

Carnival of Characters 2026 – October Competition Rules

Legal Disclaimer

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The purpose of this legal disclaimer is to protect the intellectual property and preserve the rights of the creators regarding all creative and content-related aspects of the event. Any infringement of intellectual property rights may result in legal action.

Participation in the competition, as well as the use of the rules and any materials related to the competition, constitutes acceptance of the above terms and conditions.

General Information

Main Organizers

- Kollár Sport és Művészeti Alapítvány
Represented by Lilla Kollár
- Művészetek a Rúdsportért Alapítvány
Represented by Barbara Pálmaffy

Event Name

Carnival III Pole and Aerial Dance Championship

- **Date:** Saturday, October 17, 2026
- **Venue:** Temesvári utca 5

- **Event Type:** A freestyle gala and creative performance championship focused on character portrayal and artistic interpretation.
- **Participants:** Solo, duo, and group competitors of all levels (beginner, intermediate, and professional).

Registration & Payment

Registration Deadline

General Registration Deadline:
10 August 2026

Entry Fees

- **Solo Performance:** HUF 35,000
- **Duo or Group Performance:** HUF 25,000 per participant

Registration Requirements

The **Carnival of Characters 2026** competition is open to all creative pole athletes and performers who wish to showcase their talent at this unique event.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

Age Categories

The competition is divided into age categories to ensure fair participation for all competitors.

- The minimum age for participation is **4 years old**.
- There is **no upper age limit**.

Skill Levels

Competitors are divided according to their level of experience:

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Professional

This allows every participant to compete in the category that best matches their current abilities.

Creativity

We welcome performers who are passionate about bringing characters to life through creative performance and stage presence.

No previous competition experience is required.

Rules & Legal Obligations

By registering, all participants agree to:

- accept the official Competition Rules;
- comply with all event regulations;
- fulfill all legal requirements related to participation in the competition.

Registration Limitations

To ensure that every performance receives sufficient attention from the judging panel and that the event runs smoothly, participation is limited.

Maximum Number of Performances

A maximum of **100 performances** will be accepted for the competition.

This limitation allows each competitor to receive proper evaluation while maintaining a well-organized event schedule.

Closing of Registration

Registration will close automatically once **100 performances** have been accepted, regardless of the published registration deadline.

For this reason, competitors are strongly encouraged to submit their registration as early as possible to secure their place in the competition.

Payment & Cancellation Policy

To finalize a registration for **Carnival of Characters 2026**, the following payment procedure must be followed:

Invoice

Within **5 business days** after the registration has been submitted, applicants will be notified whether their application has been accepted or declined.

If the application is accepted, an invoice containing all necessary payment details will be issued.

Payment Deadline

A registration becomes valid **only after the invoice has been paid in full**.

Payment must be made by **bank transfer**. Please include the **invoice number** in the payment reference to ensure that your payment can be correctly identified and processed.

Cancellation Policy

Registration cancellations may be made in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.

Competitors are requested to notify the organizers of their intention to cancel **as soon as possible**. Any cancellation and potential refund will be handled in accordance with the legal provisions in force at the time of the cancellation.

Age Categories

- **Mini Kid:** 4–5 years
- **Kid:** 6–8 years
- **Junior I:** 9–11 years
- **Junior II:** 12–14 years
- **Junior III:** 15–17 years
- **Adult:** 18–39 years
- **Senior:** 40 years and above

Competition Disciplines & Equipment

1. Creative Pole

The competition equipment is provided by the organizer.

Equipment provided:

- Two professional competition poles, **4 metres** in height
- One **static** pole
- One **spinning** pole

2. Creative Aerial

Competitors must provide their own aerial apparatus.

Permitted apparatus:

- Aerial Hoop (Lyra)
- Aerial Silks
- Aerial Hammock
- Straps
- Trapeze
- Flying Pole
- Freestyle Apparatus

Skill Levels

Beginner

Characteristics

This category is intended for competitors who are completely new to pole or aerial disciplines and perform primarily basic techniques and movements.

For many participants, this will be their **first competition**, and entrants may have participated in **no more than one previous competition**.

Expectations

Competitors are expected to demonstrate fundamental skills with a focus on safe execution and confidence on the apparatus.

Amateur

Characteristics

This category is designed for competitors who are relatively new to pole or aerial arts, typically with **1–2 years of training experience**.

Amateur competitors perform fundamental techniques and incorporate fewer advanced or complex skills into their routines.

Expectations

Safe and technically correct execution of basic skills is expected.

Creativity is encouraged, while performance quality is evaluated with less emphasis than in the higher skill divisions.

