Year 2026

The 35th National High School Manga Championship (Manga Koshien) Implementation Outline for Overseas Schools

1 Outline of Manga Koshien..... 1
2 Main Organizer..... 1
3 Co-Organizer..... 1
4 Additional Support..... 1
5 Eligibility..... 1
6 Competition Outline..... 1
7 Judging Panel..... 4
8 Judging Process..... 4
9 Copyright and Production of Submitted Works..... 5
10 Use of Personal Information and Portrait Rights..... 6
11 Inquiries..... 7

Main Organizer
Kochi Prefecture, Manga Kingdom Tosa Promotion Committee

Co-Organizer
Kochi Prefectural Senior High School Cultural Federation

1 Outline of Manga Koshien

This competition started in Kochi Prefecture in 1992 to determine the best high school manga team. Teams of three to five students compete by creating a one-page manga based on a given theme, within their allocated time limit.

Kochi Prefecture holds this competition to support the cultural activities of high school students, and to promote inter-regional and inter-generational exchange by gathering such students from both Japan and abroad.

It is also expected that through Manga Koshien, students will be able to develop their abilities of creativeness and expression through their efforts in creating a story based on the given theme. They will also be able to develop their teamwork and concentration by working as a team and creating a piece in a short span of time. Through Manga Koshien, budding manga artists may also be scouted by publishing companies through the scouting system.

2 Main Organizers

Kochi Prefecture, Manga Kingdom Tosa Promotion Committee

3 Co-Organizer

Kochi Prefectural Senior High School Cultural Federation

4 Additional Support

Other organizations that support the Manga Koshien will be posted on the Manga Kingdom Tosa website.

5 Eligibility

- High school students, students in the second semester of secondary school, students in the upper grades of special schools, students in their first to third year of technical colleges, and students whose years of study at special training schools and vocational schools correspond to those of senior high schools.
- Students from overseas who are equivalent to the above.
- Only one team per school is allowed to participate.
- Each team should consist of three to five students (whose names are registered on the preliminary submission form) and one staff member who is responsible for supervising the team.

6 Competition Outline

Preliminary Round:

- Theme Announcement: Wednesday, April 8th, 2026 10:00 AM (JST)
- Submission Deadline: **Thursday, June 11th, 2026, 12:00 PM (JST)**
- Choose one of the two themes that will be announced on April 8th, 2026. Create a one-page manga that fits the chosen theme.
- Each school is allowed to submit one B4 size (257mm x 364mm) submission
  - Participants have no restrictions on coloring, paneling, or tools (including digital tools)
  - Submissions limited to 2D works only.

Preliminary Judging:

- Date: Friday, June 19th, 2026, 9:30 AM (JST)

- Venue: Kochi Prefectural Office Seicho Hall (Kochi Prefecture, Kochi City, Marunouchi 1-chome 2-20)
- Judge Panel: Professional Manga Artists (7)
- Judging Method: Discussion and Voting
- Number of Schools to Pass Preliminary Stage: 33 schools (30 in Japan, and 3 from outside of Japan)
- Alternate Candidate Schools: 8 Schools (5 in Japan, and 3 from outside of Japan)
- Announcement of Results: Friday, June 19th, 2026, 4:00 PM (JST) on the Manga Kingdom Tosa Website
    - Schools that advance through the preliminaries will be informed after 4:00 PM after the judging via email. We will ask if they intend on participating in the main round.
    - We ask that schools respond to our inquiry by Friday, June 26th. If some of the selected schools do not intend on advancing to the main round or are disqualified, we will contact alternate candidate schools.

Main Round

- Dates: Saturday and Sunday, August 1st and 2nd, 2026
- Venue: Kochi Cultural Plaza Culport (Kochi Prefecture, Kochi City, Kutanda 2-1)

Requirements:

- Participants: Students who were registered on the preliminary submission form
    - The list of participating students, and the total number of students, cannot be changed after submission.
    - In exceptional circumstances, such as illness, a decrease in the number of participating students is permitted.
    - If the number of participating students falls below the minimum required (3 students), the Manga Koshien Secretariat will make the final decision on the matter.

Supervising Teacher: Must be an educational faculty of the participating school

Participation Fee:

- From inside Kochi Prefecture: 20,000 JPY per person
- From outside of Kochi Prefecture: 30,000 JPY per person
- From outside of Japan: 50,000 JPY per person
    - The fee is to be deposited into the bank account of a travel agency determined by the secretariat by late July
    - The fee is applicable to participating students and accompanying supervisor
    - For schools within Kochi Prefecture who do not need accommodations, the participation fee is 10,000 JPY per person.

