



Media Rules

Last Updated: December 22, 2018

- 1) **Permission:** Always ask to photograph someone. A cosplayer wants to give you the best photo possible. Taking a picture without warning diminishes their year-round hard work and preparation. While you may not want to interrupt a cosplayer, they would rather stop for a good photo than find a bad one online.
- 2) **Timing:** Good timing is common sense. Don't approach a cosplayer while they're eating lunch, dismantled and resting, in the bathroom, sitting in a panel, etc. Wait till they are *'on the job'*.
- 3) **Rules of Engagement:** Look with your eyes not your hands. Many costumes are made with delicate materials and can be accidentally damaged. When taking a picture with a cosplayer, make sure it's okay to put your arm around them. Remember, cosplay is not consent.
- 4) **Keep it Brief:** A cosplayer's commitment is to the overall fans, not to any one person. Try not to start up a lengthy conversation, unless they are encouraging it. Be mindful of others around you and careful of dominating a cosplayer's time.
- 5) **Wonder Twins:** A lot of cosplayers are open to pairing-up temporarily, if you have a costume of matching theme and skill level. However, don't take offense if they would rather go solo.
- 6) **Safe Space:** Do your part to create a 'safe space' for cosplay. If you see inappropriate behavior, report it to a staff member. Sexual harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. Remember, cons are about celebrating heroes and you can be a hero by looking out for each other.
- 7) **Respect:** Cosplayers strive to enhance the Convention experience, inspire through their art, and express their fandom. They may come in all shapes and sizes, but they all want and deserve to be treated with respect. Just like any public place, there is a difference between appreciating beauty and making others uncomfortable. Cosplayers are artists and should be treated with respect. Maintaining eye contact is a good habit to form.
- 8) **Listen:** If a Convention staff member or UVic security asks you to do something, politely respond to the request and follow the instruction.
- 9) **Traffic:** High-traffic areas should be avoiding for photography and video purposes. E.g. narrow halls, the outside of registration, panel line ups, vendors hall, etc.