Advanced

Characteristics

This category is intended for competitors with several years of experience in pole or aerial disciplines and a solid technical foundation.

Advanced competitors are expected to present more challenging choreography and a wider range of technical elements.

Expectations

Greater emphasis is placed on creativity, artistic interpretation, and stage presence.

Competitors should demonstrate precise execution, confidence, and the ability to perform more complex techniques.

Professional

Characteristics

This category is intended for highly experienced competitors who have trained for several years and have previous competition and/or professional performance experience.

Professional competitors are expected to demonstrate exceptional technical ability together with outstanding performance skills.

Expectations

Routines should feature innovative and sophisticated choreography, a high level of technical execution, and strong emotional expression.

Both technical excellence and artistic performance are expected to meet the highest competitive standards.

Costume Requirements

At **Carnival of Characters 2026**, competitors are encouraged to express their creativity through the portrayal of their chosen character. Costumes play an essential role in bringing each performance to life.

The following requirements are intended to ensure that all performances reflect the spirit of the competition while maintaining appropriate safety standards.

General Requirements

Character Representation

Costumes should support and enhance the portrayal of the chosen character, whether inspired by a fairy tale, film, historical figure, mythology, or an original creation.

The costume should be expressive, visually cohesive, and appropriate for the story or concept being presented.

Safety & Comfort

Costumes must allow competitors to move freely and safely throughout their performance.

They must not restrict movement or create a safety risk while performing on the apparatus.

Appropriate Attire

Costumes should be tasteful and suitable for a family-friendly event.

Excessively revealing or provocative clothing that does not reflect the overall standard and atmosphere of the competition is not permitted.

Headpieces & Accessories

All headpieces, wigs, jewelry, and decorative accessories must be securely fastened.

No accessory may detach during the performance or pose a safety risk to the competitor, judges, audience, or competition equipment.

Props & Stage Scenery

Use of Props and Stage Scenery

General Rules

The use of **props and stage scenery** is permitted during performances.

However, for safety reasons, any prop or stage element that may present a potential risk must be submitted to the competition organizers for **prior approval** before the event.

Safety Requirements

The use of **pyrotechnics, open flames, fireworks, smoke-generating devices involving fire, or any flammable or hazardous materials** is strictly prohibited.

These restrictions are in place to ensure the safety of competitors, judges, spectators, venue staff, and the competition facilities throughout the event.

Grip Aids

To ensure safety and optimal performance, competitors at **Carnival of Characters 2026** are permitted to use grip aids in accordance with the following regulations.

Permitted Products

Approved Grip Aids

Grip-enhancing products, such as **specialized sports grip creams, grip liquids, or similar products**, may be used provided that they:

- do not leave a permanent or difficult-to-remove residue on the apparatus;
- can be easily cleaned from the equipment after use.

Prohibited Products

Rosin-based grip products and any other products that leave a persistent residue on the pole or aerial apparatus are **not permitted**.

These products may affect the performance of subsequent competitors and make the equipment difficult to clean.

Application & Cleaning

Application

Competitors are responsible for applying their own grip aids before their performance.

Application must take place within the designated preparation time and must not interfere with the event schedule.

Cleaning

Each competitor is responsible for thoroughly cleaning the apparatus after using any grip aid.

The equipment must be left in a clean and safe condition for the next competitor.

Music Requirements

Performance Duration

The music for each performance must be **between 2:30 and 4:00 minutes** in length.

Music File Submission

- Music must be submitted in **MP3 format**.
- The file name must include the competitor's **full name**.
- Competitors will receive an email in advance with the music submission deadline and upload instructions.

Music Content

Music must **not** contain profanity, obscene language, hate speech, or content that may be considered offensive or inconsistent with the spirit of the competition.

The use of a **beep, countdown, or other audible start cue** at the beginning of the music track is **not permitted**.

All music files must be professionally edited so that the performance begins and ends cleanly, without unnecessary silence or abrupt cuts.

Live Music

Although performances are generally presented using pre-recorded music, **live musical accompaniment** may be permitted with the prior approval of the organizers.

Any technical requirements related to live musicians or musical equipment must be communicated to the organizers well in advance to ensure that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Technical Information – Dual Stage Setup & Quick Change System

The stage environment at **Carnival of Characters 2026** has been carefully designed to provide competitors with professional performance conditions while ensuring a smooth and efficient competition schedule.

Dual Stage Setup

The competition features a **dual-stage system**, allowing one stage to be prepared while performances take place on the other. This **quick change system** minimizes downtime between performances and ensures a continuous flow throughout the event.

Stage Dimensions

Each performance stage measures **6 × 9 metres**, providing ample space for choreography, movement, apparatus, and props. The stage comfortably accommodates soloists, duos, and small to medium-sized groups.