Travel Arrangements:

- The participation fee will be applied toward part of the travel expenses. The Secretariat will cover all transportation, accommodation, and meal expenses. Additionally, they will arrange round-trip travel between each school's nearest train station and Kochi Ryoma Airport.
- Travel and accommodation expenses for anyone except for the participating students and one supervising teacher must be paid out of pocket.

Schedule:

Date	Itinerary	Notes
Late July, 2026	● An online meeting will be held to explain the tournament rules	● This will only be attended by supervising teachers. ● A detailed schedule will be made available after arrangements have been made with participating schools.
(Fri.) July 31st, 2026	● Participants arrive and spend the night in Kochi ● Transport luggage and inspect the venue	
DAY 1 (Sat.) August 1st, 2026, 9:15 AM - 7:00 PM	● Opening Ceremony ● Competition ● Social Event	
DAY 2 (Sun.) August 2nd, 2026, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	● Activity ● Judging ● Award Ceremony ● Closing Ceremony ● Dismissal	● Depending on circumstances, schools from abroad or some outside of Kochi Prefecture may spend an extra night in Kochi. ● If participating schools would like to extend their stay in Kochi, the expenses will be borne by the schools.

Note: All competitive drawing sessions will be held exclusively on Day 1 (Saturday, August 1st). Judging, ceremonies, and events will continue on Day 2 (Sunday, August 2nd).

Competition Outline:

- Number of Competing Schools: 33 Schools (30 domestic, 3 international)
- Competition Theme: Competitors will choose one of three themes. Themes will be announced beforehand.
- Submission Size: B2 Size (Illustration board will be provided by the secretariat)
- Competition Date: Saturday, August 1st, 2026
- Time Limit: 5 hours and 30 minutes (Excluding 1 hour lunch break)
- Results and Closing Ceremony: Sunday, August 2nd, 2026

Awards (TBD):

- Top Prize (Winner's Flag, Commemorative Trophy, Prize Money of JPY 300,000)
- Second Prize (Plaque, Prize Money of JPY 200,000)
- Third Prize (Plaque, Prize Money of JPY 100,000)
- Chief Judge's Prize (Plaque, Prize Money of JPY 50,000)
- Manga Kingdom Tosa Promotion Association Chairperson Prize (Plaque, Prize Money of JPY 50,000)
- Mitsubishi Electric Prize (Plaque, Commemorative Gift)
- ANA Prize (Plaque, Commemorative Gift)

- Kochi Prefecture and Municipalities Promotion Association Prize (Plaque, Commemorative Gift)
- Kochi Prefecture High School Culture Federation President's Prize (Plaque, Commemorative Gift)
- Obiyamachi-suji Association "Obiyamachi Prize" (Plaque, Prize Money of JPY 30,000)

Special Prizes:
- Ebook Japan Prize
- Yanase Takashi Prize
- Guest Judge Prize

Scoutship Development Program
- During the competition, representatives from editorial departments of major publishers will visit each booth for scouting.
- Students who catch the attention of the scouting representatives at the main round venues will be able to take part in a development program aimed at helping them become professional manga artists.
    - For scouting representatives to better judge the potential of each student,all students are encouraged to bring and display a large number of their past works, such as illustration collections and story manga, in front of their competition booth.

Social Event
- Participants: Competitors, local high school volunteers, judges (manga artists)
- Date and Time: Saturday, August 1st, 2026, After the Competition
- Venue: Tournament Venue

7 Judging Panel (tentative)

(1) Preliminary Round Judges:
- Yamane Aooni (Chief Judge, Director of the Japan Cartoonists Association)
- Kusaka Riki (Manga Artist)
- Moo. Nenpei (Manga Artist)
- Hinomoto Meguru (Manga Artist, Past Participant of Manga Koshien)
- Est Em (Manga Artist, Past Participant of Manga Koshien)
- Yamakita Misako (Chair of the Kochi Manga Group)
- Iwagami Yoshihiro (Director General of the Kochi Manga Group Kujira)

(2) Main Round Judges:
- Preliminary Round Judges (All 7 Judges)
- Murakami Motoka (Guest Judge, Manga Artist)
- Nii Maruko (Guest Judge, Manga Artist)

(3) Permanent Honorary Chief Judge:
- Yanase Takashi

(4) Honorary Chief Judge:
- Makino Keiichi

8 Judging Process

Judging will be conducted by a vote held among the panel of judges. If two teams receive the same number of votes, the judges will deliberate on how to move forward.

(1) Preliminary Judging

- The judges will pick 30 short list candidates from among the Japanese schools, as well as 5 alternate candidate schools.
- The judges will pick 3 short list candidates from among the non-Japanese schools, as well as 3 alternative candidate schools.

