

Japan Australia Friendship Association (JAFA) proudly presents

AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival 2026

4-Koma (Yonkoma) Manga Competition

Competition Terms and Conditions

The AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival aims to promote and celebrate Japanese pop culture in Australia. Manga from Japan has become a worldwide phenomenon, and we would like to celebrate this through a 4-Koma (Yonkoma) Manga competition. Each year, a theme is introduced to encourage cultural learning and understanding of Japan. The focus of the competition is the incorporation of the theme and overall quality. We encourage everyone who enjoys drawing and storytelling to apply with an entry.

This year's theme is 「妖怪」 *yokai*. *Yokai* is a term for various supernatural beings that appear in Japanese folklore and include the likes of ghosts, demons, shape shifters, goblins and so forth. They are both malevolent and/or mischievous beings. Having major cultural importance since the Edo period, *yokai* stories tell the unexplained, teach ethical concepts and entertain.

Compulsory Criteria

1. The manga must in some way refer to the cultural theme 「妖怪」 *yokai* and must be referenced visibly in the 4-koma manga.
2. The manga must be of a single page traditional Yonkoma (four panel).
3. The manga must be made specifically for the purpose of the AnimeGo! Japan Pop Culture Festival 2026.
4. The manga must be written in English or Japanese (with English translation provided).
5. The entry can be in either colour or black and white.
6. The AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival 2026 must be the first public displaying of the manga.
7. The manga and stories must be of original work. No copyright or fandom material allowed.
8. The manga must not contain explicit or inappropriate material.

9. The manga must comply with the technical specifications provided in this document.
10. Submission must be completed either online (pdf format) through an application form or be sent and received to a nominated PO Box, before the deadline at 11:59pm (Australian Central Standard Time) on September 22nd 2026.

How to Enter the Competition

1. Visit the official AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival website (<https://www.animego.com.au/mangacompetition>).
2. Click the “Register” button, read and fill out the registration form carefully. Registrations close **11:59pm (Australian Central Standard Time) on September 20th 2026**.
3. Accept the terms and conditions on the registration form.
4. Once this process has been completed, a confirmation email will be sent including ID for this year’s submission required for manga application. **RETAIN YOUR SUBMISSION ID.**
5. Ensure the manga meets all the specifications outlined in these guidelines.
6. The manga must be uploaded or sent with a name containing the submission ID and the name of the manga as written on the submission form in the following format: [SUBID###-NAMEOFMANGA].
7. Registrants will receive instructions on how to upload or send their manga entries via email before the submission deadline.
8. Successful submissions will receive a confirmation email within 72 hours from the Japan Australian Friendship Association (JAFA).

NOTE: Entries for AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival 4-Koma Manga Competition delivered online must be in the compulsory format. Entries sent by mail must be in the printed physical form, and as such, CD, DVD, Blu-ray, USB or any other device will not be accepted. Please ensure when entries are sent by physical mail that enough time is allocated for it to arrive before the deadline, as no entries received after will be accepted.

If you have any queries or problems delivering your manga please email competition@animego.com.au.

It is highly recommended that all submissions are scanned and backed up, as submissions cannot be returned nor any postage refunded.

4-Koma Manga Specifications

The following content can cause disqualification at the discretion of the AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival organisers:

- Overtly sexualised or excessive violent content
- Excessive language (e.g. swearing)
- Feature extremist political views that go against the values of the Japan Australia Friendship Association
- Copyright material not owned by the creator (you), no fandom material allowed.

Non-English language features must include English subtitles.

Container: PDF (applicable for online submissions).

Digital Submission Specifications

All digital submissions are to be in PDF format and should be a minimum of A3 (3508 x 4961 pixels / 297 x 420 mm) with 300 dpi and CMYK (preferably).

Physical Printed Submission Specifications

All physical submissions are to be a minimum of A4, preferably A3.

We request that all submissions include a brief paragraph on the manga and how it relates to the theme.

What Will Disqualify a Manga?

