INTERNATIONAL BETTA CONGRESS®

IBC EXHIBITION STANDARDS

2016-2017 Show Season

(Areas 1, 3, 6, and 7) (20174 Show Season Area 2)

Section 1 – Show Manual

Section 2 – Judges Manual

Appendix

These IBC Exhibition Standards are made available to the public for promotion of the betta hobby and encouragement in developing show fish. They are not to be altered.

The IBC Standards are updated annually. Changes just made for the season are marked in red. Please check on the ibcbettas.org website each show year for new copies of the Standards. New versions are usually released July/August each year.

If you would like to make suggestions for changes, please see Form 12 and email the specifics to the IBC Judging Chair (jbchair@ibcbettas.org).

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CHAPTER 1: ABOUT IBC SHOWS

WHAT IS AN IBC SHOW?

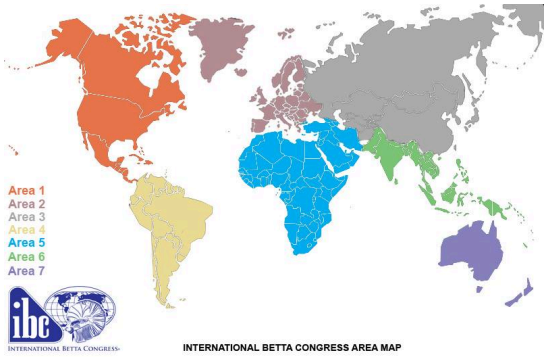
An International Betta Congress (IBC) Siamese Fighting Fish show (usually called a Betta Show) is a huge exhibit of one of the most fascinating fish of the aquarium world. Though the fish gained its popular name from the Sport of the Orient, the IBC does not condone the fighting of bettas. Thus an IBC show is, in effect, a beauty contest. Over the years, IBC members have tremendously altered the form and color of the fish through extensive selective breeding. Today's betta is a marvel of genetic engineering; a product of many years of hard work by hobbyists the world over. It is upon these variations that the IBC show system and judging rules are based.

WHY DOES IBC HOLD SHOWS?

Just like at any animal show or State Fair, there are ribbons and trophies to be had. But more importantly, IBC supports the show circuit because the competition advances the development of the Betta genus as the exhibitors seek to outdo each other in creating new betta forms and color variations. Of course, each exhibitor has his own reasons: points, trophies, fame, or just plain fun.

WHAT ARE IBC JUDGING AREAS?

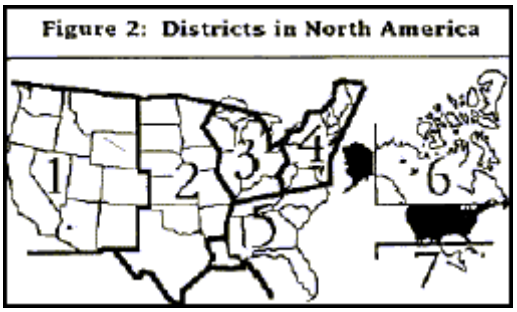
The International Betta Congress is divided into seven judging areas. This is done to aid in overcoming the obvious problems of attempting to maintain a betta show system, which must contend with national postal systems, airline connections, and language difficulties. These Exhibition Standards serve as guidelines for members in the areas. Each area may conduct its own, independent show circuit for international point shows. The area boundaries are not firmly fixed, nor do they prevent exhibitors from showing their bettas in areas outside that of their residence.



INTERNATIONAL BETTA CONGRESS AREA MAP

WHAT ARE IBC DISTRICTS?

Each IBC area may divide itself into districts. The benefit of this is permitting still smaller geographical areas for IBC shows. The map in Figure 2 is a breakdown of North America, which is included in Area 1.



WHY DIFFERENT TYPES OF SHOWS?

It is simply not feasible for some groups of people to host very large shows, so the IBC has created several different kinds (sizes, basically) to allow everyone a chance to put on a show. The IBC show year begins 1 July following the annual General Convention (normally near the end of June), and concludes with the following year's General Convention.

DISTRICT LEVEL SHOWS

THE IBC CERTIFIED SHOW:

The Certified Show is the smallest of the four types of shows. It contains two, four, or six classes and is ideal for an aquarium society to hold in conjunction with their annual general aquarium show. It allows them to receive official IBC sanctioning for their efforts, which is not available for just the typical betta exhibit or section of most aquarium shows. Naturally, a Certified Show receives the

fewest number of fish from areas outside the city in which it occurs. Generally a local event, 10 to 30 fish can be expected in this type of show. There is no limit to the number of Certified Shows that may be held in a year.

THE IBC DISTRICT SHOW:

The District Show is the next largest, but still a modest size show. Fish from all over the IBC area can be expected, but most will come from the district in which the show is held. Expect 50-150 fish. A district show is allowed to limit their entries to no more than 100-150 fish, with pre-registrations opened preferentially to district members first and then allowed to open to the rest of the area for entries. There is no limit on the number of District Shows in a year; however, none can be held on the same weekend as another district or area show scheduled in the same IBC District. A District Show consists of a dozen or so divisions, though the number may vary slightly year to year. (See the current list of official IBC Show Divisions found in Chapter 10).

AREA LEVEL SHOWS

THE IBC INTERNATIONAL SHOW:

The IBC International Show is the largest of the normal shows held throughout the year. Entries typically number 300-500 and are received from all districts in the area including some from other countries. An IBC International Show is not allowed to limit the number of entries to less than 300 (though they may receive less). The term International Show and the term Area Show are synonymous, though the latter is rarely used. There is no limit on the number of International Shows that may be held in each Area within one year. However, they must not occur within two weeks of another show in the same area, or on the same weekend as a District Show previously scheduled in the same district. An area show is given preference within a district. Exhibits consist of the same divisions found in the District Show, but with a further breakdown into the many separate competition classes, the exact number often varying from year to year. (See the current list of official IBC Show Divisions and Classes in Chapter 10).

Watch out for weather problems: International shows shall not be held during November 15 through March 15 in the Northern Hemisphere since the potential for severe winter impact on fish entries is great during these times. Special attention must be taken to protect bettas shown in very hot weather as well as very cold weather.

THE IBC CONVENTION SHOWS

A Convention is always held concurrently with the annual membership meeting of the IBC. Convention shows typically number 600-1000 entries from around the globe. Each IBC area may choose to hold its own area convention show. However, only one Area may host the General Convention (in place of its Area Convention).

There may be three types of Conventions:

- The IBC Convention is held on behalf of all IBC members. There is a maximum of one per year. It contains the same class structure as the International Show, with the addition of optional fish and non-fish classes for art, crafts, and such. Convention shows are usually the largest and are normally the last shows of that area's show cycle.
- The IBC Area Convention optionally, one may be held for the members of an area. There is a maximum of one per area, each year. The same classes are used as that area's International Shows or as the IBC Convention.
    - The IBC District Convention may be held for members of a district, though it is not mandatory. These contain the same class structure as a District Show, but may include optional and non-fish classes as desired by the host.

AWARDS

DISTRICT LEVEL YEAR END CHAMPIONSHIPS

DISTRICT DIVISION CHAMPIONS: The exhibitors with the highest number of points gained in each division in Certified, District, and District Convention Shows within each district that holds at least two such shows becomes that district's Division Champions.

DISTRICT GRAND CHAMPION: The exhibitor with the highest number of total points gained in Certified, District, and District Convention shows within each district that holds at least two such shows becomes that districts Grand Champion. Any special awards for these exhibitors are up to the members of that district. The District Division and Grand Champions may or may not reside in the district.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR END CHAMPIONSHIPS

An Area's year-end points are for people in that Area only. Out-of-Area entrants will get show awards, but not year-end. Area will be by IBC registered address, unless self-selected. People who legitimately are living/working in two Areas can have an exemption for their Areas if they register with the Judging Board.

International Class Champions: The exhibitor with the highest number of class points gained in each of the classes presented at International and General/Area Convention shows will be recognized as the International Class Champion for each respective class within each Area.

International Variety Champions: The exhibitors with the highest number of points gained in each variety - presented at International and General/Area Convention shows will be recognized as the International Variety - Champions for each respective variety within each Area.

International Grand Champion: The exhibitor with the highest number of total points gained in all International and General/Area Convention shows will be recognized as the International Grand Champion within each area.

International Top 20: Exhibitors with total points gained from International and General/Area Convention shows ranking 2 through 20 will be recognized for same within each Area.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

For An Individual Show: The method of award presentation to those present at a show is up to the show committee. It is common to have an awards banquet where the results are read and awards presented. The official announcement is publication of the results in FLARE. For winners who are unable to attend the show, awards will be sent through the mail.

For the Yearly Awards: The IBC holds an awards banquet at every Convention. At that time the awards for the Convention Show itself are presented by the show committee and will be followed by the IBC yearly awards. Areas and districts may hold such award banquets as desired. IBC year-end awards are presented by the Chairman and Registrar of the Judging Board (General Convention); the Area Representative (Area Convention); or District Representative (District Convention).

CONVENTION AWARDS

International Class Championships (One for each class, labeled such as: Red Singletail Male Class Champion.)

International Variety Championships (One Variety Championship award for each Variety.)

One Warren Young Memorial trophy - the award for exhibitor who won the most Best of Show points during the show year

One President's trophy - or plaque is given to the exhibitor who wins the most points at the convention show and is usually presented by the IBC President (or Area Representative).

One Grand Champion trophy – award for the exhibitor with the greatest total of International show points within a show year.

Top 20 – the 2nd through 20th exhibitors ranked by respective International show point totals for a show year. The top 10 to receive plaques, 11 through 20 to receive premium certificates of merit.

Convention Show Awards: One award for each of the first, second, and third place winners of the Convention show classes, and one award for each of the first, second, and third place winners of the New Breeders class.

One award for each of the Best of Variety winners, male and female. One award for each of the Reserve Best of Variety winners, male and female.

One award each for the Best of Show and Reserve Best of show male and female - winners out of the Convention show classes, and one award each for the Best of Show and Reserve Best of Show male and female — winners out of the New Breeders show classes.

POINTS

District Points: District level points are tallied by the District Representative unless there is none in that district. Alternatively the IBC Judging Board Registrar will maintain the point tally.

- From a Certified Show - points are counted only towards the District Variety Championships.
- From a District Show - points count for District Variety and Grand Championships.
- From a District Convention Show - these also count toward the District Variety and Grand Championship awards.

International Points: International level points are tallied by the Registrar of the Judging Board for all areas.

- From an International Show points count toward the IBC International Class, Variety, and Grand Championship/Top 20 awards.
- From a General or Area Convention Show points also count towards the International, Class, Variety, and Grand Championship/Top 20 awards.

For the most Best of Show points IBC gives a special award to the person who gets the highest total of Best of Show bonus points in International and General/Area Convention shows. This award is known as The Warren Young Memorial Award in honor of one of the early great betta breeders.

AWARD POINT SUMMARY

Points are given for:	1st	2nd	3rd				
Certified	20	10	5	District Convention	30	15	10
District	20	10	5	Area Convention	30	15	10
International	20	10	5	IBC Convention	30	15	10

Certified Show points count for District Variety - Championships only; not toward International Variety Championships. District Show and Convention points count for District Variety and Grand Championships.

International Show, Area and IBC Convention points count for International Class, Variety and Grand Championships/Top 20. There are separate Class Championships for New Breeders.

The Best of Show (BOS) and Reserve Best of Show (RBOS) male and female each receive a bonus according to the scale shown below. BOS and RBOS points count toward the Warren Young award and Grand Champion/Top 20. Best of Variety and Reserve Best of Variety count toward Class, Variety and Grand Championships/Top 20. New Breeder BOS and RBOS male and female count toward New Breeder Class Championships. District and Certified BOS and RBOS count toward District Grand Champion.

BEST OF SHOW BONUS

The following bonus points will be applied where applicable:

For International Point Shows	
Group A:	
Best of Show Male/Female:	100
Reserve Best of Show Male/Female	80
Best of Variety Male/Female:	40
Reserve Best of Variety Male/Female	30
New Breeder Group B:	
Best of Show Male/Female:	40
Reserve Best of Show Male/Female	30
For General/Area Convention Point Shows	
Group A:	
Best of Show Male/Female:	125
Reserve Best of Show Male/Female	100
Best of Variety Male/Female:	60
Reserve Best of Variety Male/Female	45
New Breeder Group B:	
Best of Show Male/Female:	60
Reserve Best of Show Male/Female	45
For District Point Shows	
Best of Show Male/Female:	40
Reserve Best of Show Male/Female	25
For Certified Point Shows	
Best of Show	40

FEES

There are three types of fees:

Show Sanction Fee: The amount charged the host club by IBC for approving a show.

Show Entry Fee: The amount charged an entrant by the host for showing his or her fish.

Judge's Fee: The amount paid to the judge for his or her services. (See Chapter 2)

The current show sanctioning is US$25 for an International Show, US$15 for a District Show, and US$5 for a Certified Show.

All sanction fees are sent to the IBC Judging Board Chairperson or his/her designee along with the sanction request. Sanction fees must be paid BEFORE the show is officially sanctioned. Requested show dates may be reserved for 10 days by sending an e-mail message to the IBC Judging Board Chairman or his designee identifying the club, type of show, and the date requested. The sanction fee must be received within 10 days after the date on the email message or the date will no longer be reserved for that club and will become available for any other club. The sanction fees may be sent to bettacongress@yahoo.com via PayPal. IBC will forward sanction fees from district level shows to the District Representative. If there is no Area or District Representative, the funds shall be forwarded to IBC to be managed until such times as an Area/District Representative has been elected. At that time the IBC will forward these funds to the appropriate representative.

Area 1 currently has a typical Show Entry fee of US$2.00 per single fish entry and $3.00 for pairs. The other area fee structures vary per chapter hosting the show. The host club may set any value for an entry fee at or higher than the minimum provided that any amount different from the "typical $2.00" is well advertised. If not noted otherwise in show advertisements, entrants will assume the "typical" value is correct.

IBC Shows are also sometimes open to entries from non-IBC members, if the chapter hosting the show allows it. Non-members entering pay at least 150-200% more than IBC members in entry fees. Giving a 200% example: For Area 1, that would be a $2/entry for IBC and $4/entry for non-members. For Area 2, it's variable, but in many areas would be Euro 3,50/entry for IBC and Euro 5,00/entry for non-members. For Area 6, it's variable. For Area 7, it's variable, but in many shows would be AU$3 for IBC and AU$6 for non-members. For non-members, there is an avenue for IBC Membership within the show circuit. If a non-member enters 8 or more fish in a show as a non-IBC Member, they have the option of becoming an IBC member. Show Chairs will track this and register the membership with the IBC.

Each chapter can also create their own incentive fee structure, such as lower fees for chapter members. Entrants must carefully review each chapter's posting of show information to see what their fee structure and incentives are.

AUCTION FUND DISTRIBUTION FOR SHOW ENTRIES

Funds obtained by host clubs from auction sales will be split between the owners of the items sold and the host club or other designated agency.

Special auction items (non-fish items or non-entered fish) are not restricted to the splits shown below and will be set by the show host as desired.

Unless otherwise advertised, money from auction of show entries will be on a 75% to the exhibitor, 25% to the show host basis. Money for special auction items may be split 50% exhibitor/50% show host.

The income split for all auction items including show entries for auction at all IBC Conventions is 75/15/10 between the exhibitors, IBC, and the host club respectively, provided the host club handles the auction. If the host club does not wish to conduct the General Convention Auction they must notify the IBC Judging Board Chairperson at least 30 days in advance of the auction date, in which case the auction will be 75% to the exhibitor and 25% to IBC.

CHAPTER 2: ENTERING AND HOSTING AN IBC SHOW

TYPES OF EXHIBITION CLASSES

IBC sanctions and promotes shows to display beautiful bettas. There are three groups of classes in an IBC sanctioned show.

GROUP A: SELF-BRED BETTAS

Regular classes are for IBC members in good standing. This group includes Individual and Family from Areas 1 through 7, Collaborations, and Chapters entrants. Non-members may sometimes show in this group at a higher entry fee than IBC members (see Fees). They are limited to no more than 10 entries, and may not receive year-end awards. (This option is determined per chapter holding the show – check with the particular show rules.)

An Individual entrant is defined as one (1) person raising bettas in one fish room. An Individual may occasionally have help from one (1) other individual. Instances where another person comes in to feed the fish while the Individual is on vacation are acceptable for Individual entrants.

Family entrants are defined as spouses, parents and children, or siblings living in the same household and raising bettas in one (1) fish room. Family entrants should use both/all names for the entry form name ("Sieg and Judy Illig"). Family members can also enter separately as individuals as long as they don't share fishroom duties for their own bred fish. If families do share fishroom duties, they are expected to enter as a family. All family entrants must all be IBC members in good standing.

Collaboration entrants are two or more individuals working closely together in different fishrooms to produce a line of bettas. Collaborations usually involve one person breeding the fish and then giving the young, unsexed juveniles to another person who will rear them in their fishroom to showable size and training. Collaborations are **not** people who simply purchase fish. True collaborations involve multiple decisions being made along the way by both people on the breeding and raising of the fish. The difference between collaboration fish and family showing is that while family showing all work in the same fishroom together, in collaboration, the fishrooms are separate and often miles away from each other. Collaboration fish may be shown in regular classes and are eligible for year-end awards. Collaboration fish must be from people in the same Area working together. Both parties in a

collaborative effort **must** be IBC members in good standing. Collaborations must register with the JB prior to showing with both parties names, member IDs, and lines they'll be working together. The JB will send the list of approved Collaborations to Show Chairs prior to the shows

YEAR END AWARDS are reserved for individual, family, and collaboration betta hobbyists.

CHAPTER entrants are defined as two (2) or more members of the same IBC Chapter working out of two (2) or more fish rooms. CHAPTER entries are ineligible for year end awards.

A betta OWNER (sometimes referred to as "collector") is a person who owns a fish but did not breed it him or herself. These fish may be entered in a show, but only in the purchased fish category (see Group C). (While breeders own their fish, they are referred to as BREEDERS.) Purchased fish will now be shown in their own group, not to be mixed with breeders' fish. This includes any fish that an entrant did not breed themselves, whether literally bought from a store or online or another breeder, or a gift fish that somebody gave to them. Purchased fish must have been in the owners' possession for at least one month before the show.

ALL entrants for Group A must:

1. Be IBC members in good standing (unless entering as a non-member, see 'fees')
2. Should have bred and raised the entered bettas themselves
3. Enter under their real names (the names listed in the IBC Membership). Entries with business or trade names only will be disqualified. People can put business or trade names in parenthesis after their real names if they want to. (Example: A correct entry would be Larissa Williams (alatri). Incorrect and subject to disqualification would be simply Alatri.)

(Exceptions for Area 2, which is all self-bred but with variable entries for IBC Member and non-members, and Area 6, which does not make a distinction between purchased and self-bred.)

GROUP B: NEW BREEDERS

New Breeders classes are for people who are just starting out breeding and showing bettas. The intent of the group is to let people who haven't much showing experience and/or are new at breeding have a chance to compete in a smaller group of entrants with a smaller set of classes to enter in. There is also the chance to be the New Breeder Grand Champion, which can only happen once for a breeder, ever. New Breeder classes are limited to people living in the Area the show is being held in. (Area being the IBC Area, such as Area 1, 2, 6, or 7. So people from Area 2 cannot enter New Breeder in Area 7, etc.) New Breeders must be IBC Members.

While there are smaller class categories, bettas entered in New Breeder will still be judged by the regular IBC Standards for each form and color type.

New Breeder entrants may:

1. Show in New Breeder Group for two (2) show years.
2. At any point while showing, choose to moving to show in Group A with fish they have bred and raised. If they choose to show in Group A, they permanently lose eligibility to show in the New Breeders classes.
3. They may also exhibit fish they did not breed in Group C, Purchased Bettas.
4. Exhibit art entries in Group A: Arts & Crafts, without losing eligibility to show in the New Breeders classes.
5. Exhibit wild type bettas in Group A: Wild Types without losing eligibility to show in the New Breeders classes.

If a New Breeder at the end of their first show year wins three (3) or more New Breeder Class Championships, they will be ineligible to show in New Breeder for a second year and must move to showing in Group A.

GROUP C: PURCHASED FISH

Owners of fish they did not bred or raise themselves may show these fish in the Purchased Fish group. This includes any fish that an entrant did not breed themselves, whether literally bought from a store or aquabid or another breeder, or a gift fish that somebody gave to them. Purchased fish must have been in the owners' possession for at least one month before the show.

While there are smaller class categories in the Purchased Fish group, bettas entered in will still be judged by the regular IBC Standards for each form and color type.

Exceptions:

- Area 6 continues to show purchased fish as their regular shows. Area 6 has always had this exemption and continues to keep it.
- Area 2 chooses not to allow purchased fish shown at any IBC show. All fish shown must be self-bred.

Each of these three (3) groups of classes will have their own show awards, including Best of Show and Reserve Best of Show awards for males and females. The largest awards will generally be for Group A. Group A also has Best of Variety for males and females. IBC Member entrants in groups A and B will accumulate points toward year-end awards for each class within that group. The exhibitors who accumulate the most points in each Variety in Group A during the show season will be proclaimed Variety Champions for that group at the annual IBC Convention at the end of the show season. The exhibitors in Group A will also accumulate total points during the show season and a Grand Champion and Top 20 will be proclaimed at the annual IBC Convention at the end of the show season.

ETHICS OF SHOWING

Showing is very much on an honor system for the people entering the shows. We expect that all other people entering the show will also hold to the high standards of breeding and showing. This includes following all the rules set out in the IBC Exhibition Standards, no matter if anybody can see you following them or not. We expect that the bettas you enter in Groups A and B (Self-Bred and New Breeders) will be bred by yourself, and grown to show size and trained for showing by yourself, using your own fishroom resources. If using shared resources, you'll enter as a family or collaboration. (*Excepting Area 6 for their exemption on bred bettas.*)

The IBC respects bettas in their natural state and strives to have the best possible fish from the work of breeding show lines. We expect the shown fish in all groups to be in their natural, originally bred condition and their fins are not "trimmed" nor any other alternations. We expect all fish to be treated humanely and respectfully, and we do not condone fighting bettas nor abuse of bettas. We expect entrants to engage in fair and friendly competition without interfering with fellow competitors.

ENTERING A SHOW

FINDING OUT WHEN A SHOW WILL BE HELD:

The official IBC journal, FLARE!, publishes a list of the current shows planned for the year. Additionally, the IBC website located at http://www.ibcbettas.org also provides a list of shows. The Chairperson and Registrar of the Judging Board maintain a list of the shows. FLARE! and the IBC web site provide such information as the mail-in address, phone numbers for the Show Chairperson, etc.

PREPARING FOR A SHOW

Participants should read the JB Participant Show Guide and know what is expected in preparing for and during a show. Entrants are reminded that shows committees are not expected to make any special efforts for them and they will be treated just the same as every other entrant. If a participant makes a mistake in entry forms, bagging, or otherwise, that mistake is on the participants' end. A Show Chair is expected to make some effort for figuring things out, but participants shouldn't expect great lengths if it was their mistake.

CATALOGING YOUR ENTRIES:

The Official Show Entry Form (IBC Form 3) is found in the Appendix. Updated versions are provided via FLARE! as changes in classes or the Exhibition Standards occur, and it is also available in the IBC Better Bettas online group. It can be easily copied for use and is reasonably self-explanatory. The Show Standards should be reviewed and matched for the current Class Lists. While Class Help is always an option, the Judging Board strongly recommends all entrants classify entries themselves. Be sure to mark the fish bags with an identifying number and include that number on the entry form. It would be advisable to keep a copy of the completed entry form so if problems arise, there will be an accurate record. Remember to specify names for Wild and Variation entries.

All entry fees and return postage must accompany entries or fish will not be shown. Some shows accept paypal as a pre-payment option. Contact the show chair and confirm whether paypal is a payment option before shipping fish. Do not assume all chapters are able to accommodate paypal as a method of payment.

BAGGING AND BOXING FISH:

Use about a third of a cup of water; more is okay if there is room for a lot of air in the bag. Remember that extra water means additional postage. Bag the fish so the bag stays inflated and tie a knot in the bag itself, sealing the bag as tightly as possible. Rubber bands are not allowed. A general rule of thumb is that the bag when tied off should be 1/3 water, and 2/3 air. Put a label or write on the bag identifying the fish, using a waterproof marker. Bags can leak during shipping, making the identifying label or mark illegible. Then place another bag on the outside of this one with the opening on the opposite end from the interior bag. Tie the outer bag off also and label it too. This is called “double bagging” and is the required method for shipping fish. Single bagging can often lead to leaking, collapsing of the bag, etc., which can kill fish. Fish need two types of insulation: one to insulate from temperature and one to insulate from shock. Styrofoam serves both purposes nicely, so it is a good material to use to line the shipping box. Make sure the bags cannot be punctured. Before sealing the box, include the entry form, entry fees, return postage, and bags (if the fish are to be returned). **DOUBLE CHECK!!!** Be sure to include enough bags to be used for both any auction fish and also double-bagging for the return trip. Seal the box well and mark it “Live Tropical Fish,” or “perishable,” depending upon shipping methods. It is wise to check postal regulations, especially if shipping to another IBC Judging Area.

MAILING YOUR FISH:

Express Mail or Priority Mail with overnight delivery is recommended.

REPORTING PROBLEMS:

By chance if something has gone terribly awry, contact the Show Chairman for resolution. The Judging Board Chair may be contacted as well. The Judging Board will address all formal complaints.

COMMON ENTRANT ERRORS

Do fill out the entry form completely and accurately. Place entry form and entry/return postage money in a separate, sealed bag for protection. A large Ziploc-type bag is suggested.

Do double bag your fish.

Do send bags for the fish to be auctioned or returned in, with a minimum size of 4 x 12 inches.

Do send plants if showing wild type bettas. Send plants in a separate bag from the fish.

Do not fill the bags completely with water.

Do not label fish bags with water-soluble ink.

Do not put more than one betta in a single bag.

Do not expect single bagging to be sufficient.

Do not feed your fish for 24 hours before shipping.

Do not expect auction fish to sell for prices higher than $10. If they do, that is wonderful, but a sale price of $5 is more likely.

Do not ship fish to the show too late or too early. Three (3) days in advance is best.

Do not ship fish in colored (i.e. green, amber, blue) water.

Do not ship fish in bags smaller than 4 x 12 inches.

HOSTING A SHOW

BEFORE CONTACTING IBC:

It is best to determine what type of show to host and decide who will be Show Chairman before requesting a show. It is also advisable to thoroughly read the rules for hosting a show and discuss all of the many details with chapter members. A very useful guide, "Hosting an IBC Show," is available through the IBC Technical Assistance Committee, and the IBC Judging Board has also put out a JB Show Chair Guide. All Show Chairs, no matter how experienced or not they are, are expected to review this Guide before their show. Review it when first planning the show, a month before the show, and the day before the show at minimum. We expect Show Chairs and Show Committees to represent the IBC and the IBC Standards, and to be detailed on their care for the entries and participants.

SUBMITTING A REQUEST:

IBC sanctioned shows are awarded to IBC Chapters and other groups or individuals when requested. To apply, submit a letter of request (IBC Form 4) to the Chairman of the Judging Board or his/her designee specifying the type of show desired and the preferred date. Include the name, address, and phone number of the Show Chairman, and the name of the Judge. It is wise to indicate an alternate date or alternate type of show. The Judging Board Chairman will give official notice of acceptance. Chapters may request one International show date for the first half of the show year and one International show date for the second half of the show year. The first half of the show year begins immediately after the IBC Convention show in June and extends through mid-November. The second half of the show season begins in mid-March and extends through the IBC Convention show in June.
Exceptions: Area 6 has an extended show season as their weather permits. Area 2 has a January to December show season to better match their best Convention date.

IBC Chapters will be given preference over groups and individuals for any show date that has not been assigned.

Submit the IBC Show Request (IBC Form 4) at least 90 days in advance of the show. If FLARE! is not scheduled to be published in time, the host must send the information to the IBC web site, and send notices to all active exhibitors in the Area. The Registrar of the Judging Board will have the most current list of active exhibitors

PAYING THE SANCTION FEE:

All shows require a sanction fee, which is to be paid in full WITH the application. The Chairperson of the Judging Board will NOT grant a sanction until the fee is paid. Requested show dates may be reserved for 10 days by sending an e-mail message to the IBC

Judging Board Chairman or his designee identifying the requester, type of show, and the date requested. The Sanction Fee must be received within 10 days after the date on the e-mail message or the date will no longer be reserved and will become available for any other requester. If the requested date/type of show is not available, the sanction fee will be returned to the requester. After the show year starts on July 1st, no refund will be made for canceled shows.

HOLDING A SHOW:

In the Appendix is a checklist for a show host to use when preparing and hosting a show. Check off each item where appropriate. The checklist also contains many valuable considerations. It is advisable to review additional material available in the Technical Assistance Library. Also, there are many IBC Chapters with much experience with show hosting. Do not hesitate to contact these clubs to ask for advice and mentoring. The first-hand, practical information they can provide will be invaluable to a new club embarking on hosting a show for the first time. Here is a preview of the checklist.

ARRANGING A DATE, LOCATION, AND JUDGE:

Be sure that the host chapter and the IBC Certified Judge clearly understand what will and what will not be provided to the judge free of charge. It is customary for the host club to provide at least the judge's meals and lodging.

ANNOUNCING YOUR SHOW:

To host a successful show, it is important to insure that all IBC members in the host area are informed of the show date and location. Obviously, FLARE! and the IBC web site are the ideal mediums. Where possible, use the local media, flyers, newspapers, radio, and television to advertise your show. Provide as much information as possible in the sanctioning request letter. Be sure to let people know if AUCTION ONLY fish will or will not be accepted.

The number of fish entries in any International show in Regular classes is limited to 50 per each entrant, not to exceed 60 total fish entered. The number of fish entries in the annual IBC Convention show will be limited to 60 per entrant, not to exceed 70 total fish entered. Entrant is either individual or family or collaboration as defined earlier in this chapter.

PLAN THE PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

The show checklist outlines the many things needed to host a successful show. Carefully gather all of these things ahead of time. This very important step will save a lot of last-minute running around.

1. Use approved IBC containers, full to within 1-2 inches of the top of de-chlorinated/de-chloramined water (Prime is recommended). The Chairman of the Judging Board may approve deviations.

2. Plan for Wild Type bettas (non-Splendens) and Giant bettas: Use appropriate sized containers for larger species. Provide tight covers. Many of these types are prone to jump when disturbed. All species of wild bettas will be shown in a container holding at least one gallon of water and a secure cover. The sexes will be separated either by using separate containers or a secure divider.

3. Black classes shall be provided with a white background (can be done by putting a white card/sheet behind them). All others shall have a black background.

4. Place separator cards between all containers when not actively being judged.

Chapters are approved to purchase what they would like for show containers providing:

- Containers must be of a firm plastic that can easily be seen through for both judging and photography. Any time containers get scratched up so their visibility is diminished, the host club should replace those containers.

  Exception: Those chapters with existing half-gallon glass bowls can continue to use them. The glass bowls are not, however, approved for new purchases.

- Containers for regular show fish must be no smaller than 4 inches wide by 4 inches depth by 4 inches tall. Preferred containers are larger than that in one dimension or another (such as the 'beanies' which are 4x4x8, or the mini-keepers which are 7x4x5).

- Containers must have individual lids.

  Exception: Area 2 has some chapters that use long lengths of plastic to cover multiple containers. Those chapters can continue using their method. This method is not, however, approved for new purchases/chapters.

- All fish showing in a category ***MUST*** have the same container during the show so that all fish are judged under equal conditions. If for some reason, other containers must be used, then group the other containers to the other categories. (i.e., all regular class fish can be shown in one type, all new breeder class fish can be shown in a different one, and purchased fish in a third.) (ex: all regular fish are shown in beanies while all new breeders are shown in mini-keepers.)

- Host clubs must also keep on hand larger size containers for giants, small wilds, and large wilds. Giants and small wilds should be in nothing less than 6x6x6 (ex - small kritter keepers are 9x6x7), and large wilds should be no less than 8x8x8 (ex - med kritter keepers are 11x7x8)

- Host clubs must plan their show settings to match their containers. This might entail building new stands. Consider resources, including available show space, when planning containers.

PLAN THE LABOR REQUIREMENTS:

Depending on the show location, size, and set up, a small number of helpers may be adequate, or an army of workers may be required. Do not underestimate the time it takes to fill 300 bowls with water and move them around. Watch out for the “gee, it’s great the show is over, guess I’ll go home” syndrome to hit as soon as the auction ends.

PLAN THE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Many chapters hesitate to host IBC International Shows because of the imagined cost. It can be costly IF not properly planned. Do not promise the Judge more than the chapter can afford. Do not dream of presenting costly awards outside the chapter's ability to pay. Do actively seek sponsors from among IBC, the aquarium trade companies, and the local community.

PLAN THE AWARDS:

This is an item that can make or break a show financially and ruin a chapter's reputation if not handled properly. At the very least, you are required to provide the following minimum awards:

- ALL SHOWS: Certificates or ribbons, at least, must be given to the First, Second, and Third place winners in all Classes (all Divisions for District Shows).

- INTERNATIONAL SHOWS: Group A Best of Show and Reserve Best of Show Male and Female should be the largest awards. Lesser but still substantial awards may be given for BOS and RBOS for Group B (New Breeder) and Group C (Purchased Fish).

Best of Variety and Reserve Best of Variety Male and Female awards should also be given, though they can be in larger ribbons (rosettes) or certificates.

- DISTRICT SHOWS: Best of Show and Reserve Best of Show Male and Female. If optional groups for Group B and C are used, provide awards for those as well. The awards can be ribbons or certificates for the optional classes.
- CERTIFIED SHOWS: Best of Show
- CONVENTIONS: Same as International Shows.

SHOWTIME

RECEIVING MAIL-INS AND REGISTERING ENTRANTS:

Be sure to have a logbook system (or computer software program) ready well before the show period begins so it can be used early for the registering of mail-in entries. A good logbook system will save time and headaches.

Host entries should be registered first. This is particularly true of the person who will receive the mail-in entries. Thus it is suggested that the person receiving mail-ins be permitted to register their entries as soon as possible. This is an ethical point that the IBC presumes host clubs recognize and will comply with on their own initiative. Host Clubs may set entry deadlines. These must be well advertised via the BetterBettas group site, the IBC website, and/or FLARE!. Host clubs may also accept entries to just prior of the judging. This is at the discretion of the host club. Whichever policy is being practiced, it must be extended to all potential exhibitors. No entries are to be accepted after the judging starts.

Make sure the individual receiving fish has a way to be notified when mail-ins arrive. Open the boxes immediately to check the health of the fish. Note any problems. Determine if the fish require any special care if they have been subjected to improper mail handling. It would be wise to telephone or e-mail entrants if any unusual problems are encountered. Fish should be in their bowls as early as possible before the show starts. 24 hours prior is ideal. Exceptions to this may be caused by postal delay or other extenuating circumstances. Entries should not be mailed more than three (3) days before a show, particularly without the show host being contacted. Entrants should not expect the host club to offer special treatment such as custom water and chemical mixes. If you get fish early, jar them. In all cases, bettas must not be kept in sealed bags for more than 48 hours after you receive them. Keep the water temperature between 75 and 82 degrees.

Fish that arrive dead may be discarded unless the owner has specifically indicated that they wish dead fish to be returned to them. Taking a photo of the doa fish is advised. The entry fee for a fish dead on arrival is to be refunded.

Upon receiving a mail-in entry, register the fish as they are received and check for the entry fee payment, return postage payment, and any special instructions. A friendly phone call will usually result in the resolution of any disputes concerning payment of entry fees or return postage.