Lighting

The venue is equipped with **professional theatrical lighting**, offering a variety of lighting effects and colour options to complement different performance styles and atmospheres.

Lighting is operated by the event's technical team and is designed to enhance the visual presentation of each performance.

Sound System

A **professional, high-quality sound system** is provided for all performances, ensuring excellent audio quality for both pre-recorded and approved live music.

The sound system delivers balanced coverage throughout the venue, allowing the audience to enjoy every performance with optimal clarity.

Stage Monitor

A **stage monitor speaker** is provided so that competitors can clearly hear their music during their performance, supporting accurate timing and confident execution.

Stage Flooring

The performance area is covered with a **professional ballet dance floor (marley floor)**, providing a safe, non-slip surface suitable for dance, pole, and aerial performances.

This flooring enhances both safety and performance quality while supporting a wide range of dance and acrobatic techniques.

The professional technical setup and stage environment have been designed to support artistic expression while providing every competitor with the best possible conditions to deliver their performance.

Judging & Scoring System

At **Carnival of Characters 2026**, performances are evaluated using a transparent and comprehensive scoring system designed to ensure fairness and consistency.

All scoring is conducted **digitally**.

Judging Panel

The competition is evaluated by a panel of **three distinguished judges**, each bringing expertise from a different artistic discipline.

This multidisciplinary judging panel ensures that every performance is assessed from multiple professional perspectives, giving equal consideration to technical ability, creativity, artistic interpretation, and stage performance.

Scoring System

Each performance is evaluated across **five key categories**.

The **maximum score for each category is 10 points**, resulting in a maximum total score of **50 points**.

1. Technique (0–10 points)

Assessment of technical execution appropriate to the competitor's skill level, including:

- precision of movement;
- difficulty and complexity of skills;
- control, stability, and correct execution of technical elements.

2. Creativity (0–10 points)

Evaluation of the originality and imagination demonstrated throughout the performance, including:

- unique concepts and ideas;
- innovative storytelling;
- creative interpretation and portrayal of the chosen character.

3. Performance (0–10 points)

Assessment of the performer's artistic expression, including:

- stage presence;
- emotional impact;
- audience engagement;
- authenticity and believability of the character portrayal.

4. Costume & Overall Appearance (0–10 points)

Evaluation of the costume and visual presentation, including:

- creativity and originality of the costume;
- suitability for the chosen character and performance concept;
- visual harmony between costume, character, and story;
- quality of makeup, hairstyling, and overall stage appearance.

The costume should enhance the authenticity of the character and contribute to the overall visual and emotional impact of the performance.

5. Musicality & Overall Cohesion (0–10 points)

Assessment of the overall unity of the performance, including:

- harmony between movement and music;
- continuity and flow of the choreography;
- consistency of the character throughout the performance;
- overall artistic cohesion from beginning to end.

Awards & Recognition

Placement Awards

Awards will be presented in each competition category as follows:

- **1st Place**
- **2nd Place**
- **3rd Place**

Special Awards

In addition to the placement awards, the following special recognitions will be presented:

- **Technical Excellence Award**
- **Creativity Award**
- **Outstanding Performance Award**

These awards recognize exceptional achievements in specific areas and provide competitors with the opportunity to be acknowledged for their individual strengths.

Audience Choice Award

The **Audience Choice Award** is one of the most prestigious recognitions at **Carnival of Characters 2026**.

This award is presented to the performance that receives the greatest appreciation and support from the audience.

Voting takes place **online during the event**, allowing every spectator to cast one vote for their favourite performance through a simple and user-friendly voting platform.

The Audience Choice Award celebrates not only the popularity of a performance but also its emotional impact and the connection it creates with the audience. It recognizes the competitor who most successfully captures the hearts of the spectators through their artistry, creativity, and stage presence.

Carnival Spirit Award

The **Carnival Spirit Award** is the highest honor presented at **Carnival of Characters 2026**.

It recognizes the **solo or duo performance** that best embodies the spirit, creativity, imagination, and artistic vision of the competition.

This prestigious award is presented separately in the **Junior** and **Adult** divisions.

Junior Division

The Junior Carnival Spirit Award is presented to the young performer(s) who most successfully demonstrate creativity, originality, and expressive performance while bringing their chosen character vividly to life.

The winning performance captures the joyful, imaginative, and inspiring spirit of the competition through both artistic interpretation and stage presence.

Adult Division

The Adult Carnival Spirit Award is presented to the performer(s) who leave the strongest impression on both the judging panel and the audience through

exceptional character portrayal, artistic expression, emotional depth, and the overall message conveyed by their performance.

