

Appendix VI-3: Development of the Bettas4all Standard® – Phase III (2016)**November, 2015**

In the past two years the Bettas4all Judging Board worked hard to further develop and improve the Bettas4all Standard®. This article describes the third phase of development of the Bettas4all Standard® and will provide more information and insight regarding the current status and the updates.

1. Introduction

The release of the Bettas4all Standard® in 2010 resulted in both positive and negative reactions within the Betta scene. Some hobbyists were open to developments whereas others were reluctant to change. However, the support and development in the past five years within the European Betta scene have shown that the Bettas4all Standard® is an excellent standard to judge international show, and is here to stay. By now the Bettas4all Standard® has been used at eighteen international Betta shows in three different European countries (see **Table VI-2.1** and **Table VI-3.1**).

Table VI-3.1 Overview shows judged according to the Bettas4all Standard® 2013-2015

| # | Name Show | # Fish | Date | City + Country |
|-----|-----------------------------------|--------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 9. | 3 rd Betta Freaks Show | 204 | 13-14 April 2013 | Rheinberg, Germany |
| 10. | Holland Betta Show 2013 | 308 | 16-18 August 2013 | Arcen, The Netherlands |
| 11. | 4 th Betta Freaks Show | 179 | 4-6 October 2013 | Dortmund, Germany |
| 12. | 5 th Betta Freaks Show | 198 | 12-13 April 2014 | Kalkar Germany |
| 13. | 6 th Betta Freaks Show | 176 | 28-29 Juni 2014 | Schalmtal, Germany |
| 14. | Holland Betta Show 2014 | 308 | 15-17 August 2014 | Arcen, The Netherlands |
| 15. | Italian Betta Show | 200 | 18-19 October 2014 | Piacenza, Italy |
| 16. | 7 th Betta Freaks Show | 202 | 25-26 April 2015 | Kalkar Germany |
| 17. | Holland Betta Show 2015 | 308 | 14-16 August 2015 | Arcen, The Netherlands |
| 18. | Italian Betta Show | 201 | 17-18 October 2015 | Piacenza, Italy |

During these shows the standard was extensively tested and later, discussed, evaluated and reviewed by the Bettas4all Judges and Bettas4all Judging Board. This continuous feedback was used in the third phase of development, resulting in a further improved version of the Bettas4all Standard®.

2. Show Classes

The following important adjustments have been made in the show classes:

- i. Doubletail plakat and crowntail plakat males:** In 2013 separate show classes for doubletail plakat and crowntail plakat males were added to the Bettas4all Standard®. These Chapters have now been updated with 3D models for the doubletail plakat (see **Figure VI-3.1A**) and crowntail plakat (see **Figure VI-3.1B**).

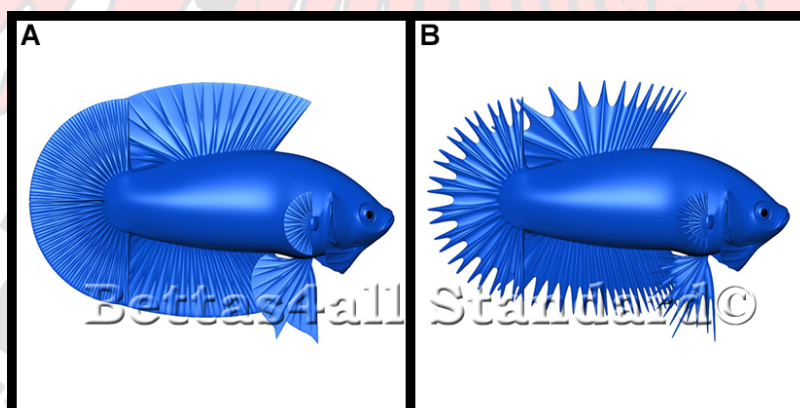


Figure VI-3.1 2D representation of the 3D models of the two new symmetrical shortfin varieties (created by Stefan George Psarakos).
Doubletail plakat (A) and Crowntail plakat (C)