Here are some of the reasons fish die during shows, so keep your eyes open:

- Not having sufficient water, either in quantity or quality.
- Damage from someone visiting the show, placing something in the water, knocking the bowl off the shelf, etc. Crowd control is important.
- Not providing proper heat control. If the weather at the location of the show is severe, fish should not be returned through mail or commercial shipper, unless requested by the owner, until it is safe to do so.
- Postal delays.
- Fish arrive in ill health. Check over the fish when they arrive and note any problems.
- Improper handling by the airlines or postal service.

- Improper bagging and/or boxing of the fish by the host club or the entrant.

BENCHING THE FISH:

Ideally, the show room and bowls should be set up at least one day in advance so that the water in the bowls has sufficient time to adjust. Check the chlorine level in the bowls before adding fish and de-chlorinate if necessary. Fish must be benched in CLEAR water. If fish were shipped in medicated water that is discolored, be sure to do a complete water change so that water during the show is clear. Wild types can be benched with plants and/or peat moss in their bowls. Fish should be placed in containers and labeled as soon as it is practical to do so. Make sure the Variations and Wild Type entries are properly marked with the entrant's required label. The fish that require Judge's Help for classification should be kept together in one location with temporary bowl identification labels.

FEEDING THE FISH:

Normally, the host club does not feed the fish. However, the host is expected to determine if an unusually lengthy delay has or will occur before the fish get home, and feed accordingly. If the fish are fed, change the water if it clouds up.

SUPPORTING THE JUDGE:

The Judge is responsible for providing his or her own flashlight, straws, clipboard, and any other tool s/he uses for judging. The host club should provide the judge with an assistant to aid him or her in recording the bowl/entry numbers of the winners and aid in clearing up any registration or classification problems. It is always wise to have a copy of the Standards handy. The Show Chairman should make every effort to insure that entrants or visitors do not disturb the Judge. It is a matter of courtesy to assist the Judge in obtaining refreshments when requested.

PHOTOGRAPHING THE FISH:

A member of the Show Committee should take digital pictures of BOS winners (if possible), and a selection of other show winners. These photos and/or videos are to sent back to the JB with award winners noted. The JB recognizes the resources this might take, so we're asking for best efforts, not an absolute.

ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS:

After the judging is completed, the Show Chairman may choose to keep the winners a secret until a special ceremony or banquet, or, if desired, may immediately make the results public. It is proper to mark the bowls with some sort of sticker or ribbon to indicate winners once the announcement event is complete.

CONDUCTING AN AUCTION

Auctions are held following most betta shows and, unless announced otherwise, most entrants will assume one will be held. If done properly, an auction and any associated raffles can be a big financial bonus for the host club. The IBC rules exist to provide some control and safeguards over the auctions due to their complexity, and to provide exhibitors and buyers balanced opportunities to profit from them. Particular care is necessary to avoid losses or misidentification of fish and ineffective management of records and money. You should always remember what the PARTICIPANTS expect.

The Buyers:

- Expect the auction fish to be available for preview before the auction starts.

- Expect the auction to start at the announced time and to proceed as efficiently and quickly as possible.
- Expect to check out reasonably quickly and painlessly.
- Expect to get the exact fish they paid for.

The Sellers:

- Expect their fish to be given an even chance with the others, meaning they expect their fish NOT to be publicly faulted by the auctioneer. Badmouthing an auction item is not proper technique. Promoting an auction item's assets is expected. However, if asked an OBJECTIVE question, the auctioneer is expected to provide an honest answer as best as can be discerned.
- Expect their fish to sell for a reasonable price.
- Expect fish not sold to be returned unless they indicate otherwise.
- Expect to receive their share of the auction money promptly and with an accounting of the fish sold and the sale prices. Sellers will often donate the amount to the host club as a helpful gesture.

A show entry may not be sold for less than the minimum set by the owner, or $5 per fish if no minimum was set.

The Guidelines and Techniques are: A 3/4 inch round green sticker should be affixed to show bowls for fish that will be auctioned, or it can be identified on the show label, this can be done when benching before Judging. A special table may be provided to hold Auction Only fish. There should be identifying Auction Numbers on the Auction Only fish. An Auction Committee should be appointed to handle the auction and to work out the procedures ahead of time.

They will need to consider and/or have the following:

1. One or more Auctioneers
2. A Recorder to look up names of the breeders and to record sales
3. Runners to aid the Auctioneer and to deliver fish to the baggers
4. Baggers to quickly remove the sold fish from their bowls
5. A Cashier to accept payment
6. The auction should be well publicized and open to the public.
7. Exhibitors and other participants may place fish and other items up for auction. The number may be limited depending on the time available.
8. Paired entries will be sold as a unit, not separately.
9. The Show Chairman is required to withhold fish from an auction if they are in ill health.
10. Any betta entered into the show as an auction fish cannot be withdrawn from the auction (except for #9 above).
11. Unsold auction fish will become property of the host club unless return postage is included with the entry fees.

Note for General Convention Auctions: The host club conducts the General Convention Auction with help from other IBC members. If the host club does not wish to conduct the General Convention Auction, the club must notify the IBC Judging Board Chairman at least 30 days in advance of the auction date.

RETURNING THE FISH AND THE AWARDS

The owner should receive mailed fish within 6 days of the closing date of the show, the sooner the better. Exhibitors should understand that their fish might not be mailed back on Monday following the show because there are sometimes large numbers of fish boxes to be shipped by the host club. Some of the fish may be mailed back on the following Tuesday. Holidays, postal strikes, airline strikes, and severe weather are valid reasons for delaying the return. It is imperative that fish be sent home in clean, fresh water.

The packing of fish for the return mailing should duplicate, within reason, the packing of arrival. If the owner provides bags, boxes, etc, these should be used. If the host club furnishes any bags, good judgment in selecting the type of bags is required. Bags should be roomy and strong enough to prevent tearing or bursting during shipping. Double-bagging of 1-mil bags is required, and adequate water and air space, depending on the size of the fish, is a must. A Waterproof Marker should be used to label the bags. Awards such as trophies, plaques, etc. with sharp points and edges must NOT be sent in the same box as the fish. Ribbons, certificates or any other paper awards can be added to the fish box as long as they are placed in a waterproof bag or container. A copy of the entrant's entry form with information about fish placings, and/or a print out of the entire show results (even if the results are preliminary), should also be included.

If a club chooses to return fish by some method other than that specified by the exhibitor, the club must get the prior permission from the exhibitor. If a club returns fish by a more costly method than that provided by the exhibitor—for example, one-day express mail rather than two-day priority mail—without the prior consent of the exhibitor, then the club must pay the difference in the cost.

The entrants are to notify the host clubs if the returned fish or the awards, auction checks, etc. do not arrive promptly. The Chairman of the Judging Board should be notified if problems are not resolved. Returning the fish improperly or in poor health is the single biggest area of complaint from show entrants. Such actions can ruin a club's reputation overnight. The cause is usually excessive delay in returning the fish, poor bagging, and/or allowing awards to damage the fish.

SPECIAL ATTENTION: the Judging Board considers the proper and prompt return of entrants' fish and auction funds to be a top priority of the Show Chairperson. Thus, the Board will seriously consider appropriate action against an organization or individual who fails to diligently implement this procedure.

REPORTING RESULTS OF THE SHOW: A show is not over until the final paperwork is done. Sample Show Reports are found in the back of these Standards.

WITHIN 2 DAYS, preliminary show results are to be posted on the Internet using the IBC web site and/or the BetterBettas group site.

Return all show entrants' fish with copies of the preliminary show results and their entry form with winning places information on the first or second postal day following the show.

WITHIN 10 DAYS

1. Refund entry fees to entrants for fish that arrived dead or for fish that were too sick to enter (refunds are not required for fish that die after they are entered and benched). Also refund entry fees to entrants for fish that arrived too late to enter.
2. Send any awards and auction money that are due to the entrants and a letter of explanation for any problems.
3. Send the following to the Judging Board Chairperson and Registrar of the Judging Board:
    - A copy of the official show results for updating point totals.
    - An electronic copy of the full show log. Show logs must have all entrant 'label/remarks' on them.
    - A letter explaining any special problems.
    - The current Show Data Report as directed by the Judging Board from show year to show year.
    - Digital pictures of BOS winners (if possible), and a selection of other photos with award winners noted.
4. Send a copy of the official show results to the Editor of FLARE!, Judging Board Registrar, Judging Board Chairman, and Webmaster of the IBC Website for publication.

Need help? The Chair and the Members of the Judging Board are specifically charged with helping Show Chairs do their job efficiently. The names, emails, and phone numbers of the current Judging Board Chair and Members can be found in FLARE! and on the IBC web site. Show Chairs for either International or District Shows are automatically members of a Judging Board committee for the current show year. The Chair of the Judging Board should be consulted for a temporary ruling on a situation not covered by these Standards.

RULES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY OF SHOW FISH

NOTE: Designated IBC or Chapter representatives may take photographs of fish in their bowls for IBC or Chapter use. Digital pictures of BOS winners (if possible), and a selection of other photos with award winners noted should be sent back to the Judging Board after the show.

1. Photographers must report to the show committee with requests.
2. Photography of bettas is allowed at shows with ordinary cameras if fish are not moved from benches or bowls.
3. The host club may request, but not require, that copies of good pictures be supplied to the club.
4. Photographers should practice courtesy and good will, co-operate with all the above rules, and assume responsibility for the well-being of fish they photograph.

PENALTIES

The Judging Board may penalize clubs that have irregularities in their shows. Likewise, the Judging Board may also penalize an entrant for improper conduct.

USING THE IBC SHOW LOG SYSTEM

Standard reporting forms in this manual are suggested for use. Although these forms are recommended, any system may be used.

As entries are received, log them in on the MASTER accounting form known as the Continuous Number Log (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.). It is this sheet that will help to account for all the entries in the show and in the auction.

Then begin recording the entries from the Continuous Number Log into the Individual Class Logs. There is one Class Log for each class (division for District Shows) in the show.

Use one Class Log separately to temporarily keep track of the entries that are to be given Judge's Help in classification. Once a Judge has selected a class for each fish in this log, they MUST be re-entered on the correct Class Log.

For each entry, place a continuous number label on the bowl. Labels with the Class Log Entry number, and labels identifying variations or species if appropriate, are to be placed on the front panel of the bowl. All labels are to be above the water line.

Use the Continuous Number Log for the Auction. Entries in the show will be known by their continuous number, such as #235. Fish that are for sale but were not entered in the show should also have a unique auction number, such as #AO-4.

NOTE: It is also helpful to place the "for auction" label on the show containers at this time. This avoids the need to track down containers after they are benched, saving time.

SHOW LOG CONTENTS

- Use Continuous Log Number sheets to record all fish, including those that are being handled for auction only. Use a separate log sheet for Auction Only fish that starts with the number AO-1.
- Use Class Entry Log sheets, one for each class. A separate such sheet should be used to temporarily record the HELP fish.
- Some additional special use sheets may also be kept. For example, a name/address sheet for all entrants, and perhaps one for all of the participants in the auction, can be useful.

One of the most important things to remember about the Log Book is: KEEP IT!

The specific Class Designators and names for the classes are found in the last portion of the Judges' Manual (See Chapter 10). Usually, the most current information can be found in the Entry Forms published in every issue of FLARE!.

CHAPTER 3: IBC JUDGES

TERMINOLOGY

The definition of a term given by the Exhibition Standards may differ from other source definitions of the same term: an example term is "Cambodian." The genetic definition and the Standards definition are not the same. Another example is that of the species designations. The IBC Judging Board is not a scientific organization and is not bound to scientific definitions of the species of the genus Betta. Thus when the term Betta imbellis is used, it may or may not refer to a species. It does refer to an IBC recognized type of betta. During the judging of a show, the Exhibition Standards definition has precedence.

THE IBC JUDGING BOARD

The International Betta Congress Judging Board is one of two international boards elected by the membership of the Congress. The other, the International Executive Board, is charged with the administration of IBC as an organization. The International Judging Board consists of a Chairperson and six (6) other voting members. An Executive Board member designated by the Executive Board serves as a representative of same. If that member is a Certified Judge, he or she shall be a voting member. If not a Certified Judge, then he or she will be a non-voting member. The Judging Board is charged with the creation and maintenance of the show system. That is mechanically done through the development and maintenance of the Show Manual and Judge's Manual.

COMMITTEES

- Committee on Judge's Certification: this committee handles all matters dealing with Judge Certification and Judge Procedures.
- Committee on Judges' Training: this committee handles all matters dealing with Judges' Training.
- Committee on Standards: this committee deals with the General and Special Standards sections of this manual.

AUTHORITIES

IBC CONSTITUTION

- Composition and election of the Judging Board

IBC BY-LAWS:

- Duties of the Judging Board
- Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
- Duties of the Committee on Standards
- Duties of the Committee on Judge's Training
- Duties of the Committee on the Maintenance of Judge's Certification

IBC JUDGING BOARD MANUAL:

- Procedures used by the Board

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES:

The Judging Board Operational Manual, which is the third section of these Exhibition Standards, is normally distributed only to members of the Judging Board and its committees. It may be obtained through the Technical Assistance Committee.

ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETINGS:

All Judging Board meetings shall be open to the membership of the Congress.

BUSINESS:

Only members of the Board may formally introduce business items at a meeting of the Board; however, any member of the Congress may submit proposed business items to a member of the Board for introduction. In addition, the Board shall be diligent in reviewing items published in FLARE! or online, which may represent suggestions of business items for the Board to consider. Whenever possible, proposed changes of the Exhibition Standards are to be announced in FLARE! or online prior to a Board vote to encourage comment from the membership.

CHANGES TO EXHIBITION STANDARDS AND SHOW CLASSES

Stability in the show class system is important. However, the Board may make changes to the class designations at each show year. When considering class additions/deletions, the Board should consider:

1. Class entry statistics: Classes consistently having fewer than 4 entries per show should be considered low in participation; more than 12 is high.
2. The Typing System: Changes must conform to the philosophical organization of the betta variations.
3. Mutations: Carefully be alert for new mutations that have become established as opposed to those that are in development. Encourage their establishment.
4. Show Impact: Cost and workload on host clubs should always be considered.

JUDGES:

Shows must be judged by IBC Certified Judges!

IBC judges have one primary function: to apply the official IBC Standards when evaluating the entries in an official IBC Sanctioned Betta Show. They may, on occasion, also conduct training classes and present lectures as requested by interested organizations.

It is customary to provide the Head Invited Judge with meals and lodging during the show. Sometimes, the judge's travel expenses are also provided. However, any fees or remuneration received by an IBC judge is strictly between the judge and the Host Club. Some judges may choose to come on their own at their own expense – this is their choice. Invited judges other than the head judge are expected to understand that a show's resources are limited and they should help as they can.

Selection of the officially invited Head Certified Judge is at the discretion of the Show Chairperson, and neither uninvited Certified Judges nor Apprentice Judges normally receive fees or services. No uninvited Certified Judge or Apprentice Judge may be refused the right to judge unless that judge has rendered himself ineligible by engaging in unethical behavior at that show. The Head Judge will be either the Invited Judge or the senior Certified Judge when there is no Invited Judge. The Head Judge will have seniority over any uninvited judges and will be in charge of judges and the show judging. It is always best to arrange for a judge well before a show and, also, to be sure both the Host Club and the judge understand clearly what fees or services will or will not be provided. It is most unwise to wait until the show has begun to reach agreement. As a matter of courtesy an uninvited judge should inform the Show Chairperson of his/her intent to judge the show prior to arrival.

JUDGE RESPONSIBILITIES

It is recognized that honest differences of opinion exist in many areas of the betta hobby: the designation of "species", the designation of "classes", betta genetics, and so forth.

Follow the Standards: While merely stating rules may not resolve philosophical differences, an IBC Judge, by accepting certification, is ethically obligated to apply the Standards at all IBC Shows. The Standards permit subjective assessment of many aspects of judging, but they also provide specific guidance to be followed in most instances. The Judging Board cannot overrule a judge's decision unless it violates a rule of the Standards. However, Show Chairs are free to express to the Board any problems they perceive with a judge or his or her procedures for possible disciplinary action. Judges are expected to stay current on all IBC Standards.

TYPES OF JUDGES

There are two distinct types of IBC Judges:

1. CERTIFIED JUDGE:

   An individual, having completed the certification process, who is authorized to judge without supervision at any IBC sanctioned show. The International Judging Board will work closely with the other Area representatives to help establish programs for judge certification in the respective Judging Areas. These may vary in detail depending on Area need/circumstance. The membership of these Judging Areas is encouraged to further develop and maintain these programs. All certified judges can judge any area shows. The JB recommends, however, that judges from another area do team judging with an area judge before doing individual judging in that area. (For example, a judge from Area 2 can judge shows in Area 7, however, we recommend that the Area 2 judge first judge in conjunction with an Area 7 judge before the Area2 judge judges an Area 7 show by themselves.)

2. APPRENTICE JUDGE:

   A trainee judge: Apprentice Judges are not authorized to judge IBC Shows without the supervision of an IBC Certified Judge. As a matter of courtesy, an Apprentice should inform the Show Chairperson and the Head Judge of his/her intent to judge the show prior to arrival. There should be no more than 2 apprentices allowed for each judge at any IBC sanctioned show.

BECOMING A JUDGE

Before starting the Apprentice Judge program, an IBC member must within a two (2) year period either: A) Participate in showing bettas bred by the exhibitor and place in the Group A regular open classes of betta splendens in at least 2 IBC sanctioned shows - at least 3 total places must be earned in the shows; or B) Place in the top 20 during any show year. (Awards in Arts & Crafts, Wild Type bettas, or New Breeder or Purchased groups will not count for prerequisitions.)

1. FILL OUT AN APPLICATION: An Application Form (IBC Form 10) is found at the end of this chapter. This form should be filled out and submitted to a member of the Judging Board or to his or her designee prior to the start of the first apprentice event. An Apprentice has three years from the official start date to complete the training. The official start date is the date of last Seminar attended (of Judging Seminars 1, 2 and 3).

   Alternatively, a person wishing to enter the Apprentice Program may apprentice one (1) show with a Certified Judge before attending the Judging Seminars. The signed Apprentice Application Form must be mailed to the Certification Chairman immediately following the event, and that show will start their official three year period.

2. ATTEND JUDGING SEMINARS: The Judging Board conducts three distinct Seminars at each IBC Convention. The Seminars may be given at other times during the year by any Certified Judge with prior approval from the Judging Board Chairperson. It is recommended that Seminars be given in conjunction with a sanctioned International Point Show, a District Show, or a Certified Show so that prospective apprentices may gain experience with live fish.

   The Seminars are:

   - Seminar I: This seminar covers the general anatomy, nomenclature, and characteristics of a betta. It also includes an explanation of the least-faults judging system. The seminar emphasizes the General Standards. (See Chapter 5.)
   - Seminar II: Here the TYPING SYSTEM is the primary subject with some introduction to the various Betta species. This seminar emphasizes the Special Standards. (See Chapters 6–9.)
   - Seminar III: This seminar is conducted in the show room during actual judging. The apprentice will accompany the judge to observe and participate in judging fish. This is the "hands on" opportunity to learn how to judge Bettas. The judge explains his or her thought process and techniques (such as bowl manipulation, use of straws, light reflection, etc.) as each fish is closely inspected to identify the best in the class.

   These 3 seminars are independently distinct and may be given in any order, as determined by the instructor.

3. SERVE AS AN IBC APPRENTICE JUDGE: As soon as the three Seminars are completed and the Application Form is approved by the Chairman of the Committee on Judge Certification, the applicant is officially an IBC Apprentice Judge. The new Apprentice Judge must now serve as a student under a different Certified Judge for each of the three International or District Shows (two must be International Shows) and a Convention. The Convention should be the last show judged; however, the only restriction is that it may not be the first show judged.

4. COMPLETE THE VISUAL JUDGING TEST: The Visual Judging Test is to be taken during the last show of the apprentice program. The apprentice must judge four classes. The apprentice must: 1) demonstrate the ability to properly disqualify when the need arises, 2) demonstrate the ability to discern subtle color differences, 3) demonstrate the ability to properly reclassify entries, such as Judges Help, and 4) Rank the top three fish (from actual show results) in three out of the first four places (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th) for a minimum of three of the four classes judged to successfully pass the test. The Visual Judging Test is offered at Conventions (and other shows as approved by the Judging Board Chairperson). The test is administered only after the official show judging is completed so that when the show fish are used they are not unduly disturbed. Apprentices that fail the visual test may retake the test at the next opportunity.

5. COMPLETE THE WRITTEN JUDGING TEST: Also, after completing the apprentice judging of four shows, the Apprentice Judge must successfully pass a Written (open book, with a one hour time limit) Judging Test covering the Judge's Manual. The test is always provided at Conventions. The test may be made available at other times as approved by the Judging Board Chairperson. If a test failure occurs, the applicant may retest at the next occasion on which the test is given. 30% of the Written test will cover Chapters 1–4. 70% will cover Chapters 5–10. A pass rate will be 70%.

   The International Convention Show apprenticing is considered by the Judging Board as an integral part of judge training. The exposure to a large number of judges from throughout the Area is an invaluable experience. However, an Apprentice Judge may substitute an International Show or a District Convention Show in lieu of an International Convention Show provided these additional requirements are met:

   a) At least one of the Shows judged must have a minimum of 300 fish entries; and

   b) An International Convention Show must be judged within 2 years of being certified. If the latter requirement is unfulfilled, the judge will become decertified and recertification may only be conducted at an International Convention Show.

6. RECEIVE THE JUDGE CERTIFICATE: It is the responsibility of all those participating in the Judge Certification Program to insure that the Chairman of the Committee on the Maintenance of Judges' Certification is aware of all events completed toward achievement of certification. A Certified Judge's date of seniority is the date of certification. Periodic lists of Certified Judges are published in FLARE!.

Duration of Certification: All current and future IBC Certified Judges are certified for lifetime, provided that their IBC membership does not lapse for more than sixty (60) days. All Certified Judges are strongly encouraged to frequently review the IBC Judging Standards and to keep themselves aware of betta developments, including wild types. A lapse of IBC membership in excess of sixty (60) days will result in decertification, necessitating fulfilling the recertification requirements to regain lifetime certification.

Certification can be lost in three ways:

1. Failing to keep IBC membership current: this means a lapse in IBC membership for a period in excess of sixty (60) days.
2. Failing to judge at least one IBC sanctioned international show in two consecutive show years or to place in the top 10 year-end points.
3. Revocation by the judging board:

A judge's certification may be revoked by majority vote of the Judging Board. The effective date is as specified in a registered letter to the judge from the Judging Board Chairperson or as published in FLARE!. A judge's certification cannot be revoked by the Board unless the judge has been notified of the pending action and is given at least 60 days to appeal.

RECERTIFICATION:

In order to regain lifetime certification, a former judge must be a current member of IBC and must complete Item (1) or (2) plus Item (3) as follows:

1. Pass an open book test based on the Judging Standards and provided by the Judging Board,
   or
2. Attend any two of the three (3) Judging Seminars conducted by a member of the Judging Board or a Certified Judge authorized by the Judging Board.
   PLUS
3. Judge an IBC sanctioned International Show as an Apprentice Judge under an IBC Certified Judge and pass a visual test.

Suspended/Decertified Judge Caution:

If a judge who has lost his/her certification judges a show, the results will not be thrown out by the Judging Board unless the Show Chairperson was aware of the situation but permitted the judge to proceed anyway. That judge, however, has forfeited recertification through any process other than appeal to the Judging Board or the restarting of the full apprentice program.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR IBC JUDGES

IBC Judges, apprentices, and those who would become judges must adhere to the highest standards of honesty, integrity, discretion, and diligence. They must always remember that they represent the club in its most public activities and that the club is judged favorably or unfavorably by their actions. The following, while not all-inclusive, is a basic guideline.

- Proficiency — a judge must continue to develop his or her proficiency and knowledge of the betta and the published Standards by which we judge.
- Diligence — a judge must always judge fairly and strictly by the Standards, putting his or her personal preferences aside.
- Withdrawal — a judge must withdraw from judging in any situation that would constitute an impropriety or the appearance of an impropriety.
- Discretion — a judge must approach problems and disputes fairly and with discretion while seeking appropriate channels for resolutions, including those within the Judging Board and Executive Board, rather than simply publicly airing a grievance.
- Teaching — a judge should share his or her knowledge not only with other judges and apprentices, but with the membership as well.
- IBC Improvement — a judge should always be seeking ways to improve the Standards and other rules, procedures, and methods by which the IBC exists and propose appropriate changes in accordance with the IBC Constitution.

CHAPTER 4: JUDGING PROCEDURES

PREPARATION

Making Final Arrangements: Before traveling to a show, the judge should be certain of the arrangements made by the Show Committee and any fees or services being offered. Also, the judge should be certain what, other than judging, is expected of him or her. The judge should not expect anything that has not been previously agreed upon with the Show Chairperson.

Reviewing these Standards: Regardless of experience, a judge owes it to the Show Committee and exhibitors to thoroughly review the Standards and any current revisions before each show. IBC Judges are trained in these standards of judging and are primarily tasked to select betta winners based on the specific requirements found in the Standards. The overall emphasis in betta judging is conformity to the Standards, in other words, comparing the bettas in the show against the ideal betta. Of course, it is necessary to balance the "ideal" with the practical, thus bettas are also compared against the other entries in a class. This can mean that a less than "ideal" betta, as described in that Standard, may win a class. However, just because a betta may indeed be beautiful does not mean that it is acceptable for the traits described in the Standards.

Fish conforming most nearly to the Standards are to be given preference. The simple rule is: Fish are judged based on the way they look at that moment in time (and against the competitors present); not on the perception of their genetic background or physical/breeding potential, or how they looked or will look at any other time.

GENERAL JUDGING PROCEDURES

Showing bettas is an opportunity for IBC members to exhibit their breeding efforts and to compete with other IBC members for show awards. Preparing for a show is very labor intensive, and assistance from all available IBC members is encouraged.

The Head Judge will be either the Invited Judge or the senior Certified Judge when there is no Invited Judge. Any uninvited judge wishing to judge the show should notify the Show Chairperson at least a week prior to the show. Any judge wishing to judge a show must arrive with a current copy of the standards. It is the responsibility of the Head Judge to check on this before allowing the judge to participate in judging the show. During the set up for the show, judges should remain outside the showroom. However, a judge cannot be disqualified from judging simply because he/she has been in the showroom briefly for some compelling reason. Apprentice judges are allowed in the show room to assist with the show set up, but they should refrain from lengthy or close-up viewing before the start of judging. Assistance in preparing a show (which is encouraged) must be done so as to avoid judges viewing the fish closely or reading any show entry records. **Any discussion with judges about ownership of any particular fish is prohibited.**

If Judges' Help is requested: Often an entrant will specifically request help in classifying an entry. The first step in show judging is for the judge to view Judges' Help fish and select the proper class for each fish. The show chairperson can call on any certified judge who doesn't have fish entered in the show to assist with reclassifying "class help" entries. The Head Judge present is responsible for all other show judging procedures. **Caution**: If the judge selects a variation or wild type placement, the judge will advise the Show Committee of the appropriate bowl label.

Due Consideration: The cardinal rule of judging is: Each and every fish entered, regardless of its appearance, will be given due consideration by the judge.

Genetics: Judging gives no consideration to the genetics or supposed genetics of a betta entry. Phenotype (the way it looks) compared to the standards and to the competition present is the only consideration.

Aid to Judges: The Show Chairperson should provide the judge with an assistant to record the results of judging as well as to aid in any entry form consultations. It is welcomed for the assistant to consider the needs of the judge during a show, such as refreshments.

Apprentice Judges: Show judging is an opportunity for Certified Judges to carefully consider and conduct the training of Apprentice Judges. Certified Judges should discuss with each Apprentice Judge their experience and areas of strengths and weaknesses. Certified Judges should assign judging tasks that will advance the abilities of Apprentice Judges. Certified Judges should actively involve Apprentices in the selection of the class winners, even though award decisions are the sole responsibility of the Certified Judge. Apprentice Judges are allowed to enter fish in the show, but may not participate in the judging of a class where they have entered fish, and they may not identify fish they have entered. This also applies to Best of Show Judging. An Apprentice should step back when classes where they have entries are being judged. There is usually time after the show to ask/answer any questions. Every effort must be made to avoid impropriety. Apprentice judges must use caution when entering shows, since they must judge at least 50% of the classes or a minimum of 100 entries. For details of what an apprentice can or can't do during a show, see Judges and Apprentices at Shows, below.

Audience: The Head Judge is authorized to exclude any person from the judging area except the Show Chairperson. The Show Chairperson is also authorized to exclude any person from the show room other than the judges and their host club helpers. There is, however, much to be gained by allowing people to view and hear judging in progress. This promotes an understanding of the show system, betta traits, and judging, and generates greater interest in the hobby. The audience should not be allowed to disturb the judges in any way. Unless prohibited by the Judge or the Show Chairperson, entrants in a class may witness the judging, provided they make no comments, gestures, facial expressions, or take other actions which could influence or interfere with the judging. It is unethical for an entrant to do so. A formal complaint against an entrant by a show judge, Show Chairperson, or other entrant, forwarded to the Judging Board, may result in censure of the entrant.

JUDGES AND APPRENTICES AT SHOWS

APPRENTICES

Apprenticeship Stage One: The Seminars

1. Apprentices just starting out and taking Seminars 1 and 2 can do all other show work, up to and including Show Chairing. There are no restrictions on seeing the fish for Apprentices doing Seminars 1 and 2. They can enter fish in the show without restriction. Any discussion with judges about ownership of any particular fish is prohibited during the entire judging process.

2. Apprentices taking Seminar 3 are allowed to help in the show room, including benching the fish and receiving the fish boxes. They cannot deal with any of the records in the show, which would include Show Chair or assisting on the computer during the show. Any discussion with judges about ownership of any particular fish is prohibited during the entire judging process. They are allowed to enter fish in the show, but may not participate in the judging of a class where they have entered fish, and they may not identify fish they have entered. The Head Judge should find out from the Show Chair what classes the apprentice has fish in, and assign the apprentice's judge to other classes. Apprentice judges must use caution when entering shows, since they must judge at least 50% of the classes or a minimum of 100 entries. During Best of Variety and Best of Show judging, an apprentice taking Seminar 3 who has fish in the show must step back and observe only. The apprentice with fish in the show is not allowed to participate directly in BOV or BOS judging. There are no restrictions on apprentices without fish in the show during BOV or BOS showing. Any discussion with judges about ownership of any particular fish is prohibited during the entire judging process.

Apprenticeship Stage Two: First Show

Apprentices working their first show are allowed to help in the show room, including benching the fish and receiving the fish boxes. They cannot deal with any of the records in the show, which would include Show Chair or assisting on the computer during the show. Any discussion with judges about ownership of any particular fish is prohibited during the entire judging

process. They are allowed to enter fish in the show, but may not participate in the judging of a class where they or a member of their household have entered fish, and they may not identify fish they have entered. The Head Judge should find out from the Show Chair what classes the apprentice has fish in, and assign the apprentice's judge to other classes. Apprentice judges must use caution when entering shows, since they must judge at least 50% of the classes or a minimum of 100 entries. If an apprentice or a member of their household has fish in the show, they are not allowed to participate in BOV or BOS judging, even by observing (they must be well out of earshot, either in a different room or on the far side of where the judging is taking place). There are no restrictions on apprentices without fish in the show during BOV or BOS showing.

Apprenticeship Stage Three: Second Show

Apprentices working their second show may only receive fish boxes if there are literally no other club members who can do it, and they should not open the boxes unless the boxes are wet or there is other indication they might need immediate help. Assistance in preparing a show (which is encouraged) must be done so as to avoid viewing the fish closely or reading any show entry records. They are allowed to assist with the show set up in general, but should refrain from lengthy or close-up viewing before the start of judging (we encourage help that doesn't come into contact with the fish, like filling the containers with water). They cannot deal with any of the records in the show, which would include Show Chair or assisting on the computer during the show. Any discussion with judges about ownership of any particular fish is prohibited during the entire judging process. They are allowed to enter fish in the show, but may not participate in the judging of a class where they have entered fish, and they may not identify fish they have entered. The Head Judge should find out from the Show Chair what classes the apprentice has fish in, and assign the apprentice's judge to other classes. Apprentice judges must use caution when entering shows, since they must judge at least 50% of the classes or a minimum of 100 entries. If an apprentice has fish in the show, they are not allowed to participate in BOV or BOS judging, even by observing (they must be well out of earshot, either in a different room or on the far side of where the judging is taking place). There are no restrictions on apprentices without fish in the show during BOV or BOS showing.

Apprenticeship Stage Four: Third Show

Apprentices working their third show may only receive fish boxes if there are literally no other club members who can do it, and they should not open the boxes unless the boxes are wet or there is other indication they might need immediate help (every effort should be made to find another club member who could receive fish if the apprentice is in their third show). Assistance in preparing a show should be refrained to only help that doesn't come into contact with the fish, like filling the containers with water. Benching fish is not allowed. They cannot deal with any of the records in the show, which would include Show Chair or assisting on the computer during the show. Any discussion with judges about ownership of any particular fish is prohibited during the entire judging process. **An apprentice working their third show is not allowed to enter fish in that show so they may participate in the full judging process.**

Apprenticeship Stage Five: Visual Test

Apprentices who are undergoing their final visual tests are not allowed to receive fish or be in the show room while there are fish present. They cannot deal with any of the records in the show, which would include Show Chair or assisting on the computer during the show. Any discussion with judges about ownership of any particular fish is prohibited during the entire judging process. Apprentices doing their visual testing are allowed to enter fish in the show, but may not participate in the judging of a class where they have entered fish, and they may not identify fish they have entered. The Head Judge should find out from the Show Chair what classes the apprentice has fish in, and assign the apprentice's judge to other classes. If an apprentice has fish in the show, they are not allowed to participate in BOV or BOS judging, even by observing (they must be well out of earshot, either in a different room or on the far side of where the judging is taking place).

JUDGES

1. All Judges who are going to Judge at a show are not allowed to be in the show room while fish are being unpacked and benched. They may help with pre-work such as setting up stands or filling water, but discussion about entries is prohibited while that judge is present. They cannot deal with any of the records in the show, which would include Show Chair or assisting on the computer before or during the show. Any discussion with judges about ownership of any particular fish is prohibited during the entire judging process.

2. The Head Judge involved in judging a show and members of their households may not have fish entered in the show. The Head Judge may not receive fish.

3. Other Judges who will be judging that show may enter fish in the show, but may not participate in the judging of a class where they have entered fish, and they may not identify fish they have entered. The Head Judge and the Show Chair should work together to ensure that judges don't judge classes they have fish in. If a Judge has fish in the show, they are not allowed to participate in BOV or BOS judging, even by observing (they must be well out of earshot, either in a different room or on the far side of where the judging is taking place). Judges may only receive fish boxes if there are literally no other club members who can do it, and they should not open the boxes unless the boxes are wet or there is other indication they might need immediate help (every effort should be made to find another club member who could receive fish other than a participating Judge).

4. A Head Judge should have been an IBC Judge for a minimum of one year, and have judged at least two shows under another judge. If a chapter has a need for an exemption from this (due to location or other circumstances), they may request an exemption from the Judging Board prior to the show. When a judge has been asked to be a Head Judge by a Show Chair, the Head Judge must check in with the Judging Board to be briefed on any items that should be paid particular attention to during the show year. The Head Judge should also give a report back to the Judging Board after the show.

    - Exception to benching fish - A Judge may bench their own fish if they have fish entered in the show. However, they may not bench near other competitors benching, and discussion of other entries is forbidden. Giving the fish to the show committee to bench instead is highly encouraged.

    - If a Judge is bringing other people's fish to a show (hand-carrying in, for example), the Judge must report this to the show chair and head judge and the Head Judge and Show Chair should exercise judgment in whether the judge should judge or not judge classes those fish are in. The preference would be for the judge not to judge those classes, however the Head Judge and Show Chair have the option of allowing it based on circumstances. The Judge should hand those fish to the show committee to bench and should not bench them directly unless a specific exemption is granted by the Head Judge and Show Chair.