The winning performance exemplifies the core values and vision of **Carnival of Characters 2026**.

Award Philosophy

The Carnival Spirit Award recognizes more than technical excellence. It celebrates the ability to create a genuine emotional connection with the audience, tell a compelling story through movement, and deliver a memorable artistic experience.

This award honors a competitor's creativity, dedication, and artistic journey.

Participation Award

Every competitor will receive a **commemorative medal** and a **Certificate of Participation** in recognition of their participation in **Carnival of Characters 2026**.

Rights & Responsibilities

Organizers' Rights

The organizers reserve the right to manage and supervise all aspects of **Carnival of Characters 2026**, including but not limited to:

- directing and overseeing the operation of the event;
- determining the competition schedule and running order;
- regulating venue access and accreditation;
- enforcing venue protocols and competition regulations.

Decision-Making Authority

The organizers have the authority to make final decisions regarding all matters related to the competition, including:

- interpretation and enforcement of the Competition Rules;
- resolution of disputes;

- disqualification of competitors in cases of rule violations.

All decisions made by the organizers are final.

Right to Remove a Competitor

The organizers reserve the right to withdraw a competitor's participation if they:

- violate the Competition Rules;
- fail to comply with organizer instructions;
- endanger the safety of themselves or others;
- engage in conduct that may disrupt the event.

Organizers' Responsibilities

The organizers are committed to providing a professional and safe competition environment.

Their responsibilities include:

- ensuring the safety of competitors, judges, spectators, and staff, including the provision of on-site first aid or medical assistance;
- communicating all relevant rules, schedules, and updates clearly and in a timely manner;
- ensuring that event staff are properly trained to manage accreditation, venue operations, and any issues that may arise during the competition.

Competitors' Rights

Every competitor has the right to:

- participate in the competition within the category appropriate to their age and skill level;
- be treated fairly, respectfully, and without discrimination;
- receive impartial evaluation from the judging panel in accordance with the published scoring criteria.

Competitors' Responsibilities

Competitors are expected to:

- comply with all Competition Rules and organizer instructions;
- follow all regulations regarding music, costumes, props, and equipment;
- act responsibly and safely at all times, particularly when using apparatus and stage props;
- ensure that their performance remains within the prescribed time limit, respecting both the event schedule and fellow competitors.

Grounds for Disqualification

Carnival of Characters 2026 is governed by rules designed to ensure fairness, professionalism, and the safety of everyone involved.

The following grounds for disqualification relate **solely to compliance with competition regulations and event conduct** and **do not concern the technical difficulty or artistic content of a performance**.

A competitor may be disqualified if they violate the Competition Rules or engage in conduct that compromises the safety, integrity, or fair operation of the event.

Grounds for Disqualification

A competitor may be disqualified for any of the following reasons:

Violation of Competition Rules

Failure to comply with the official Competition Rules, including but not limited to:

- exceeding the permitted performance time;
- using prohibited equipment, apparatus, props, or substances;
- failing to comply with the costume requirements.

Violation of Safety Regulations

Competitors must comply with all safety requirements throughout the event.

Any behaviour that endangers the health or safety of the competitor, other participants, judges, spectators, or event staff may result in immediate disqualification.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Competitors are expected to demonstrate professionalism and respect at all times.

Disqualification may result from:

- disrespectful behaviour toward organizers, judges, staff, volunteers, or fellow competitors;
- disruptive conduct during performances or the event;
- any behaviour considered inconsistent with the spirit and integrity of the competition.

Disqualification Procedure

Competitors who are suspected of violating the Competition Rules will be informed of the alleged violation as soon as reasonably possible and will be given the opportunity to respond.

Before making a final decision, the organizers will review all available information and evidence to ensure that any disqualification is justified and proportionate.

A disqualified competitor has the right to submit an appeal. Appeals will be reviewed by the organizers, whose decision shall be final.

Contact Information

Website: www.kollaralapitvany.hu

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The entire contents of the **Carnival of Characters 2026 Competition Rules**, including all regulations, guidelines, text, and other materials contained herein, are protected by copyright.

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Final Provisions

These Competition Rules have been established to ensure fairness, equal opportunities for all competitors, and the safe and professional organization of the event.

Both competitors and organizers are expected to comply with these rules and to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth herein throughout the competition.

Any dispute or legal matter arising from these Competition Rules or the event shall be governed by the laws of **Hungary**.

By participating in **Carnival of Characters 2026**, all competitors acknowledge that they have read, understood, and accepted these Competition Rules in their entirety.

Szigetszentmiklós, Hungary

12 May 2026