODUCTION

Cosplay Pole Kontest, hereinafter also referred to as **CPK**, is a virtual, international, and inclusive non-profit event. It was born from a dream and the desire to share it with anyone who wishes to participate because *"a dream is a wish your heart makes"*.

CPK is a project conceived and organized by Irene Gollin.

The event is open to everyone, regardless of nationality, gender, age, or skill level.

What is cosplay?

You might have already done it without even knowing! **Cosplay** is the art of wearing costumes while playing characters from movies, comics, musicals, cartoons, books, TV series, video games, but also celebrities and fanfiction. Every costume tells a story, and every story deserves to be told.

Why be normal when you can be extraordinary?

Every performance is a masterpiece!

Cosplay Pole Kontest is an artistic pole dance and aerials video competition inspired by "theatre" and "storytelling" competitions, with a cosplay theme. It's an event that showcases the union of these two fantastic worlds.

This contest aims to highlight entertainment skills through the fusion of pole dance and aerial arts with cosplaying.

It's not just a pole dance competition, but an artistic celebration where performers can express their talents in all forms, a performance that everyone can enjoy.

The competing videos will be evaluated based on both technique and cosplaying, as well as overall performance skills. We value the story being told and all the artistry being brought to the stage!

Record your video wherever and whenever you want, and on the day of the event, enjoy the show.

CPK will be held in **virtual** mode, participants will submit videos of their performances, which will be reviewed and judged by the panel. On the day of the event, the entire competition will be published on YouTube, featuring all competing videos and concluding with the **Awards Ceremony**.

This is not a live-streaming event.

The organizers reserve the right to modify these rules at any time. Any changes will be promptly communicated to participants and published on the website and social media.

CATEGORIES

Every performance is a masterpiece!

Pole dance and aerials are both performing arts and sports disciplines. For this reason, Cosplay Pole Kontest will not have category distinctions: anyone can deliver an extraordinary show, regardless of the number of participants, their gender, nationality, age, or athletic level.

There are no prerequisites or compulsory elements.

All videos will compete in a single **overall** ranking.

Currently, there is no limit on the number of entries.

When submitting the video, participants will be required to indicate the "Theme/Reference (the cosplay inspiration for the performance)" field, but this does not imply any category distinctions. The use of original and/or crossover themes is allowed, where characters and elements from different or invented universes are creatively combined.

PERFORMER(S) ON STAGE

A stage for everyone!

The event is open to performers of any nationality, gender, age, religion, and level, from dance school or self-taught backgrounds.

The performance may involve a solo, double, group, and also supporting characters who can freely interact with the athletes, poles, other equipment and any other props and stage elements.

Can I perform an Iron-X with the help of another person? Yes, you can! Just ensure that the interaction between athletes and supporting characters is harmonious and coherent with the narrative of your performance. The difficulty of the tricks performed is only one part of the overall judgment, the ability to entertain and engage the audience will also be evaluated.

All scenic and performative arts are welcome, such as dance, acrobalance, theater, singing, and any other form of expression.

WHERE AND WHEN

The event will be broadcast on **YouTube** in **May 2025**. The exact publication date will be announced well in advance.

The performances will not be live. Videos must be submitted by participants in accordance with the deadlines and guidelines outlined below.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND DEADLINES

Each video-performance can involve multiple people, and each participant can take part in multiple video-performances.

For each video, a **representative** must be indicated, meaning the person who will communicate with the organization as the person designated to represent the competing performance and to whom all official competition-related communications will be sent. The representative can be a performer, a coach, a legal guardian, or even a friend. A representative can represent multiple videos in the competition.

Applications are open until April 20, 2025. The organization reserves the right to close applications early, with prior notice.

PAYMENT

Cosplay Pole Kontest is a non-profit event born from a dream and the desire to share it with anyone who wishes to participate because *"a dream is a wish your heart makes"*.

To cover the costs of organizing the event, we ask for a contribution fee of €25.00 for each video. This contribution covers the costs related to evaluation, projection, awards, and other organizational and technical needs. The fee applies per video, regardless of the number of performers.

Early bird application: the deadline to take advantage of the discounted fee to €20.00 per video has been extended to **February 28, 2025** (payment date will be used as reference).

Payment methods

To pay for multiple video fees in a single payment, please specify in the message how many videos the payment is for.

- **PayPal:** paypal.me/cosplaypolekontest/25
For this method, a PayPal account is required.
- **Ko-fi:** ko-fi.com/cosplaypolekontest
Ko-fi does not require an account for payments.

Message: "Contribution for [number] Cosplay Pole Kontest video slot"

Note: replace [number] with the number of video fees you have paid.

For alternative payment methods, contact application@cosplaypolekontest.com with the subject "Payment methods".

PHASE 1 – APPLICATION

By April 20, 2025

In this first phase, the **representative** will apply by providing their contact information and the payment details. The representative is responsible for the payment of the contribution fee and for all communications between the organization and the participants involved in the performance.

At this phase, it is not necessary to provide the details of the performance (number and names of performers, cosplay theme, etc.).