    - All IBC Judges can judge at IBC Shows. No IBC Judge can be refused by a Show Chair to judge at a show if they ask to judge. If an IBC Judge wishes to judge at a show that they have not been invited to, they should give the Head Judge and Show Chair a minimum of 7 days notice as a courtesy to arrange matters. However, they should be allowed to judge if they show up unexpectedly. The Judge is, though, requested to give notice if they can.

JUDGING TECHNIQUES

1. The Judging System: Judging to select the winning bettas is to be by faults-only comparison. Fish with the fewest faults and/or the least serious faults become the winners through the process of elimination. All General Standards faults and Special Standards faults must be considered. Ties are not permitted, so if two fish both have the fewest faults for an award, the judge must choose between them.
2. Light: Judges may use a standard flashlight as needed. If an LED flashlight is used, it must be the warm white LED which does not distort the color of the fish.
3. Moving the Show Bowls: The judge may move show bowls as desired.

4. Disturbing the Fish: The judge is permitted and expected to take measures to get a reluctant fish to display. This may include tapping on the bowl, shaking it, moving it, placing other males or females in a different bowl against the bowl, and stirring the water (only with a straw; fingers, pencils, pens, etc. are not permitted).
5. Carding/Uncarding: It is recommended that the fish not be uncarded for more than 30 minutes. Allow adequate time to judge, but minimizing exposure time is best.

NO TIME LIMIT

The Show Committee is prohibited from imposing any time limit on the judging of a show. Of course, the Show Chairperson is encouraged to discuss any time problems with the judge.

IBC CONVENTION

The IBC Judging Board is responsible for the judging of the IBC Convention show. If more judges are needed, additional Certified Judges (including judges who have entered fish in the show) may be called upon by the Judging Board Chairman or his/her representative to help with judging, with standard restrictions.

DECISIONS ARE FINAL

Decisions of the judge are final, except in the case of an obvious rule violation or oversight. The Head Judge should review all the classes and may question a judge about such an exception and ask him/her to rejudge the class.

GIVING AWARDS

Judges are to award all places in classes, provided there are enough legitimate and proper entries. If award positions are left vacant, any entries not placed must have been disqualified. This may mean a relatively inferior fish may win first place, but judging is to be done against the Standards and the competition. If there are no superior entries (which more closely match the Standards), that fish wins, unless disqualified.

The Show Committee may request the judge to select other “special awards,” such as fourth place, honorable mention, and so forth.

MULTIPLE JUDGES

If there is more than one Certified Judge for the show, the Head Judge assigns each judge classes for judging. The Head Judge has the option to have judges work in pairs whenever there are sufficient judges available. The assigned judge has sole responsibility for the classes judged. If a class is assigned to more than one judge, they must reach agreement on the results. If they cannot agree, the Head Judge’s decision is final.

JUDGING FOR THE BEST OF SHOW

While there is a weight in BOV and BOS towards general form (the traits all classes have in common), the judging for BOV and BOS should not be reduced purely to a form and finnage judging. All faults must be considered, and the question asked, "Is this fish the best representative of its class that it can be?" All fish should be given equal consideration, even if some of the fish are less vibrantly spectacular than their fellows – i.e. A multicolor should not win over a cellophane simply because the multicolor is prettier. Detail on the fault levels is key at this stage of judging.

If more than one Certified Judge is judging the show, all judges should participate in the Best of Show judging unless they have fish competing for those awards. Agreement on the results is desired, but decision of the majority or Head Judge in the event of a tie is final.

Restrictions: Apprentice Judges must participate. If an Apprentice has a fish competing for Best of Show, that Apprentice will be excluded from the judging. Before the winners are made known, the Apprentice may repeat the procedure under instruction from a Certified Judge.

Procedure: Best of Variety winners are first selected from each respective mandatory Show Division. Divisions F: Wild Type and G: Optional Classes will not be considered. Reserve Best of Variety winners will also be selected from the first place winners in each Show Division.

The First Place winners in each variety of the male only classes will compete for Best of Variety/Reserve Best of Variety Male. Likewise, the First Place winners in each variety of the female only classes will compete for Best of Variety Female/ Reserve Best if Variety Female. Once the Best of Variety fish are chosen the 2nd place fish from the same class as the Best of Variety will be brought up and will compete with the remaining first place winners for Reserve Best of Variety male and female respectively. If there is no 2nd place winner in the class the remaining 1st place winners will compete for Reserve Best of Variety male and female respectively.

NOTE: Wild Types Betta entries are not awarded BOV and do not compete for Best of Show.

NOTE: Division E (Breeders Division) class winners will be considered for BOV/RBOV appropriate to their respective gender and variety. The Pairs class entries will be separated for this purpose.

BEST OF SHOW MALE AND BEST OF SHOW FEMALE ARE SELECTED NEXT

1. The Best of Variety fish compete for Best of Show, Male and Female respectively.
2. The RBOV fish from the same variety as the just selected Best of Show fish will be brought in with the remaining variety winners to compete for Reserve Best of Show. Male and Female respective.

JUDGING OPTIONAL CLASSES

The judge may be occasionally asked to judge classes that contain artwork, photography, or other unusual entries. The standards provide a minimum of guidance in these instances, leaving it to the judge's personal preference and knowledge. All attempts should be made to judge these items as fairly as possible, taking into consideration the overall aesthetics, the representation of bettas or the betta hobby, the difficulty level, and other aspects of the art. The winning entries in these classes, whether they contain fish or not, do not compete for Best of Show.

DISQUALIFICATION—DO IT!

Judges are required to disqualify entries for all valid reasons listed in the standards. Failing to do so is not proper conduct by the judge. The fact that there will not be enough fish left in the class to present all awards should not be a consideration in the decision to disqualify.

Reasons for disqualification are found in both the General and Special sections of the standards.

Procedure for Disqualification of an Entry

1) The judge must first be certain that the entry can be legally disqualified in accordance with the guidance provided by the Standards.
2) When disqualification is appropriate, the judge must insure that the fault is that of the exhibitor, not the Show Committee. If, for example, it is found that a Wild Type entry is not labeled, and the exhibitor did in fact send a label for that entry, this entry cannot be disqualified.

3) After deciding to disqualify, the judge must inform the Show Committee, stating the specific reason for disqualification. The Show Committee must withdraw the fish from exhibition and annotate the disqualification and reason on the entry form. The entrant must be informed of the reason for any disqualification.

4) If a fish is classified following a "class help" request and subsequently determined to be in the wrong class, it should be moved and the receiving class re-judged.

5) Before disqualifying for class error, the judge should request the Show Committee check the entry form to see if the entry may be moved.

6) Show Chairpersons who spot an administrative error in classification may request classification help from the judge on behalf of the exhibitor, if the entry form indicates approval to reclassify. This should occur before the start of judging. If an administrative error in classification is discovered during the judging process, the entry must be moved to the class the entrant intended and the class re-judged if necessary. A Certified Judge may reclassify any entry he feels is in an inappropriate class, re-opening classes already judged when necessary. If the class is rejudged, the added entry need only be judged against the previously selected top three fish. Thus, it is wise to make the second step of the judging process a quick look through of the fish, looking for obvious misclassifications that need to be moved into other classes.

JUDGING SYSTEM—Using the General, Finnage, and Special Standards: The following chapters comprise the criteria used in judging bettas and apply to all betta shows sanctioned by the International Betta Congress. Though primarily intended as guidelines and rules for judges, all IBC members can benefit from a thorough understanding of these chapters. The Standards are divided into three major categories. The following list shows these three major categories and their sub-categories:

General Characteristics	Finnage Characteristics	Color Characteristics
Dimension	Dorsal	Solid color
Condition	Caudal	Bicolor
Deportment	Anal	Patterned
	Ventrals & Pectorals	

Emphasis in Judging: The Standards, as described in Chapter 5: General and Finnage Standards, Chapter 6: Color Standards, and Chapter 7: Special Standards, form the basis for judging *Betta splendens*. Chapter 8 and Chapter 9 relate to Wild Types and Special Exhibits respectively and must be referred to for judging those types.

FAULTS Relative weight of faults: Faults can vary in degree from slight blemishes to severe defects. The judge will determine the fault level. Faults are classified into the following types (specifics on faulting are found in the General and Specific Standards that follow this chapter):

For General, Finnage, or Color/Special Traits, deduct points as noted for the following:

Slight Faults	**3 points**
Minor Faults	**5 points**
Major Faults	**9 points**
Severe Faults	**17 points**
Disqualifying Faults	**Disqualify**

SUGGESTED STEP-BY-STEP JUDGING PROCEDURE FOR A CLASS

For each of the steps below, **follow the standard sequence of Head, Body, Dorsal, Caudal, Anal, Ventrals & Pectorals, Color, and Pattern**.

1) Observe each betta, looking for specific **disqualifying faults**. Have an assistant (usually a chapter member from the host club) notify the Show Chairperson, stating which entries will be moved to other classes. Disqualify entries that cannot be moved to other classes, and have an assistant notify the Show Chairperson, stating the reason for disqualification.
2) Observe each betta, looking for **severe faults**. Move entries that show severe faults away from the judging area (usually this means moving them to lower shelves on the show stands).
3) Observe each remaining betta, looking for **major faults**. If possible, move entries that show major faults away from the judging area (for classes with few entries, make sure to retain three bettas in the judging area to receive first, second, and third place awards).

NOTE: Even though bettas have been moved from the judging area because of major faults, the judge should look back at them often during the judging process to determine if one or more of them might be better than a contending fish that has many minor and slight faults.

4) Observe each remaining betta, looking for **minor faults**. Line up the contenders from left to right in the judging area, so that the betta with the fewest minor faults is on the far left, followed in sequence by entries with more minor faults. At this point the judge may find it helpful to take notes listing the minor faults of the finalists. **NOTE: Remember to compare eliminated fish to the finalists just to make sure the best fish have been chosen.**
5) Observe each remaining betta, looking for **slight faults**. Consider repositioning bettas that have two or three minor faults if the next fish in line has fewer minor faults. Listing all slight and minor faults for each betta and deducting points may be necessary to determine which entries receive first, second, and third place awards. The fault table above shows how many points can be deducted for each type of fault. The entry that has the fewest deducted points receives the first place award, followed by the entry with the next fewest deducted points receiving the second place award, and so on.
6) Record the winners, sign the class judging card, and move on to the next class.

photo by Watcharaphol Watanasomboon

photo by Sarawut Angkunanuwat

THE IDEAL SHOW BETTA

The ideal show Betta is in excellent health as shown by its faultless condition and vigorous deportment. The body and fins are unblemished. There are no body scars, spots, and missing or misshapen scales. Fin rays are straight or smoothly curved. Fins are held rigidly erect and gills are fully flared. Movement is continuous and aggressive with violent response to any intruder.

The ideal show Betta presents nearly mirror-image symmetry above and below an imaginary mid-lateral line. This Betta is well proportioned with respect to fins and body size. The body is smoothly tapered toward the caudal peduncle. The dorsal fin approaches the anal fin in shape, width, and size. There is a 180-degree spread between first and last caudal rays. The outer margins of the dorsal, caudal and anal fins trace a continuous circular contour with no gaps between fins. Fins are broad and overlap at the edges. Secondary and tertiary divisions occur at even intervals along the lengths of fin rays.

The ideal show Betta exhibits brilliant coloration of uniform density. In solid color classes there are no off-color washes in the fins and no blotching or speckling of unwanted colors on the body. Patterned types have dark and bright colors in shades that produce the highest contrast. The overall appearance of color on this Betta is one of vivid, sparkling beauty.

GENERAL STANDARDS

These standards cover the traits that Bettas share in common. The General Standards are judging guidelines that emphasize health and development of the physical traits of the Betta.

The Judging Areas: In this section are the details of the General Standards judging areas of Dimension, Condition, Deportment, and Finnage.

The Components: Each Rating Area may have listed sub-areas to be evaluated called the Components.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

1) DIMENSION 2) CONDITION 3) DEPORTMENT

a) Size
   1. Body
   2. Fins
   3. Overall

b) Symmetry

c) Proportion

d) Shape
   1. Body
   2. Fins
   3. Overall

FINNAGE CHARACTERISTICS

(Size; Symmetry; Proportion; Shape)

Dorsal Caudal Anal Ventrals & Pectorals

For reference, a diagrammed photo of general Betta anatomy is provided, since these standards use some terms for parts of a betta with which judges must become familiar.

Betta anatomy

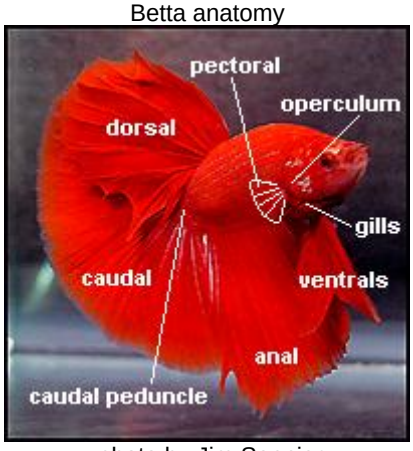


photo by Jim Sonnier

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DIMENSION

BODY SIZE: Body size of males must be at least one and a half inches (1.5") long. Body size of Females must be at least one and a quarter inches (1.25") long. (See Wild Types descriptions for size requirements in those species and Plakats.) Betta splendens that do not conform to these minimum body sizes must be disqualified. Body size should be the last consideration when judging for the best fish in a class. All other things being equal (same number of faults deduction points), the larger fish should win.

Fin Sizes: The following fin sizes apply to male Betta splendens classes. Although the following describe fin length, judges and exhibitors must keep in mind that fins judging emphasis must be on their breadth and volume**.**

Dorsal Fin
Should be at least one-half the length of the body, measured from the base of the center fin ray to the outer tip of the same ray.

Caudal Fin
Should be at least one half of the length of the body as measured from the caudal peduncle to the center of the outer edge - NOT to the edge of the greatest extension.

Anal Fin
Should be at least one half of the length of the body measured from the base of the center fin ray to the outer tip of the center fin ray.

Ventral Fin
Length should be close to the length of the anal fin.

Pectoral Fin
Pectoral size is difficult to evaluate, especially if they are transparent. However, in general large full pectorals are desired.

SYMMETRY

The ideal Betta should be balanced with both body and fins defining smooth and continuous contours. The body should be nearly symmetrical above and below an imaginary mid-lateral line, excepting the region forward of the anal fin where body organs are housed. The silhouette of the three non-paired fins should be as close to a circle as possible with the outer margins of these fins tracing a continuous circular outline without gaps. In doubletail Bettas, the Judge should expect to see, as a norm, a higher degree of symmetry than shown by the singletail Bettas. The unpaired fins should display mirror-image symmetry above and below an imaginary mid-lateral line. This is due to the doubletail's broader dorsal fin that can approach the breadth, volume and shape of the anal fin.

PROPORTION

A beautifully proportioned Betta is superior to one that is merely large. It is important that the fins and the body be in proportion to each other. If the fins are very large the body should be also. A disproportionately large (or small) unpaired fin detracts from the symmetry and overall beauty of the fish.

BODY SHAPE

The body should be a modified spindle shape that is somewhat heavier in the area of the ventral fins. It should taper cleanly toward the head and caudal fin with the tail junction, or peduncle, being thinner from side to side. It should be three to four times as long as it is "deep," top to bottom. The overall form of a Betta is very important. The body and its form in particular have a significant impact on the overall appearance of the Betta. The body must complement the fin structure, not overwhelm it. Example; a fat husky body with little finnage is a serious fault. Doubletail Bettas may have a deeper--top to bottom--body than singletailed Bettas. The thicker body is acceptable, as long as it contributes to the support of the larger finnage of doubledtails. (Form Variations, Plakats, and Wild Type entries will differ.)

FIN SHAPE

Dorsal Fin

Singletail Dorsal: A variety of shapes are acceptable – semi-circle, quarter circle, rectangular - as long as breadth and volume are displayed. Triangular shape is unacceptable. As with the other fins, width and fullness are important, with maximum fin area a goal. Ideally, the dorsal fin will overlap the caudal fin and appear blended with it, though not physically fused. The first rays (closer to the head) must be comparable in length to the other rays,

Doubletail Dorsal: The base of the dorsal fin of a doubletail Betta is expected to be considerably broader than that found in the singletail. The doubletail dorsal is, ideally, the mirror image of the anal fin in keeping with the concept of symmetry.

Caudal Fin

In singletail bettas, the ideal shape is a semi-circle that spreads to a perfect 180 degrees. Due to proper selection of breeders, fin ray branching, care, conditioning, and fin spread this is an elusive ideal to breed for and maintain. Because of this, some classes will sometimes not have specimens with this ideal caudal among them. In such classes, with all other things equal, the most symmetrical types having the widest spread and those with the least faults as described in the general fault guide and the special standards will have the best chance of placing. Caudal fins that slightly exceed 180° spread are neither favored nor faulted, over fish displaying 180° spread.

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All caudals, including doubletail Bettas, should have rays evenly distributed above and below the centerline of the fish. Proportionate volume is ideal as opposed to length. Note: for the Doubletail Caudal - the volume in the upper and lower caudal should be equal and equally distributed above and below the centerline. The two caudals may overlap but should be separated all the way to the caudal peduncle. A half circle is ideal for the overall shape of the two caudal fins.

Anal Fin

Shape to be roughly rectangular. The ideal shape of the anal fin is an isosceles trapezoid with the shorter side at the base of the fin at the body. In other words, the outer edge of the fin should be broader than the base. Front and back edges should not converge to a point forming a triangle. Volume and fullness are desired. Ideally, the anal fin overlaps, but does not fuse with, the caudal. Triangular shape in the anal fin is a form fault as is excessively long (1.5 to 2 times the width) anal fin. The anal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge of the caudal fin.)

Ventral Fins

Shaped somewhat like a knife blade with the cutting edge to the rear. The front edge is slightly convex. Tips are pointed. Fins should be of equal length and not crossed. They must match each other. These fins should not be excessively short, nor long and thin. Fullness is desirable. Female ventral fins generally appear shorter in proportion to the body.

Pectoral Fin

Pectoral fins are the most important in swimming, maintaining balance in the water, and rapid aggressive motion. Broad and long are preferred.

OVERALL SHAPE

Overall ideal appearance of a quality Betta splendens (single tail or double tail) is a full circle with no open spaces between the three primary fins.

Doubletail male Betta

photo by Wasan Sattayapun

DOUBLETAIL BETTAS

Doubletail Bettas are expected to differ in several ways from the singletail:

1. Possess two distinct “tails” or caudal lobes instead of one, with a complete separation to the base of the caudal peduncle.
2. Possess a wider caudal peduncle to support the double lobes.
3. Possess a larger dorsal fin, nearly the size of the anal fin.
4. Their bodies are usually more “chunky” and often a bit shorter.
5. Bends in the caudal peduncle are expressed to a varying degree in almost all doubletail bettas. These are more easily noticed when viewing the fish from above. Easily seen bends should be faulted; if the bend is not excessive when viewed from above, the fish should not be penalized.

FEMALE BETTAS

Female Bettas of all types are of the same general form as their male counterparts, but with shorter fins and broader bodies. IBC encourages the maintenance of the distinctive female and male forms. Female Bettas vary considerably from males in several ways and should always appear "female."

JUDGING FEMALE LONG-FINNED/HM BETTAS:

1. Females are generally expected to be somewhat smaller overall. They are usually more rounded in the belly area than males.
2. Female fins are not expected to reach the same size or proportion of the male finnage. Female bettas should have broad voluminous fins, but not possess male finnage length.
3. Females are expected to show an egg spot.
4. Females may be less aggressive in their deportment.
5. The minimum size for show is 1 ¼ inches.
6. Females are judged with the same general and color standards as males.
7. Disqualify: Egg-bound or showing no egg spot: excessive male finnage.

FEMALE LONG-FINNED/HM Betta Splendens Form and Finnage Faults:

1. One unpaired fin longer than 1/3 of body length (minor fault).
2. Two unpaired fins longer than 1/3 of body length (major fault).
3. All 3 unpaired fins longer than 1/3 of body length (severe fault).
4. One unpaired fin ½ of body length or more (major fault).
5. Two unpaired fins ½ of body length or more (severe fault).
6. All 3 unpaired fins ½ of body length or more (disqualify).
7. Egg-bound (disqualify).

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8. No visible egg-spot (disqualify).

ALL OTHER APPROPRIATE GENERAL FAULTS APPLY

female with too much male finnage

photo by Wasan Sattayapun

CONDITION

GENERAL CONDITION

"CONDITION" considers the health of the Betta and the degree of body/fin "damage" that contribute to the overall appearance of a Betta. The fish should appear to be well nourished, vigorous, and with healthy fin and body tissue. Age can cause a reduced quality condition, such as excessive body size and curled fin rays.

Body

Perfect in appearance is the key. ANY nicks in the flesh, missing scales, protruding scales or other defects of the body material are to be faulted.

Fins

Though there are two sets of paired fins -- pectorals and ventrals -- and three unpaired fins -- dorsal, caudal, and anal -- certain aspects of development apply to all of the fins. Fin rays should be straight or slightly bent until they branch and grow parallel or fan out smoothly as they get farther from the base of the fin. Rays may extend beyond the webbing tissue -- called protruded or extended rays. If a fish exhibits extended rays, all fins should show extended rays, evenly spaced. Web tissue is to be full, strong, and undamaged. Margins should be smooth and unbroken except for fish showing extended rays. Fins should be carried erect with rays and webbing spread uniformly and fully. Pinholes, uneven edges that indicate former damage, splits in fins and "blown fins" are all indicators of the condition of the fish, the care the fish has been given and stress exposure. These are all faults ranging from minor to disqualification.

"Combtail" effect on anal & dorsal edges

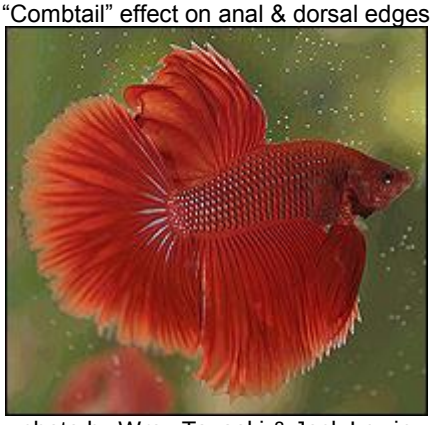

photo by Wray Tsusaki & Jack Lewin

Above illustration shows example of protruded or extended rays. This type of fin development should not count against the condition of the fish. Fringed is also known as combtail. Hyper-extended rays with less webbing than usual are known as crowntail and have their own standard.

DEPORTMENT

Good deportment, often thought of as flaring, is an important trait for Betta splendens because, not only does it indicate vigor, it also allows other features, such as color, to be shown off to advantage. Though of a relatively small value, poor deportment can have disastrous consequences for the other components of evaluation. Poor deportment often gives the impression that the Betta "doesn't feel well", or is frightened. Obviously the fish must be studied as a whole when considering deportment. Each body/fin part plays a role.
Caution: Wild type Bettas have considerably different deportment -- see descriptions. Other Betta species than splendens, particularly mouthbrooders, are frequently very nervous in bowls and consequently rarely flare. However, all fish regardless of species should appear alert with unclamped fins.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

GENERAL FAULTS

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS – ALL CLASSES

1. Undersized body (male 1.5" body length, female 1.25" body length).
2. Swimming difficulty (due to excess finnage or swim bladder disorder).
3. Class error (fish entered in wrong class).
   A. Non-splendens type not labeled.
   B. Color or form variation not labeled.
   C. Wrong sex for class.
   D. Wrong species for class.
   E. Hybrids in non-splendens class.
4. "Egg spot" on male, or no "egg spot" on female.

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5. Female with excessive (male) finnage.
6. Malformed body (especially in double tails).
7. Missing external anatomical part, such as an eye, gill cover, or fin.
8. Extreme scale faults: Excessive irregular scale pattern/multiple misaligned scales.
9. Any sign of disease or illness.
10. Blindness (especially in Opaques and Albinos).
11. Egg bound (severely distended abdomen).
12. Shy or fearful behavior – does not rise from bowl bottom.
13. Any fish that has been artificially enhanced either by methods to improve color (example dying) or general appearance through fin trimming, ray removal, grooming or any other method wil be disqualified.

HEAD FAULTS – ALL CLASSES

1. Disfigurement of the lips (slight fault).
2. Small bump, small groove, or other slight deformity (minor fault).
3. Large bump, large groove, or other large deformity (major fault).
4. Head tilted (usually upward) out of alignment with body (severe fault).

BODY FAULTS – ALL CLASSES

1. Body stout or slightly fat (slight fault).
2. Doubletail body too short or stout (slight fault).
3. Body moderately too small for finnage (minor fault).
4. Body does not show ideal shape – minor anomaly. (minor fault).
5. Body has one or two misaligned scales (minor fault).
6. Body has several misaligned scales (major fault).
7. Body is “fat” or “skinny” (major fault).
8. Gill covers protrude outward when closed (major fault).
9. Body shows slight swayback or humpback (major fault).
10. Doubletail caudal peduncle bump or bend very noticeable (major fault).
11. Body shows excessive swayback or humpback (severe fault).

FINNAGE FAULTS – ALL CLASSES

General – all fins

1. Projected rays on all fins, but some not even (minor fault).
2. One curled fin ray (minor fault)
3. Projected rays only on some fins (minor fault).
4. Outline of non-paired fins presents an oval rather than a circular shape. (minor fault) – **does NOT apply to Plakats or females.**
5. Gaps between the three unpaired fins - no overlapping (major fault).
6. Fins are too small for body (major fault).
7. Curled fin rays - more than one (major fault).
8. Fins not similar - some broad, some narrow (major fault).
9. Outline of non-paired fins presents a considerably non-symmetrical shape, such as a square, rectangular, or irregular shape. (major fault)

Ventral fins

1. Crossed ventrals (slight fault).
2. Thin ventrals (slight fault).
3. Extra long ventrals - except in Plakats (slight fault).
4. Noticeably short ventrals (minor fault).
5. Curled ventral(s) (minor fault).
6. Stubby ventrals (major fault).

Dorsal fin

1. A few short rays on front of dorsal(slight fault).
2. Dorsal somewhat small in relation to anal and caudal (minor fault).
3. Singletail dorsal slightly narrow (minor fault).
4. Doubletail dorsal slightly more narrow than the anal (minor fault).
5. Doubletail and Singletail dorsal has no more than 3 stubby rays at the front edge (minor fault).
6. Doubletail dorsal has more than 3 stubby rays at front edge (major fault).
7. Singletail dorsal noticeably narrow (major fault).
8. Doubletail dorsal much more narrow than the anal (major fault).
9. Dorsal very small in relation to anal and caudal (major fault).
10. Singletail dorsal has more than 3 stubby rays (severe fault).

Anal fin

1. Long anal fin drops below bottom edge of caudal (minor fault)
2. A few front rays curled forward (minor fault).
3. Excessive rounding at front and bottom of anal fin approaching a “quarter circle” (major fault).
4. Front rays have severe forward curling at front (major fault).
5. Triangular shaped (severe fault).

Caudal (tail) fin

1. Caudal edges straight but slightly rounded at the corners (slight fault).
2. Doubletail lobes are full, but separation not quite complete – separation still greater than ¾ (slight fault).
3. Caudal asymmetrical - droops slightly below midline (minor fault).
4. Doubletail lobes slight mismatch (minor fault).
5. First caudal edge rays short (minor fault).
6. Caudal slightly small - not proportional to dorsal and anal (minor fault).
7. Caudal edges not straight, slightly curved back away from head (minor fault).
8. Less than secondary branching (4 tips from primary ray) in females, or tertiary branching (8 tips from primary ray) in males (minor fault).
9. Less than 180 degrees between caudal edge rays, but more than 165 degrees (minor fault).
10. Doubletail caudal lobes separation between 1/2 and 3/4 (minor fault).
11. Caudal asymmetrical - droops 75% or more below midline (major fault).

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12. Caudal very small - not proportional to dorsal and anal (major fault).
13. Doubletail lobes considerable mismatch in volume or shape (major fault).
14. Doubletail caudal lobes matched, but narrow (major fault).
15. Less than primary branching (2 tips from primary ray) in females, or secondary branching (4 tips from primary ray) in males (major fault).
16. Doubletail caudal lobes separation 1/2 or less (major fault).
17. Less than 165 degrees between caudal edge rays, but more than 150 degrees (major fault).
18. Doubletail caudal lobes mismatched and narrow (severe fault).
19. Non-symmetrical caudal type (severe fault).
20. Less than 150 degrees between caudal edge rays (severe fault).

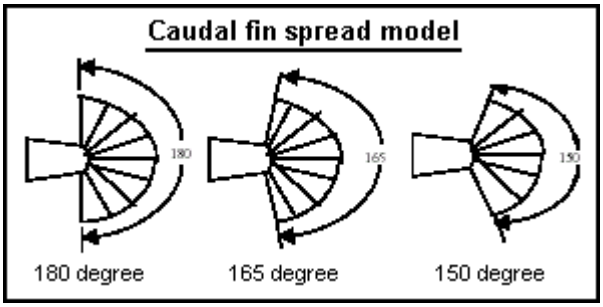
CONDITION FAULTS – ALL CLASSES

1. Single small defect on any fin - pinhole or bent ray (slight fault).
2. Single moderate defect on any fin (minor fault).
3. Slightly frayed fin tip (minor fault).
4. Multiple small defects or single extensive defect (major fault).
5. Multiple moderate defects (severe fault).
6. Broken rays on any fin (severe fault)
7. Body scarred or missing scales (severe fault).

DEPORTMENT FAULTS – ALL CLASSES

1. Constant full display (Betta splendens), but exhibits only aggressive (not violent) response to intruder (slight fault).
2. Fins erect, but gills only occasionally flared, and exhibits only motion toward intruder (minor fault).
3. Fins occasionally erect, gills rarely flared, and not very responsive to intruder (major fault).
4. No display and unresponsive to intruder (severe fault).

JUDGING AIDS



For General, Finnage, or Color/Special Traits, deduct points as noted for the following:

Slight Faults..... 3 points
Minor Faults..... 5 points
Major Faults..... 9 points
Severe Faults..... 17 points
Disqualifying Faults.....Disqualify

Outline of non-paired fins shows a nearly circular shape

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Category: Crowntail

Malcom's Cross-ray CT - Photo by Philip Ngo

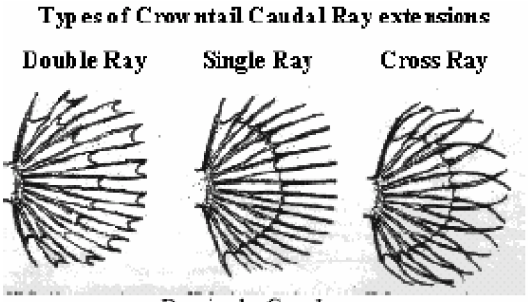
Description:
Crowntails are a type of "fringe-finned" domestic betta (Betta splendens, B. imbellis, B. smaragdina and any of their hybrids) having fin rays that extend significantly beyond the webbed portion of the fins. The supporting webbing around the fin rays is reduced and the rays protrude past the edges of the fin membrane. The result is a scalloped appearance or the appearance of hyper-extended rays as seen in Crowntails where the webbing is substantially reduced.

A Crowntail is not the same as a "combtail" or just another fringe-finned betta. It must be emphasized that fringed-fin bettas can and should be shown in other color classes where the extended rays ARE NOT counted against them.

Ray extensions should be thick, straight and prominent. Slightly outwardly curved extensions in caudals with double-rays are desirable to give the "cross-ray" effect.

Definition:
For the purposes of judging and placement in this class, male ***Crowntails shall be defined as bettas exhibiting at least 33% reduction in webbing versus ray length in EACH of the three primary fins (caudal, anal and dorsal***). For females, the minimum is 25%. This requirement must be demonstrated in all three primary fins but does NOT need to be exhibited in ALL rays.

Crowntail Types:
The following illustration shows variations of webbing reduction commonly exhibited by Crowntails.



Drawing by Gene Lucas

Double Ray – webbing is reduced at two levels; one between a pair of rays and the other (more profoundly) between two branches. 4-ray and 8-ray extensions are less common and the effect is almost always confined to the caudal fin.

Single Ray – Web margins are, ideally, uniform and webbing reduction is equal between primary rays and rays with branches.

Cross Ray – In the schematic, this is manifested by pairs of primary rays which curve over each other.

Examples:
The fish below exceeds the basic requirements by having at least 50% web reduction in all 3 primary fins.

Photo by Philip Ngo

This fish also shows the cross-ray effect as does the first picture at the beginning of this standard. In the case of the dorsal fin and the anal fin, the extended portion of the ray is longer than portion surrounded by the webbing. The ventral fins also demonstrate a >50% reduction of the webbing.

The following picture shows a fish with double ray extension but the rays branch again to two rays – a so-called double-double ray (DDR). The effect is well-spread out throughout the caudal fin. The caudal spread

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is also exceptional demonstrating the 180° spread conforming to our general standards.

Photo from Philip Ngo

FINNAGE REQUIREMENTS

CAUDAL
The caudal should display the splendor of a crown. The caudal rays should display at least double ray extension. 4 rays or more extensions are to be regarded as neutral. Caudal rays extension can either be straight or curved to cross for double-rays. Caudal spread requirements as for other single tails except for straight edge requirements. Straight caudal rays are acceptable but V rays and outward curving rays as in cross-rays are the preferred types.

Random Rays are single protruding rays in a double-ray or 4-ray Crowntail and are faulted.

ANAL
A slight gradual curling of the rays are acceptable but parallel and straight rays are preferred.

DORSAL
A slight gradual curling of the rays are acceptable but kinks and curls faulted per the General Fault guide.

VENTRAL
For Crowntails, the pair of ventral fins has to display a jagged appearance

Balloon Effect
A finnage characteristic which seems to be unique to the Crowntails is the “balloon” effect. This can be described as additional webbing between the primary or secondary rays to give a parachute-like effect. Additional webbing between the double rays of a double ray caudal are characterized as “balok’ – these have a triangular shape. Photos do not seem to do this effect justice – the way the folds move as the fish swims is what makes the effect so special. If evenly distributed, it is an acceptable but not preferred characteristic.

BALLOON CROWNTAIL – Photo by Hermanus Haryanto

Special Considerations in Judging Crowntails:

Desirable Traits for Crowntails:
1. 33% reduction in webbing material for each primary fin is a minimum for males.
2. 25% reduction in webbing material for each primary fin is a minimum for females.
3. Ray extensions should be uniform in balance, length and spacing.
4. Dorsal and anal ray extensions should be straight. A slightly proportionate curve toward the rear is acceptable.
5. Double ray or 4-ray extensions in the caudal fin only.
6. 50% reduction in webbing material in all three primary fins is IDEAL

Female CT – Overall Good Quality but marginal web reduction at caudal to meet standard – Photo from Philip Ngo

FAULT GUIDE

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CHAPTER 5 Addendum : CROWNTAIL STANDARD

The General Standards outlined in this chapter shall apply for Crowntails. Fin Curl, ideal 180° spread for caudal fin, minimum size requirement, etc., are covered in the fault guide. Color traits delineated in the Special standards apply to Crowntails.

Below are additional considerations for Crowntails:

SLIGHT FAULTS

1. Ray extensions slightly thinning
2. Ray extensions displaying only single ray extension
3. Ray extension splits slightly out of proportion
4. Single “balloon” or balog folds
5. Balloon/balog effect present but missing between a few rays.

MINOR FAULTS

1. Ray extensions of different non-uniform length
2. Ray extensions displaying random rays
3. Curled or bent extended rays
4. Thinned out extended rays
5. Ray extension splits out of proportion
6. Ventrals lack jagged appearance
7. 1 Broken ray extension
8. Several random balloon / balog folds
9. Balloon/balog effect present but missing between ~1/3 of rays.

MAJOR FAULTS

1. More than 1 broken ray extension
2. For fish with balloon / balog effect - distributed randomly over 1/3 to 2/3 of caudal
3. For fish with balloon / balog effect - present on only one fin

SEVERE FAULTS

1. Ray extensions <33% in one primary fin (<25% for females)

DISQUALIFICATION

1. Ray extensions <33% in 2 or 3 fins (25% for females)

Singletail and Doubletail Crowntails are to be judged in the same color classes for Crowntails.

