Bettas4allStandard©

Version May 2019

BETTAS4ALL STANDARD[©]

Version May 2019

Judging Board

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Quick overview of the Bettas4all Standard©

This quick overview summarizes the content of the Bettas4all Standard© and is written with the purpose to familiarize the reader with the contents of the document which sometimes can be rather technical and complex. The Bettas4all Standard© was developed to promote vital, healthy and balanced show Bettas. As the Bettas4all Standard© gives a clear description of the various show varieties, it can serve as a guideline for both hobbyists and judges. The Bettas4all Standard© was developed by a group of dedicated international, experienced Betta hobbyists with a shared passion for these beautiful fish including the show scene and community.

Preface

The preface informs the reader of the latest developments of the current version of the Bettas4all Standard©.

Introduction

The introduction gives an overview of the guiding principles behind the Bettas4all community.

Show Classes

The show classes are the different categories in which all fish can be subdivided at shows. This subdivision is made when all the fish are benched and mostly takes place on the evening preceding the show. In order to promote a more interesting and challenging competition the Bettas4all Judging Team has the option to split show classes when there are at least six fish of a certain sub-variety which are entered by a minimum of two breeders. A good overview of the various show classes can motivate hobbyists to aim their breeding program towards a certain goal for the upcoming show season.

General Characteristics

The chapter on the general characteristics of a show Betta include a description of the vitality, size, overall balance, form and color of the fish. All these characteristics are essential to determine the chance that a particular fish has to win in comparison to other fish within the same show class. This careful and objective observation of the characteristics of fish is important during the judging procedure, but is also essential during the selection process where hobbyists decide which fish will become show fish and/or breeders.

Finnage Characteristics

The chapter on finnage characteristics describes the ideal form and dimensions of the finnage varieties in the various show classes, such as plakats, veiltails, halfmoons, crowntails and doubletails. These also include trial classes with new varieties that are becoming more popular in the latest years. The description of the finnage characteristics are extremely detailed and constitutes one third of the whole standard.

Color Characteristics

Besides form, the color of a show Betta is an essential aspect during the division of show classes, the judging procedure and selection of a fish as show fish and/or breeder. The chapter on color characteristics describes the ideal color with respect to intensity, contrast, distribution and pattern.

Awards

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. In addition, show points for the prestigious Bettas4all Masters Competition are automatically assigned to participants when his/her fish placed in any of the show classes or a special prize at Bettas4all-sanctioned shows.

Bettas4all Shows

Shows which are judged according to the Bettas4all Standard© can be Bettas4all-sanctioned or Bettas4allassociated. This chapter of the standard explains the difference between both types of shows and describes all aspects of Bettas4all shows, including the team of people organizing, judging and helping the show. The chapter also covers in detail several practical aspects such as the number of entries, how to manage the setups and gives suggestions on how to face the financial aspects related to a show.

Bettas4all Judging Manual

The manual is a detailed description of all the aspects that need to be considered during the judging procedures at a show. These include the benching, the sorting of the show classes and the duties of the judges with an exhaustive description of the role of the Head Judge.

Bettas4all Judging Board and Certified Bettas4all Judges

This chapter introduces the Bettas4all Judging Board and describes the function and responsibilities of a certified Bettas4all Judge and how to apply for the training program to become a certified Bettas4all judge.

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Preface: The latest development of the Bettas4all Standard© – Phase IV (2019)

May 2019

This article describes the fourth phase of development of the Bettas4all Standard[®] and will provide more information and insight regarding the current status and the updates. More information about phase I, II and III of development of the Bettas4all Standard[®] can be found in **Appendix VI**.

1. Introduction

Bettas4all is incredibly proud to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Bettas4all Standard©. Since its release in 2010, the popularity and number of Bettas4all-sanctioned shows has been steadily growing. By now the Bettas4all Standard[©] has been used at twenty-seven international Betta shows in partnership with the Betta Freaks (Germany), the Associazione Italiana Betta (AIB; Italy) and the National Betta Show (United Kingdom) with an additional three shows scheduled for 2019 (*see Table P1.1*).

#	Name Show	# Fish	Date	City + Country
1.	Holland Betta Show 2010	265	20-22 August 2010	Arcen, The Netherlands
2.	15 th EHBBC Show 2010	~150	30 September-3 October 2010	Duisburg, Germany
3.	16 th EHBBC Show 2011	~150	28-30 January 2011	Hannover, Germany
4.	Holland Betta Show 2011	308	19-21 August 2011	Arcen, The Netherlands
5.	17 th EHBBC Show 2011	176	30 September-3 October 2011	Duisburg, Germany
6.	1 st Betta Freaks Show 2012	160	20-22 April 2012	Frechen, Germany
7.	Holland Betta Show 2012	308	17-19 August 2012	Arcen, The Netherlands
8.	2 nd Betta Freaks Show 2012	188	29-30 September 2012	Dortmund, 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 June 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
19.	8 th Betta Freaks Show	255	23-24 April 2016	Kalkar Germany
20.	Holland Betta Show 2016	356	19-21 August 2016	Arcen, The Netherlands
21.	Italian Betta Show	205	21-22 October 2016	Piacenza, Italy
22.	9 th Betta Freaks Show	244	22-23 April 2017	Kalkar Germany
23.	Italian Betta Show	245	9-11 June 2017	Ranco, Italy
24.	Holland Betta Show 2017	354	18-20 August 2017	Arcen, The Netherlands
25.	10 th Betta Freaks Show	266	28-29 April 2018	Kalkar Germany
26.	National Betta Show	210	23-24 June 2018	Solihull, United Kingdom
27.	Holland Betta Show 2018	392	18-20 August 2018	Arcen, T <mark>he</mark> Netherlands
28.	11th Betta Freaks Show	Upcoming	11- <mark>1</mark> 2 May 2019	Kalkar Germany
29.	National Betta Show	Upcoming	22-23 June 2019	Solihull, United Kingdom
30.	Holland Betta Show 2019	Upcoming	16-18 August 2019	Arcen, The Netherlands