Before the application deadline, the representative may apply for additional videos or transfer one or more video slots to another representative, following the instructions that will be sent via email.

Once the contribution has been paid, fill out the **application form**:
forms.gle/p3cmocc2xu6nSgkL6.

PHASE 2 – CHECK IN

By April 30, 2025

According to the instructions provided by the organization to the representative, the following files must be submitted **for each competing video performance**:

- video file (specifications detailed in a specific chapter);
- release form for the use and transmission of the video;
- release form for each person appearing in the video;
- performance title (*name your artwork!*);
- performer(s) (can be the real name, nick name, group name, etc.);
- theme/reference (the cosplay inspiration for the performance);
- photo performer(s) in costume (a posed photo or a video screenshot).

All necessary forms will be provided to the representative via email.

If the requested materials are not submitted within the specified deadlines, the performance may not be judged and, consequently, may not be broadcast.

After the video check-in closes, the judges will have a few days to review and evaluate all performances. The event includes a YouTube broadcast featuring all competing videos and will conclude with the Awards Ceremony.

CANCELLATION

Once the contribution for the video has been paid, it cannot be refunded.

However, it is possible to transfer one or more video slots to another representative **before the application deadline**, following the instructions that will be provided via email.

OUTFIT, GRIP, PROP, EXTRAS, ETC.

The character I would like to play wears an outfit that isn't suitable for pole dance tricks. Will this affect the performance evaluation?

It is not necessary for the costume to be an exact replica of the character's outfit; the overall interpretation is evaluated more than the costume's accuracy. Additionally, originality, innovation, and personal reinterpretations are always welcome.

Any type of clothing is allowed, as long as it respects decency and decorum. Any form of nudity (total, partial, or through transparent materials) will result in a point deduction from the total score.

Gloves and any type of footwear are permitted.

You may use any type of grip, both on yourself and on the equipment.

Props of any size, as well as set designs, backdrops, green screen and other scenic elements, can be used. The use of props or other elements is at the participant's discretion, it's not mandatory.

Extras on stage are free to interact with the athletes, the poles and other equipment, or any props on stage.

POLE AND STAGE SETUP

No specific setup is required; use the space you have available in the best way possible. The only requirement is a fixed frame and continuous shooting. We recommend, as much as possible, removing any unnecessary elements from the background.

One or more equipment from any discipline can be used, and they may be configured and combined freely to create customized setups tailored to the performance's needs. It is not necessary for the equipment to be centered within the frame; you are free to choose the camera angle. However, keep in mind that the judges can only evaluate what they see, so ensure that you are properly framed to best showcase your performance.

The recording can take place indoors or outdoors, and you may use set designs, props, lights, smoke, rear projection, green screens... or nothing at all! It is up to you to choose what type of show you want to present.

We always recommend prioritizing safety. Each participant is responsible for their own safety and must take all necessary precautions during the filming of their video.

VIDEO AND AUDIO REQUIREMENTS

The video will be broadcast exactly as provided; participants are responsible for video and audio quality.

A signed release form must be attached for each person appearing in the video. For minors, the release form must be signed by their legal guardians. Participants must have the rights to use and share the video for this competition. To avoid infringing on third-party rights, a release form signed by the rights holder must be provided for the use of the video. All necessary forms will be provided to the representative via email.

By participating in the competition, the performers consent to the use of their images and videos for promotional purposes related to the event. All submitted material, including the video, remains the property of the organization, which may use it freely.

Technical Requirements

- Duration must not exceed 5 minutes.
- Single video sequence with no cuts.
- Fixed angle shot.
- Landscape orientation 16:9 (preferably 1920x1080).
- Format: .MOV or .MP4 (no .AVI or other formats).
- Maximum file size: 500 MB.
- No watermarks.
- No video editing (except as specified below).

If the video does not comply with the above requirements, a deduction may be applied to the total score or, at the discretion of the organization, the performance may be disqualified.

The following video editing is allowed:

- video cutting at the beginning and at the end
it is advisable to leave a couple of extra seconds
- small adjustments to the framing (moving and/or zooming)
- audio remastering
- green screen replacement

Mixed, mash-up, and crossover audio tracks are allowed. It is not necessary for the audio to be taken from the theme of the performance.

People participating in the performance can start and finish either on or off camera at their discretion and can freely enter and exit the frame.

No stage fright!

Record with ease and choose your best performance to send.

JUDGMENT CRITERIA

The **jury** will be composed of experts in pole dance, aerial arts, cosplay, dance, and performance arts.

After the deadline for video submissions, the judges will have several days to review and evaluate each performance.

The evaluations and scores given by the judges are final and cannot be appealed under any circumstances. The organization and all those involved in the event cannot in any way influence the jury.

At the conclusion of the event, the rankings will be made public.

In the days following the broadcast, the representative will receive the evaluation sheets with the scores for each judgment criterion, the total score, and the final ranking position. The decision to share this information is at the discretion of the representative.

Judging Areas

The performance score will be determined by **3 judging areas**, each evaluated by a judge specialized in the relevant sector:

- **Technical judgment (pole & aerial)**
- **Artistic judgment (entertainment)**
- **Interpretative judgment (cosplay)**

Each judging area is made up of 4 criteria, each with a score range from 0 to 10. The maximum total score for each performance is **120 points**.

