

Chapter 8C: Certified Bettas4all Judge

This chapter describes the function and responsibilities of a certified Bettas4all Judge as well as the concept of “Guest” judges.

1. Definition of a certified Bettas4all Judge

A Bettas4all Judge has completed an extensive training program and has passed a practical and theoretical exam to become an officially certified to judge according to the Bettas4all Standard® (see **Chapter 7D**). A show is officially designated as “Bettas4all sanctioned” when at least one certified Bettas4all judge is present to function as Head Judge. A Bettas4all Judge by no means is superior to other hobbyists but does fulfil an important function at Bettas4all sanctioned shows and within the hobby in general.

1.1 Function, ethics and responsibility

A certified Bettas4all Judge should:

- Be passionate about the hobby.
- Be a true representative of the philosophy of the Bettas4all Standard®.
- Be up to date with the contents of the Bettas4all Standard®.
- Be able to apply in practice the Bettas4all Standard®.
- Be able to function as Head Judge and lead the entire judging procedure.
- Minimize personal preference and judge according to the ideals set by the Bettas4all Standard®.
- Be able to discuss delicate matters by respecting the opinion of others, using well-thought arguments.
- Be responsible, honest and objective in their actions without being egocentric in a quest for personal gain of power within the hobby.
- Refrain themselves from fights, personal attacks, threats, or other types of harassment in the public domain.
- Step back in order to prevent conflicts of interest.
- Be prepared to give explanations and to teach/train participants at a show, other judges, apprentices, hobbyists and public in general.

Note: Judges should not pretend to know it all and not be too proud to admit mistakes! In case of irresponsible behaviour of a certified Bettas4all Judge, the Bettas4all Judging Board has the right to withdraw judging certification.

1.2 Financial compensation

As previously mentioned Bettas4all is a non-profit and the Bettas4all Standard® has been developed from a hobby perspective. Although a show can only be Bettas4all sanctioned when at least one certified Bettas4all Judge is present to act as Head Judge, it cannot be taken for granted that judges can afford to be present at multiple shows each year. Bettas4all Judges are hobbyists, they also have private lives, families, jobs and other obligations outside the hobby. A Show Team is allowed to provide a compensation with respect to travel costs, accommodation and/or meals. The amount of this compensation and whether this only applies to the Head Judge or the entire judging team is at the discretion of the organizing group/club.

Note: A financial compensation is not obligatory!

2. Bettas4all “Guest” judges

The Bettas4all Judging Board has the right to appoint a “Guest” judges in case of a special condition such as:

- a. Certified judges of other organizations than Bettas4all.
 - b. Hobbyists with great experience in both breeding and judging who have retired from the hobby.
- In such cases the Bettas4all “Guest” Judge can take part in the judging procedure at the apprentice level under supervision of a certified Bettas4all Judge. It is important to note that a “Guest” judge can only become a certified Bettas4all Judge after full completion of the training program (see **Chapter 8D**).