Fish that qualify as Crowntails as defined in this standard MUST be shown as Crowntails in an IBC sanctioned International show. The only exceptions are for Form or Color Variations.

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TRADITIONAL PLAKAT STANDARDS

Plakats are the oldest of the domesticated *Betta* and are derived from animals bred for fighting. Show plakats bear certain distinctive features reflective of this ancestry. All plakats are short-tailed fish designed for rapid swimming. Specifically the dorsal and anal fins should not greatly exceed the body width and the caudal fin should not exceed 1/3 of the body length. Relative to other show *Betta*, the plakat body form is more stout and body mass greater. Plakats are expected to be notably more aggressive than other show *Betta*, to have the demeanor of a pit bulldog, and be constantly on the alert for intruders.

The plakat classes are defined on differences in body form and finnage as well as color, as detailed in the standards below. The two plakat forms are the traditional plakat and the show plakat. Either of two plakat forms may be entered in the regular and New Breeder classes. Here they are judged not only relative to one another, but by the degree to which they are faithful exemplars of their class.

photo by Sarawut Angkunanuwat

The traditional plakat may be shown in any color. Show plakat classes are recognized in all color types.

Judging on color criteria is performed in accord with the relevant typing system articulated in Chapter 6 and the corresponding special standards in Chapter 7. In addition to these colors an additional color - wild type - is available for plakats alone and fish of this color may be shown in either the traditional or appropriate show plakat class. The wild-type body is dark brown, with several rows of iridescent spots mostly on upper part of body. Scales edged in black. The head is dark above, lighter beneath, with little or no iridescence. Eyes are dark with iridescent flecks. The dorsal fin is iridescent green-gold, with black rays, and black irregular cross bands (flecks). The caudal displays a black trimmed edge and both red and green iridescent coloration in no distinct pattern. The anal fin is colored similarly, but the posterior fin tip is red. The pectoral fins are colorless or black-edged and the ventral fins red, black and/or iridescent with white tips.

The scope of these standards applies to male single tail plakats. Female double-tail plakats should go into regular double tail color classes for females.

FORM CRITERIA

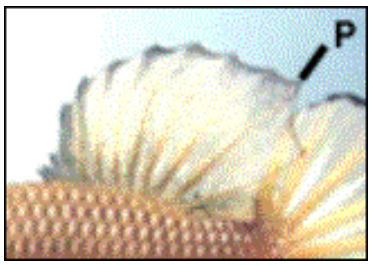
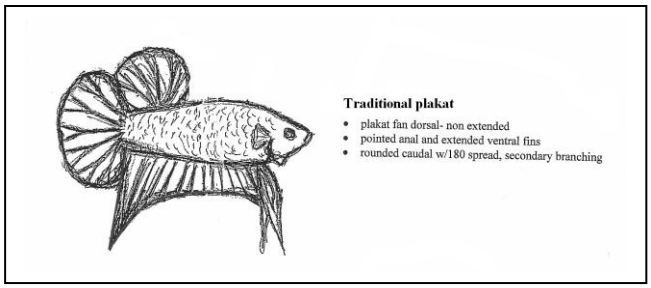


Photo by Chris Yew

Traditional Plakats

The traditional plakat is a stout, heavy bodied aggressive fish with distinctive finnage.

Dorsal - The dorsal fin may be either uniformly rounded or come to point (see figure at left).



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Anal - The anal fin has a trapezoid shape with the forward (anterior) edge shorter than the rear (posterior) edge. The posterior tip should be pointed (see figure at left). When flaring the rear edge of the anal fin should overlap the lower portion of the caudal fin.

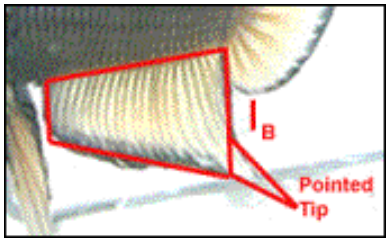

photo by Chris Yew

Caudal - The caudal fin may be either spade shaped (see figure) or rounded. If spade-shaped the point should be at the midpoint of the fin. A caudal spread of 180° is preferred, but differs from the requirements for other show Betta and for other plakat classes in two respects. First the edges of the caudal fin are expected to be rounded rather than shaped in the configuration of the letter D (see figures). Second, the 180° caudal should not be achieved by greater than primary or secondary branching of the caudal fin rays. Thus the caudal spread in a traditional plakat is achieved by an increase in the volume of tissue between rays rather than by an increase in fin ray branching.

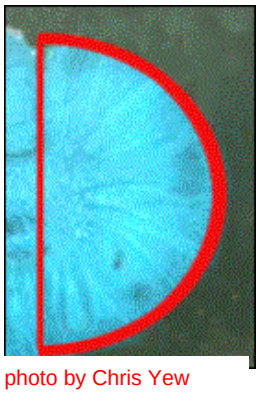

photo by Chris Yew

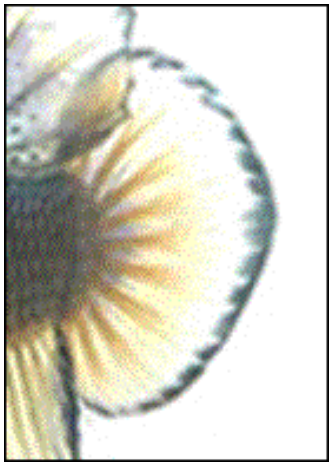

photo by Chris Yew

Ventral fins - Ventral fins can be either full or thin, but are expected to be notably longer than in other show Betta, 2/3 the length of the length of the body (as measured from the base of the ventral fin to the caudal peduncle) or longer - see Figure.

photo by Chris Yew

Pectoral fins - As in other show Betta.

<u>Traditional Plakat Form & Finnage Faults</u>

1. Body excessively stout and heavy (Slight Fault)
2. Dorsal fin narrow (Minor Fault)
3. Ventral fins less than 2/3 body length (Minor Fault)
4. Caudal fin spread > 165°, but < 180° (Minor Fault)
5. Caudal branching greater than 2° (Minor Fault)
6. Anal fin fails to display extended pointed tip (Major Fault)
7. Caudal fin less than 165° (Major Fault)
8. Ventral fins 1/2 body length or less (Major Fault)
9. Body extremely slender like some other Betta species (Major Fault).

<u>ALL OTHER APPROPRIATE GENERAL FAULTS APPLY</u>.

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Show Plakat Standard

photo by Charnwit Saelai

This is the most common of the plakat forms bred today, combining traits of traditional plakats and show Betta. Like the traditional, the form is asymmetrical. The show plakat standard is the same in all respects to that of the traditional plakat with two essential exceptions:

Dorsal: The dorsal fin should be semi-circular and preferably snap open as a fan. In the most ideal situation the dorsal overlaps the upper part of the caudal. The upper front edge can be either sharp or slightly rounded.The capacity of the fin to open in this fashion is often achieved not by in increase in volume, but by an increase in fin ray branching and possibly a slight increase of rays. In the most ideal situation, the dorsal overlaps the upper part of the caudal. Overlap of the dorsal with the body is not desirable.

Caudal: Unlike the traditional plakat, the caudal fin is the same as the standard show Betta-. - -. The caudal spread is 180 degrees, has straight rays, sharp edges and the shape of a semi-circle (capital "D"), no longer the 1/3rd the length of the body. The ray splitting should be evenly distributed with a secondary branching (4-ray) or more without becoming too excessive. A >180 degree spread (overhalfmoon, oHM) is not preferred above a 180 degree spread.

Anal: The anal fin has a trapezoid shape with the front rays (anterior) part shorter than the rear (posterior) part. From the front to the back the anal show as gradual slope coming to a pointed tip. The longest ray of the anal ideally should be at least twice as long or longer (preferred) as the length of the outer rays of the caudal. During flaring, the front should be directed forward and the back should overlap the lower part of the caudal.

Ventrals: The shaper of the ventrals mimic the blade of a knife with the cutting edge directed backwards. The ventrals have a full appearance, are equal in length and should not appear to be permanently crossed. The length of the ventrals should be at least equal to the longest ray of the anal.

Pectoral fins: As in other show betta.

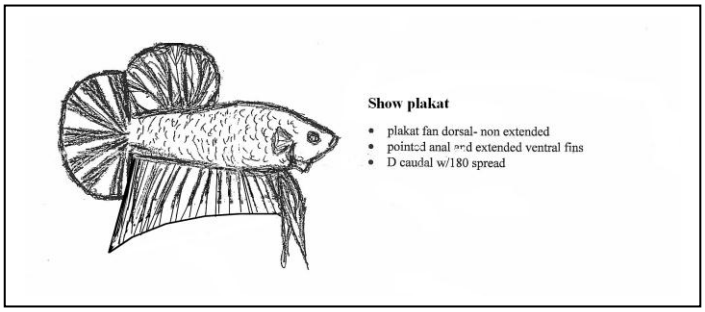

Photo By:

Lucie Tourneur

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Sieg Illig

<u>Show Plakat Form & Finnage Faults</u>

1. Ventral fins *slightly* less than 2/3 body length (Slight Fault)
2. Ventral fins – single tip preferred, double tips (Slight Fault)
3. Dorsal and anal-most caudal fin rays ("edge" rays) shorter than other caudal fin rays (so-called 'rounded edges') (Minor Fault)
4. Dorsal fin without primary branching (Minor Fault)
5. Ventral fins 1/2 body length or slightly less (Minor Fault)
6. Branching in caudal fin <3° (Minor Fault)
7. Anal fin fails to slope strongly from anterior to posterior (Major Fault)
8. Anal fin rounded and not coming to a point (Major Fault)
9. Less than 180° Caudal spread (Major Fault)

<u>ALL OTHER APPROPRIATE GENERAL FAULTS APPLY</u>.

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TRADITIONAL AND SHOW PLAKAT FEMALE BETTAS

Female Traditional and Show Plakat Bettas are of the same general form as their male counterparts, but with shorter fins and broader bodies.

The IBC encourages in this class the distinctive female Plakat form. Female Plakat Bettas vary considerably from males in several ways and should always appear "female."

Females are generally expected to be somewhat smaller overall. They are usually more rounded in the belly area than males. Female fins are not expected to reach the same size or proportion of the male finnage.

General Characteristics

1. The female Plakat is not expected to have the finnage of their long-fin female counterparts. The dorsal is expected to be smaller.

2. The dorsal of a female plakat may open like a fan as in the male form.

3. The anal fin will be shorter; with slight rounding at the front of the anal fin and will show an extended point at the tip of the fin.

4. Females are expected to show an egg spot.

5. Females should be more aggressive in their deportment than their long fin female counterparts.

TRADITIONAL FEMALE PLAKATS

The traditional female plakats will have the same caudal characteristics of their male counterparts. The caudal edges are expected to be rounded rather than in the shape of a semicircle (capital “D”). The dorsal fin will be smaller. The anal fin has a trapezoid shape with the forward (anterior) edge shorter than the rear (posterior) edge.

Traditional Form & Finnage Faults

1. Body excessively stout and heavy (Slight Fault)
2. Dorsal fin narrow (Minor Fault)
3. Caudal fin spread > 165°, but < 180° (Minor Fault)
5. Caudal branching greater than 2° (Minor Fault)
6. Anal fin fails to display extended pointed tip (Major Fault)
7. Caudal fin less than 165° (Major Fault)

Show Female Plakats

The show female plakats will have the same characteristics of the traditional female except that the caudal spread is 180 degrees, has straight rays, sharp edges and the shape of a semi-circle (capital “D”).

Show Plakat Form & Finnage Faults

1. Body excessively stout and heavy (Slight Fault)
2. Dorsal fin narrow (Minor Fault)
3. Dorsal and anal-most caudal fin rays (“edge” rays) shorter than other caudal fin rays (so-called ‘rounded edges’) (Minor Fault)
4. Branching in caudal fin <3° (Minor Fault)
5. Anal fin fails to slope strongly from anterior to posterior (Major Fault)
6. Anal fin rounded and not coming to a point (Major Fault)
7. Less than 180° Caudal spread (Major Fault)

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ALL APPROPRIATE GENERAL AND SPECIAL FAULTS APPLY

Show Plakat Female

Traditional Plakat Female

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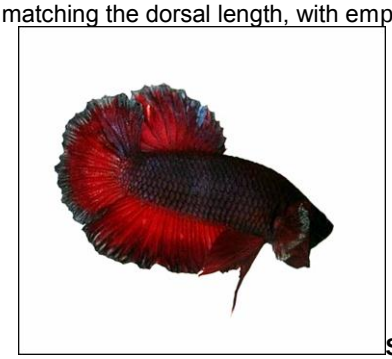
SHORTFIN HALFMOON

Shortfin HM STM

Standard - The shortfin HM is a short-finned version of the symmetrical long-finned show fish. Shortfin Halfmoons can be shown in any color and are judged for color by adherence to the ideals of that color. - - In all other respects, the shortfin HM should mirror the standard show *Betta* in conformation and color. Specifically;-

Anal fin: The anal fin is expected to rectangular in outline rather sloping to a point. The last ray of the anal fin should be no longer than the rest of the rays. Moreover, the length of the anal fin should be equivalent to that the caudal and dorsal so as to insure that a pleasing, continuous oval like shape. However a slightly longer (1/16") is tolerated matching the dorsal length, with emphasis on the rectangular outline.



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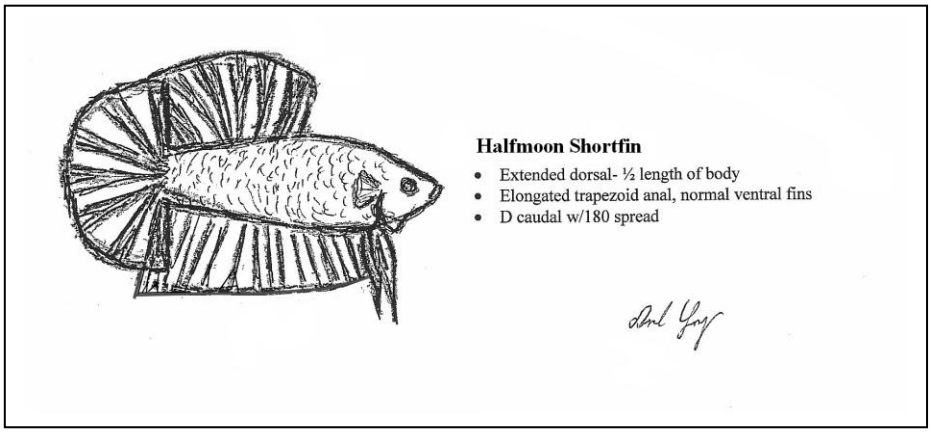
Ventral fins: The ventral fins should be in balance of length of the rest of the unpaired fins to preserve the symmetrical look. Ventral fins are not expected to be of length comparable to that of the body. - - -The length should be about twice the height of the anal fin.

Dorsal fin: -, The dorsal fin may be of any shape. A larger, better matching to anal fin. is preferred over a smaller one, provided that the size does not distract from the symmetry of the fish. Like the anal a slightly longer (1/16") fin is tolerated. The desired effect is typically achieved by an increase in the number of fin rays.

Caudal fin-:The caudal spread is 180 degrees, has straight rays, sharp edges and the shape of a semi-circle (capital "D"), no longer than 1/3 length of the body. The rays should be evenly distributed above and below the centerline of the fish with a secondary branching(4-ray) or more without becoming too excessive.

A >180 degree spread is not prefererred above a 180 degree spread.

Pectoral Fins: As in other show bettas.



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Shortfin HM - Form & Finnage Faults

1. **Anal fin slopes *slightly* from front to back (Slight Fault).**
2. **Ventral fins – Single tip preferred, double tips (Slight Fault).**
3. **Ventral fins overly long (Minor Fault).**
4. **Caudal Fin – most outer caudal fin rays shorter than other caudal fin rays(so-called 'rounded edges') (MinorFault)**
5. **Lack of primary branching in Dorsal (Minor Fault).**
6. **Dorsal fin not full and/or lacking wide base (Minor Fault)**
7. **Anal fin slope substantially from front to back and/or posterior edge extends substantially, (more than 1/16") below base of caudal (Major Fault)**
8. **Less than 180° caudal spread (Major Fault).**

ALL OTHER APPROPRIATE GENERAL FAULTS APPLY.

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Doubletail Short fin Class

Doubletail Short fin Bettas are the short fin counterparts of long-fin Doubletail Bettas. They can be shown in any color and General Color Standards apply.

There are two types of Doubletail Short fin Bettas:

Type A) Resembling the Show Plakat with extended Anal and Dorsal fin tips.

Lucie Tourneur

Joachim Menz

Lucie Tourneur

Joachim Menz

Doubletail Show Plakats differ from the Single tail Show plakat as follows:

- extended dorsal, round or pointed tip, ideally mirror image of anal fin
- pointed anal and extended ventral fins, 2/3 body length
- two equal caudal lobes with separation to the base of the caudal peduncle
- caudal spread 180 degrees
- body not shorter than other plakat types to avoid “stubby” appearance

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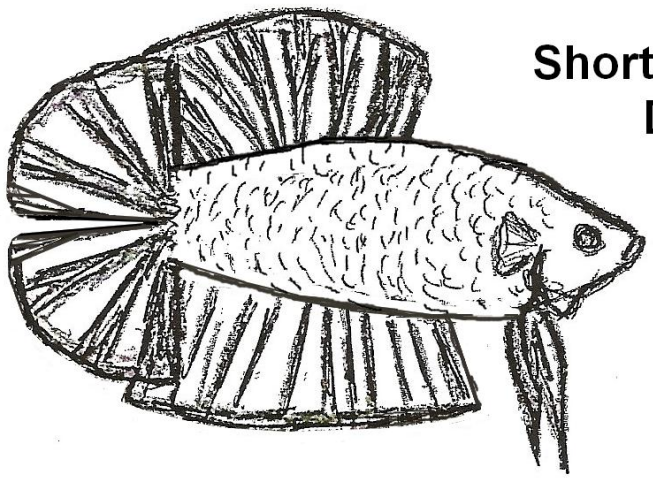
TYPE A: DT Show Plakat Form & Finnage Faults

1. **Ventral fins *slightly* less than 2/3 body length (Slight Fault)**
2. **Ventral fins – single tip preferred, double tips (Slight Fault)**
3. **Dorsal fin without primary branching (Minor Fault)**
4. **Ventral fins 1/2 body length or slightly less (Minor Fault)**
5. **Anal fin fails to slope strongly from anterior to posterior (Major Fault)**
6. **Dorsal fin fails to slope strongly from anterior to posterior (Minor Fault)**
7. **Dorsal fin not Full and or lacking wide Base (Minor Fault)**
8. **Dorsal has no more than 3 stubby rays at front edge (Minor Fault)**
9. **Dorsal has more than 3 stubby rays at front edge (Major Fault)**

NOTE: Females of this type are shown in the regular DT female classes

ALL OTHER APPROPRIATE GENERAL FAULTS INCLUDING DT FAULTS APPLY

Type B) Resembling the Half-moon Short fin without extended Anal and Dorsal fin tips.



Doubletail Short fin Half-moon show fish differ from the Single tail Short fin Half-moon show fish as follows:

- Short fin version of the symmetrical long finned double tail show fish
- Anal fin is rectangular in outline rather than sloping to a point; last ray of the anal fin should be no longer than the rest of the rays
- Length of anal fin equivalent to the caudal and dorsal

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- A slightly longer (1/16") (2mm) is tolerated matching the dorsal length with emphasis on the rectangular shape

Type B: Short fin DT Half-moon Form & Finnage Faults

1. **Anal fin slopes slightly from front to back (Slight fault)**
2. **Ventral fins overly long (Minor fault)**
3. **Lack of primary branching in Dorsal (Minor fault)**
4. **Dorsal fin not full and or lacking wide base (Minor fault)**
5. **Anal and or Dorsal fin slope substantially from front to back and/or posterior edge extends substantially, (more than 1/16") below base of caudal (Major fault)**
6. **Height and length of the three unpaired fins over 1/2 body length – DQ and move to Long Fin Doubletail**
7. **Dorsal has no more than 3 stubby rays at front edge (Minor Fault)**
8. **Dorsal has more than 3 stubby rays at front edge (Major Fault)**

NOTE: Females of this type are shown in the regular DT female classes

ALL OTHER APPROPRIATE GENERAL FAULTS INCLUDING DT FAULTS APPLY

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Unlike the General Standards which deal with the characteristics that the many types of Betta splendens share in common, the Special Standards deal with the traits that separate them, the colors, forms, and species. In these standards, like the General Standards faults are divided into Slight, Minor, Major, Severe, and Disqualifying. The Special Standards are arranged into several chapters, beginning with this explanation of the basis for judging color, in the following order: Chapter 6 – Basis for Judging Color; Chapter 7 – Show Stock; Chapter 8 – Wild Types; and Chapter 9 – Special Exhibits.

The color typing system is hierarchical, with Bettas categorized into increasingly refined groupings. Each level in the hierarchy has a name, given below, which will be referred to throughout:

Categorization of the genus Betta:
GROUPS
Subgroups
CATEGORIES
Subcategories
TYPES
Subtypes

The diagram above shows the names of the various units into which Betta colors and patterns are divided. This division system is called the COLOR TYPING SYSTEM. Understanding the Color Typing System will explain why certain colors are faulted the way they are. Knowing the Color Typing System will improve your ability to provide quality judging at shows.

The Color Typing System does not distinguish sex (male or female), nor tail type (single tail or doubletail)) with which the Class System deals. (see Chapter 10)

GROUPS

Bettas are considered to exist in five distinct groups:"

Single Colored Bettas
Bicolored Bettas
Patterned Bettas
Betta species
Special Exhibit Bettas

If a Betta is judged, and found to be in violation of the GROUP characteristics appropriate for the class in which it is entered it will be disqualified. For example, a Traditional Cambodian male entered in the RED class must be disqualified. This violates the GROUP Single Color characteristics appropriate to the RED class. Thus, failure of a Betta show entry to comply with the GROUP requirements is in fact an error in classification by the entrant, and unless reclassified, will be disqualified. **No special standard color fault is more serious than a GROUP fault.**

SUBGROUPS, CATEGORIES AND SUBCATEGORIES

To understand the breakdown of hierarchical categories *below* the GROUP level, it is useful to recognize three COLOR FACTORS that all Bettas can potentially display. These provide a logical breakdown below the GROUP level:

Dark under coloration, or lack of it
Iridescence, or lack of it
Opaque, or lack of it

Subgroups are defined by the presence of dark under coloration or lack thereof, Categories are based on the presence or absence of iridescence, and Subcategories delineate opaque fish from those lacking opaque.

For example, the Single Color Group is divided into two subgroups based on the presence or absence of the dark under coloration

Subgroup 1: Dark Single Color
Subgroup 2: Light Single Color

CATEGORIES

By considering the presence or absence of Iridescence, the Subgroups are broken down into Categories:

Category 1: Non-iridescent
Category 2: Iridescent

Accordingly, the Subcategory level introduces a distinction based of the appearance of opaque. For example, the single color (GROUP), light (subgroup), iridescent (CATEGORY) is divided into two subcategories:

Subcategory 1: Non-Opaque
Subcategory 2: Opaque

The COLOR FACTORS which constitute the basis for defining Subgroups, Categories, and Subcategories hold only for two of the five Groups. Specifically, they apply to Group 1 (Single Color), and Group 2 (Bicolored).

Group 3 (Patterned Bettas) differ in that the subgroup categorization is based on the type of pattern present:

Subgroup 1: Butterfly
Subgroup 2: Marble
Subgroup 3: Multicolor

Lower levels in the Group 3 hierarchy also differ are specified in summary tables below.

Group 4 (Betta species) and Group 5 (Special Exhibit Bettas) also differ as specifically addressed in Chapters 8 and 9, respectively.

TYPES AND SUBTYPES

The lower levels of the Special Standards are constructed around the 11 currently recognized primary colors, 6 secondary colors, and 5 primary patterns.

Primary colors

Red	Blue	Pastel
Black	Steel	Opaque
Yellow	Turquoise	Orange
Clear	Green	

Secondary colors

Pastel Blue
Pastel Green
Pastel White
Opaque Blue
Opaque Green
Opaque White

Primary Patterns

Single color
Bicolor
Butterfly
Marble
Multicolor

NOTE: The Copper color complex may add some new colors to the Types and Subtypes.

SUMMARY AND EXAMPLES

With 6 levels in the hierarchy, an enormous number of combinations are possible. The class system, however, does not include show classes for all possible combinations. For example, we currently have no show class for a single color (Group), dark (Subgroup), iridescent (Category), opaque iridescent (sub-category) fish. This is evident in the following summary table, which is provided not only to illustrate this point, but also to summarize the rationale introduced above.

Detailed tables follow for the lower hierarchical levels included in each of the five GROUPS.

SUMMARY CHART: GROUP SINGLE COLOR

	Non-iridescent		Iridescent	
	Non-Opaque	**Opaque**	**Non-Opaque**	**Opaque**
D	Red	none	Blue	none
A	Black		Steel Blue	
R			Turquoise	
K			Green	
L	Yellow	none	Pastel Blue	Opaque Blue
I	Clear		Pastel Green	Opaque Green
G			Pastel White	Opaque White
H				
T				

Using the above chart, find a color type like Red. You can see that Red must be:
DARK (Subgroup characteristic)
Non-iridescent (Category characteristic)
Non-Opaque (Subcategory characteristic)

Group **1** **SINGLE COLORED**

Subgroup DARK ----------

Category Non-iridescent ---------- Iridescent

Subcategory Non-Opaque --------- Opaque Non-Opaque ---------- Opaque

Type Red ----- Black Blue ----- St. Blue ----- Turq. ----- Green

Subtype True ----- Black Black Lace True ----- Common Green Green

---

Group **2** **BICOLORED**

Subgroup DARK ----------

Category Non-iridescent ---------- Iridescent

Subcategory Non-Opaque --------- Opaque Non-Opaque ---------- Opaque

Type Red ----- Black Blue ----- St. Blue ----- Turq. ----- Green

Subtype Black/Yellow
(Chocolate)

Group **3** **PATTERNED**

Subgroup Butterfly ---------- Marble ----------Multicolor

Category Single color ----------Bicolor ---------- Marble
Based Based Based

Subcategory 2 Bands --- 3 Bands 2 Bands --- 3 Bands

Type Red/ Clear/ ------ Clear/White- Piebald --- Colored
Red-White Red-White Red-White
(Tutweiler)

Subtype Red

SINGLE COLORED Group **1**

---------- LIGHT Subgroup

Non-iridescent ---------- Iridescent Category

Non-Opaque --------- Opaque Non-Opaque ---------- Opaque Subcategory

Yellow --------- Clear (PASTELS) (OPAQUES) Type

Cellophane --- Albino Blue -----Green Blue -----Green ----- White Subtype

---

BICOLORED Group **2**

---------- LIGHT Subgroup

Non-iridescent ---------- Iridescent Category

Non-Opaque --------- Opaque Non-Opaque ---------- Opaque Subcategory

Yellow --------- Clear (PASTELS) (OPAQUES) Type

Clear/Red Blue -----Green Blue -----Green ----- White Subtype
(Trad. Cambodian)

THE COLOR TYPING SYSTEM

GROUPS

1 Single Color
2 Bicolor
3 Patterned

Proper judging of Bettas requires an understanding of how to treat improperly classified fish (category faults) relative to properly categorized fish with color faults. Explicit instructions on color faults are provided in chapter 7 following next. Nonetheless, a brief survey here as to the system used in faulting is relevant. It may be useful to re-read this section after one has mastered material in Chapter 7.

JUDGING FOR COLOR

GENERAL COLOR FAULTS:

If a Betta shows a color fault, the degree of seriousness is a function of the level of the characteristic violated.

Level	Degree of Fault
Group (or Subgroup)……	Disqualifying
Category (or Subcategory)……	Severe (with exceptions)
Type (or Subtype)……	Major (with exceptions)

CATEGORY FAULT GUIDES:

It seems there are always exceptions to the rules. To help you with this, there is a Category Fault Guide provided for each Category/Subcategory, and a Type Guide for each Type/Subtype whenever necessary to highlight exceptions to the general fault guidance provided by the chart above.

At the left of this page you see a typical Category Fault Guide used to provide specific guidance on the various problems associated with each color of Betta. Parts of it should already be familiar to you. You can see the various fault ratings that were explained earlier, along with their values. In the actual sections of following chapters you will normally find abbreviated charts.

fault/ deduction

Slight/ -3 points

When using the guide, the first questions it will answer is, "What are the color faults on the various Betta color types?" The answer is listed on the guide. Thus, for whatever Color this guide is referring to, the presence of an iridescent color (Blue, Steel Blue, Turquoise, or Green) would be a severe fault, thus deducting 17 points.

Minor/ -5 points

A COMPLETE EXAMPLE

We will use an example taken from the section dealing with Black to illustrate the use of the color guides completely. Assume you are trying to rate the color of a BLACK Betta that has only one fault – the color STEEL BLUE is present on the body.

Major/ -9 points

The Category Fault Guide: At left and below is the general Category Fault Guide taken from the section of the Special Standards dealing with Dark Singlecolor Bettas. The Dark Singlecolor subcategory is correct for all BLACK Bettas. You should notice that IRIDECENCE is a severe fault, but not shown on the guide, because BLACK is a NON-IRIDESCENT color, and iridescence violates the Category general characteristic.

Steel Blue

So it is assumed and need not be repeated on each guide. So our example Betta's color quality will be rated as SEVERELY FAULTED and lose 17 points BECAUSE Steel Blue, an iridescent color, violates the standard characteristic for the Category in which the fish belongs.

Severe/ -17 points

The Type Guide: In the Type Guide (the one for TYPE – Black), you will notice some difference from the guide we just reviewed. STEEL BLUE, one of the iridescent colors is specifically listed as a MAJOR (not severe) fault. The other iridescent colors (Blue, Turquoise, and Green) aren't even mentioned. This is because the Type Guide only lists EXCEPTIONS to higher level guidance. If our Betta had Blue, Turquoise, or Green iridescence, it would still be severely faulted and lose 17 points. But since the Type Guide lists STEEL BLUE as an "exception" to the higher level standard, our Betta will only lose 9 points for a MAJOR FAULT.

Disqualify

Why is Steel Blue iridescence different? The answer is because it is of reasonable LOW CONTRAST giving it a different impact than the other iridescent colors. Few of the type guides are accompanied with an explanation of how they were constructed. However, as you gain familiarity with the Color Typing System, you will be able to determine the reason yourself.

A JUDGE MAY RAISE OR LOWER, BY ONE LEVEL, THE RATING OF EXCEPTIONAL FAULTS

All three examples below are Black with Steel Blue iridescence in varying amounts. Our Betta is in the middle. The Judge will probably decide that our Betta is the one to which a rating of MAJOR fault is to apply. He may raise the rating of the one on the right by one level of the guide – to SEVERE. And, likewise, he may lower the level of the left Betta to one of MINOR. He cannot raise any as either SLIGHT or DISQUALIFIED because that exceeds the rule of ONE LEVEL change to what the Color Guide specifies. UNLESS…if the iridescence on the body is sufficiently great that the Judge determines that the fish is a Steel Blue/Black BICOLOR, violating the Group Characteristic – SINGLE COLOR. That Betta may be disqualified if not reclassified.

photo by Wasan Sattayapun	photo by Jim Sonnier	photo by Surat Bhutipanya
		
Color Guide: Major	**Major**	**Major**
Judge's decision: Minor	**Major**	**Severe**

EMPHASIS OF COLOR JUDGING:

Judging for color is based on the particular unit of the Color Typing System in which a fault belongs, and that unit's unique traits. Judges must avoid the, "Isn't it the most beautiful Betta you've ever seen," syndrome. Fabulous Bettas which do not meet the criteria specified for its color unit are faulted, even though they may indeed be beautiful. As you read, you will gain an appreciation for the principles of color classification applied throughout the system. The various official Groups, Subgroups, Categories, Subcategories, Types, and Subtypes are defined in the next chapter (7). Where they do not pertain, or have no impact on the judging decisions, some of these breakdown units are omitted from the explanations, though they remain a part of the system as shown on the charts accompanying the text.

GROUP--SINGLE COLORED BETTAS

Single colored Bettas show only one color on all body and fin surfaces, and in only one shade. There are two major subgroups: Single Dark Color, and Single Light Color. These are further divided into specific Types for each single color. The ideal single colored Betta shows no color other than the one naming the Type (except for the color observed in the eye pupil and gills). Beyond general Betta characteristics that always apply, the primary concern of judges in evaluating this type of Betta, is the uniformity, density, and nature of the color. In some cases a particular shade is more desirable and will be specified. Some of the Guides will show where to place "shades" of the primary color, but they cannot cover the subtle variant shades. Judges must subjectively make determinations about color shading. Low contrast is important in all cases for Single Colored Bettas. The color should be rated by directly shining a flashlight on it. The flashlight must not contain a color lens, nor should the color be assessed by shining the flashlight through the fins from the rear. That is okay when looking for an "invisible" fin wash, but not when judging shade. Make sure that lighting is good enough to make accurate color judgements.

GROUP CHARACTERISTIC--Single color
Absence of the single color pattern is a disqualifying fault.

SUBGROUP--Single Dark Color

The term "dark" refers to the undercoating of black pigment that these Bettas have beneath the color that names the individual Type. The color names can be misleading. As an example, RED is often thought of as being, by definition "dark"--however, it is not the RED, but the RED WITH THE DARK UNDERCOATING that makes such a fish "dark". A Red Betta without that undercoating of black would be classified as a "Light Single Colored" Betta. NOTE: In recent years red strains without a black pigment undercoat have been established. These Bettas exibit and increase of red pigment that can make it difficult to discern a dark undercoat and phenotypically represent a "dark" color. THIS RED TYPE HAS A TEMPORARY EXCEPTION TO THE SUBGROUP SINGLE DARK COLOR REQUIREMENT OF AN UNDERCOATING OF BLACK PIGMENT, AND MAY BE SHOWN IN THE EXISTING RED CLASS.

General Basis of Faults of the Dark Single Colored Bettas:

Colors not applicable to this Subgroup (dark) are faulted if they appear to any degree on any of the fish of this type. The principles which determine the arrangement of the fault charts found in this portion of the text are:

---Light colors are faulted on Dark subgroup Bettas.
---Iridescence is faulted on non-iridescent category Bettas.
---If a second color is present--the higher the contrast, the more severe the fault.
---The degree to which a second color intrudes also affects the severity of the fault.

SUBGROUP CHARACTERISTIC = DARK UNDERCOATING
Absence of the dark undercoating is a disqualifying fault.

CATEGORY--Non-Iridescent

Subcategory—Non-Opaque

TYPE - Red

A brilliant red is desired. Judges should be strict in accessing color quality and uniformity. Red was at one time perhaps the most fully developed and set of all the dark single colors. Bettas exhibiting the most even shade body to fins of brilliant red are given preference. Because red is a member of both non-iridescent and non-opaque categories, even a slight appearance of iridescence (including metallic) or opaque is a serious deficiency. Any touch of color other than red is a fault to some degree, as determined by the Judge using the IBC color type system.

Hermanus Haryanto **Sarawut Angkunanawut** **Peter Goettner**

**EXCEPTION TO DARK BODY RULE

SUBGROUP=SINGLE LIGHT COLOR

A temporary exception is given to light body based reds that meet the standards ideal for red color, and are now allowed to compete in the red class for the time being. The fish that comes closest to the ideal red color standard, all else being equal, will be given the higher placing in the class. Reds that are obvious light body bicolors should be moved to the bicolor class.