Any deductions will be assigned by the head judge.

Each deduction resulting in a 5-point penalty.

The sum of the evaluations from the 3 judging areas, minus any deductions, determines the **total score of the performance**.

TECHNICAL JUDGMENT - POLE & AERIAL

This area evaluates the technical aerial abilities, the harmony, and the confidence in execution.

- **Difficulty of aerial tricks**
Technical level of the tricks and their execution
- **Line precision**
Pointed toes, arms and legs extension, refined posture
- **Fluidity of transitions**
Execution of the transitions between tricks and with the equipments
- **Originality of tricks**
Unusual and innovative tricks and transitions

ARTISTIC JUDGMENT - ENTERTAINMENT

This area evaluates the artistic and entertainment aspects of the performance.

- **Musicality**
Harmony and coherence between the audio track and movements
- **Overall choreography**
Ability to express different artistic qualities through movements
- **Stage presence**
Ability to capture attention and dominate the stage
- **Originality of the performance**
Creative and innovative choreographic choices

INTERPRETATIVE JUDGMENT - COSPLAY

This area evaluates the accuracy of the cosplay theme and the interpretive ability.

- **Story recognizability**
Clarity of the narrative through the performance
- **Consistency with the theme/reference**
Coherent storytelling, while adapted to the discipline's demands
- **Cosplay modeling**
Ability to convey the essence of the character
- **Originality of interpretation**
Interpretation and/or reinterpretation of the theme in a unique way

DEDUCTIONS

Deductions will be applied for the following reasons:

- **Incorrect video format**
The video does not meet the required technical specifications
- **Nudity** (total, partial, or with transparency)
Deductions will be applied for each instance of nudity

If the performance exhibits unethical, inappropriate, or offensive behavior, it will be disqualified.

DISQUALIFICATION

Disqualification of the video means it will not be judged or broadcast on the event day. Refunds for the contribution paid will not be possible.

Conditions for disqualification

- The performance violates common standards of decency or exhibits unethical behavior, including content that promotes hate speech.
- Required materials are not submitted within the specified deadlines.
- The video contains unauthorized editing.
- Misconduct, offensive behavior, and general unsportsmanlike conduct by the representative and/or performer(s) towards the organization, judges, sponsors, other participants, etc.

AWARDS

We celebrate boundless talent where every performance has value!

Each awarded video will receive:

- A digital certificate for the title won;
- A custom artwork of the performance;
- Various potential prizes, including a range of discounts and merchandise provided by sponsors and the organization.

CPK is a competition recognized by **IPA** and valid for qualification for [2025 Italian National Pole & Aerial Art Championship](#).

COSPLAY POLE KONTEST 2025 - Top 3 Overall

All videos compete in a single overall category with an overall ranking. The total score for each performance is determined by the sum of the evaluations from the 3 judging areas, minus any applicable deductions.

BEST SAILOR MOON TRIBUTE

Awarded to the ***Sailor Moon*** themed performance with the highest tribute score. This score is determined by the sum of the following criteria:

- consistency with the theme/reference (interpretative judgment - cosplay)
- cosplay modeling (interpretative judgment - cosplay)
- overall choreography (artistic judgment - entertainment)
- stage presence (artistic judgment - entertainment)

MOST ORIGINAL

Awarded to the performance with the highest originality score.

This score is determined by the sum of the following criteria:

- originality of tricks (technical judgment - pole & aerial)
- originality of performance (artistic judgment - entertainment)
- originality of interpretation (interpretative judgment - cosplay)

BEST POLE & AERIAL TECHNIQUE

Awarded to the performance with the highest score in technical judgment.

BEST ARTISTIC ENTERTAINMENT

Awarded to the performance with the highest score in artistic judgment.

BEST COSPLAY INTERPRETATION

Awarded to the performance with the highest score in interpretative judgment.

At the discretion of the organization, and in agreement with sponsors and collaborators, additional awards and prizes may be introduced. Our goal is to appreciate the creativity and skill of each participant. Check the [Awards page](#) on the website and follow our social media to stay updated!

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All materials provided by participants, including videos and images, remain the property of the Cosplay Pole Kontest organization for exclusive promotional and commercial use related to the event. By participating in the event, each performer consents to the use of images and videos for these purposes. Participants, or their representatives, retain copyright ownership of their content.

Cosplay Pole Kontest reserves the right to exclude from the current competition and future events any participant who violates the rules.

The organization reserves the right to modify this regulation at any time. Any changes will be promptly communicated on the official website and through our social media channels, and will be directly notified to the participants.

CONTACTS

Visit the [FAQ section](#) of our website for more information and curiosities about this unique event.

For any other doubts, clarifications, or reports, do not hesitate to contact us at info@cosplaypolekontest.com.

If you have needs that differ from those outlined in the regulations, contact us, and we will be happy to find a solution together!



Italia Pole & Aerial has granted official patronage to CPK.

Stay updated on our social media for all the event news!