(2) Main Round Judging

The top 10 submissions with the most votes are nominated as outstanding works. These nominated teams will receive awards. The awards for the top 3 teams will be decided via judge deliberation. The remaining 7 teams will receive awards decided by the sponsoring organization.

1) Top Prize
2) Second Prize
3) Third Prize
4) Chief Judge's Prize
5) Manga Kingdom Tosa Promotion Association Chairperson Prize
6) Mitsubishi Electric Prize
7) ANA Prize
8) Kochi Prefecture and Municipalities Promotion Association Prize
9) Kochi Prefecture High School Culture Federation President's Prize
10) Obiyamachi Prize

The following awards will be awarded to candidates selected from all participating teams, and will be chosen by relevant companies or guest judges.

11) ebookjapan Award
12) Yanase Takashi Prize
13) Guest Judge Prize (One for each of the guest judges)

(3) Regarding the results of the judging committee

- If the panel of judges decides a submission goes against the policy stated in *Section 9: Copyright and Production of Submitted Works*, the work in question can be disqualified. This can occur both during the preliminary and main round.
- In the case of a potential disqualification, we will inquire with the creator to find out the facts of the matter.
- If a nominated team in the main round is disqualified or has their award revoked, no runner-up will be promoted to take their place
- In the case of a disqualification, we can ask for the prize to be returned.

9 Copyright and Production of Submitted Works

Please understand that by submitting an application, you hereby give your approval and compliance in regards to the following points. Note that if any of the following violations are to be found during the judging period, it may lead to disqualification or withdrawal of awards.
Please refer to the "Alert and request regarding copyright and original works" document for further information on work creation.

(1) Notices Regarding Work Production

- Works must be created in the spirit of creativity and originality. Participants are encouraged to collaborate with their team members, but they must produce the work using their own skills.
- Only original, unpublished works can be submitted.

- Participants must not depict anything that may go against public morals or make others uncomfortable.
- Participants must be careful so that the work does not infringe on a third party's copyright, privacy, trademark or publicity rights, or right to likeness.
- The use of copyrighted works is strictly prohibited.
- To ensure the originality of the submission, avoid using any pre-existing works created by others that are protected by copyright, trademark, or right of likeness.
- Works for which generative AI was used for the story, composition, or production with little to no editing may be disqualified during judging.
- In the event that a copyright infringement-related problem arises, the artists or the artists' affiliated school will bear the responsibility for the infringement. The Manga Koshien Office will bear no responsibility in the matter.

Examples of Violations:

- Depictions of existing characters or characters resembling them.
- Use of "free-to-use" assets or stock materials (however, screentones are permitted).
- Production of works that resemble existing copyrighted works, regardless of whether generative AI was used or not.
- Use of AI generated images.

(2) Regarding the Rights of Produced Works

- All copyright for both preliminary and main round entries shall remain with the authors. However, by submitting the work, authors agree not to assert their moral rights (such as the right to object to modifications) against the Manga Koshien Office or its contractors regarding the Office's use of the work as specified below.
- The Office (including contractors commissioned by the Office for this project) shall be entitled to use the work, in whole or in part, free of charge (including reproduction, public transmission, editing, translation, and adaptation) for the following purposes, regardless of the medium or method used, such as television, radio, newspapers, magazines, books, internet distribution, or pamphlets:
    1. Publication in materials issued by the Manga Koshien Office
    2. Publication by the Office or in media approved by the Office
    3. Publication at exhibitions or similar events organised, co-organised, sponsored or approved by the Office
    4. Other publications deemed necessary by the Office within the scope of the Manga Koshien and 'Manga Kingdom Tosa' initiatives
- The Manga Koshien Office will take ownership of the physical or digital submission materials, though this transfer of material ownership does not affect the author's copyright. The only exception is for entries determined to be disqualified or to have their awards revoked during the main round judging.

10 Use of Personal Information and Portrait Rights

- Personal information submitted by participating schools will be used solely for the purposes of organising and conducting this event.
- The Manga Koshien Office may provide information to authorized members of the press and media, or may be subject to interviews by such parties.
- For event publicity and initiatives undertaken by Manga Kingdom Tosa, the Manga Koshien Office may use photographs, videos, and other materials depicting participants and competition scenes if deemed necessary.

11 Inquiries

Please direct your inquiries here:

Manga Kingdom Tosa Promotional Committee
Manga Kingdom Tosa Office, Kochi Prefectural Government, Japan
1-2-20 Marunouchi, Kochi City, Kochi Prefecture, 780-8570 JAPAN
Telephone: 088-823-9711
Fax: 088-823-9296
Email: manga-koshien@ken.pref.kochi.lg.jp
Website: https://mangaoukoku-tosa.jp/manga-koshien/