- ii. **Form & Variations:** In 2013, we decided to make a clear distinction between regular and giant show Bettas which have to be shown in the Form & Variations class. In the updated standard we have further improved this definition for “giant” males and females. In order to be classified as “giant” at a Bettas4all sanctioned show, a male has to have a body size of at least 6.00 cm / 2.36 inch. In light of the sexual dimorphism between males and females we have adjusted to a body size for a female to at least 5.50 cm / 2.17 inch in order to be classified as “giant”.

3. Awards

With respect to the awards on Bettas4all sanctioned shows, the following adjustments were made:

- i. **Number of awards per show class:** A unique feature of the Bettas4all Standard® is the fact that the number awards in the various show classes depends on the number of fish present in that particular show class. Based on our experiences in the past years we have decided to make the following adjustment in order to give more value to the awarded prizes and to create a more interesting competition (see **Chapter 5**). Per class the following places will be awarded:

- **1st - 5th place** in classes with more than 12 fish (previously 10 fish) entered .
- **1st - 3rd place** in classes with 6 - 12 fish (previously 4-10 fish) entered*.
- **1st place**, in classes with up to 5 fish (previously 3 fish) entered*.

* In case of exceptional quality the Judging Team is allowed to increase the number of awards to a maximum of 5.

- ii. **Bettas4all Masters Competition:** As the Bettas4all Standard® currently is used in three different European countries (Germany, Italy and the Netherlands), we have decided to add a new award. The prestigious title “**Bettas4all Master**” will be awarded to the hobbyist who collects the most show points at Bettas4all sanctioned shows during one show year. A show year here is defined as the period from the 1st of January to the 31st of December. Show points (see **Table VI-3.2 and Chapter 5**) are automatically assigned to participants when his/her fish placed in any of the show classes or won (reserve) Best of Show awards. The top 20 of the prestigious “Bettas4all Masters Competition” will be presented at the annual Holland Betta Show (Arcen, the Netherlands), following the show year in which the competition has been completed.

Table VI-3.2 Overview show points Bettas4all Masters Championship

| Awards per show class | Show points |
|--|--------------------|
| 1th place | 25 |
| 2nd place | 20 |
| 3rd place | 15 |
| 4th place | 10 |
| 5th place | 5 |
| Best of Show awards | Show points |
| Best of Show Male (BOSM) | 25 |
| Best of Show Female (BOSF) | 25 |
| Reserve Best of Show Male (rBOSM) | 15 |
| Reserve Best of Show Female (rBOSF) | 15 |
| Special Prizes | Show points |
| Jury prize | 25 |
| Public prize | 25 |

Please note that the award for “Best European Breeder”, a special prize that is awarded to the breeder with the most 1st prizes at a particular show, is not valued with show points. This means that a breeder with less 1st prizes can still gather more show points at that particular show than the breeder awarded with this special prize.

In 2014 we have been testing the “Bettas4all Masters Competition” on the four Bettas4all sanctioned shows held in Italy, Germany and the Netherlands (see **Table 1C.1**). The Bettas4all Master of 2014 was announced at the Holland Betta Show 2015 and the top 10 point ranking can be found in the table below (see **Table VI-3.3**).

Table VI-3.3 Top 10 ranking Bettas4all Masters Competition 2014.