1. If the submission fails to include the requirements: submission ID and the name of manga as written on the submission form.
2. If a manga is submitted as a group exceeding 5 people.
3. The manga is not a single page with 4 panels.
4. The cultural theme being 「妖怪」 is not included in any capacity in the manga.
5. Failure to submit the manga online before **11:59 pm (Australian Central Standard Time)** on **September 22nd 2026**, or failure to not allow significant time for the manga to be delivered to nominated PO BOX.
6. The manga has been displayed or shown somewhere publicly, other than the AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival 2026.
7. The creator(s) have not agreed to the Terms and Conditions.

8. The manga has not been submitted online according to instructions in these guidelines and on the website.
9. The creator(s) have distributed the manga to any other site, organisation or entity.

AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival

Terms and Conditions of Entry to the 4-Koma (Yonkoma) Manga Competition

1. Entry

The AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival is a festival organised and run by the Japan Australian Friendship Association ABN [59 624 182 698] of PO Box 582, Fullarton, SA 5063 (JAFA).

To enter the 4-Koma Manga competition in the AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival, the creator(s) must do the following:

- Complete the submission form at the Website <https://www.animego.com.au/mangacompetition>; and
- Upload or send the manga following the instructions set out on the upload section of the Website <https://www.animego.com.au/mangacompetition> by **11:59 pm (Australian Central Standard Time) September 22nd 2026 (Closing Time)**.

JAFA will have no responsibility for any submission form or the uploading of a manga that is incorrect, damaged, or late and JAFA will not be obliged to consider such material.

Please ensure when entries are sent by physical mail that enough time is allocated for it to arrive before the deadline, as no entries received after will be accepted.

Entry is open to Australian residents aged 14 and older, if under 18 years, the submission must include written permission from their parent or guardian. Participants can enter the competition as an individual or as a group. A group must have a minimum of 2 people and cannot exceed the maximum of 5 people. If a group is found to have exceeded 5 people, their entry will be disqualified. A person participating in a group can also submit a manga as an individual, but they must be two entirely different mangas that meet the requirements of the guidelines and terms and conditions of AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival 2026. Officers and employees of JAFA, and all family members of each of them, are not eligible to enter this competition.

2. Binding Agreement

The Creator(s) agrees that by filling in the submission form and submitting a manga via the website or via mail, the Creator has formally entered the 4-Koma Manga Competition and accepted the terms

and conditions contained within the Terms and Conditions of Entry, and the information and instructions contained in the AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival entry guidelines (all of these are referred to collectively below as the requirements). This will automatically create a legally binding agreement between JAFA and the creator that incorporates these terms and conditions and all the other requirements (Agreement).

3. Judging

JAFA will appoint a judging panel to judge the manga entered in the 4-Koma Manga Competition. This panel will be composed of industry professionals to be announced on the official website prior to the submission deadline. The members of the panel will review the submissions and judge them between the **25th of September and 11th of October 2026**. The judges will decide the best twenty (20) manga that meet all requirements (Top Twenty Submissions) and then determine the overall best manga that will be the winner(s) of the 4-Koma Manga Competition (Winner(s)). The winner(s) will be announced during the award ceremony at the AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival 2026. The top twenty submissions and the ultimate winner(s) will be decided based on judging criteria determined by the panel. The panel will be asked to consider the use of the cultural theme and the following categories: Originality, Storytelling, Character Design, Manga Artistic Ability and Style.

If there is no evidence of the cultural reference, then the manga will be disqualified.

The panel's decision will be final and no communications in relation to their decision will be allowed. The top twenty submissions will be on display during the AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival 2026 or an alternative date specified by JAFA. The creators of those manga will be notified of their selection within 12 days of the panel's decision. The top twenty submissions upon selection may be placed into a people's choice competition which will be conducted and announced during or after the AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival. The creators will be provided with necessary details such as competition platform and prize once they are confirmed.

JAFA reserves the right to exclude any manga from the 4-Koma Manga Competition at any time (even after its selection as a top twenty submissions or as the winner(s)) if JAFA reasonably believes that the manga does not meet all the requirements or the creator of that manga has breached any term or condition or failed to comply with any warranty or representation given, in the agreement.

4. Prize(s)

The winner of the competition will receive a cash prize to the sum of AUD\$300 plus a sponsorship prize pack. The prize will be awarded to the Winner(s) at the award ceremony at AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival. The runner up(s) of the competition will receive a sponsor prize pack. All cash prizes will be transferred to a nominated bank account discretely after the festival.