CATEGORY— Non-Iridescent

Subcategory—Non-Opaque

TYPE - RED

Just as red bettas have been developed from dark-bodied lines, red strains have been developed from light-bodied bi-color (cambodian) lines. These fish lack the dark-bodied undercoating and often have cream or flesh colored parts on the head whereas reds with dark bodied undercoating would have a dark or olive coloring. Other than this mark of distinction, the light-bodied red can be difficult to distinguish from the dark-bodied red. As with yellow and orange, judges must beware of substantial contrast between the body and fin colors - unless reclassified to bicolor, disqualify.

Peter Goettner **Sarawut**

Color faults of Red Bettas:

1. White ventrals (slight)
2. Color missing from pectorals (slight)
3. Black scales (minor unless extensive in which case it can be major; the judge should consider reclassing to Bicolor if severe)
4. Lighter shade of red on body vs. fins (minor unless excessive in which case it can be major; the judge should consider reclassing to Bicolor if severe)
5. Black edges on fins (minor)
6. Cream or flesh color on the head (minor unless extensive in which case it can be major)
7. Clear edges or streaks on fins (minor)
8. Presence of yellow or orange (major)
9. Black spots, streaks or patches (major)
10. Presence of Iridescence (Major if only a few rays or scales)
11. Presence of Iridescence (Severe – if extensive, the Judge should consider reclassing to Multicolor)

12. Presence of Metallic iridescence (Severe – can be major if relegated to a few scales or fin rays)
13. Presence of Opaque (disqualifying fault; severe if restricted to ventrals)

CATEGORY-NON-IRIDESCENT
Subcategory—Non-Opaque
TYPE – Black

The ideal color is a very dark, dense, "black mollie" color. Other than green, black is the least fully set of the dark single colors. This is largely due to the requirement to breed for black without using the normally infertile black females. Some lines, for example, have used steel blue females extensively and thus, not surprisingly, have led to blacks with considerable iridescence present. This is particularly unfortunate since black; by its category definition is a non-iridescent color. As in Red, the presence of iridescence or opaque is serious. Because the iridescence problem is an offshoot of breeding problems, the presence of steel blue iridescence is not rated as seriously as in Red.
NOTE: A relatively recently developed (2003) combination of True Black and Black Lace provides "melano" females that are fertile. This type is called, "Double Black."

Subtype--True Black
A dark, "pitch" black is preferred - usually referred to as "melano." These often have the desired dark black on the fins but suffer from iridescence on the body. The latter must be faulted according to the extent and type of iridescence.

Suporn Khuhom

Kelson Say

Subtype--Black Lace
A black betta with translucent webbing between the fin rays. This type of black is much less desirable.

Subtype--Double Black
As for all blacks, a dark, "pitch" black is preferred without iridescence on the body and fins.

C. Emery

Color faults of Black Bettas:

1. White ventrals (slight)
2. Color missing from pectorals (slight)
3. Red on fins (minor unless extensive in which case it can be major or the judge can move to multicolor or butterfly class)
4. Clear on edges or streaks on fins (minor – can be major if extensive)
5. Presence of steel Iridescence (Major – if extensively covering body, should be moved to dark-body bi-colors)

6. Presence of green or blue Iridescence (Severe – if extensively covering body, should be moved to bi-colors) consider moving the Betta to the Multicolor class.)
7. Presence of metallic Iridescence (Severe – if extensively covering body, should be moved to Bicolor or Multicolor class if uneven spread). Intrusion of Metallic on the body can manifest itself as spots of yellow against a black background.
8. Presence of "Rust" (Severe but must be obvious)
9. Presence of Opaque is a Disqualifying fault unless restricted to ventrals)

GROUP B-- IRIDESCENT BETTAS

IRIDESCENT means: Blue, Steel Blue, Turquoise, and Green. These fish have a unique problem, that of anal fin wash. Visible wash follows the fault levels specified for the color of the wash. "Invisible" wash can only be seen by shining a flashlight through the fins from the opposite side from the viewer. The Judge ignores this type of wash.

One of the common concerns with the dark iridescent colors is learning to recognize them from each other. This chart shows their relative position on the "blue-green" scale:

Decreasing "blueness"----------> <----------Decreasing "greenness"
BLUE-STEEL BLUE-TURQUOISE-COMMONGREEN-TRUE GREEN

Another concern is the pervasiveness of the metallic genes in iridescent lines. Judges must judge phenotype and not the presumed genetics of show bettas. However, judges must be able to distinguish dark-bodied metallic bettas with an iridescent base from the Group B iridescent bettas.

CATEGORY—Iridescent

Subcategory—Non-Opaque

TYPE - BLUE

A deep Royal Blue is ideal. Blue, like all of the dark single colors (except green) is well established with a wide concurrence on its purity. It's presence in a non-opaque category makes the absence of all opaque an essential trait. This color often suffers from the presence of a color "wash", particularly in the anal fin. Though common, the presence of any other color is a fault.

Siegbert Illig

Peter Goettner

Color Faults for Blue Bettas

1. White ventrals (slight fault)
2. Lack of blue iridescence on head (slight fault)
3. Lack of color on pectorals (slight fault)
4. Yellow wash (minor fault)
5. Red in ventrals (minor fault)
6. Barely visible metallic coloration, usually on lips & cheeks (minor fault)
7. Blue coloration fading in shades to steel (minor fault) or fading to shades of green or turquoise (major fault)
8. Blue coloration not of uniform hue (major fault)
9. Red wash (major fault).
10. Blue coloration not uniformly spread (severe fault).

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11. Small amount(s) of metallic coloration, up to 10% coverage (major fault)
12. Presence of any red color (severe fault unless relegated to ventrals).
13. Large amounts of Metallic coloration over 10% coverage requires moving to the dark metallic class
14. Absence of a dark undercoating (disqualifying fault).
15. Presence of opaque (disqualifying fault)

CATEGORY—Iridescent

Subcategory—Non-Opaque

TYPE – STEEL BLUE

Also called gunmetal blue, this color has a silver iridescence when compared to the Blue Betta. Perhaps slightly "grayer" in appearance to some observers. A "grayer", less bluish color is desired.

Siegbert Illig

Color Faults for Steel Blue Bettas

1. White ventrals (slight fault)
2. Lack of steel blue iridescence on head (slight fault)
3. Lack of color on pectorals (slight fault)
4. Yellow wash (minor fault)
5. Red in ventrals (minor fault)
6. Barely visible metallic coloration, usually on lips & cheeks (minor fault)
7. Steel Blue coloration fading in shades to blue (minor fault) or fading to shades of green (major fault) or turquoise (major fault)
8. Steel Blue coloration not of uniform hue (major fault)
9. Small amount(s) of metallic coloration, up to 10% coverage (major fault)
10. Red wash (major fault).
11. Steel Blue coloration not uniformly spread (severe fault).
12. Presence of any red color (severe fault unless relegated to ventrals)
13. Large amounts of Metallic coloration over 10% coverage requires moving to the dark Metallic class
14. Absence of a dark undercoating (disqualifying fault).
15. Presence of opaque (disqualifying fault)

CATEGORY—Iridescent

Subcategory—Non-Opaque

TYPE – TURQUOISE

Ideally, a darker shade of the color of the mineral Turquoise. This type of Betta has had a stormy past history because of its confusion with the Green type. Color preference is toward the lighter "aqua", "turquoise" tones of the blue rather than the darker green/yellow shades. It should appear to be a single even overall shade, rather than a mixture of blues and greens.

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Color Faults for Turquoise Bettas

1. White ventrals (slight fault)
2. Lack of turquoise iridescence on head (slight fault)
3. Lack of color on pectorals (slight fault)
4. Yellow wash (minor fault)
5. Red in ventrals (minor fault)
6. Barely visible metallic coloration, usually on lips & cheeks (minor fault)
7. Turquoise coloration fading in shades to green (minor fault) or fading to shades of blue (major fault) or steel blue (major fault)
8. Turquoise coloration not of uniform hue (major fault)
9. Red wash (major fault).
10. Turquoise coloration not uniformly spread (severe fault).
11. Small amount(s) of metallic coloration, up to 10% coverage (major fault)
12. Presence of any red color (severe fault unless relegated to the ventrals).
13. Large amounts of Metallic coloration over 10% coverage requires moving to the dark metallic class
14. Absence of a dark undercoating (disqualifying fault).
15. Presence of opaque (disqualifying fault)

CATEGORY—Iridescent

Subcategory—Non-Opaque

TYPE – GREEN

Ideally, a grass or forest green. Darker rather than brighter shades are desired. Green is the least fixed dark single color type because it is complicated by a tendency to vary in shade. There are at least two distinct subtypes. Subtype 1, True Green, has preference though the second subtype is more common. Green is not to be confused with Turquoise which has a much more distinct blue hue. Teal color is from metallic and should be moved to dark-bodied metallic.

Subtype--True Green

This sub-classification contains those Green Bettas that have a true "forest green" or "grass green" and are given intentional preference when judging.

Subtype--Common Green

Most "Green" Bettas are, in fact, this type, which is less desirable than true green. Common green is a bluish green fish although it has less blue than a turquoise--an often difficult fine hue distinction.

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Color Faults for Green Bettas

1. White ventrals (slight fault)
2. Lack of green iridescence on head (slight fault)
3. Lack of color on pectorals (slight fault)
4. Yellow wash (minor fault)
5. Red in ventrals (minor fault)
6. Barely visible metallic coloration, usually on lips & cheeks (minor fault)
7. Green coloration fading in shades to turquoise (minor fault) or fading to shades of blue (major fault) or steel blue (major fault)
8. Green coloration not of uniform hue (major fault)
9. Red wash (major fault).
10. Green coloration not uniformly spread (severe fault).
11. Small amount(s) of metallic coloration, up to 10% coverage (major fault)
12. Presence of any red color (severe fault unless relegated to ventrals).
13. Large amounts of Metallic coloration, over 10% coverage, including teal and emerald requires moving to the dark metallic class
14. Absence of a dark undercoating (disqualifying fault).
15. Presence of opaque (disqualifying fault)

CATEGORY—Iridescent

Subcategory— Opaque

No Types within this grouping are officially recognized. Blue, Steel Blue, Turquoise, or Green dark bodies Bettas with an opaque covering would belong here.

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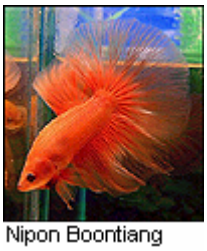
SUBGROUP--Single Light Color

General Basis of Faults of the Light Single Colored Bettas:

The "light" single colors differ from the single dark color Bettas primarily by lacking an undercoat of black coloration. The Colors not applicable to this Subgroup (light) are faulted if they appear to any degree on one of the fish of this type. The principles which determine the arrangement of the fault charts found in this portion of the text are:
---Dark colors are faulted on Light subgroup Bettas.
---Iridescence or metallic coloration is faulted on non-iridescent category Bettas.
---If a second color is present, and in high contrast with the main color, the more severe the fault.
---The degree to which a second color intrudes also affects the degree of severity of the fault.

SUBGROUP CHARACTERISTIC = Absence of dark undercoating
Presence of the dark undercoating is a disqualifying fault.

CATEGORY— Non-Iridescent
Subcategory—Non-Opaque
TYPE - ORANGE


Nipon Boontiang


Sarawut

Orange lines have been developed from marble and from light-bodied bi-color lines. The desired color is brilliant orange and yet "translucent" as in the flesh of a navel orange (and less like the peel). Red does not contrast as much as in yellow or clear bettas so it is not faulted as severely. Beware of light body bi-colors with orange fins - unless reclassified, disqualify.

Color faults of Orange Bettas:
1. Red vein effect (slight fault)
2. Clear / lack of color in fins (minor fault)
3. Black specs (minor fault if few in number; major if substantial)
4. Red streaks on fins (minor fault)
5. Black spots, streaks or patches (major fault)
6. Iridescence or metallic coloration (severe fault unless relegated to a few fin rays detectable by flashlight which can be major fault)
7. Presence of Opaque (disqualifying fault)
8. The presence of Black under-coloration (disqualifying fault)

CATEGORY— Non-Iridescent
Subcategory—Non-Opaque
TYPE – YELLOW

A brilliant yellow is ideal. Colors which tend to be very pale yellow or a brown tinted yellow are not desirable. Yellow results from a trait which transforms red, therefore the presence of red--except the vein line) is a serious error. WATCHOUT for Yellow Cambodians in a yellow class--unless reclassified, disqualify.

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Color faults of Yellow Bettas:
1. Red vein effect (slight fault)
2. Clear / lack of color in fins (minor fault unless substantial which can be major fault)
3. Black specs (minor fault if few in number; major if substantial)
4. Red streaks on fins (major fault)
5. Brown tint on fins (major fault)
6. Black spots, streaks or patches (major fault)
7. Iridescence or metallic coloration (severe fault unless relegated to a few fin rays detectable by flashlight which can be major fault)
8. Presence of Opaque (disqualifying fault)
9. The presence of Black under-coloration (disqualifying fault)

CATEGORY— Non-Iridescent

Subcategory—Non-Opaque

TYPE – CLEAR

Transparent body and fins are ideal. Colors from the body organs, however, cause the body to appear "pink"--others use the words "flesh-colored" or "creme" to describe this same color. The presence of any other color is a serious error.

Subtype—Cellophane
A colorless Betta body--flesh colored--with transparent fins. Eyes are dark, not red. Occasionally the cellophane is thought to be a bicolor: Pink/Clear. While that view is understandable it is not correct in the standards definition of cellophane. The cellophane is considered a single color. The name of that color is "clear". The pink of the body is due to the flesh/organs of the fish.

Subtype—Albino
Like cellophanes, these are colorless Bettas both in body and in fins. The eyes also show no coloration and are therefore red in appearance.

Color faults of Clear Bettas:
1. Red vein effect (slight fault)
2. Yellow or orange (minor fault)
3. Black specs (minor fault if few in number; major if substantial)
4. Red streaks on fins (major fault)
5. Black spots, streaks or patches (major fault)
6. Iridescence or metallic coloration (severe fault unless relegated to a few fin rays detectable by flashlight which can be major fault)
7. Presence of Opaque (disqualifying fault)
8. The presence of Black under-coloration (disqualifying fault)

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CATEGORY— Non-Iridescent

Subcategory—Opaque

No Types within this grouping are officially recognized. Yellow light bodied Bettas with an opaque covering would belong here.

CATEGORY— Iridescent

Subcategory—Non-Opaque

TYPE - PASTELS

Pastel colors include Pastel Blue, Pastel Green, Pastel White, etc. All of these lack dark under-coloration and heavy iridescent density. Therefore "green" for example is considerably different from the definition of "green" when referring to a single dark color Betta. Opaque Bettas (described below), and even semi-opaque Bettas are not acceptable as Pastels.

All permitted entries must be non-red or Red-loss and light-bodied. Thus they cannot show red or black under coloration. A light "dusting" of iridescence should cover the entire body and fins of the fish. The fins may be transparent, or translucent. These fish should not show opaque, no matter how slight.

Subtype--Pastel Blue

Jim Sonnier

Suporn

A light Sky Blue is ideal. Pale blue coloration that appears to lack the typical dark or "black" under-coloration. Must not show opaque, however slight. Its presence in a non-opaque category makes the absence of all opaque an essential trait. Though common, the presence of green tones is a fault.

Subtype--Pastel Green

Jim Sonnier

A light pale Green is ideal. Pale green coloration that appears to lack the typical dark or "black" under-coloration. Must not show opaque, however slight. Its presence in a non-opaque category makes the absence of all opaque an essential trait. Though common, the presence of blue tones is a fault.

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Subtype--Pastel White


Jim Sonnier

A light, "silvery" White is ideal. Pale steel blue coloration that appears to lack the typical dark or "black" under-coloration. Must not show opaque, however slight. Its presence in a non-opaque category makes the absence of all opaque an essential trait. Though common, the presence of blue or green tones is a fault.

Color faults of Pastel Bettas:

1. Clear / lack of color in fins (minor fault unless >half in which case this is a major fault)
2. Black specs (minor fault if few in number; major if substantial)
3. Barely visible metallic coloration, usually on lips & cheeks (minor fault)
4. Secondary Iridescence color, i.e. blue on a green pastel (major fault)
5. Small amount(s) of metallic coloration, up to 10% coverage (major fault)
6. Presence of Opaque (severe fault – even if relegated to just the head); if the Opaque is prevalent the Judge should consider moving the Betta to the appropriate Opaque class.
7. The presence of Black under-coloration (disqualifying fault)
8. The presence of Red coloration (disqualifying fault unless they are small light spot or two of random Red color is to be faulted at the Judge's discretion)
9. Large amounts of Metallic coloration over 10% coverage requires moving to the light metallic class

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CATEGORY— Iridescent

Subcategory—Non-Opaque

TYPE – OPAQUES

The fish under this category/subcategory are, by common practice called "opaques." Opaque colors include Opaque Blue, Opaque green, and Opaque White, etc. All of these also lack dark under coloration.

All permitted entries must be non-red or Red-loss and light-bodied. Thus they cannot show red or black under coloration. They MUST show opaque which covers the body.

Subtype--Opaque Blue

A light powder Blue is ideal. Basically contains the same colors as the Pastels. However, the fish is covered by a coat of Opaque pigment. Pale blue coloration which appears to lack the typical dark or "black" under-coloration is essential. Must show opaque. Though common, the presence of green tones is a fault.

Subtype--Opaque Green

A light powder Green is ideal. Pale green coloration which appears to lack the typical dark or "black" undercoloration. Must be opaque. Though common, the presence of blue tones is a fault.

Subtype--Opaque White

Brilliant dense white coloration which appears to lack the typical dark or "black" under-coloration. Must be opaque. Though common, the presence of non-white tones is a fault.

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SiamBettap Udom

Opaque White?

Though you will find the term OPAQUE WHITE used throughout this manual, it is more correctly referred to as OPAQUE STEEL BLUE since that is what the fish actually is genetically. However, judging does not concern itself with genetics, and therefore, it is accepted practice to refer to the fish by its phenotypic common name.

Color faults of Opaque Bettas:

1. Clear / lack of color in fins (minor fault unless >half in which case this is a major fault)
2. Black specs (minor fault if few in number; major if substantial)
3. Barely visible metallic coloration, usually on lips & cheeks (minor fault)
4. Secondary Iridescence color, i.e. blue on a white or green opaque (major fault)
5. Small amount(s) of metallic coloration, up to 10% coverage (major fault)
6. Opaque covering eyes (disqualifying if the fish cannot see; it will not flare against a fish that it should see in a container next t it)
7. The presence of Black under-coloration (disqualifying fault)
8. The presence of Red coloration (disqualifying fault unless they are small light spot or two of random Red color is to be faulted at the Judge's discretion)
9. Large amounts of Metallic coloration over 10% coverage requires moving to the light metallic class

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GROUP D--BICOLORED BETTAS

These are two color bettas. The body of a bicolor must be one single color and the fins must be one single, but different color than the body. Further categorization is determined by the specific body color. Technically, the Bicolor is one of the Patterned Bettas, but by common practice it is considered as a separate entry.

Different Colors?

The allowable fin and body colors are the same as listed under the Single Colored Bettas. Therefore, it is not necessary to describe the colors of each of the Bicolor Types below.

GROUP CHARACTERISTIC = Bicolor
Absence of the bicolor pattern is a disqualifying fault.

Emphasis of Judging Bicolored Bettas:

The primary concern centers on the two colors. Absolutely sharp restriction of one color to the body and the other to the fins is essential. The body colors are judged using the color descriptions found earlier. Contrast is also an important factor in judging bi-color bettas – all other things being equal a red-bodied fish with orange fins will not compete very well against a blue-bodied fish with yellow fins, since the latter shows much more contrast between the colors.

SUBGROUP—Dark-bodied Bicolor

Those Bettas that have a dark body--colors include Extended Red, Black, Blue, Steel Blue, Turquoise, Green, Teal, Metallic Green, Copper, Metallic Purple—and any other fin color. Dark-bodied metallic and other colors which do not have a single color description in these standards, i.e. brown, should be shown in Color Variations class because there is no existing basis (single color standard) for judging the color of those fish. "Masked" fish – those with body color extending to the head and gill plates should not be faulted but given the advantage.

General Basis of Faults of the Dark-bodied Bicolor Bettas:

Body colors which are not one of the six dark colors described earlier are not permitted and should be moved to a more appropriate class. The Fins can be one of the other dark colors or they may be one of the described light colors.

- Contrast is important.
- The body and fin colors should be strictly separated at the body/fin junctions.
- If additional colors are present on the body or fins that is a fault treated as explained by the color fault guides for Single Colored Bettas. For example, a Red Body--with iridescence on it--is scored in accordance with the Red Color Guide. The fins, if they are black for example, are scored as in the Black Color Guide.

SUBGROUP CHARACTERISTIC = Dark body undercoating
Absence of the dark body undercoating is a disqualifying fault.

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CATEGORY--Non-Iridescent

Subcategory—Non-Opaque

TYPE (same as for dark single colors)

Based on the color of the body refer to the appropriate Single Color Fault Guide. If there are unique Subtypes--those that have been given special recognition--they are included here. The Bicolor Subtypes are named in this format "Body/Fin", thus Red/White means a Bicolor Betta that has a Red Body and White Fins.

Category and Type Guides: See the guides for the color of the body found in the Single color section.

Subtype--Black/Yellow (Chocolate)

This is the only recognized subtype in this category.
The "black" of the body is a reduced color, closer to a brown.

CATEGORY—Iridescent

Subcategory—Non-Opaque

TYPE (same as for dark single colors)

Subcategory--Opaque

No Types within this grouping are <u>officially</u> recognized. Blue, Steel Blue, Turquoise, or Green dark bodied Bicolor Bettas with an opaque covering would belong here.

<u>Color Fault Guide for Dark Bodied Bi-Color Bettas</u>

1. Lack of body color on head (slight fault)
2. Lack of fin color on pectorals (slight fault)
3. Slight bleeding of body color into fins OR vice versa (slight fault if restricted to one of the unpaired fins; minor if on 2 or all 3 unpaired fins).
4. Third color intrusion (slight to severe depending on amount and particular color – see single color guide).
   amount can be SLIGHT – a few rays, edge of one fin, or scales to SEVERE – i.e. nearly all rays in all unpaired fins
   color can be SLIGHT – green on turquoise to SEVERE – opaque on black (see single color guide)
   (amount severity + color severity) /2 = fault for 3rd color intrusion
5. Contrast between body and fin colors is poor (major fault). Slight bleeding of body color into fins AND fin color bleeds into body (major fault)
6. Substantial bleeding of body color into fins OR vice versa (major fault)
7. Bleeding of body color into 1/3 or more of one or more non-paired fins (severe fault)
8. Bleeding of fin color into 1/3 or over body color (severe fault)

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SUBGROUP--Light Bodied Bi-color

A distinctly two-colored Betta with a light colored body, that is, flesh, opaque, pastel, orange, yellow, light red or any of these colors with metallic. Any color of fin different than the body color is acceptable.

General Basis of Faults of the Light Bicolored Bettas:
Body colors which are not one of the light colors described above are not permitted.. The Fins can be one of the other light colors or may be one of the described dark colors.
- Contrast is important therefore dark colored fins have preference over light fins.
- The body and fin colors should be strictly separated at the body/fin junctions.
- If additional colors are present on the body or fins that is a fault treated as explained by the color fault guides for Single Colored Bettas. For example, a Yellow Body—with iridescence on it—is scored in accordance with the Yellow Color Guide. The fins, if they are black for example, are scored as presented above in the Black Color Guide.

SUBGROUP CHARACTERISTIC = Absence of dark body undercoating
Presence of the dark body undercoating is a disqualifying fault.

CATEGORY—Non-Iridescent

Subcategory—Non-Opaque

TYPES—(Body Colors) Yellow, Orange, Clear

This is the only Type with recognized Subtypes. The body must be "flesh" color, the fins may be any other color except clear. Any dark color of fins is considered high contrast. A light color, such as a "yellow Cambodian," can be quite difficult to distinguish from a pale all-yellow Betta. "Cambodian" is defined as a flesh-colored body with fins of another color except transparent as in Cellophane.

Subtype—Clear/Red (Traditional Cambodian)

"Traditional Cambodian" is defined as a flesh-colored body with Red Fins. Fin colors other than red are commonly referred to as Cambodian AOC (Any Other Color) collectively.

The judging phenotype term Cambodian defined here should not be confused with the genetic definition of the "Cambodian" trait which is "absence of black pigment". The latter definition is not used for judging. For classes named "Cambodian", only a flesh-colored body—Cambodian or Cellophane—is permitted. If the class is further described as "Traditional Cambodian", the body must be "flesh" color and the fin color is restricted to Red.

CATEGORY—Iridescent

Subcategory—Non-Opaque

TYPES—(Pastel Body Colors) Blue, Green, and White (Steel)

Example: Pastel Green body/Yellow fins.

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CATEGORY—Iridescent

Subcategory—Opaque

TYPES—(Opaque Body Colors) Blue, Green, White

Example: Opaque White body/Red fins.

Color intrusion from either the body to the fins or from the fins to the body is one of the greatest variables in judging Bicolors.

Color Fault Guide for Light-Bodied Bi-Color Bettas

1. Lack of body color on head (slight fault)
2. Lack of fin color on pectorals (slight fault)
3. Slight bleeding of body color into fins OR vice versa (slight fault if restricted to one of the unpaired fins; minor if on 2 or all 3 unpaired fins)
4. Third color intrusion (slight to severe depending on amount and particular color – see single color guide)
   amount can be SLIGHT – a few rays, edge of one fin, or scales to SEVERE – i.e. nearly all rays in all unpaired fins
   color can be SLIGHT – green on turquoise to SEVERE – opaque on black (see single color guide!)
   (amount severity + color severity) / 2 = fault points for 3rd color intrusion
5. Contrast between body and fin colors is poor (major fault)
6. Slight bleeding of body color into fins AND fin color bleeds into body (major fault)
7. Substantial bleeding of body color into fins OR vice versa (major fault)
8. Bleeding of body color into 1/3 or more of one or more non-paired fins (severe fault)
9. Bleeding of fin color into 1/3 or over of body color (severe fault)

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GROUP--PATTERNED BETTAS

All Bettas have a "pattern". There are actually five patterns but, here again, we have a term that can be deceiving. The first two patterns are considered under their sections--the Single Color, pattern one and the Bicolor, pattern two, Bettas. So, normally when one hears the term "patterned" it refers only to the last three of the five patterns: the BUTTERFLY Bettas, the MARBLE Bettas, and the MULTICOLOR Bettas.

Emphasis of Judging Patterned Bettas:

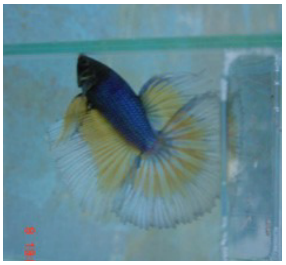
Beyond general Betta characteristics that always apply, the primary concern of judges in evaluating this kind of Betta is the uniformity, density, and nature of the pattern. The fault levels allocated to color are assigned to the pattern and not the colors within the pattern.

GROUP CHARACTERISTIC = Non-singlecolor or bicolor

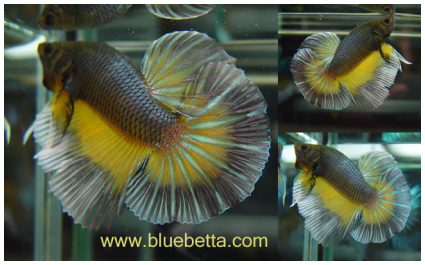
Presence of the singlecolor or bicolor pattern is a disqualifying fault.

SUBGROUP-- Butterfly

The Butterfly is a variegated Betta with a very specific fin pattern. The key is in the fins that display a banded pattern. Emphasis is placed on the contrast and crispness of the band not the coloring of the body and fins. The band should be crisp not just a lightening of opposing fin color. For example, a yellow Betta with yellow fins that have a lighter yellow outer band is not a butterfly but a fish with distinct yellow and clear bands on the fins is a butterfly. Bands should scribe an even oval around the fish. There are two forms the banding may take: A fin pattern with two bands, where the fins are divided in half by two opposing colors, and a multiple, three or more, band pattern, where the fins are divided equally between the number of bands. The multiple band pattern is sometimes difficult to identify since two of the bands, though distinct, may be subtle but different shades of the same color. In this case, shining a flashlight from behind the fins may aid in detecting this trait but the lack of definition between bands is considered a fault. The body color of the Butterfly Betta and the color in the first fin band may be either a single color, bicolored, marbled, or multicolor.



Chris Chua



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General Basis of Faults of the Butterfly Bettas

The principles which determine the fault levels found in this portion of the text are:

- For two band fins, the bands should occupy 1/2 the fin on all fins.
- For multiple band fins, each band should occupy 1/[number of bands] of the fin area on all fins.
- The dividing line between fin bands should be straight and scribe an oval around the Betta.
- The degree to which a second color intrudes, lack of crisp definition, also affects the degree of severity of the fault.

SUBGROUP CHARACTERISTIC = Butterfly Pattern

Absence of the Butterfly pattern is a disqualifying fault.

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CATEGORY— Single Color based

Subcategory — Two and Multiple Bands

TYPE – Red / Red-White

In this kind of butterfly the body must be one color. The inner band on the fins can be but does not have to be the same color as the body. The outer fin band should occupy the appropriate percentage of the fin/fins and maintain a different single color within the band. Bettas of this Category are named in the following sequence: Body color/Inner band--Outer band. Though only one subtype is shown here to represent them, there are actually many: Red/Red-clear, etc. The color possibilities are same as those shown in the Single Color group.

Hermanus

CATEGORY— Bicolor based

Subcategory — Two Bands

Bicolor based butterflies are just like the Bicolor group of Bettas except that the fins have a third color in the outer bands on the fins. Again, the outer band ideally is one color and covers 1/2 the area of each fin.

TYPE – Clear / Red-White

This is a representative of the Types that are available. Rather than list all of them, let it be sufficient to say that the body and inner band are those colors found among the Bicolor group with an outer band of any other color. This type is commonly called a Cambodian butterfly.

Subcategory — Multiple Bands

For these, the outer bands ideally cover 1/[number of bands] of the area of each fin. If there are 3 bands, for example, each band covers 1/3 of the fin area.

TYPE – Clear / White-Red-White

While all multiple banded Bettas might be impressive, it is the unique contrast of the dark central band that made the Tutweiler Betta famous.

CATEGORY— Marble based

Subcategory — None

The body must be as described in the Marble Classification. The inner fin band may be any solid color or it may be marbled though that would probably disrupt the inner band's appearance of uniformity. In the later case, the outer band must still be distinctly different than the inner band. Sharp division of the marble pattern is preferable to blending.

CATEGORY— Multicolor Based

Subcategory — None

The body and inner band must conform to the Multicolor Betta as described in the Multicolor Classification. The outer band/bands may contain different colors in the same band. Sharp division and contrast between bands is preferred to blending.

Color faults of Butterfly Bettas:

1. Lack of butterfly pattern in pectoral fins (slight fault)
2. Lack of butterfly pattern in ventral fins (minor fault)
3. Jagged separation between colors on pattern in one unpaired fin (minor fault)

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4. Blurred, non-crisp separation between colors on pattern in one unpaired fin (minor fault)
5. Slight third color intrusion (not part of pattern) on fins (minor fault)
6. Less than ½ of fin length but more than ¼ occupied by one of the two colors in one fin (minor fault)
7. Bleeding of fin pattern color into body (minor fault)
8. On 3-banded patterns – 3rd band is less than ¼ of length of fin (minor fault)
9. On 3-banded patterns – 3rd band is missing on dorsal fin (minor fault)
10. Lack of contrast between colors in pattern (minor fault)
11. On 3-banded patterns – 3rd band is missing on caudal or anal fin (major fault)
12. Jagged separation between colors on pattern in two or more unpaired fin (major fault)
13. Blurred, non-crisp separation between colors on pattern in two or more unpaired fin (major fault)
14. Less than ½ of fin length but more than ¼ occupied by one of the two colors in two or more unpaired fins (major fault)
15. Less than 1/4 of fin length occupied by one of the two colors in one unpaired fins (major fault)
16. Lack of butterfly pattern in any unpaired fin (major fault)
17. Less than 1/4 of fin length occupied by one of the two colors in two or more unpaired fins (severe fault)
18. Lack of butterfly pattern in 2 unpaired fins (severe fault)
19. Lack of butterfly pattern (Disqualifying fault)

SUBGROUP--Marble

The Marble Betta, like the Butterfly, is a Patterned Betta. However, it is variegated in a different manner. The key differences are the lack of fin banding and the presence of other colors on the body in a "marbled" effect. Two types of Marbles exist, the "Traditional Marble"and the newer "Colored Marble" which may have many colors other than the black/flesh/white combination. Though cellophane is sometimes considered to be a genetic marble variant, it is not classed as a marble phenotypically. The fins and body must show at least two colors. These must include a light and dark color mix. Fish exhibiting sharp "edges" to the marbling pattern are preferred over those with blended colors.

PG Saga

General Basis of Faults of the Marble Bettas:

The principles which determine the arrangement of the fault charts found in this portion of the text are:

- Mixing of the colors is a must -- "marbled".
- High Contrast between light and dark colors with good definition
- Symmetrical marbles should be studied closely for reclassification as variations.

SUBGROUP CHARACTERISTIC--Marble pattern

Absence of the marble pattern is a disqualifying fault.

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CATEGORY— None

Subcategory — None

TYPE – TRADITIONAL MARBLE

This is the type of marble also known as Traditional Marble. It distinctly lacks the colors red, green, blue, and steel blue that appear on colored marbles. The newer Metallic colors would also not be present on the Traditional Marble. Fins also do not contain those colors, and the fish is a mixture of black/flesh/white.

TYPE – COLORED

The face/chin area can retain characteristic marble flesh-color or white, but the body and fins may show a mix of red, green, blue, steel blue, or metallic coloration. The fish should not be faulted if the face/chin is a different color (black or red) as long as the fish has a definite marble pattern on the body. The body of these colored marbles may include any of the aforementioned colors. The color mixes with greater contrast are preferred. A mix of only green and red, for example, is not sufficient.

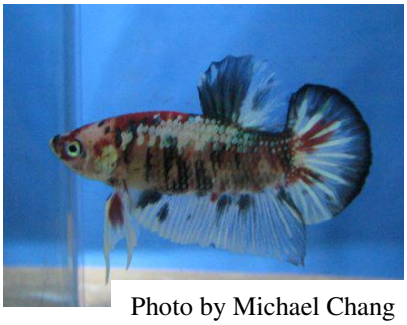

Photo by Michael Chang

Kelson

TYPE – RED MARBLE

This representative subtype shows the same colors of the traditional, but also includes red. Other subtypes include the color of their name.

Color faults of Marble Bettas:

1. A 50/50 blend between light and dark colors is ideal. Between 25% - 33% of either dark or light colors (minor fault)
   Exception to 1: A good "Dalmatian" pattern with even spread of spots and good contrast should not be faulted.
2. Pattern has poor contrast in 1 unpaired fin only (minor fault)
3. Less than 25% of either dark or light colors (major fault)
4. Lack of marble pattern in one unpaired fin (major fault)
5. Pattern has poor contrast in body (major fault)
6. Pattern has poor contrast in body and 1 or more unpaired fins (severe fault)
7. Lack of pattern on body (severe fault)
8. Lack of pattern in two unpaired fins (severe fault)
9. Butterfly pattern on 1 or more unpaired fins should not be faulted if the fish has a good marble pattern on the body. The exhibitor has the option of showing a fish with a butterfly pattern on all three unpaired fins in the butterfly class.

SUBGROUP--Multicolor

This designation is for Bettas with two, preferably three or more colors that do not fit into any of the other patterned categories. Ideally, the colors are in high contrast to each other. The colors are those normally seen in Bettas. However, simply having the head alone a different color or only having a different color (Black head in traditional iridescent colors) or only having a different color on the tip of the ventrals is not sufficient to be designated as Multicolor. Judges need be particularly cautious of Bettas shown as Multicolor that show as a second color only a fine wash, such as a "Blue with a bad Red wash", which is not sufficient.

