

Chapter 8D: How to become a certified Bettas4all Judge

In order to become a certified Bettas4all Judge, the Bettas4all Judging Board has developed an extensive teaching program in order to deliver well-trained, experienced judges. The program consists of a combination of theoretical and practical training courses in order to prepare apprentices for the final exam to become a certified Bettas4all Judge (see **Chapter 8C**).

1. When can you apply for the training program to become a certified Bettas4all Judge?

The Bettas4all judging training program is an investment of both the candidate as well as instructors involved. Candidates should be highly motivated and should have proven their dedication to the hobby. The application to become a certified Bettas4all Judge will be accepted when (1) there is place within the training program and (2) the candidate has fulfilled the following criteria:

1. The candidate should have sufficient knowledge of the English language to understand the written standard and the courses of the training program. In addition, the candidate should be able to discuss his/her decisions with understandable arguments.
2. The candidate should have physically attended and participated at minimally one Bettas4all sanctioned show per year in two subsequent show seasons with at least 5 fish per show year.
3. The candidate should pay an application fee of 50 euro. This fee will be considered as a commitment and will be entirely spent to provide the candidate with a kit containing all the materials needed during the training and the judging of a show. The Bettas4all Judging Kit includes (a) a copy of the Bettas4all Standard®, (b) a mirror and (c) a LED lamp. After completion of the training program and passing the exam, the candidate will receive a personalized signature stamp with his/her name and the title “Bettas4all Judge”.
4. The Bettas4all Judging Board should anonymously approve the application of the candidate.

Note: *The judging Board can make an exception with respect to these criteria when they are convinced of the exceptional commitment of a candidate to become a certified Bettas4all Judge.*

2. The Bettas4all judging training program

In order to become a certified Bettas4all Judge, the apprentice will have to complete a theoretical and practical training program (see **Table 8D.1 & Appendix IV**):

Table 8D.1 Overview Bettas4all judging training program

Theoretical training	
Theory (T)	Description
T1	Introduction into the Bettas4all Standard® & overview training procedure <i>Learn the basics on the development of the Bettas4all Standard®, contents, show classes, judging procedures and awards. In addition detailed information will be provided concerning the required training procedure to become a certified Bettas4all Judge.</i>
T2	Judging general characteristics, form, finnage and color <i>Learn how to apply the Bettas4all Standard® with a focus on general characteristics (Chapter 3), the various (Form and) finnage (Chapter 4A-L) and color varieties (Chapter 5) in both male and female show Bettas.</i>
Practical training	
Practice (P)	Description
P1	Practical training judging procedures <i>Learn how to apply the judging procedure in practice focussing on the division of show classes, judging of the various show classes and the determination of the Best of Show awards and Jury prize.</i>
P2	

3. Obtaining Judging certification

After completing the theoretical and practical training of the Bettas4all judging program (see **Table 8D.1**), the apprentice has to pass the following exams in order to receive the Bettas4all Judging Certificate and the title “Bettas4all Judge”:

1. **Practical exam:** Apprentices will have to show their ability to (1) divide show classes and (2) judge three show classes consisting of at least one shortfin, one longfin and one female class. This will be done under supervision of one or more certified Bettas4all judge(s).

2. **Theoretical exam:** Apprentices will have to show their knowledge on the contents and philosophy of the Bettas4all Standard® and how it is applied in an oral assessment.

Note: *Judging certification has to be obtained within 4 years after starting the training program.*

4. Validity of judging certification

In order to guarantee that the judging procedure at Bettas4all sanctioned shows is of a consistent high quality, it is important that certified Bettas4all Judges are up to date with the judging procedures as well with new developments within the show standard and the hobby in general. After completing and passing the judging training program, certification will remain valid as long as the certified Bettas4all judge:

1. Is active as a judge at minimally one Bettas4all sanctioned show every two years.
2. Is actively contributing to the hobby as a breeder with participation at a minimum of one Bettas4all sanctioned show every two years (with at least 5 fish).
3. In case the Bettas4all Standard® has been updated, certified Bettas4all judges have to follow an update course in order to become familiar with changes and/or new developments.

When certified judges fail to fulfil these criteria their judging certification will be temporarily put on hold for a period of maximally two years. Recertification is needed to become a fully certified judge again.

Note: *The judging Board can make an exception with respect to these criteria when they are convinced of the exceptional commitment of a (former) certified Bettas4all Judge. In case of irresponsible behaviour of a certified Bettas4all Judge, the Bettas4all Judging Board has the right to withdraw judging certification.*

4.1 Recertification

In order to become a certified Bettas4all judge once again after certification has been put on hold, the candidates have to prove their interest in the hobby with participation at a Bettas4all sanctioned show with at least 5 fish. Judging certification can be reactivated after:

- a. Taking the necessary seminars in order to be up to date with changes and/or new developments in the time of inactivity.
- b. Judging at least one* show as an apprentice at a Bettas4all sanctioned show under supervision of a certified Bettas4all judge.

**The amount of apprenticeships needed is determined by the Bettas4all Judging Board taking in account new developments within the standard, the level of experience and time of absence of the candidate.*

- c. After a. and b. are completed, the candidate has to pass the practical and theoretical exam as described above in paragraph 3.