Where the winner(s) is a group of more than one person, the group must nominate one person to receive the Prize and Jafa will deliver the Prize to that person. The value of the Prize may be shared between the group as the group shall decide and without reference to Jafa.

In the event that the Winner(s) is under the age of eighteen (18), the Prize will be to the parent, custodian or legal guardian of the Winner(s) as specified in the written permission provided to Jafa pursuant to clause 1 above.

All non-cash prizes are not transferable, exchangeable or redeemable for cash. It is a condition of accepting the Prize that the Winner(s) must comply with any conditions of use of the Prize and the Prize supplier's requirements.

5. General Representations and Warranties

The Creator warrants and represents to Jafa that:

- a) The Creator has the absolute right and authority to accept these Terms of Conditions, and to enter into the Agreement with Jafa.
- b) The manga submitted by the Creator (Manga) was made solely by the Creator solely (unless specified otherwise in the submission form).
- c) The Manga complies with the Requirements.
- d) The Manga has not been displayed or broadcast anywhere other than the AnimeGO! Festival (online or otherwise).
- e) The Creator has obtained all permissions, licences and consents to use and display all locations and to reproduce and exploit all third-party materials and any other results of any third-party services that are contained or featured in the manga or upon which the manga is based.
- f) The submission form lodged by the Creator is complete, true and accurate in all respects.
- g) The Manga does not contain any material that is unlawful or fraudulent, or that may breach any intellectual property, privacy, publicity or other rights, or that may be defamatory, obscene, derogatory, pornographic, sexually inappropriate, violent, objectionable with respect to race, religion, origin or gender, not suitable for children aged under 15, or otherwise unsuitable for general broadcast.
- h) The Manga is not the subject of any claim or threat of litigation or any formal regulatory action.

6. Intellectual Property Rights

The Creator represents and warrants to Jafa that they have all the necessary rights, title, interest, licences, permissions and authorities from all third parties (including writers and the holders of any rights in copyright) to submit the materials submitted via the Website including all material in the submission form and the Manga. The Creator further represents and warrants to Jafa that:

- a) the intellectual property rights in the Manga have not been assigned, licensed or the subject of any other grant of rights, whether in whole or in part, other than the grants of rights to JAFA in this Agreement;
- b) it has obtained all licences, consents, permissions and releases that may be required in order for JAFA to exercise the rights granted to it in the Agreement and that, without limitation, the Creator owns or has obtained the rights, permissions, licences and consents referred to below:
- (i) The Creator has obtained from each person or other entity who has in any way contributed to the creation of the Manga, including all writers and artists (Contributors) full written licences and consents to use the works and other subject matter that have resulted from the services or other contributions of each Contributor to the Manga (Contributor Materials) that will enable JAFA and its assignees and licensees to exercise all rights granted in this Agreement including, without limitation, the right for JAFA, its assignees and licensees, to edit, alter and reproduce the Contributor Materials in any manner or context;
- (ii) The Creator either owns all rights to the manga and story that make up the Manga or has obtained all necessary licences, consents and permissions to permit JAFA and its assignees and licensees to exercise all rights granted in the Agreement; and
- (iii) The Creator has obtained the written consent of each character in the Manga to be part of the Manga on the basis that the Manga will be publicly exhibited and may also be broadcast and otherwise disseminated throughout the world.

7. Licence to JAFA

- a) The Creator grants to JAFA and its assignees and licensees an exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide, transmissible, perpetual and irrevocable licence, to copy, transmit, modify, adapt, broadcast, display, publish, translate, create derivative works from, distribute, sublicense and use in any manner all information, data, works and other subject matter including the Manga and all other materials provided to JAFA (collectively the Submitted Materials).
- b) The licence granted to JAFA and its assignees and licensees in paragraph 7(a) above (Licence) will remain exclusive until the conclusion of the AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival 2022, after which the creator may distribute the work as they see fit. (i)
- c) The Creator agrees that the Licence will include the right for JAFA and its licensees and assignees to edit the Manga, to translate the manga in any way that JAFA considers to be appropriate whether for the purposes of displaying at the AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival for online distribution or otherwise anywhere in the world.