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Lapheng – 2-Color MultiColor


Perez


Perez

SUBGROUP CHARACTERISTIC-- Non-singlecolor or bicolor
Presence of the singlecolor or bicolor is a disqualifying fault.

Color faults of Multicolor Bettas:

1. Only two colors – both present in all unpaired fins and body (major fault)
2. Only two colors with the body or one or more of the unpaired fins being a single solid color (severe fault)
3. Dull coloring or lack of bright colors (major fault)
4. One color is dominant (>80%) over the others severe fault)
5. Poor contrast between the colors (i.e. green blue and turquoise) (major fault)
6. Only two colors and one is only a light red or yellow wash (disqualify or move to single color)
7. Only two colors and one is clear patches in fins (severe or disqualify and move to single-color if clearing is minimal)
8. Marble pattern on body (disqualify and move, if allowed, to marble class). NOTE: do not disqualify a fish that only has flesh/yellow color on the face/chin. These may be genotypically marble but can compete in multicolor if they lack any other marble pattern and, yet, have good blend of colors.
9. Butterfly pattern on 2-3 unpaired fins (disqualify and move, if allowed, to butterfly class). Exception is a thin black or white edging on 1-3 unpaired fins. Note: a multicolor should not be faulted for having butterfly-type pattern on a single unpaired fin.

Contrast?
When the standards refer to contrast it means the relationship of the categorized colors.

High Contrast = Dark vs. Light / Iridescent vs. Non-Iridescent / Opaque vs. Non-Opaque.
Low Contrast = Colors within the same Subgroup, Category, Subcategory, or Type.

SUBGROUP—Grizzled


photo by Siegbert Illig

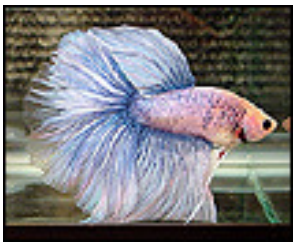
photo by Jim Sonnier

The Grizzle Betta is a patterned Betta. The grizzling shows a random flecking, spotting, or peppering of any iridescent color over a pastel or opaque body. Each of the fins should demonstrate some grizzled pattern exhibiting a swirled or paint brush stroke effect of color on all of the unpaired fins. Fins and body should show distinctly two shades of iridescent color (any one of the iridescent colors combined with the lighter pastel or

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opaque base color). Fish exhibiting an even spread, close to 50% iridescence and 50% lighter base color are preferred. No one grizzle color is preferred over another.

Color faults of Grizzled Bettas:

1. The presence of Black (minor fault). If the Black is extensive the Judge should consider moving the Betta to the Marble class.
2. The presence of Red (major fault). If the Red is extensive the Judge should consider moving the Betta to the Multicolor class
3. Fish with a Butterfly pattern (major fault). If the Butterfly pattern is extensive the Judge should consider moving the Betta to the Butterfly class
4. Fish with 80% or more pastel or opaque base color (Disqualifying Fault) These should be moved to either the Pastel or Opaque class.

COLOR FAULT SUMMARY FOR ALL COLORS

	Slight(-3)	**Minor(-5)**	**Major(-9)**	**Severe(-17)**	**Disqualify**
DARK					
1-Red 2-Black	White ventrals	Black(1) Red(2)	Steel(2)	Iridescence(1) Rust(2)	Wrong Class Opaque
3-Blue 4-Steel Blue 5-Turquoise 6-Green 7-Dk Metallics	White ventrals	Yellow wash Steel(3) Blue(4) Green(5) Turquoise(6) Black Red Ventrals	Red wash Steel(4,6) Blue(5,6) Green(3,4) Turq.(3,4) Purple wash (7)	Red	Wrong Class Opaque Metallic(3,4,5,6)
LIGHT	**Slight(-3)**	**Minor(-5)**	**Major(-9)**	**Severe(-17)**	**Disqualify**
8-Yellow 9 - Orange 10 –Clear 11 - Red	Red vein (8,9,10) White ventrals	Clear(8,9,11) Red (9) Yellow(10) Orange (8,10,11)	Red (8,10) Black	Iridescence	Wrong Class Opaque Dark- Undercoat (9,11)
12-Pastel 13-Opaque 14 – Lt Metallics		Clear	Iridescence (of another type)	Opaque(12)	Wrong Class Metallic (12,13)
	VIOLATION	LEVEL ---------	Type/ subtype	Category/ subcategory	Group/ subgroup

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GROUP K - METALLIC BETTAS

The metallic effect is generated by the spread of yellow-reflecting chromatophores over the body and fins of a fish. Against a dark background, this effect interacts with normal green and blue iridescence to generate dark-bodied iridescent fish of striking and unconventional hues. When combined with blue iridescence, the resulting fish is blue-green to teal-colored; when combined with steel, the fish adopt that unique coloration often marketed under the name 'copper'.

SUBGROUP --Dark-bodied Single Color Metallic

CATEGORY—Iridescent

Subcategory—Non-Opaque

Dark-bodied metallic fish are judged by the same criterion, as are dark-bodied iridescent fish. Specifically faults regarding to the spread of iridescence and absence of red or yellow pertain. Dark-body iridescent standards call for the iridescent color to extend as far forward on the fish as possible. The same standard applies to dark-bodied metallic fish, that is, iridescence covering the gill plates, head, and lips are favored in dark-bodied metallic fish and their absence faulted.

The dark-bodied metallic fish are often unusually variable in hue, ranging from a purplish 'copper', to a shiny steel, to blue-greens, to a teal blue. Uniformity of color over the body of the fish is ideal, so that a uniform teal blue color or uniform copper color would be preferred over a fish with patches that are green alternating with patches that are blue.

All general standards and special standards for dark-iridescent fish apply. Additional faults listed specific to the dark-bodied metallic Type are included.

TYPE – METALLIC COPPER (STEEL BLUE)

A deep shiny metallic copper color is desirable. Absence of all opaque is essential. Colors will vary in shade and hue from a new shiny copper penny to a darker color copper. Just like a true copper metal the spectrum of colors radiating back from a flashlight shined onto the fish will give you variations of purple, turquoise, blue and a pinkish purple. Given the fact that the known genetic background of this fish is derived from the steel blue color it will be referred to as "Copper" for clarification of it's color type.

TYPE – METALLIC TEAL (BLUE)

A deep shiny metallic teal green is desirable. Absence of all opaque is essential. All general color faults for the iridescent green will apply to the metallic teal. The degree to which blue displays itself should be minimal. A greener teal shade is more desirable than a teal blue.

TYPE – METALLIC GREEN

A deep shiny emerald green is desirable. Unlike the grass green or common green, the metallic green should shine like an emerald. Absence of all opaque is essential. All general color faults for the iridescent greens will apply to the metallic green.

Color Faults for DARK SINGLE COLOR METALLIC

1. Gill plates and head display metallic sheen, but covering is incomplete (slight fault)
2. Metallic coloration uniform, but fading toward edges of unpaired fins (minor fault)
3. Head black, lacking metallic sheen (major fault)
4. Metallic coloration not of uniform hue (major fault)
5. Red wash (major fault)
6. Steel Metallic with presence of green color (major fault)
7. Steel Metallic with presence of blue color (minor fault)
8. Teal Metallic with presence of blue color (major fault
9. Green metallic with presence of blue color (major fault)
10. Green Metallic with presence of black (major fault)
11. Metallic coloration not spread over entire fish (severe fault)
12. Absence of metallic coloration (disqualifying fault)

The degree to which any other colors display should be minimal and preferably not noticeable without the use of a flashlight. Judges should consider the amount of the color intrusion and may rate such from minor to severe based on the relativity to which it degrades the desirable color.

ALL OTHER DARK BODIED METALLIC COLORS SUCH AS BLACK OR PURPLE SHOULD BE SHOWN IN THE COLOR VARIATION CLASS.

ALL OTHER APPROPRIATE GENERAL AND SPECIAL FAULTS APPLY

SUBGROUP -- Light-bodied Single Color Metallic

CATEGORY— Iridescent

Subcategory—Non-Opaque

The light-bodied metallic bettas include any solid light-bodied single color (i.e. yellow, clear, orange, pastel, and opaque) fish that exhibit a metallic sheen, over the entire fish- Ideal is spread of metallic sheen over the entire fish including the head (mask effect). Some slang names of these fish may include: platinum, silver, gold, and yellow gold. Metallic patterned fish (i.e., bicolors, butterflies, marbles) are to be shown in the regular patterned classes or in color form variations if the exhibitor believes the color of sufficient novelty.

All general, as well as special standards pertaining to the color, apply for the light-bodied metallics. In particular, a yellow fish is judged by the yellow color standard, an opaque by the opaque standard, and so on. Fish are judged by the adherence to the ideal of their type and judged relative to one another by their respective departure from those ideals, as well as their adherence to the light bodied metallic standard.

One notable exception to the special standards pertains. In the non-iridescent solid colors, i.e., clear, yellow and orange, the presence of iridescence is faulted. The metallic effect is also iridescent, so in light bodied metallic classes the standards regarding absence of iridescence is taken to mean absence of blue or green iridescence.

SUBGROUP CHARACTERISTIC = Absence of dark undercoating:
Metallic Sheen

CATEGORY— Non-Iridescent

Subcategory—Non-Opaque

Subcategory --Opaque

TYPE -- YELLOW or GOLD METALLIC

Dennis Tan

The regular color standards for yellow will apply. A brilliant lemon yellow with a metallic sheen spread over the entire body is ideal. Pay special attention to the metallic sheen and make certain it is evenly spread over the fish. This type could easily be mistaken for Cambodian yellows as they also tend to show iridescence, which could be misconstrued for the metallic sheen.

TYPE – CLEAR METALLIC

The regular color standard for clear will apply. Transparent Body and Fins are ideal. The presence of any other color is a serious error. A clear metallic body will not appear pink as in the normal clear fish. The metallic sheen will shield the coloration from the body organs. They will appear very clear however their eyes will be dark as in the normal clear color.

TYPE – ORANGE METALLIC

A Bright true orange is the ideal color. The metallic orange would display a metallic sheen, which would make the orange appear richer in color. Imagine the wax effect on an orange color crayon and this would be very close to the ideal color desired.

Color Faults of Yellow/Clear/Orange Metallic

1. Metallic sheen uniform over fish, but not extended over head (slight fault)
2. Metallic sheen uniform over fish, but fading or darkening toward the unpaired fins (slight fault)
3. Yellow metallic with blue or green iridescence (major fault)
4. Yellow metallic with the yellow color not uniformly spread over entire fish (major fault)
5. Variation of yellow metallic color – bright to dull (major fault)
6. Clear metallic with presence of yellow fin rays (minor fault)
7. Clear metallic with occasional dark spotting on body or fins (minor fault)
8. Clear metallic with blue or green iridescence (major fault)
9. Clear metallic with presence of any red color (major fault)
10. Orange metallic with variations in shade of orange color (minor fault)
11. Orange metallic with blue of green iridescence (major fault)
12. Orange metallic with presence of red color (major fault)
13. Orange metallic with the orange color not uniformly spread over entire fish (major fault)
14. Metallic sheen present but not uniformly distributed over fish (major fault)
15. Presence of a dark undercoating (disqualifying fault)
16. Absence of metallic sheen (disqualifying fault)

TYPE – PASTEL METALLIC

The color standards for the regular pastel colors will apply. Colors include Pastel Blue, Green, White, Lavender, etc. All of these lack dark undercoloration. All of the permitted entries must be non-red and light bodied and must not show red or black undercoloration. Metallic pastels will show as shiny colors or as regular pastels. Presence of any dark body color is a disqualifying fault.

SUBTYPE – PASTEL BLUE METALLIC

A light shiny sky Blue is ideal. Pale blue coloration, lacking a dark or black undercoloration.

SUBTYPE – PASTEL GREEN METALLIC

A light shiny pale Green is ideal. Pale green coloration, lacking a dark or black undercoloration.

SUBTYPE – PASTEL WHITE METALLIC

A light shiny White is ideal. White coloration may vary in shade from Platinum White to Silver. Metallic white must not be confused with Opaque. This subtype should show as a clear fish with a metallic shine, which gives it the appearance of Metallic White.

Color Faults of Pastel Blue/Green/White Metallic

1. Metallic sheen uniform over fish, but not extended over head (slight fault)

2. Metallic sheen uniform over fish, but fading or darkening toward edges of the unpaired fins (slight fault)
3. Pastel Blue Metallic with variations in the shade of blue color (minor fault)
4. Pastel Blue Metallic with presence of green tones (major fault)
5. Pastel Green Metallic with variations in the shade of green color (minor fault)
6. Pastel Green Metallic with presence of blue tones (major fault)
7. Pastel White Metallic with the presence of blue or green tones (minor fault)
8. Pastel White Metallic with variations in the shade of the white color (minor fault)
9. Metallic sheen producing yellow fin rays (minor fault)
10. Metallic sheen present but not uniformly distributed over fish (major fault)
11. Absence of metallic sheen (disqualifying fault)

TYPE – METALLIC OPAQUE

The fish under this Category/subcategory are Opaques with a metallic sheen. All lack dark undercoloration, must be non-red and light bodied. They cannot show red or black undercoloration – must show opaque which covers the body. Colors include Blue, Green, and White. All general Opaque standards will also apply to the metallic opaques.

Typically Opaque refers to the build up of pigment over the body of the fish, which displays itself as a white or chalky coating. Uneven spread of the metallic iridescence will cause an opaque illusion on metallic fish. Particular attention should be paid to the extent of which the opaque presents itself on the entire body of the fish. An even spread is desirable.

SUBTYPE – METALLIC OPAQUE BLUE

A light shiny powder blue is ideal. Basically contains the same colors as the metallic pastels. However, a coat of Opaque pigment covers the fish. Pale Blue coloration, which appears to lack the typical dark or black undercoloration, is essential.

SUBTYPE – METALLIC OPAQUE GREEN

A light shiny powder green is ideal. Pale green coloration, lacking the typical dark or black undercoloration.

SUBTYPE – METALLIC OPAQUE WHITE

A brilliant shiny dense white color is ideal. White coloration, lacking the typical dark or black undercoloration.

Color Faults of Metallic Opaque

1. Metallic sheen uniform over fish, but not extended over head (slight fault)
2. Metallic sheen uniform over fish, but fading toward edges of the unpaired fins (slight fault)
3. Variation in the shade of the color (minor fault)
4. Metallic sheen producing yellow fin rays (minor fault)

5. Presence of green tones on the metallic opaque blue (major fault)
6. Presence of blue tones on the metallic opaque green (major fault)
7. Presence of non-white tones on metallic opaque white (major fault)
8. Metallic sheen present but not uniformly distributed over fish (major fault)
9. Absence of metallic sheen (disqualifying fault)

ALL OTHER APPROPRIATE GENERAL AND SPECIAL FAULTS APPLY

GROUP - WILD TYPES

There are many short-finned, or "wild types" of Bettas. At the beginning of Chapter 6 we defined "wild types" or stock as including Betta splendens Fighting Stock (also called plakat); Betta splendens varieties, Feral Stock (from the wild), and finally the non-splendens species of which there are many.

Emphasis of Judging: The degree to which the entries represent a top condition adult fish of the 'species' to which they belong.

Descriptions of some of the species are provided in an IBC Species Maintenance Committee publication that you may order. It is quite difficult to establish uniform standards of judging for such a diverse group, and therefore considerable subjectivity can be expected from the judge. The individual official class names (see Chapter 10) will indicate whether 'splendens' is permitted in the class, or whether that class contains fish from several species. Unlike show stock, they are usually stressed in bowls; expect difficulty in viewing.

Special Requirements

All entries must be shown as pairs. There will be two classes: Bubblenesters and Mouthbrooders.

- Refer to the species descriptions found in the Species Maintenance Committee booklet if unsure of the species of any entry.
- Hybrids are prohibited from any class falling under this group.
- All entry show bowls must be labeled, noting the presumed 'species' or variety of the entry, taken from the exhibition entry form. See Type listings for acceptable alternate labels.
- All entries will be given covered show bowls since many are prone to jump. Host clubs should provide larger (1 gallon) bowls for the larger type fish. This is for the protection of the fish, but is not a disqualification item if the bowls are not provided.

Guidelines for Judges

- In general, the vigorous, robust, healthy adult fish is preferred.
- Disqualify entries not properly labeled, after confirming that the fault is with the exhibitor and not the show committee.
- If the class contains only one 'species' or variety of 'wild types', preference is given to the entry that displays itself best, with due consideration to the behavior traits pertinent.
- If the class contains more than one 'species' or variety, size is to be considered in reference to the adult size of the individual species shown, not in comparison to the actual size of the other species being shown.
- Wild Bettas can be particularly prone to velvet. Check carefully to make sure that all specimens are healthy.

The Color Typing System

In the last chapter we used the Color Typing System and the various Color Fault Guides extensively. The Color Typing System does not apply in this or later chapters, but for continuity of style and form, we will continue using the categorizations and headings

Scientific Classification of Bettas

(The list is provided to IBC by the SMP).

Class: Teleostomi
Order: Perciformes
Suborder: Anabantoidei
Family: Belontiidae
Subfamily: Macropodinae
Genus: Betta
Species: (reported as species)

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Species	Taxonomist	Complex/Class	Synonyms
akarensis	Regan 1910	akarensis/F3	Climacura
albimarginata	Kottelat & Ng 1994	albimarginata/F2	
anabantoides	Bleeker 1851	other/F3	
aurigans		akarensis/F3	
balunga	Herre 1940	akarensis/F3	
bellica	Sauvage 1884	bellica/F3	fasciata, bleekeri
breviobesus	Tan & Kottelat 1998	pugnax/F3	
brownorum	Witte & Schmidt 1992	coccina/F1	
burdigala	Kottelet & Ng 1994	coccina/F1	
channoides	Kottelet & Ng 1994	albimarginata/F2	
chini	Ng 1993	akarensis/F3	
chloropharynx	Kottelet & Ng 1994	waseri/F3	
coccina	Vierke 1979	coccina/F1	
cracens		pugnax/F3	
dimidiata	Roberts 1989	other/F3	
edithae	Vierke 1984	other/F3	
enisae	Kottelat 1995	pugnax/F3	
falx	Tan & Kottelat 1998	picta/F2	
foerschi	Vierke 1979	foerschi/F3	sp. Mandor
fusca	Regan 1910	pugnax/F3	
gladiator		unimaculata/F3	
hipposideros	Kottelet & Ng 1994	waseri/F3	
ibanorum		akarensis/F3	
	Ladiges 1975	splendens/F1	Phuket
lehi		pugnax/F3	
livida	Kottelet & Ng 1992	coccina/F1	
macrostoma	Regan 1910	unimaculata/F3	
miniopinna	Tan & Tan 1994	coccina/F1	
obscura		akarensis/F3	
ocellata	De Beaufort 1933	unimaculata/F3	
pallifina		unimaculata/F3	
pallida		pugnax/F3	sp. Southern Thailand
patoti	Weber & de Beaufort 1922	unimaculata/F3	
persephone	Schaller 1986	coccina/F1	
pi	Tan 1998	waseri/F3	
picta	(Valenciennes 1846)	picta/F2	Panchax pictum, trifasciata
pinguis	Tan & Kottelet 1998	akarensis/F3	
prima	Kottelat 1994	pugnax/F3	
pugnax	(Cantor 1849)	pugnax/F3	*
pulchra	Tan & Tan 1996	pugnax/F3	
raja		pugnax/F3	
renata	Tan 1998	waseri/F3	
rubra	Perugia 1893	foerschi/F3	
rutilans	Witte & Kottelat 1991	coccina/F1	
schalleri	Kottelet & Ng 1994	other/F3	
simorum	Tan & Ng 1996	bellica/F3	
simplex	Kottelet 1994	picta/F2	sp. Krabi
smaragdina	Ladiges 1972	splendens/F1	
spilotogena	Kottelet & Ng 1994	waseri/F3	
splendens	Regan 1910	splendens/F1	Micracanthus marchei
stigmosa		pugnax/F3	
stiktos		splendens/F1	
strohi	Schaller & Kottelat 1989	foerschi/F3	
taeniata	Regan 1910	picta/F2	
tomi	Kottelet & Ng 1994	waseri/F3	
tussyae	Schaller 1985	coccina/F1	
unimaculata	(Popta 1905)	unimaculata/F3	Parophiocephalus unimaculatus, ocellata
waseri	Krummenacher 1986	waseri/F3	Macropthalma

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Splendens Complex:

The Splendens complex is divided into splendens, smaragdina, imbellis, stiktos, sp Mahachai, sp Banpeaw.

Splendens:

Currently listed as the senior species, this might change as more work is done on the complex. An original citation is found back in 1878 so splendens could become Betta marchei.

Form and Deportment: Splendens should be alert and will flare at each other like domestic splendens. The easiest way to identify splendens from the other species is the bars on the operculum or gill cover. On splendens the gill covers will be mainly red, some local variants have yellow or gold, none have green or blue. To Identify splendens from hybrid splendens one should compare the body forms. Hybrids have a stockier body. Hybrids may have "wild" coloration but the body shape and size can give them away.

Disqualifications: Green or Blue gill plates, non standard wild color, disproportionate size. Elongated fins.

Male "wild splendens"


Male "wild splendens"

Sexing: Males typically have longer fins and more intense color. Females should show the typical egg tube and be rounder in the abdomen and midsection.

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Imbellis:

The most common complex species in South East Asia. Imbellis was first described in 1975. Imbellis translates to peaceful (not warlike) however imbellis can be just as aggressive as splendens and is used to fight like all other members of the complex. Adult size is 2 inches.

Deportment: Imbellis should be alert and may at times flare. Typical imbellis will have the red anal slash and a red crescent in the tail. The iridescence should be green to blue and the gill plates should be green or blue. Imbellis should be more slender then splendens, the base coloration should be the similar.

Disqualification: Stocky Body, Any other color then blue or green on the gill plates. Any body color other then the standard wild coloration.

Male Betta imbellis "Naratiwat"

Male Betta imbellis "Ko Samui"

Typical female imbellis

Sexing: Males typically have longer fins and more intense color. Females should show the typical egg tube and be rounder in the abdomen and midsection.

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Smaragdina:

Found in the North Eastern parts of Thailand, it can be the largest member of the complex. Smaragdina are peaceful, however smaragdina can be just as aggressive as splendens and is used to fight like all other members of the complex. Adult size is 2 ½ inches.

Deportment: Smaragdina should be alert and may at times flare. Typical smaragdina will have a base red color with green iridescence. The gill plates are normally covered by the iridescence and smaragdina will normally have the "wild" black spots on their fins.

Disqualification: Stocky Body, Any other color then blue or green on the gill plates. Any body color other then the standard wild coloration.

Male smaragdina

Female smaragdina

Sexing: Males typically have longer fins and more intense color. Females should show the typical egg tube and be rounder in the abdomen and midsection.

Species Mahachai and Banpeaw:

Found in the salt marshes around Bankok. These species are peaceful however can be just as aggressive as splendens and is used to fight like all other members of the complex. Mahacahai adults will be 2 ½ inches. Banpeaw adults will be 2 to 2 ½ inches.

Deportment: Species should appear alert and should flare. Typically these species will have a base red color with green iridescence and can have "wild" spots. The gill plates are green in color. Both can have the "spade tail" in the males.

Disqualification: Stocky Body, Any color other then blue or green on the gill plates. Any body color other then the standard wild coloration.

Betta sp. Mahachai

Betta sp. Banpeaw

Sexing: Males typically have longer fins and more intense color. Females should show the typical egg tube and be rounder in the abdomen and midsection.

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Hybrids: Spotting hybrids can be a difficult task if you do not know what you are looking for.

In this example notice the coloration is too intense. The head resembles splendens, the body is too stocky and the spots in the tail is a smaragdina trait and the opercular bars are green another smaragdina trait. This fish is a wild caught smaragdina x splendens hybrid.

	B. splendens	B. imbellis	B. smaragdina
Gill Plate	2 red vertical bars	2 blue vertical bars	almost entirely covered with green scales
Body	standard	standard	longer compared to the first 2 species
Pelvic fin (First ray)	black w/white tip	black w/white tip	black w/ white tip
Caudal fin color	blue and red, with red border the tip no dark dot marking	blue and red, with red border the tip no dark dot marking	blue and red no red border the tip some population with dots
Size of un-paired fins	standard	standard	larger than the first 2 species

Chart Prepared by Nonn Panitvong

Bellica Complex:

The Bellica Complex is divided into bellica and simorum.

Bellica:

Bellica is found in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand and was introduced in the Dominican Republic. Bellica size will be 4 ½ to 5 inches in length and is not demanding as to their water conditions. Can be combative with other of its complex; however they are typically a shy fish.

Deportment: Sometimes aggressive. Can be quite sluggish. May be very quick. An intelligent, curious Betta. May flare at image but too large to display well in a bowl.

Disqualification: Broad head (Indicating a Mouthbrooder). Any color other then the yellowish tanish body with green iridescence.

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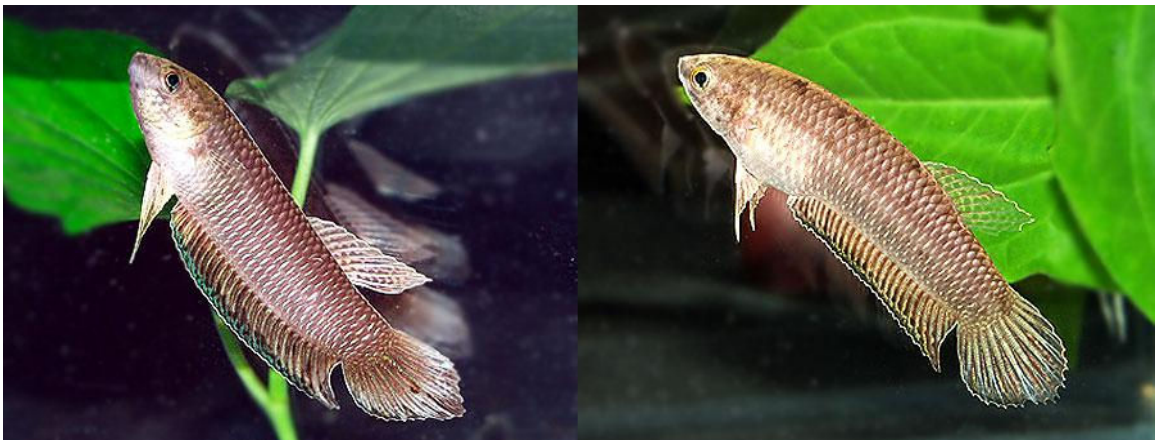

Sexing: Males have a spike in the caudal fin and will have extensions in their anal fin. Females will have a rounded caudal tail and may have a plumper belly.

Simorum:

Simorum is found in peat swamps of Indonesia. Simorum size will be 4 ¾ to 5 inches in length and is not demanding as to their water conditions. Can be combative with other of its complex; however, they are typically a shy fish.

Deportment: Sometimes aggressive. Can be quite sluggish. May be very quick. An intelligent, curious Betta. May flare at image but too large to display well in a bowl.

Disqualification: Broad head (Indicating a Mouthbrooder). Any color other then the yellowish tanish body with green iridescence.

Sexing: Males have a spike in the caudal fin and will have extensions in their anal fin. Females will have a rounded caudal tail and may have a plumper belly.

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Coccina Complex:

The Coccina complex is divided into the species brownorum, burdigala, coccina, livida, miniopinna, persephone, rutilans, tussyae, uberis, and sp. Sukadana. Most of these species inhabit blackwater peat swamps that are very low in pH from 3.7 to 5.0. Identification of individual species requires taxonomical keys and sometimes their exact location of capture must be known. Some species are also highly variable in appearance and this makes identification even more difficult.

Species	Dorsal Fin	Side Markings	Pelvic Fins
Coccina	Small	Green Blotch*	Red, Black tip
Livida	Small	Small Green Blotch*	Red, White tip
Brownorum	Small	Large Green Blotch	Red, White tip
Burdigala	Large	Green Side	Red, White tip
Miniopinna	Small	None	Red, White tip
Persephone	Small	None	Black, rarely red, White tip
Rutilans	Small	None	Red, Long, White tip
Tussyae	Small	None	Red, Short, White tip
Uberis	Large	Green Side	Red, White tip
sp. Sukandana	Large	None	Red, White tip

* Some populations do not have side blotches.

Coccina:

Info: Coccina comes from the blackwater swamps of Indonesia and can be found in Malaysia. Coccina can be highly variable in its appearance. Typically the male has a green blotch or spot on his side but some populations lack the spots and others have the green sides instead of the spot. Adult size is 2 ¾ inches.

Coccina Female

Coccina Male

Deportment: Typically a shy and sulking fish preferring to hide. Males can flare against other males or females.

Sexing: Males have longer fins that are pointed and typically edged in white. Females will have a plumper abdomen and may display an egg tube.

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Livida:

Info: Found in Blackwater streams of Malaysia where the pH is between 3.5 and 3.7 where the temperature does not exceed 75 F. Livida is noted for green eyes opposed to the typically blue eyes of coccina however coccina can have green eyes and livida will have a smaller green side blotch. Adult size is 2 inches.

Deportment: A shy retreating fish that can flare at rival males and females.

Disqualification: Blue eyes (indicating coccina), large side blotch (indicating another species)

Sexing: Males always have longer fins with pointing on the anal and dorsal fins. Males may have white edging in the fins.

Brownorum

Info: Brownorum comes from Indonesia, Malaysia, central and eastern Thailand, Kampuchea and southern Vietnam. This species is another peat swamp fish coming from low pH water. Brownorum have been known to mouthbrood and bubblenest. Adult size is 1 ¾ inches.

Deportment: Brownorum can be active and will actively flare at other similar species. Brownorum should appear alert and active.

Disqualification: Small side blotch (indicating another species)

Sexing: Males always have longer fins with pointing on the anal and dorsal fins. Males may have white edging in the fins.

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Burdigala

Info: Burdigala is found on Bangka island in Indonesia. When the male is not colored up he may have a black spot about two thirds of the way down his body. Adult size is 2 ½ inches.

Deportment: Can be a showy fish when flaring. Should be alert and not sulking.

Disqualification: Non black side blotch (indicating another species), Small dorsal fin indicating another species.

Sexing: Males always have longer fins with pointing on the anal and dorsal fins. Males may have white edging in the fins.

Miniopinna

Info: Miniopinna comes from the swamp forest at Tanjong Bintan on Riau Island in Indonesia.
Adult size is 1 ½ inches.

Deportment: Can be a showy fish when flaring. Should be alert and not sulking.

Disqualification: Black pelvic fins (indicating persephone). Large dorsal fin indicating another species.

Sexing: Males always have longer fins with pointing on the anal and dorsal fins. Males may have white edging in the fins.

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Persephone

Info: Found north of Ayer Hitam in Malaysia. Listed as critically endangered. Persephone is dark and when excited males turn solid black with green iridescence. Adult size is ½ inches.

Deportment: Can be a showy fish when flaring. Should be alert and not sulking.

Disqualification: Large dorsal fin indicating another species.

Sexing: Males always have longer fins with pointing on the anal and dorsal fins. Males may have white edging in the fins. Females should show ovipositor or egg tube.

Rutilans

Info: Found in Kalimantan Barat Borneo. Rutilans is red without any green markings. It is a smaller species. Rutilans does not have the green iridescence as most of the other members of the coccina complex however sp. cf. rutilans has the green like burdigala. Adult size is 2 ½ inches.

Deportment: Can be a showy fish when flaring. Should be alert and not sulking.

Disqualification: Large dorsal fin indicating another species.

Sexing: Males always have longer fins with pointing on the anal and dorsal fins. Males may have white edging in the fins. Females should show ovipositor or egg tube.

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Tussyae

Info: Tussyae comes from the Pahang State of Malaysia in blackwater swamps. It lacks the star or blotch on the sides that many other members of the complex. Adult size is 2 ½ inches.

Deportment: Can be a showy fish when flaring. Should be alert and not sulking.

Disqualification: Green or Blue side blotch (indicating another species), Large dorsal fin indicating another species.

Sexing: Males always have longer fins with pointing on the anal and dorsal fins. Males may have white edging in the fins. Females should show ovipositor or egg tube.

Uberis

Info: Recently described species formerly sp. Pangkalanbun. Adult size is 2 inches.

Deportment: Can be a showy fish when flaring. Should be alert and not sulking.

Disqualification: Side blotch (indicating another species), Small dorsal fin indicating another species.

Sexing: Males always have longer fins with pointing on the anal and dorsal fins. Males may have white edging in the fins. Females should show ovipositor or egg tube.

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sp. Sukadana

Info: sp. Sukadana comes from Kalimantan Barat area. Looks very much like uberis with the exception that uberis has iridescent sides where as sp. Sukadana does not. Adult size is 2 inches.

Deportment: Can be a showy fish when flaring. Should be alert and not sulking.

Disqualification: Side blotch (indicating another species), Small dorsal fin indicating another species.

Sexing: Males always have longer fins with pointing on the anal and dorsal fins. Males may have white edging in the fins. Females should show ovipositor or egg tube.

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Picta Complex:

The Picta Complex contains the species picta, falx, simplex and taeniata.

Picta

Originally thought to have a wide range in Southeast Asia but as taxonomists examine the populations more closely they are classifying them as new species. These species are increasingly common and ease of breeding and keeping are increasing their popularity. Adult size is 2 ½ inches.

Deportment: Should be alert but many mouthbrooders tend to sulk in bowls. A sprig of plants generally helps with this.

Disqualification: Any fish showing any signs of disease. Two fish showing the same anal stripes.

Sexing: Both sexes can display an anal stripe but the Male is very pronounced. Males may have a much deeper color almost to a brick red color. Males also have a wider head and if the female is subjected to enough light her ovaries may be seen.

Falx

A recently named species and a subset of the former picta population. Falx is virtually identical to picta in almost every respect and is virtually indistinguishable from them in the aquarium. Adult size is 2 ½ inches.

Deportment: Should be alert but many mouthbrooders tend to sulk in bowls. A sprig of plants generally helps with this.

Disqualification: Any fish showing any signs of disease. Two fish showing the same anal stripes.

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Sexing: Both sexes can display an anal stripe but the Male is very pronounced. Males may have a much deeper color almost to a brick red color. Males also have a wider head and if the female is subjected to enough light her ovaries may be seen.

Simplex

Simplex is also one of the newer species from Thailand. They can be much more quarrelsome then other members of the picta complex. Adult size is 2 ½ inches.

Deportment: Should be alert but many mouthbrooders tend to sulk in bowls. A sprig of plants generally helps with this.

Disqualification: Any fish showing any signs of disease. Two fish showing the same anal stripes.

Sexing: Both sexes can display an anal stripe but the Male is very pronounced. Males may have a much deeper color almost to a brick red color. Males also have a wider head and if the female is subjected to enough light her ovaries may be seen.

Taeniata

Taeniata is a seldom seen largest member of the picta complex. They can be quite alert and quite active. Adult size is 3 inches.

Deportment: Should be alert but many mouthbrooders tend to sulk in bowls. A sprig of plants generally helps with this.

Disqualification: Any fish showing any signs of disease. Two fish showing the same anal stripes.

Sexing: Both sexes can display an anal stripe but the Male is very pronounced. Males may have a much deeper color almost to a brick red color. Males also have a wider head and if the female is subjected to enough light her ovaries may be seen.

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Unimaculata Complex:

The Unimaculata Complex contains the species unimaculata, macrostoma, patoti, ocellata, pallifina, and gladiator. Morphologically they are unlike any other wild Bettas and some have maintained they should be their own genus.

Unimaculata

Unimaculata is a very inquisitive species but is also very jumpy capable of leaps of over 2 feet in the air. Although not very colorful they are flashy in their own right. Adult size is 5 inches.

Deportment: They should look alert and with fins erect and not clamped. They may flare or use a "yawning display" for dominance.

Disqualification: Any signs of disease and clamped fins.

Sexing: Can be difficult with this species but males tend to have cheek iridescence that females tend not to have and older mature males will have labial flaps on their lips.