| Rank | Name | 5th Betta Freaks Show, April 2014 | 6th Betta Freaks Show, June 2014 | Holland Betta Show 2014, August 2014 | Italian Betta Show, October 2014 | Total Points 2014 |
|------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Michel Stokkelaar | 160 | 105 | 150 | 125 | 540 – Bettas4all Master 2014 |
| 2 | Joep van Esch | 135 | 155 | 90 | 115 | 495 |
| 3 | Arie de Koning | 110 | 150 | 75 | 100 | 435 |
| 4 | Boris Weber-Schwartz | 80 | 145 | 85 | 90 | 400 |
| 5 | Jolanda Wisseborn | 125 | 155 | 95 | 0 | 375 |
| 6 | Eugenio Fornasiero | 15 | 0 | 125 | 180 | 320 |
| 7 | James King | 55 | 0 | 90 | 70 | 205 |
| 8 | Josip Kevari | 0 | 0 | 145 | 60 | 215 |
| 9 | Josef Kanok | 50 | 0 | 100 | 50 | 200 |
| 10 | Aleks Breton | 0 | 100 | 60 | 0 | 160 |

4. New additions

Two new chapters have been added to the Bettas4all Standard®.

4.1 Bettas4all Sanctioned Shows – Europe

This chapter discusses all aspects regarding organizing a Bettas4all sanctioned show. A Bettas4all sanctioned show can be defined as competition for self-bred show Bettas which is being judged according to the Bettas4all Standard® by certified Bettas4all Judges. For the time being, Bettas4all sanctioned shows are restricted to all countries belonging geographical or political under any of the various common definitions of Europe (see **Table VI-3.4**). This also accounts for participation although the judging Board can make an exception to this rule when a hobbyist from outside of Europe is personally attending the Bettas4all sanctioned show and would be willing to participate.

Table VI-3.4 List of the 51 independent states belonging geographical or political to Europe.

| | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| Albania | Czech Republic | Italy | Montenegro | Spain |
| Andorra | Denmark | Kazakhstan* | Netherlands | Sweden |
| Armenia** | Estonia | Kosovo | Norway | Switzerland |
| Austria | Finland | Latvia | Poland | Turkey* |
| Azerbaijan* | France | Liechtenstein | Portugal | Ukraine |
| Belarus | Georgia* | Lithuania | Romania | United Kingdom |
| Belgium | Germany | Luxembourg | Russia* | Vatican City |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Greece | Macedonia | San Marino | |
| Bulgaria | Hungary | Malta | Serbia | |
| Croatia | Iceland | Moldova | Slovakia | |
| Cyprus** | Ireland | Monaco | Slovenia | |

*Transcontinental countries, partially located in both Europe and Asia.

** Politically considered European countries, though geographically located in West Asia.

The option to host a Bettas4all sanctioned show is depending on the developmental status of the Bettas4all Standard® and the progress of the Bettas4all Judging training program. We aim for quality not quantity!

4.2 Bettas4all Judging Manual

The Bettas4all Judging Manual will discuss all aspects with respect to judging procedures, the Bettas4all Judging board, Bettas4all Judges and how to become a certified Bettas4all Judge.

5. Bettas4all Judging Training Program

The Bettas4all Judging Board has developed an extensive training program in order to deliver well trained, experienced judges who are fully aware of the contents of the Bettas4all Standard® and know how to apply this in practice at our shows. At this stage, five hobbyists have been officially certified to Bettas4all Judge (see **Table VI-3.5a**) whereas four hobbyists are participating in the training program (see **Table VI-3.5b**).

Table VI-3.5a Overview certified Bettas4all Judges

| Last name: | First name: | Country | Date of Certification |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Esch, van | Joep | The Netherlands | 16 th of August 2014 |
| Fornasiero | Eugenio | Italy | 16 th of August 2014 |
| King | Jamie | Czech Republic | 16 th of August 2014 |
| Stokkelaar | Michel | The Netherlands | 16 th of August 2014 |
| Weber-Schwartz | Boris | Germany | 16 th of August 2014 |

Table VI-3.5b Overview Bettas4all Apprentice Judges

| Last name: | First name: | Country | Date of Certification |
|------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Brammah | Martin | United Kingdom | August 2016 |
| Brändström | Emelie | Sweden | August 2016 |
| Silverii | Roberto | Italy | August 2016 |

Please stay tuned for Phase IV!