8. Publicity

The Creator agrees that JAFA, its assignees and licensees may use the name, likeness and biography of the Creator in any publicity for the AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival and for any subsequent festival and in any related events without the need for any remuneration or further permission or consent. The Creator warrants and represents that they have obtained written agreement from each Contributor and each other individual contributing to in the Manga to JAFA having and exercising such rights in relation to such person.

9. Moral Rights

“Moral Rights” has the meaning given to this expression under Part IX of the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth) or under any similar legislation in any jurisdiction worldwide.

The Creator:

- a) agrees that JAFA, its assignees and licensees, may do or omit to do anything which may infringe any and all Moral Rights of the Creator including by editing, altering and adding to the work or other subject matter of the Creator including the Manga and using that material with or without attribution and the Creator consents to these actions by JAFA and its assignees and licensees, in any manner or context, in perpetuity throughout the world; and
- b) warrants and represents that the Creator has obtained the written consent of each Contributor to JAFA, its assignees and licensees, doing or omitting to do anything which may infringe any and all Moral Rights of the Contributor including by editing, altering, and adding to the Contributor’s Material and such consents given are to the full extent permitted under the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth).

10. Further Rights of JAFA

JAFA may, at its sole discretion, disqualify a manga from the AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival if JAFA has reason to believe that the manga fails to meet any of the requirements.

JAFA reserves the right, at any time, to verify the validity of any submission in the AnimeGO! 4-Koma Manga Competition and Creator’s details (including Creator’s identity, age and address). JAFA may accept errors and omissions at its discretion. A failure by JAFA to enforce any of its rights at any stage does not constitute a waiver of those rights.

11. Credits

If a manga is one of the Top Twenty manga on display at the AnimeGO! Japan Pop Culture Festival then, without limiting the rights granted by the Creator to JAFA under these Terms and Conditions, the Creator of that Manga must ensure that JAFA is given credit in a form reasonably specified by JAFA

in all future copies of that Manga distributed by the Creator, or an assignee, licensee or successor of the Creator after the Festival.

12. Indemnification by Creator

The Creator must fully and effectively indemnify JAFA and hold it harmless from any damages, liabilities, losses, costs, expenses, obligations and claims (including, without limitation, legal costs and disbursements on a “solicitor/client” basis) arising out of or in connection with:

- a) any failure by the Creator to comply with any of its obligations under these Terms and Conditions; and
- b) any breach by the Creator of any of the representations and warranties provided in these Terms and Conditions, including, without limitation, those representations and warranties set out in clauses 5, 6 and 9 above.

13. Assignment and Novation

JAFA has the right to assign or novate any or all of its rights and obligations under these Terms and Conditions, to any third party. The Creator may not assign or novate any or all of its rights and obligations under these Terms and Conditions and any purported assignment of any of those rights and obligations will be invalid.

14. Further Actions

The Creator agrees to execute all additional documents and do all things reasonably requested by JAFA to give effect to the provisions of these Terms and Conditions to ensure that JAFA is able to fully exercise all rights granted to JAFA in these Terms and Conditions, which will include without limitation, executing any documents required to register and protect anywhere in the world the copyright and/or other intellectual property rights in, or related to, the Manga.

15. Limitation

In the event of any breach or alleged breach of this Agreement by JAFA, the Creator’s sole remedy will be limited to the right, if any, to recover monetary damages in an action at law, and in no event will the Creator be entitled to terminate this Agreement or to seek or receive any other remedy including, without limitation, any injunction or other equitable relief.

16. Jurisdiction

The Agreement that is created by these Terms and Conditions is created in South Australia, Australia and is governed by the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of South Australia.

17. Interpretation

In interpreting this document:

- a) A reference to a person includes a reference to a corporate body or other legal entity; b) When referring to the singular, this includes the plural and vice versa.
- c) The use of the words “included” and “including” does not limit the words preceding them.
- d) Terms and Conditions subject to change, prior to the given submission dates of **September 22nd 2026**.

Appendix A – Glossary

This year’s theme is 「妖怪」 *yokai*. *Yokai* is a term for various supernatural beings that appear in Japanese folklore and include the likes of ghosts, demons, shape shifters, goblins and so forth. They are both malevolent and/or mischievous beings. Having major cultural importance since the Edo period, *yokai* stories tell the unexplained, teach ethical concepts and entertain.