Macrostoma

Macrostoma is considered to be the prize gem in the Betta world because of its rarity and difficulty of keeping. Their prices have steadily dropped as more and more people are breeding them successfully. There are two forms of macrostoma and they may eventually be classified as two separate species. The form we recognize is the Brunei Form and not the Malaysian Form. Adult size is 5 ½ inches.

Deportment: Should be active and alert but this species will probably sulk unless it has been acclimated to showing.

Disqualification: Any sign of disease. Female showing male coloration.

Sexing: When the male is mature sexing is easy as the male becomes an orange brown with a spot in the dorsal fin as well as banding in the tail. Look for pattern in the unpaired fins of Macrostoma to determine if the female is actually a female. The body color can look female but the fins will frequently give a subdominant male away.

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Patoti

Patoti is a relatively hard to find member of the unimaculata complex. Females are aggressive to rival males and may actually kill them. Adult size is 5 inches.

Deportment: Should be active and alert and not showing any signs of disease.

Disqualification: Both specimens having vertical stripes. The male may not display the stripes all the time.

Sexing: In mature fish the male should show vertical striping but the female will not. The female should not show any or very little cheek iridescence however males can but may not either depending on mood and population.

Ocellata

Another rarely encountered fish of the unimaculata complex for all intents are virtually identical to Unimaculata. Adult size is 5 inches.

Deportment: Should be alert but may sulk.

Disqualification: Any signs of disease, female with male iridescence.
Sexing: Males have larger lips and more intense iridescence (see pictures above).

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Pugnax Complex:

The Pugnax Complex contains the species pugnax, cracens, enisae, fusca, lehi, pallida, prima, pulchra, schalleri, stigmosa, and raja.

Pugnax

Pugnax is one of the larger mouthbrooders and is readily available but because of the lack of color is seldom kept. Mature males have long extensions on the pelvic and anal fins and will have a pointed tail, females do not. Adult size is 5 inches.

Deportment: Should be alert and pugnax is easily bowl trained.

Disqualification: Any fish showing any signs of disease. Both fish showing long fin extensions.

Sexing: Males have long fin extensions on the pelvic and anal fins as well as a pointed caudal fin. Males may also show green iridescence on their cheek.

Enisae

Enisae is one of the newer species from the Kapuas region and sports a brilliant blue band on the anal fin and tail like a majority of the species from that region. Can be aggressive but in all other respects very similar to pugnax. Adult size is 3 ½ inches.

Deportment: Should be alert and active however might sulk.

Disqualification: Both fish showing a brilliant blue band.

Sexing: Males will have a more pointed caudal than the female, males will show a blue or green cheek coloring. Males will also have longer pelvic fins and should have a point in the anal fin.

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Fusca

Fusca is an early described species but the specimens that were available were dubious at best. Fusca has recently been imported in large numbers from reliable sources and is now readily available. Adult size is 5 inches.

Deportment: Should be Alert but might sulk.

Disqualification: Any sign of illness or disease, female with male finnage.

Sexing: Males have a golden iridescence in the cheek; females will mainly show stripes or no color at all. Males have much longer pelvic fins and have an extension of the anal fin and a caudal spike.

Pallida

Pallida is a recently described species from Thailand that is rather drab but the species is becoming more available. Adult size is 4 to 5 inches.

Deportment: Should be alert and fins erect.

Disqualification: Any sign of disease, female showing a distinctive caudal spike.

Sexing: Males have longer pelvic fins and a pronounced caudal spike. Males are also more iridescent.

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Prima


Betta prima male


Betta prima female

Prima is also a recently described species which is becoming more available. Adult size is 3 ½ inches.

Deportment: Should be alert with fins erect.

Disqualification: Any sign of disease. Female showing male finnage.

Sexing: Males have a caudal spike as well as longer pelvic fins and an extension of the anal fin.

Raja

Another recently described species that is readily imported. Adult size is 5 inches.

Deportment: Should be Alert with fins erect.

Disqualification: Any sign of disease, females sporting male finnage.

Sexing: Males have longer pelvic fins and a large anal extension. Males also have green golden iridescent cheeks.

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Albimarginata Complex:

The Albimarginata Complex currently contains only two species, albimarginata and channoides however there is the possibility of two more species being described from these species.

Albimarginata

Albimarginata is clearly one of most beautiful of the wild bettas available however it is still rare but is becoming more common. It is a small but very flashy species. Adult size is 2 inches.

Deportment: Should be alert however will probably sulk as it is a shy species.

Disqualification: Any sign of disease, females showing male coloration.

Sexing: Can be difficult to sex unless the male is colored up. The male tends to have a larger white band and an orange cheek flash.

Channoides

Another rare Mouthbrooder that is becoming increasingly available. Also like albimarginata these are small fish and may not be colored up in a show setting. Adult size is 2 inches.

Deportment: Should be alert but may sulk due to stress.

Disqualification: Any signs of disease. Both fish showing male coloration.

Sexing: Can be rather difficult, males normally have bigger heads and when colored up are easy to distinguish.

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Foerschi Complex:

Currently four species listed, foerschi, strohi, mandor, rubra. Betta rubra has not been seen since the 1890s however some collectors claim to have recently found some and they may become available soon.

Foerschi

Foerschi is relatively easy to keep but shows its best conditions in acidic water. Males can be quite flashy while females remain relatively plain. Males can go from brown (colored like the female on right) to jet black with blue and green iridescent overlay making a quite beautiful fish. Adult size is 3 inches.

Deportment: Should be active and alert with fins erect.

Disqualification: Males with gold opercular bars (strohi), females showing male coloration.

Sexing: Males have red opercular bars and have a slight caudal spike and a more pointed anal

Mandor

A newly described species very similar to foerschi. Adult size is 3 inches.

Deportment: Should be active and alert with fins erect.

Disqualification: Males with gold opercular bars (strohi), females showing male coloration.

Sexing: Males have red opercular bars and have a slight caudal spike and a more pointed anal fish.

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Strohi

A newer species that is quite similar to foerschi or mandor except for the gold opercular bars instead of the red. Note on all species the females retain the gold opercular bars. Adult size is 3 inches.

Deportment: Should be active and alert with fins erect.

Disqualification: Males with red opercular bars (foerschi and mandor), females showing male coloration.

Sexing: Males have gold opercular bars and have a slight caudal spike and a more pointed anal fish.

Akarensis Complex:

Deportment: larger species that will probably skulk in a bowl

Betta akarensis – Light brown to gold species with golden iridescence on the scales. Gold to light green iridescent patch on cheeks on both males and females. Extended fins or fin extensions on both sexes but males will be longer. Grows to 5".

Betta antoni – brown toned body distinguished by its black lower lip, black chin bar and slim body profile.
Will reach 5 inches in length.

Betta chini – big, brown species that reaches 5.5" in length. May have a slight green iridescence to the cheek. The body has a slight green iridescence that is more pronounced on males. This species frequently displays two horizontal black bars. Males have longer finnage.

Betta ibanorum – Dark brown species reaching 5" in length. Finnage very reminiscent of pugnax complex species, with which it can easily be confused.

Anabatoides Complex:

Betta anabatoides - Large, unspotted mouthbrooder. Pale yellow to tan in color with some iridescence and slightly elongated fins or fin extensions on males. Grows to 5" in length.

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Waseri Complex:

Large species that will probably skulk in a bowl.

Betta waseri – Light brown species with dark brown to black horizontal bars. Reaches 5.5" in length. Gill cover can show some green iridescence; otherwise, little if any iridescence on the body. Males have spade shaped caudals and longer dorsal and anal fins than females.

Betta chloropharynx – Large, brown species with very little iridescence. Can show horizontal barring. Most colorful feature is a green throat. Males with slightly longer fins. Grows to 5".

Betta pi – Large, brown species with little iridescence. Wild specimens can grow to 7" but captive bred individuals rarely exceed 5.5". This species is easily identified by the marking in the shape of the mathematical symbol for pi on its lower lip and chin. Males have longer finnage.

Betta tomi – Large, brown species with more iridescence than many of the other members of this complex. Cheek and chin area can be green to greenish blue. The same color may continue through the lower half of the fish. Males have longer finnage. Grows to 5.5".

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EXHIBITS:
Bettas in this group are quite a mix of types. Simply put, it contains those other than the Single Color, Bicolor, Patterned and Wild Types that have been previously described. Also, there is a subgroup for optional exhibits, such as photography.

GROUPED

PAIRS

EMPHASIS OF JUDGING:
The Bettas are judged as a unit, not as individuals. Ideally the pair is compatible in size with the female being slightly smaller than the male. The pair must exhibit the ability to be a genuinely compatible pair for breeding.

Entries in this classification are comprised of a male and a female with the emphasis on breed ability – to perpetuate that type of Betta. Pair entries desirably will exhibit the best traits and characteristics for their type. The intent of this class is to exhibit the best breedable pair.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

™ The pair must match in form, color and finnage while taking into account the differences in male and female form and finnage. Thus, while a red male and a blue female may in fact be breedable, they cannot be shown as a breeder pair. Should a pair member die before the judging starts, the remaining member will be automatically entered in the appropriate single fish class.

™ Any type of Betta may be shown in pairs including the variations (assuming both show the variation). Entries must be siblings from the same spawn. Pairs will be shown as two groups- Splendens and Wild type.

™ There are two exceptions to the breedability requirement

1. Blue pairs may be shown although a cross would not produce blue fry.
2. Black males may be exhibited with either fertile or infertile black females.

™ Examples of pairs not permitted are:

1. Black male/Steel Blue Female (or any other color mismatch).
2. Betta imbellis male/Betta splendens female (or any other 'species/variation' mix).
3. Bubblenest builder male/Mouthbrooder female.
4. Singletail male/Doubletail female.
5. Pairs exhibiting the same faults. (Emphasis is placed on refraining from entering pairs that would not be entered singularly in a regular show class – therefore pairs displaying the same color fault such as red wash, irregular color patterns, etc., are not recognized as displaying exceptional qualities)

GUIDELIINE: Judge for all standard Betta characteristics, applying appropriate guidelines for the color/classification represented by the fish. All form standards for each breed will apply as outlined by that particular standard.

ALL GENERAL FORM AND FINNAGE AND COLOR FAULTS APPLY. MATCHING FAULTS THAT ARE MAJOR TO SEVERE AS EXPLAINED IN PREVIOUS PARAGRAPHS ARE SUBJECT TO DISQUALIFICATION.

FAULTS :

1. Variations in color shades between the pair (major fault)
2. Patterned pairs not exhibiting the exact same color or pattern distribution (severe fault)
3. Size mismatch that would impede breeding (severe fault)
4. Mismatched dorsal fins such as St to DT (disqualifying fault)
5. Improperly matched pairs, as outlined in examples of pairs not permitted (disqualifying fault)

Ignore Black Female Infertility. This is essential since you are to judge on phenotype, and cannot be expected to know for certain that the female exhibited is infertile.

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Mixed Colors	Alternating color stripes
Johnson Betta	Tangerine pastel
Symmetrical Marble	Half Black

VARIATIONS

New Trait

Bettas authorized here do not conform to the standard colors and/or form requirements of the previous Show Stock descriptions. They are the unusual and rare, or new colors and/or forms. Here, the judges are looking for the unusual color or the unusual form that may well become a standard of tomorrow. A high degree of subjectivity can be expected from the judging of these classes.

COLOR:
This category is for color or pattern variations; a showcase for the Betta colors of tomorrow. Breeders who discover a mutation or create a new color or color pattern variation may display their find, and its progressive development through this classification. As the trait becomes available in larger quantities, the breeder should also exhibit them as matched trios to demonstrate stability of the color. Eventually it may become significantly popular and receive a Type designation of its own. Exhibitors may also use this Category for color 'oddities' that are not being developed further.

Special Requirements

™ Bettas that fit other color classifications are not permitted in this one, and if not reclassified before the judging begins, are to be disqualified.

™ **Exhibitors are required to label their entries, and to be specific.** In particular, the label will be used by the judge to establish criterion for assessing the fish. A fish labeled "half black", therefore will be judged on the extent to which the fish is truly half-black, how clean the line separating the black and non-black region is, the depth and purity of the black, etc. For this reason it is essential that the exhibitor provides a descriptive label which will allow judges to assess the fish relative to an imagined ideal of that coloration. Names used to market Bettas, if not descriptive, are inappropriate. The exhibitor notes the label information on the entry form, and the show committee insures that the label is properly prepared and affixed to the show bowl.

Some example labels are:

Inadequate Label	Sufficient Label (Name or description)
Color	Purple

Guidelines for Judges

™ No Label? – Disqualify!

™ Judges should be reluctant to disqualify fish on the basis of the label and should do so only if the label and their inspection of the fish leaves them with no idea of the variation they are being asked to judge. If the judge can detect the variation but finds the label inadequate, s/he should judge the class in accord with his or her criteria and place a note on the entry form as suggested label. If it is necessary to disqualify any entry that is not sufficiently labeled, the judge should insure that the fault lies with the exhibitor, not the show committee.

™ Apply all standard judging criteria, except for the particular color or color pattern.

™ Use the label name or description as criteria. For example, if the name is "purple" treat the variation of color as if it were in a class called "purple". When judging single-color fish, judge for uniform color shade, intensity of color and degree of and contrast of second and third color intrusion.

™ When comparing dissimilar variations to each other:
- Give preference to those colors or color patterns that are most clearly developed.
- Because variations is the first step to the development of a new strain, if several entries exhibit the color variation, that variation should have an edge over other different color variations shown on single entries.
- Some highly sought after color and color pattern variations are: Orange, Purple, Gold, striped Bettas, etc. See All About Bettas, page 49.

FORM:
This category is for variations of structure, a showcase for the fish form of tomorrow. Breeders who discover a mutation or create a new form variation may display their find, and its progressive development through this classification. As the trait becomes available in larger quantities, the breeder should also exhibit them as matched trios to demonstrate stability of the trait. Eventually, the variation may become significantly popular and receive a Type classification of its own. Exhibitors may also use this category for structural 'oddities' that are not being developed further. IBC does not condone the use of hormones, radiation treatment, or other techniques that may artificially alter a Betta's genetic inheritance. Judges who have reason to suspect that an entry has been so treated will judge the fish anyway, but file a written report, identifying the owner and the reason for suspicion, with the Judging Board.

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Special Requirements

Exhibitors are required to label their entries and to be specific. The exhibitor notes the label information on the entry form and the show committee insures that the label is properly prepared and affixed to the show bowl.

Some example labels are:

Inadequate Label	Sufficient Label
Form	Hearttail
Form of Fish	Fusetail
Form of Tail	Tripletail
Scales	Doubletail Plakat

Guidelines for Judges

Disqualify an entry that is not sufficiently labeled, after insuring that the fault lies with the exhibitor, not the show committee. If the label is improper, judges should disqualify the entry even if the variation is obvious.

™ Apply all standard judging criteria, except for the particular item of variation.

™ Use the label name or description as a criteria (for example), if the name/label is 'tripletail', judge the equality of the lobes, depth of split, etc., as if the class existed.

™ When comparing dissimilar variations to each other:
- Give preference to those form variations that are most clearly developed.
- Give preference to those forms that appear to the judge to have potential for development into an actual variant strain. Thus if several entries exhibit the variation, that variation should have an edge over other form variations shown on single entries.

Some undesirable traits are:
- Reduction in the number of fins;
- Reduction in the relative size of the fin;
- Traits reducing vision, deportment, symmetry or health;
- Transfer of male form or finnage to females, or the reverse.

Some highly sought after form variations are:
- Tripletail;
- Sailfin Dorsal;
- Hearttail;
- Fusetail;
- Fusefin (dorsal, caudal and anal actually become one fin)
- Giant Bettas
- Double-tail crowntail

Trait Development

FORM AND FINNAGE:
Ignoring the color of a fish in not easy but it is often just as important to consider another trait. In this case it is the development of the body and fins. Bettas considered appropriate for this class should have extensive development of the body and/or fins.

Special Notes:
1. Bettas entered in this class will not be moved or disqualified for misclassification.

OPTIONAL

Novelty classes are included during convention shows. They may also be included in any other sanctioned show as desired by the host club.

None of the Optional classes compete for Best of Show Awards, IBC points or the end-of-year awards. Judging is uniquely difficult since IBC provides no training and only sketchy standards for these classes. The judge is free to make his decisions entirely on his own personal preference. Whenever possible it would be ideal to select an art oriented Judge to evaluate the first three of these classifications.

Unlike the fish classes, the exhibitor in an optional class (except the last two categories) must also be the creator/artist. Entries by a second party will be **disqualified**, unless entered in the name of the creator or artist.

ART

PHOTOGRAPHY:
This classification is open to film entries, including still photography, digital or video taping or motion picture exhibits. However, the entries are judged on their artistic representation of the Betta, not on educational content.

The photographic setting must not reveal the exhibitor's identity or the work will be disqualified. Placing a small piece of paper over any signature or initials can conceal the identity. Do not use tape if it can damage the item.

Special Requirements

Betta theme is required. The exhibitor is responsible for all display arrangements including any needed stands, lighting, projection devices and so forth.

Guidelines for Judges

Consider the physical condition of the entry.
™ Is it framed appropriately?
™ Is the entry damaged?

Consider the subject.
™ Is it uniquely interesting?
™ Is it an appropriate presentation of setting?

Consider the print quality

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™ Is it in sharp focus?
™ Is it free from enlargement or film defects?

ILLUSTRATION:
This category is specifically for oil, acrylic or watercolor paintings; pen and ink; pencil or chalk drawings, and other such illustrations.

Special Requirements

Betta theme is required. The exhibitor is responsible for any special display requirements such as stands or lights.

If the artist has signed or initialed the exhibit on the display side, the show committee must conceal the signature/initials or the work will be disqualified.

Guidelines for Judges

Consider the physical condition of the entry.
™ Is it framed appropriately?
™ Is the entry damaged?

Consider the subject.
™ Is it uniquely interesting?
™ Is it an appropriate presentation of setting?

CRAFT: This unique classification serves for the exhibition of all other types of work not permitted in the previous two classifications. Some typical inclusions might be: figurines of clay, glass, metal or wood; leatherwork items; needlework items, manuscripts, etc.

An entry may be disqualified only if it should be in the previous two classifications, the identify of the exhibitor is revealed, or the exhibitor is not also the creator or artist.

Special Requirements

Betta theme is required. As in the other two classes, the exhibitor is responsible for any display requirements.

Guidelines for Judges

™ Does the object carry a Betta theme?
™ Artistic items have preference over novelty items.

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PROPOSED STANDARD FOR CROWNTAIL PLAKATS

Description

The Crowntail Plakat is the short-finned version of the Crowntail.
It features Crowntail webbing reduction on the fins, allowing rays of significant length to exceed the fin webbing as in "Crowntail" show Bettas, and features short fin length as in Short-finned Halfmoon Show Bettas.

Definition

The reduction of the fin webbing with respect to extensions of the rays must be at least 25% in each of the unpaired fins (caudal, dorsal, ventral). A reduction in the webbing of 50% on the three unpaired fins is ideal.
This criterion must be present in each of the unpaired fins, but need not be present between each of the rays, to reach the minimum requirement.
The rays must have regular length and regular spacing between them.
It is a short-finned fish; the length of the dorsal, anal and caudal fins must not exceed one third of the length of the body.

Anal fin

It should not be tapered. The last ray should not be extended or longer than the others. In addition, the length of the anal should be equivalent to the caudal and the dorsal so that the overall silhouette is pleasantly oval.

Ventral fins

The length must be at least equal to that of the anal and they should not be crossed at all times.
Ventrals must have webbing reduction/extended rays.

Dorsal fin

A broad dorsal, symmetrical in respect to the anal is preferred.
Ideally the first rays should not be shorter than the other rays.

Caudal fin

The preferred caudal fin angle is 180 °, the rays are straight, the caudal edges are straight.
Rays must be regularly spaced from top to bottom of the caudal.
Rays should have double branching (“Double-Ray”); four ray points (“DDR”) are tolerated but branching should not become excessive.

FAULT GUIDE FOR CROWNTAIL PLAKATS

The IBC general standards are applied to Crowntail Plakat pertaining to minimum size, caudal angle, ray faults etc...
For females Crowntail Plakats the IBC general standard for females Crowntails will serve as reference.

Minor faults
- Anal slightly tapered.
- Dorsal narrow and/or not broad enough at the base.
- Ventrals too short.
- Ray tips with no branching (“Single Ray”).

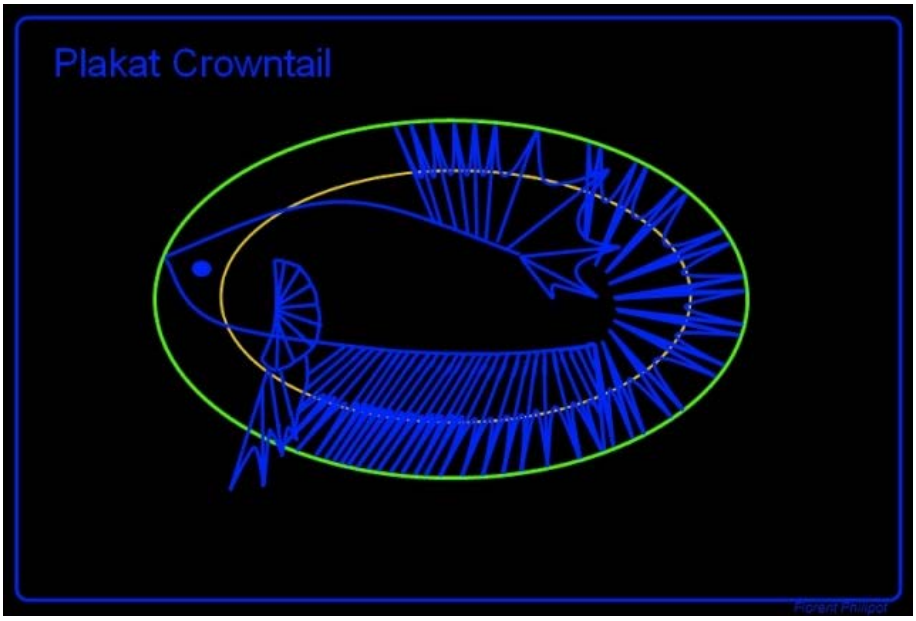
Minor faults
- Short rays at the caudal edges, giving a rounded appearance to the edges of the caudal fin.
- Lack of webbing reduction on the Ventrals.
- Fin rays of different lengths.
- Curled or bent rays
- Irregular webbing reduction spaces between the rays.

Major faults
- Anal very tapered.
- Caudal fin angle less than 180 °.
- More than one broken fin ray.

Severe faults
- Ray extensions less than 25% on one unpaired fin.
- The length of one of the three unpaired fins exceeds one third of the length of the body.

Disqualification
- Ray extensions less than 25% on two or three unpaired fins.
- The length of two or three of the unpaired fins exceed one third of the length of the body.

Shématic sketch of the desired shape of the PKCT:



Florent Philipot

Giant Plakat Trial Standard

Photo by Bobby Chua

Ventral fins: As in other show bettas.

Dorsal fin: As in other show bettas.

Caudal fin: As in other show bettas.

Pectoral Fins: As in other show bettas.

Photo by Bobby Chua

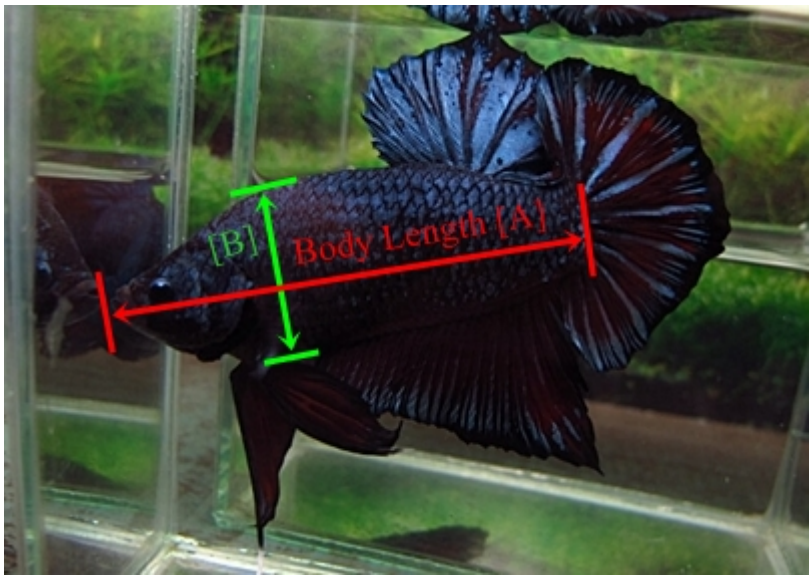


Photo by Mr. Piboonchai ChuanChuen

Body length = A
Body thickness = B

Stout and heavy at the proportion around A:B = 1:2.5

Giant Form & Finnage Faults

1. Body is not stout and heavy at body length and thickness proportion around 1:3 (major fault)
2. Slender body at body length and thickness proportion more than 1:3 (severe fault)
3. Body length less than 2.5 inches for male (disqualifying fault)
4. Body length less than 2 inches for female (disqualifying fault)

ALL OTHER APPRORIATE GENERAL FAULTS APPLY

Trial: Large Pectorals Form

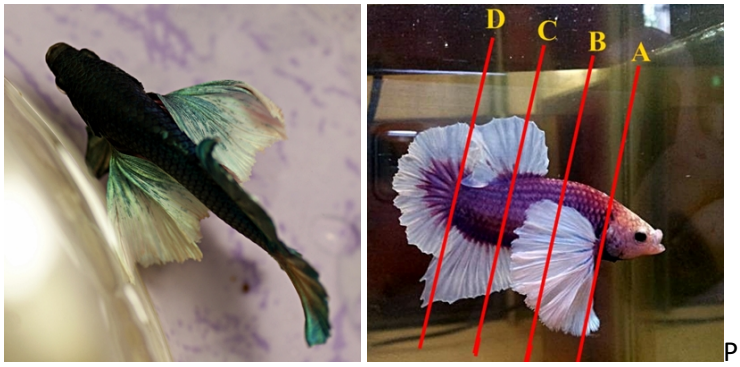
Picture by Bobby Chua

Ventral fins: As in other show bettas.

Dorsal fin: As in other show bettas.

Caudal fin: As in other show bettas.

Pectoral Fins: The pectoral fins should be in balance and equal in size. Big and round is desirable. However, pectoral fins with minor protruding rays are not considered a fault. The length should extend to 1/2 of the body length. Top view is strongly recommended.



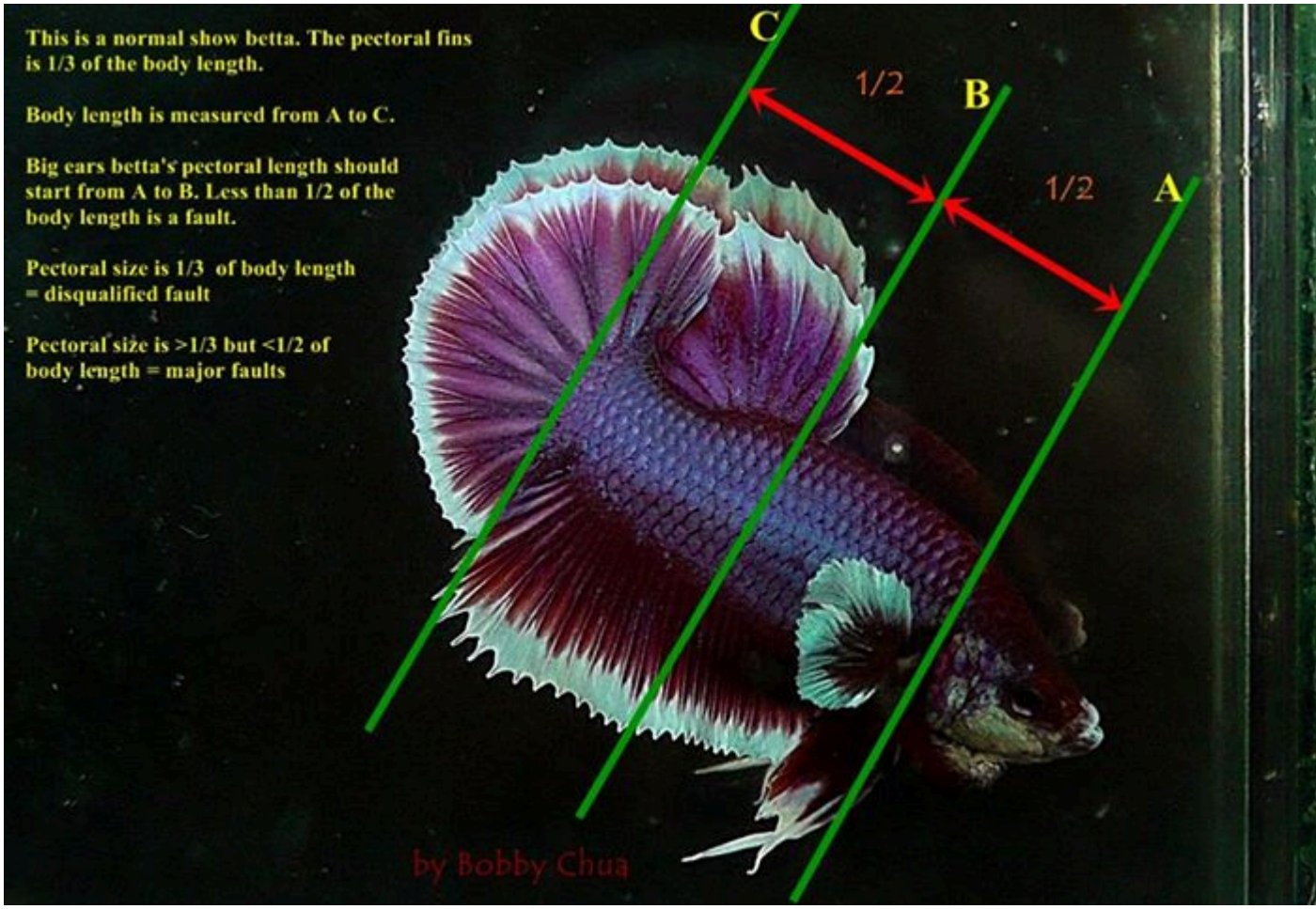
Pictures by Bobby Chua

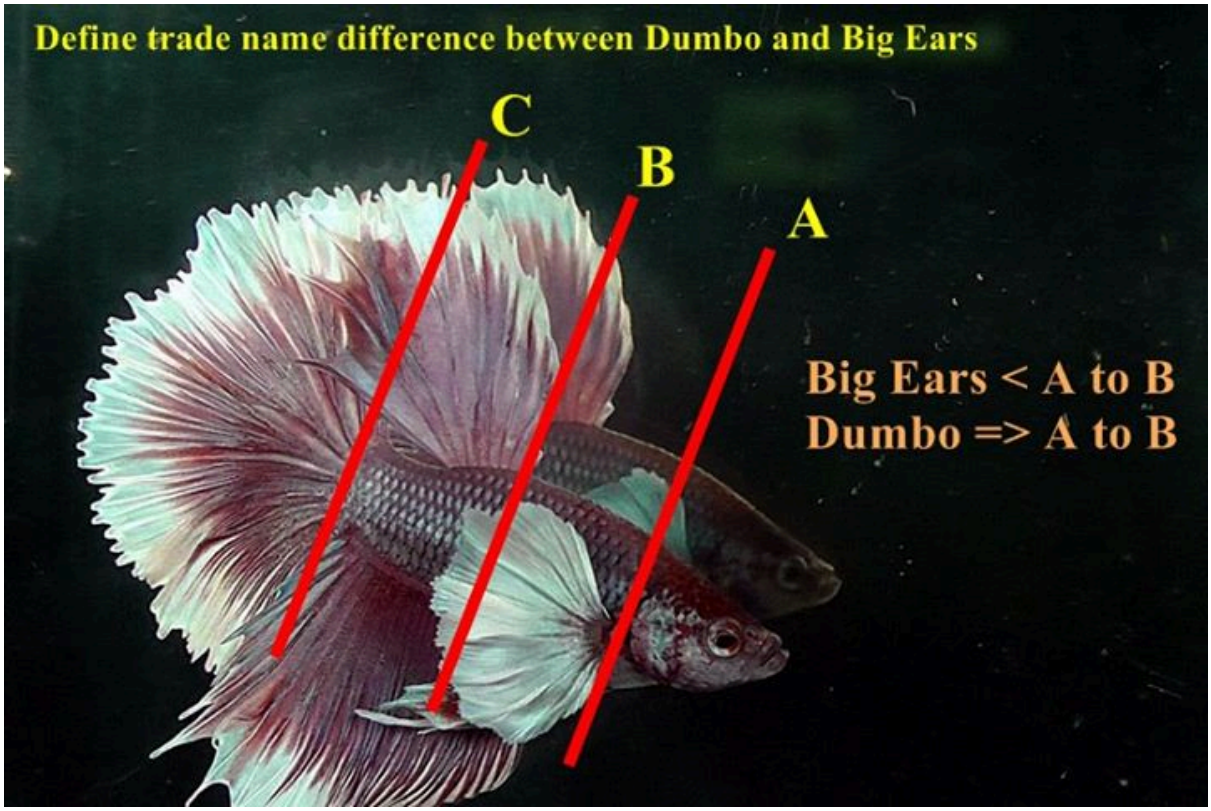
Big Pectorals - Form & Finnage Faults

1. Pectoral fins - less than ½ of the body length (minor fault)
2. Pectoral fins - uneven outer edge (minor fault)
3. Pectoral fins - less than 1/3 of the body length (major fault)
4. Pectoral fins- irregular shape (major fault)
5. Pectoral fins - unbalance shape (major fault)
6. Pectoral fins- Long but not broad (major fault)
7. Pectoral fins - more than 2/3 body length (major fault)
8. Pectoral fins - unequal size, size difference less than 1/3 at one side to another (major fault)
9. Pectoral fins - unequal size, size difference of 1/3 at one side to another (severe fault)
10. Pectoral fins - unequal size, size difference of 1/2 at one side to another (disqualifying fault)

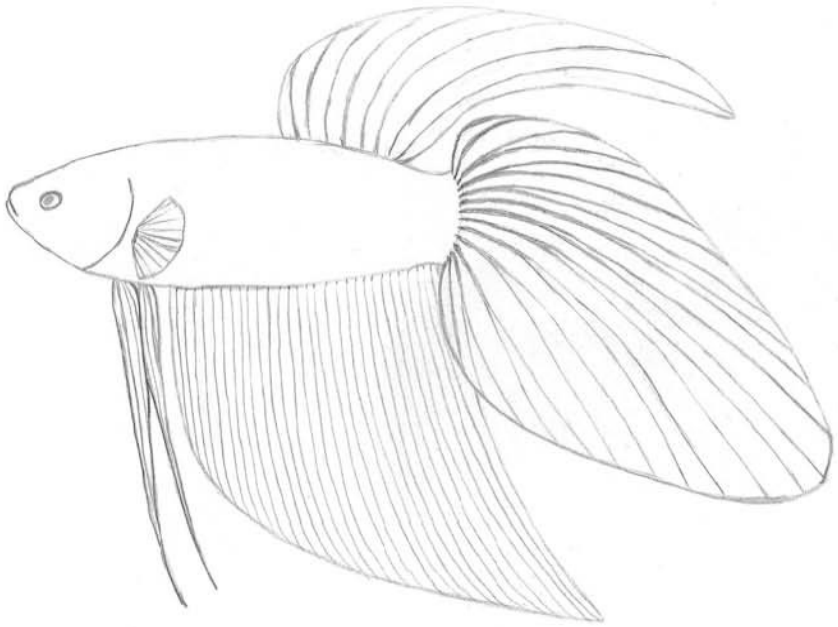

Specimen of irregular shaped pectoral fins

ALL OTHER APPRORIATE GENERAL FAULTS APPLY


This is a normal show betta. The pectoral fins is 1/3 of the body length.
Body length is measured from A to C.
Big ears betta's pectoral length should start from A to B. Less than 1/2 of the body length is a fault.
Pectoral size is 1/3 of body length = disqualified fault
Pectoral size is >1/3 but <1/2 of body length = major faults
C
1/2
B
1/2
A
by Bobby Chua


Define trade name difference between Dumbo and Big Ears
C
B
A
Big Ears < A to B
Dumbo => A to B

Trial Standard: Veiltail - the Traditional Long-finned Betta



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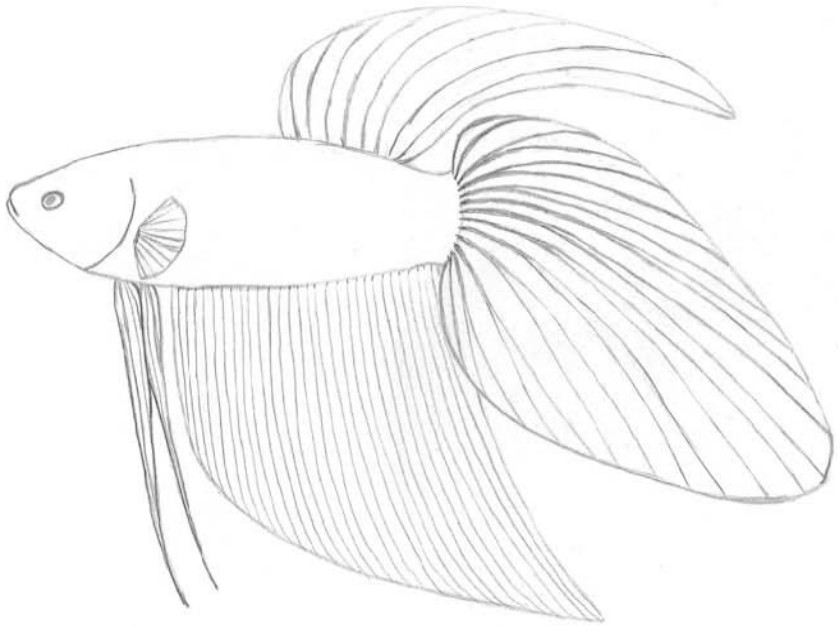

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Description:

The Veiltail is the oldest form **of long finned show betta (Betta splendens) that has no symmetry.**

The ideal Veiltail has an asymmetrical appearance with a long caudal fin, narrow dorsal and an anal in the form of a trapezoid.
The rays in all fins must be evenly curved. The body should be strong and not too skinny.

Beschreibung:

Der Veiltail ist die älteste Form **des langflossigen Show Betta (Betta splendens), welche keine Symmetrie aufweist, sondern ein asymmetrisches Erscheinungsbild hat.**

Der ideale Veiltail hat eine asymmetrische Optik mit langer Kaudale, schmaler Dorsale und einer Anale in Form eines Trapezes. Die Flossenstrahlen in allen Flossen müssen gleichmäßig gebogen sein. Der Körper sollte leicht stämmig und nicht zu dünn sein.

Caudal Fin

The caudal fin has a broad base at the caudal peduncle, where the outer fin rays right at the peduncle must spread no less than 165°, ideally 180°. The rays climb up steeply from the caudal peduncle and then, after reaching the highest point at about 20% of the entire fin, bend round in a long, smooth arc to the end of the fin. The individual fin rays are ending staggered step by step becoming longer from the outside to the middle of the caudal, so that a kind of tip is formed, whereby the caudal fin looks like a brush in the form of a cat's tongue or a round shape with a flat tip. At the base of the caudal peduncle, the rays should emerge out of the entire caudal peduncle symmetrically to an imaginary center line from the head to the caudal peduncle.

The length of the caudal fin should be one (1) body length. If it is 25% longer or more, it is considered a major fault.

When flared, the caudal must be spread out over its entire length, although it should not be symmetrical based on a center line from head to tail, but must drop down.

The fin rays should not have more than primary branching, ending in not more than 2 branches per ray.
The margin of the fin should be smooth and unbroken and without any extended rays.

Dorsal Fin

The dorsal should not be too broad at its base, but extend in the shape of a sickle to end up in a pointy tip. The width of the base of the Dorsal should not be broader than half of the width of the anal, because otherwise the sickle shape is no longer given. If it is broader, it's a severe fault.
⅓ of the width of the anal is ideal, if it is less, it's a severe fault. The length of the dorsal fin should be at least ¾ of body length, but not longer than one (1) body length.

The margin of the fin should be smooth and without any extended rays.

Kaudale

Die Kaudale beginnt mit einer breiten Basis an der Schwanzwurzel, wobei die äußeren Flossenstrahlen direkt an der Schwanzwurzel eine Spreizung von über 165° Grad aufweisen müssen. Ideal sind 180° Grad. Die Strahlen treten steil ansteigend aus der Schwanzwurzel aus und verlaufen dann, nach Erreichen der höchsten Stelle bei ca. 20% der gesamten Flosse, in einem gleichmäßigen Bogen nach hinten lang ausgezogen. Die einzelnen Flossenstrahlen enden dabei im Versatz nach und nach zur Mitte der Kaudale von außen nach innen länger werdend, sodass eine Art Spitze entsteht, wodurch die Kaudale wie ein Pinsel in Form einer Katzenzunge oder eine Rundform mit flacher Spitze wirkt.

Im Ansatz, an der Schwanzwurzel, sollten die Flossenstrahlen bei einer gedachten Mittellinie vom Kopf durch die Schwanzwurzel symmetrisch aus der gesamten Breite der Schwanzwurzel hervortreten.
Die Länge der Kaudale sollte eine Körperlänge betragen. Eine Kaudale, welche um 1/4tel oder mehr länger ist, ist ein bedeutender Fehler (Majo Fault). Beim Spreizen soll die Kaudale über ihre ganze Länge ausgebreitet werden können, wobei sie allerdings nicht symmetrisch anhand einer gedachten Mittellinie vom Kopf durch die Schwanzwurzel sein darf, sondern nach unten abfallen muss.
Die Flossenstrahlen sollen sich nicht mehr als ein Mal aufteilen.
Der Flossensaum soll glatt und ohne Aus- oder Einbuchtungen sein.

Dorsale

Die Dorsale soll im Ansatz nicht zu breit sein, sondern lang ausgezoge die Form einer Sichel haben und in einer Spitze enden. Die Breite des Ansatzes der Dorsale darf höchsten ½ der Breite der Anale betragen, d ansonsten die Sichelform nicht mehr gegeben ist. Ideal ist ⅓ der Breite der Anale.
Ist sie breiter als ½ oder schmaler als ⅓, ist dies ein schwerwiegender Fehler (severe fault). Die Länge der Dorsale soll mindestens ¾ der Körperlänge betragen, jedoch nicht länger als die Körperlänge sein.

Der Flossensaum sollte glatt und ohne Aus- und Einbuchtungen sein.

The dorsal should be spread upright at the base and extend toward the caudal. Overlapping of the dorsal and caudal is permitted and desirable.

Any ray splitting is undesirable.

Anal fin

The anal fin should have the shape of a trapezoid with two approximately equal 90° angles at the base near the body, whereby the shorter side of the trapezoid must be located toward the head of the fish.

It begins shortly behind the ventral fins and drops toward the caudal fin. The front fin rays should be at least ⅔ but not more than ¾ of the body length; the last fin rays should be no longer than a body length, measured from the mouth to the caudal peduncle, and not less than 90% of the body length.

The outline of the fin is smooth and softly rounded in the front area, the rays should get longer toward the back, ending in one (1) point, whereby a splitting of the fin rays is undesirable. Overlapping of the anal and caudal fin is not desired, but not considered a fault if overlapping only slightly.

Ventral fins

Shaped like the blade of a knife with the cutting edge to the rear. They are narrow at their base and should not be voluminous, which means they should not be wider than ⅕ of the width of the anal fin at its base. They must end in one (1) point. Both fins are to be of equal length and should not cross each other.

They should be about ¾ of the length of one (1) body length.

Die Dorsale muss beim Spreizen aufgespannt werden können, dabei muss sie im Ansatz aufrecht stehen und zur Kaudale hin lang ausgezogen sein. Ein Überlappen der Dorsale über die Kaudale ist erlaubt und erstrebenswert. Ein Aufspalten der einzelnen Flossenstrahlen ist nicht erwünscht.

Anale

Die Anale soll die Form eines Trapezes mit am Ansatz zum Körper zwei annähernd gleichen, fast rechten Winkeln haben, wobei die kür- zere Seite des Trapezes zum Kopf des Fisches hin gelegen sein muss.

Sie beginnt kurz hinter den Ventralen und soll nach hinten schräg abfallend verlaufen. Die vorderen Flossenstrahlen sollen mindestens ⅔ und nicht länger als ¾ der Körperlänge sein; die letzten Flossenstrahlen sollen nicht länger als eine Körperlänge, gemessen vom Maul bis zum Ende der Schwanzwurzel, und nicht kürzer als 90% der Körperlänge sein.

Der Flossenverlauf ist weich und soll im vorderen Bereich rund verlaufen, nach hinten in den Flossenstrahlen länger werden und am Ende in einer (1) Spitze enden, wobei ein Aufspalten der einzelnen Flossenstrahlen nicht erwünscht ist. Ein Überlappen der Anale zur Kaudale ist nicht erwünscht, solange nur geringfügig aber kein Fehler.

Ventralen

Die Form der Ventralen sollte einer nach hinten gerichteten Messerklinge entsprechen. Sie sind schmal im Ansatz und sollen kein großes Volumen aufweisen, also nicht breiter als ⅕ der Breite der Anale am Körperansatz sein. Sie müssen in einer (1) Spitze enden. Beide Flossen sollen gleich lang sein und dürfen sich nicht kreuzen.

Ihre Länge soll in etwa ¾ der Körperlänge betragen.

Veiltail – the traditional Longfin Form and Finnage Faults

1. Body too stout or too narrow (minor fault)
2. Less than 180 ° but more than 165 ° caudal spread (minor fault)
3. Less than 150 ° spread of the caudal (severe fault)
4. Dorsal fin not sickle-shaped (minor fault)
5. Branching of caudal rays > 1 (major fault)
6. Branching of the dorsal OR the anal fin rays (major fault)
7. Branching of the dorsal AND the anal fin rays (severe fault)
8. Caudal fin ≥25% longer than one (1) body length (major fault)
9. Width of dorsal fin > ⅓ but < ½ of width of anal fin (minor fault)
10. Width of dorsal fin > half of the width of anal fin (severe fault)
11. Fin margin not smooth in one of the unpaired fins (slight fault)
12. Fin margin not smooth in two or more unpaired fins (minor fault)
13. Front anal fin rays < ⅔ of the body length (major fault)
14. Rear anal fin rays longer than one (1) body length (major fault)
15. Rear anal fin rays shorter than 90% of the body length (major fault)

Veiltail – the traditional Longfin Form and Finnage Faults

1. Körper zu stämmig oder zu schmal (geringfügiger Fehler) (minor fault)
2. Kaudalenspreizung < 180° aber > 165° (geringfügiger Fehler) (minor fault)
3. Spreizung der Kaudale < 150° (schwerer Fehler) (severe fault)
4. Dorsale nicht sichelförmig (geringfügiger Fehler) (minor fault)
5. Kaudalstrahlen Verzweigungen > 1 (bedeutender Fehler) (major fault)
6. Verzweigungen der Flossenstrahlen in Dorsale ODER Anale (bedeuten der Fehler) (major fault)
7. Verzweigungen der Flossenstrahlen in Dorsale UND Anale (schwerwie gender Fehler) (severe fault)
8. Kaudale ≥ 25% länger als Körperlänge (bedeutender Fehler) (major fau
9. Breite der Dorsale > ½ der Breite der Analen (schwerwiegender Fehler) (severe fault)
10. Breite der Dorsale > ⅓ aber < ½ der Breite der Anale (geringfügiger Fehler) (minor fault)
11. Kein glatter Flossensaum an einer der unpaarigen Flossen (leichter Fehler) (slight fault)
12. Kein glatter Flossensaum an zwei oder mehr der unpaarigen Flossen (geringfügiger Fehler) (minor fault)
13. Vordere Flossenstrahlen der Anale < 2/3 der Körperlänge (bedeuten-der Fehler) (major fault)
14. Hintere Flossenstrahlen der Anale länger als eine (1) Körperlänge (bedeutender Fehler) (major fault)
15. Hintere Flossenstrahlen kürzer als 90% der Körperlänge (bedeuten-der Fehler) (major fault)

16. **Width of ventral fins > ⅕ of the width of anal fin (major fault)**

17. **Crossing ventral fins (slight fault)**
18. **More than one tip at the end of ventral fins (slight fault)**
19. **Ventral fins less than ¾ but more than ½ of body length (major fault)**
20. **Symmetrical appearance of one or more unpaired fins (disqualification)**Es wurden keine Einträge für das Inhaltsverzeichnis gefunden.
21. **Stubby ventral fins (less than ½ of body length) (disqualification)**
22. **One of the unpaired fins more than ¼ too short or too long (disqualification)**

ALL OTHER APPROPRIATE GENERAL FAULTS APPLY AND ARE TO BE USED.

16. **Breite der Ventralen > ⅕ der Breite der Analen (bedeutender Fehler) (major fault)**
17. **Sich überkreuzende Ventralen (leichter Fehler) (slight fault)**
18. **Ventralen haben mehr als eine Spitze (leichter Fehler) (slight fault)**
19. **Ventralen kürzer als ¾ aber länger als ½ der Körperlänge (bedeutender Fehler) (major fault)**
20. **Symmetrisches Erscheinungsbild einer oder mehrerer der unpaarigen Flossen (Disqualifikation)**
21. **Stummelige Ventralen (kürzer als ½ Körperlänge) (Disqualifikation)**
22. **Eine der unpaarigen Flossen um mehr als ¼ zu kurz oder zu lang (Disqualifikation)**

ALLE ANDEREN ZUTREFFENDEN GENERELLEN FEHLER HABEN GÜLTIGKEIT UND SIND ANZUWENDEN.

Veiltail - traditional long finned females

Veiltail females have shorter fins than males. The dorsal and anal fin are not to exceed half a body length.
The caudal has a symmetrical oval shape with the longest fin rays in the middle (on an imaginary line from the head to peduncle).
The anal drops from front to rear at a slight angle and ends in a tip. The ventral fins should be as long as the longest ray of the anal and be narrow and end in a single tip.
The dorsal has a narrow base and shouldn't be longer than the maximum body width (height).

The same faults apply as described for the males, but for shorter fins, as mentioned above.

Veiltail Weibchen haben kürzere Flossen als die Männchen. Die Dorsale und Anale sind höchstens so lang wie eine halbe Körperlänge.
Die Kaudale weist eine symmetrische, ovale Form auf mit den längsten Flossenstrahlen in der Mitte (auf einer gedachten Linie vom Kopf durch die Schwanzwurzel).
Die Anale verläuft von vorne nach hinten leicht schräg abfallend und endet in einer Spitze. Die Ventralen sollen schmal und so lang wie der längste Flossenstrahl der Anale sein und in einer einzigen Spitze enden.
Die Dorsale ist schmal im Ansatz und höchstens so lang wie der Körper breit (hoch) ist.

Es gelten dieselben Fehler wie bei den Männchen, allerdings für die kürzeren Flossen, wie beschrieben.

THE IBC NEW BREEDER CLASSES
GROUP B
Effective 7/15/06

The New Breeder group shall consist of members who are just beginning to show fish they have bred.

This program is open to new IBC members and Non-IBC members. This program is open to anyone who has never placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd as an individual in any regular IBC show class in an International/Convention Show.

Entrants may show in the New Breeder group for two show seasons. A Non-IBC member may show for the first show season, however, after that first season the entrant must become an IBC member to continue to show in IBC shows. At the end of the second season all entrants must show in Regular classes.

Any New Breeder winning at least three (3) annual class championships in the same show year shall become permanently ineligible to enter in the New Breeder classes and at that point must enter in the Regular classes from then on. A New Breeder may elect to enter regular classes in and International/Convention Show, but permanently loses eligibility to enter as New Breeder, including the International/Convention Show in which the first regular class entry is made. NOTE: Exception to this rule is:

A NEW IBC MEMBER SHOWING FOR THE FIRST TIME MAY ENTER FISH NOT BRED BY THEM AS TEAM ENTRIES IN THE REGULAR CLASS ONLY. AS THEY DEVELOP THEIR OWN BREEDING PROGRAM THEY MAY ALSO SHOW IN THE NEW BREEDER CLASS WITHIN THE SAME YEAR. TEAM ENTRIES SHOULD BE MARKED PER THE STANDARD GUIDELINES FOR THESE ENTRIES.

A NEW BREEDER MAY ALSO SHOW IN DIVISION F: WILD TYPE BETTAS AND MAINTAIN THEIR NEW BREEDER STATUS.

Judging will follow current IBC rules and standards. Apprentice Judges can conduct judging under the supervision of an IBC Certified Judge, or by Certified Judges. As in all shows, the judges' decisions are final. Judges are encouraged at their own discretion to notify New Breeders whose entries won 1st place in a class as to how such entry might have done in a regular class.

NEW BREEDER CLASSES:

NB1 -- Singletail Male
NB2 -- Doubletail Male
NB3 -- Crowntail Male
NB4 -- Plakat Male
NB5 -- Singletail Female
NB6 -- Doubletail Female

IBC 2014-2015 Show Year Changes

Financial Incentives

In order to promote betta showing among participants and chapters, the IBC Executive Board has authorized certain incentives for IBC International Shows. Chapters incur great expenses holding a show, particularly when they're first starting out, including buying show bowls/beanies, building stands renting show space, obtaining supplies, buying awards, etc. We hope that this assistance will make it easier for chapters to hold shows and entrants to participate.

- Chapters holding a show during the 2014-2015 show season can apply online after a show to receive US$200. This is applicable for all chapters, in all areas. The chapter must 1) not have earned more than US$200 in final accounting totals and 2) not have spent more than US$200 on awards/trophies. The online form will be presented in four languages and show chairs can email for assistance on filling it out.

These incentives are authorized for the 2014-2015 show season only. They will be reviewed next year to see if they have helped the IBC Show Circuit.

Please note that the US$25 sanction fee refund has been discontinued – all shows must pay the sanction fee to hold their date and their show. The Area 1 sliding scale entry fees has also been eliminated.

Show Entry Changes

Some parts of Areas 2 and 6 already allow entries to be open to non-IBC members. As well as making it formal for Area 2, Areas 1 and 7 are also adopting this with specific rules.

IBC Shows will be open to entries from non-IBC members as long as non-members:

1. Pay at least 150-200% more than IBC members in entry fees.
2. Are limited to no more than 10 entries per show.
3. Will not receive end-of-year awards.

Giving the 200% example: For Area 1, that would be a $2/entry for IBC and $4/entry for non-members. For Area 2, it's variable, but in many areas would be Euro 3,50/entry for IBC and Euro 5,00/entry for non-members. For Area 6, it's variable. For Area 7, it's variable, but in many shows would be AU$3 for IBC and AU$6 for non-members.

Each chapter can also create their own incentive fee structure, such as lower fees for chapter members. We encourage chapters to work something out that will be fair to all. Entrants must carefully review each chapter's posting of show information to see what their fee structure and incentives are.

Apprenticing, Judging, Show Chairs/Committees, and Participant Changes

- The Judging Board has clarified what the steps of apprenticeship are expected to be, and also more clearly defined what parts of the show an apprentice and judge can help with, and which they cannot.

- The apprenticeship "start" date has been changed to be the last seminar taken, at which point their 3 years will be from that date. (Instead of the first show they apprentice at, because of the potential of lapsed time from the seminars to the first apprenticed show.)

- All certified judges can judge any area shows. The JB recommends, however, that judges from another area do team judging with an area judge before doing individual judging in that area. (For example, a judge from Area 2 can judge shows in Area 7, however, we recommend that the Area 2 judge first judge in conjunction with an Area 7 judge before the Area2 judge judges an Area 7 show by themselves.)

- After judging at an IBC show, Head Judges shall send a report to the Judging Board as an overall of what they saw at the show and opinions of the show. A standard form will be made available.

- After their IBC show is completed, Show Chairs shall send a report in addition to the show results that lists the entrants by category (regular and new breeder, IBC member and non-member). They shall also send the full show log to the JB in addition to the Show Results form. Show logs must have entrant 'label/remarks' on them.

- After their IBC show is completed, a member of the Show Committee should submit pictures of BOS winners (if possible), and if photos are taken, a selection of photos sent back to the JB with award winners noted. (Show Chairs – please assign this duty to another member of your show committee… show chairs have too much to do! This should be a separate job. We do also recognize the resources it might take, so we're asking for best efforts, not an absolute.)

- Expanded show container approval. Chapters are approved to purchase what they would like for show containers providing:

    - Containers must be of a firm plastic that can easily be seen through for both judging and photography. Any time containers get scratched up so their visibility is diminished, the host club should replace those containers.
      Exception: Those chapters with existing half-gallon glass bowls can continue to use them. The glass bowls are not, however, approved for new purchases.

- Containers must have flat surfaces for viewing the fish. Fully round containers are not suitable as they distort the fish. (Slightly rounded corners are okay, as in the CCW containers, or the drum bowls which are flat on the viewing side and rounded on the edges.)

- Containers for regular show fish must be no smaller than 4 inches wide by 4 inches depth by 4 inches tall. Preferred containers are larger than that in one dimension or another (such as the 'beanies' which are 4x4x8, or the mini-keepers which are 7x4x5).

- Containers must have individual lids.
  Exception: Area 2 has some chapters that use long lengths of plastic to cover multiple containers. Those chapters can continue using their method. This method is not, however, approved for new purchases/chapters.

- All fish showing in a category ***MUST*** have the same container during the show so that all fish are judged under equal conditions. If for some reason, other containers must be used, then group the other containers to the other categories. (i.e., All regular class fish can be shown in one type, all new breeder class fish can be shown in a different one, and owned fish in a third.) (ex: all regular fish are shown in beanies while all new breeders are shown in mini-keepers.)

- Host clubs must also keep on hand larger size containers for giants, small wilds, and large wilds. Giants and small wilds should be in nothing less than 6x6x6 (ex - small kritter keepers are 9x6x7), and large wilds should be no less than 8x8x8 (ex - med kritter keepers are 11x7x8)

- Host clubs must plan their show settings to match their containers. This might entail building new stands. Consider resources, including available show space, when planning containers.

- Show Chairs this year were sent a JB Show Chair Guide. All Show Chairs, no matter how experienced or not they are, are expected to review this Guide before their show. Review it when first planning the show, a month before the show, and the day before the show at minimum. We expect Show Chairs and Show Committees to represent the IBC and the IBC Standards, and to be detailed on their care for the entries and participants.

- Participants are reminded that Shows are not expected to make any special efforts for them and they will be treated just the same as every other participant. If a participant makes a mistake in entry forms, bagging, or otherwise, that mistake is on the participants' end. A Show Chair is expected to make some effort for figuring things out, but participants shouldn't expect great lengths if it was their mistake. Participants should read the JB Participant Show Guide and know what is expected as well of them.

- Clarified participant entry rules that the number of entries limit is per each IBC member. It is not defined by address (we recognize that flat mates can keep separate fish rooms). Family members can enter separately as long as they don't share fishroom duties for their own bred fish. If families **do** share fishroom duties, they are expected to enter as a family ("Sieg and Judy Illig") (which is not a "team" or "collaboration" entry – see those clarifications below). (All family entrants must all be IBC members in good standing.) Note that this is on the honor system – we can't police your fish rooms. We expect all participants to hold to the high standards of honor and make the correct designations when entering shows.
  - Exception: Area 6 currently has an exemption on the overall IBC 50 limit entries, and it continues to keep this exemption.

- The Judging Board is officially retiring the "team" entry designation. It was originally supposed to be used for people working together on lines and has instead been used over time for simply purchased fish. This designation is no longer in use. Instead we now have:

    - Purchased Fish: Purchased fish will now be shown in their own group, not to be mixed with breeders' fish. This includes any fish that an entrant did not breed themselves, whether literally bought from a store or aquabid or another breeder, or a gift fish that somebody gave to them. Purchased fish must have been in the owners' possession for at least one month before the show.
      Exceptions:
      - Area 6 continues to show purchased fish as their regular shows. Area 6 has always had this exemption and continues to keep it.
      - Area 2 chooses not to allow purchased fish shown at any IBC show. All fish shown must be self-bred.

    - Collaborative Fish: Collaboration fish are the product of two people working closely together in different fishrooms to produce a line of bettas. Collaborations usually involve one person breeding the fish and then giving the young, unsexed juveniles to another person who will rear them in their fishroom to showable size and training. Collaborations are *not* people who simply purchase another fish from another breeder (see "purchased fish showing"). True collaborations involve multiple decisions being made along the way by both people on the breeding and raising of the fish. The difference between collaboration fish and family showing is that while family showing all work in the same fishroom together, in collaboration, the fishrooms are separate and often miles away from each other.

      Collaboration fish may be shown in regular classes and are eligible for year-end awards. Collaboration fish must be from people in the same Area working together. Both parties in a collaborative effort **MUST** be IBC members in good standing. Collaborations must register with the JB prior to showing with both parties names, member IDs, and lines they'll be working together. The JB will send the list of approved Collaborations to Show Chairs prior to the shows.

- All participants should make their IBC entries under **real** names only (the names listed in the IBC Membership) - not business or trade names. Entries with business or trade names only will be disqualified. People can put business or trade names in parenthesis after their real names if they want to. (Example: A correct entry would be Larissa Williams (alatri). Incorrect and subject to disqualification would be simply Alatri.)

- To assist in IBC Membership checking for Show Chairs, entry forms should now have a spot for the IBC Membership number. The IBC has started issuing membership cards with the IBC number on them. We highly recommend it for this show year, but will not be requiring it until next year due to most people not being familiar with their membership IDs yet.

- An Area's year-end points will be for people in that Area only. Out-of-Area entrants will get show awards, but not year-end. Area will be by address, unless self-selected. People who legitimately are living/working in two Areas can have an exemption for their Areas if they register with the JB.

- Rules for District Shows have been updated. A district show is allowed to limit their entries to a maximum of between 100-200 fish (though they might receive less), with pre-registrations opened preferentially to district members first and then allowed to open to the rest of the area for entries. (Conversely, Area/International shows are not allowed to limit the entries to any *less* than 300 fish (though they might receive less).)

- Created districts for Area 7, and updated the districts for Area 1. (Areas 2 and 6 do not currently have districts.)

- Updated the code of ethics for showing.

Class Standards Changes

- Updated Marble standards. This includes removing the piebald as a subtype (piebalds are NOT ideal marbles and should not be rated over other marbles – a 50/50 patterning is ideal) and removing the out-dated flesh-colored requirement.

- Change iridescent and metallic standards to include options for masked or unmasked. Masked should be 100% coverage, including head. Unmasked fish should have a head without iridescent/metallic coverage. Partial coverage (in either case) is a minor fault.

- Form and Finnage standards. Clarification that form and finnage is open for **all** fish regardless of breed or gender, as long as there are set standards for said form. In other words, it's not just for males, and it's not just for longfins. All fish – male and female, longfin, shortfin, crown or double… all can compete in form and finnage. They should be matched to the ideal for their form, whichever that form is, and color is disregarded while judging form and finnage in that class. Also - a reminder of last year's update of that while in their class, form and finnage

competes without color faults, that when they get to BOV and BOS judging, they should be judged by the color class they best fit. (i.e. if it's marble, when it's in class judging, disregard the marble standard – when it's up for BOV, judge also with the marble standard in mind.)

- Added to the Art Standards that "if an art entry exceeds 60cm x 60cm / 2ft x 2ft (2D) or 30x30x30cm / 1x1x1ft (3D), the artist needs to give advance notice and confirm with the show chair that there is room to properly display the item. Items exceeding those dimension are at the Show Chair's discretion, however the IBC requests all reasonable efforts be made to accommodate larger works.

- Wilds are now counted separately for points and will be given their own awards at year-end, rather than simply being part of class awards.

- New Breeder classes are now limited to people living in the Area the show is being held in. (Area being the IBC Area, such as Area 1, 2, 6, or 7. So people from Area 2 cannot enter New Breeder in Area 7, etc.)

In addition to these changes, the Judging Board chair will be sending out emails to all Show Chairs and Head Judges before every show reminding them of the changes, and warning them to be alert for certain trends that we've seen happening. When in doubt, read the Standards. When something needs a clarification, ask the Judging Board.

The MAP program will continue as a regular program. Entries for MAP will be entitled to the normal auction split as the regular class fish, and not be required to be donated entries. People are reminded that the number of MAP entries are for the whole show year, not for individual shows.

While Area 2 changed their show calendar year to a January through December schedule last year, there were urgent changes they needed to make on the show class list that the JB agreed to let them make. This is odd, but we think the points can be worked out fairly for them. If you have any questions, please contact the Area 2 representative.

Revised class lists have been completed for Areas 1, 2, 6, and 7. See posted files. A revised Entry Form has also been posted.

The Judging Manual is currently undergoing a formatting update, and will be posted on the IBC website when completed, and will be announced in the BetterBettas mailing list, the judge's mailing list, and the IBC Facebook page. If you have any questions about the changes, please send an email to the JB Chair at jbchair@ibcbettas.org .

Changes under consideration for next year (please let us know if you have feedback on these):

- Combination of the current Multicolor Standard with Form & Finnage to make an Any Other Color class category. (Area 6 currently uses this, the other areas are considering it.)

- Updating the marble standards with a revised description and points guide.
- Increasing year-end points for more entries in a class. First place fish only. 1-3 fish = 20 points. 4-8 fish = 25 points. 9 plus fish = 30 points. Convention points will stay the same.
- Adding show experience for pre-apprenticeship qualifications (show chair or show helper)

The IBC EB and JB would like to get more membership feedback on things we're working on. In particular, we'd like to get a set of people from each area to help advise on area-specific needs. To help us determine this, we've devised two polls for feedback and the committee group. If this does well, we plan to expand the use for more topics. Please take a look and let us know if you have any thoughts about the IBC and things you'd like to see us do in the future.

http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1679810/Area-feedback

http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1727133/Area-Advisory-Committees

If you have any suggestions for how to promote showing, or any questions about the changes, please send an email to the JB Chair at jbchair@ibcbettas.org .

IBC 2015-2016 Show Year Changes

Fish Show Changes

- TRIAL PERIOD: Mildly undersized fish are no longer automatically disqualified. There is now a ½ inch "buffer" zone in which undersized is a severe fault instead of a DQ. This is applicable for all Areas EXCEPT Area 2 (Area 2 continues to keep the strict disqualification rules.) This is a TRIAL rule for one year, and then the JB will review. The new guidance for judges is:

  Males: DQ under 1 inch [2.5cm]. Severe fault 1"-1.5" [2.6-3.80cm]
  Females: DQ under .75" [2.0cm]. Severe fault .75"-1.25" [2.1-3.2cm]

  All judges are reminded that if the fish is on the edge, and within an 1/8" [.3cm] to give them the benefit of doubt.

  Entrants should still strive for the ideal entry of minimum of 1.5" for males and 1.25" for females.

  The reason we have minimums for fish size is that we want to judge *adult* fish, and not juveniles. A fish that is too small has not fully developed and there are many faults that do not show until a fish is fully mature – color faults, spinal issues, blindness issues, to name just a few. (We call this "masking faults".) While it is true that we judge the fish as it is shown at the time without regard to genetics, it is the IBC policy to strive for the best genetics and the best breeding of bettas. We want to make sure that the fish we breed and show are able to be held up as the best representatives of their species. Mature fish are the only way to demonstratively hold this ideal.

  The JB is making this exception for a trial year primarily because of hardship issues with members who inaccurately judge the size of their fish. We realize how discouraging it can be to send your fish to a show only for them to be DQ'd.

  For this reason, we are allowing more of a flexibility on the size issues, while still giving the advantage to the mature fish that we'd prefer to see in the shows.

- Members are allowed to show fish for other members that they are holding for those members due to specific hardship issues (travelling, fish can't be shipped back, weather, health issues, etc.), as long as the holding does not extend beyond more than one month. If the holding goes beyond a month, then the members should apply for a "hardship" collaboration showing and show with both names. (Show fish are half-breeding, half-raising, and both need to be equally acknowledged.)

Logistic Show Changes

- Local-level shows are now allowed to judge their own shows per IBC Standards, with the option of having an IBC Judge skyping or calling in for questions.
- Show stands are no longer required to be black. Grey or black backgrounds are still preferred over white, however, they are no longer required. Black fish classes are still required to have a white background for judging (putting a white card behind them).
- Continuous labels are no longer required to wrap around the edge of a container (done previously to hide the continuous number and whether the fish is to be auctioned).
- Class winning fish are no longer required to be auctioned first (if they are being auctioned).
- Prior to bidding on holding an IBC Area Convention, an IBC Chapter must within 3 years of the bid have held at least one successful International show.

Financial Incentives

In order to promote betta showing among participants and chapters, the IBC Executive Board has authorized the following financial incentive for IBC International Shows. Chapters often incur great expenses holding a show. The EB hopes that making this assistance available will make it easier for chapters to hold shows and entrants to participate.

- Chapters holding a show during the 2015-2016 show season can apply after a show to receive US$200. This is applicable for all chapters, in all areas. The chapter must
    1. Not have earned more than US$200 in final accounting totals
    2. Not have spent more than US$300 on awards/trophies.

If a Chapter would like to apply for the US$200 after a show, please have the Chapter Chair or authorized representative send an email to jbchair@ibcbettas.org and let us know what your general accounting for the show was.

These incentives are authorized for the 2015-2016 show season only. They will be reviewed next year to see if they have helped the IBC Show Circuit.

Judging/Apprenticeship Changes

- District shows are now eligible to qualify for renewing judging certificates. (International shows are still preferred, but the JB recognizes that this won't always be possible.)
- Swimming faults now clarify that a slight wigging from side to side (esp. longfins) is okay, but will be faulted if the fish is *clearly* fighting to swim upright due to excessive finnage.

- The bi-color class is no longer restricted to “only accepted IBC colors” and will now simply be defined as having a body of one color and fins of a different color.

- Opening up seminars to more judges

  Judging Seminars can be given by IBC Judges who:
  a) have been a certified judge for at least two years
  b) have judged at least four different IBC shows, at least three of them international

  Because information is best relayed in common languages, other judges may also give seminars if they get prior approval from the Judging Board. We recommend, if possible, a combination of an experienced judge along with a judge who speaks the language where the seminars are being given. If enough notice is given, the Judging Board can work with the judge and show chairs to create guides to the seminars in the appropriate language.

  Any Judges wish to give a seminar must contact the IBC Judging Board Chair in a timely manner to obtain the most current seminar information, and also to get the seminar onto the events calendar officially.

- Giving Seminars outside an Judge's Area

  Due to regional differences in IBC Standards (such as self-bred or purchased fish showing), the Judging Board highly recommends that Judging Seminars be given by an accredited judge from the area where the seminars are being held. Some circumstances due to travel or timing may make this impractical, or other instances might make it desirable to have a guest judge hold the seminars. In that case, approved judges from other areas may give seminars, but the Show Chair must notify the Judging Board ahead of time, and explain why the exception is being requested. To be qualified, judges must have judged at an Area Convention before giving a seminar outside their Area. Any judge who hasn't attended an Area convention needs to request an exception from the Judging Board. Note that all plans for seminars must go to the IBC JB Chair in a timely manner before the seminar, so it can go on the official show calendar, and the latest seminar information can be distributed.

- Due to the newness of holding official IBC shows in Area 7, there is now a two-year exemption for approving Area 7 Apprentices for the show placement requirements, provided that person applying for apprentice:
  - Has been an IBC member for 2 years
  - Must be a member of an IBC Chapter
  - Must do all seminars before the first Apprenticeship show (normally we allow this to done slightly out of order, but for the two-year exemption, we're taking that part away)