 Table P1.1
 Full overview of the Bettas4all-sanctioned shows in the period 2010-2019

In the past 10 years, the standard was extensively tested, discussed, evaluated and reviewed by the Bettas4all Judges and Bettas4all Judging Board. In addition, we also received a lot of valuable feedback from participants at our shows. In the fourth phase of development, the Bettas4all Judging Board used this critical view and feedback to pinpoint the limitations of the previous version of the standard, resulting in this further improved version of the Bettas4all Standard[®].

2. General characteristics

The general characteristics that all show Betta should possess regardless of their fin and/or color variety are described in *Chapter 3* of the Bettas4all Standard[©]. In the current version of the Bettas4all

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Standard© an overview of the relative weight of all aspects to which show Betta are judged during the judging procedure was added (*see Table P1.2 and Chapter 8A*). *Table P1.2 Overview of the relative weight of all characteristics within the Bettas4all Standard*[©]

Category:	Points	Weight	Sub-category	Points	Weight	
			Condition & Deportment	10	10%	
Overall Appearance	25	25%	Body size	5	5%	
			Overall balance	10	10%	
Body	40 400/	100/	Form	8	8%	
Бойу	10	10%	Scalation	2	2%	
	35	35%	Caudal fin	10	10%	
			Dorsal fin	8	8%	
Finnage			Anal fin	8	8%	
			Ventral fins	6	6%	
			Pectoral fins	3	3%	
Calar		20	200/	Intensity/Contrast	15	15%
Color 30		30%	Distribution/Pattern	15	15%	
Total	100	100%	Total	100	100%	

2. Show Classes

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

i. Doubletail plakat and crowntail plakat: In 2013 separate show classes for doubletail plakat and crowntail plakat males were added to the Bettas4all Standard[®] with their ideal dimensions based on those of the symmetrical halfmoon plakat. Both standards have been updated describing the ideal dimensions of the doubletail plakat (see Chapter 4D and Figure P1.1) and crowntail plakat (see Chapter 4E and Figure P1.2) being based on either the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat.



Figure P1.1 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal doubletail plakat based on the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat (left) and symmetrical halfmoon plakat (right).



Figure P1.2 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal crowntail plakat based on the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat (left) and symmetrical halfmoon plakat (right).

ii. Large Pectorals: Large pectoral fins (often referred to as "Dumbo", "Big Ears" or Elephant Ears") can be combined with all other finnage and size variations as described in the Bettas4all Standard©. While large pectorals fish are becoming more common at shows, we have included a separate class for males and females of this variety (see Chapter 2). In this version of the Standard we have defined

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the minimal relative length of the pectoral fins and provided a 3D model for short- and long-finned fish (see *Chapter 4K, Chapter 4L and Figure P1.3*).



Figure P1.3 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal large pectoral Betta based on the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat (left) and halfmoon (right).

iii. Form & Variation: Breeding giants at a minimum body size of at least <u>6.00 cm (2.36 inch)</u> appears to be a challenge difficult to overcome for European hobbyists. This has discouraged breeders with a potential interest in breeding giants. For this reason, although a body size of <u>6.00 cm (2.36 inch)</u> will remain the ideal, the minimal body size for a show Betta male or female to be classified as giant has been decreased to <u>5.5 cm (2.17 inch)</u> in order to promote this variety at Bettas4all-sanctioned shows (see Chapter 4J). When this variant will gain more popularity among hobbyists and will be shown with a higher frequency at Bettas4all-sanctioned shows this most likely will result in a separate show class for giants in the future.



Figure P1.4 Some examples to represent the new developments in the color standard Lightbody (A) vs. darkbody orange (D); lightbody (B) vs. darkbody marble (E) and lightbody (C) vs. darkbody multicolor (F) (A) was bred by Jean-Michel Jeannerat (Switzerland), (B) breeder unknown (pictures by Evan Quek; Singapore), (C) was bred by Eugenio Fornasiero (Italy), (D) was bred by Sumet Chaonahuitak (Thailand), (E) was bred by Susanne Ziolkowsky (Germany) and (F) was bred by Zaldi (Indonesia).

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iv. Color standard: Within the unicolor class, both iridescent or non-iridescent show Bettas previously only could be sub-classified as either darkbody (presence of black pigment) or lightbody (absence of black pigment). The current version of the Bettas4all Standard© also recognizes black-edged scaling (presence of black pigment limited to the outer rim of the scaling) for non-iridescent unicolor show Bettas as a distinct sub-class (see Figure P1.4 and Chapter 5A). For the All Other Color (AOC) classes better descriptions and examples were added for the marble and multicolor patterns (see Figure P1.4 and Chapter 5B). The marble class can be further subclassified, based on the amount of dark base color (black, green, blue) on the body, into darkbody marble (presence of a dark base color covering at least 30% of the body) and lightbody marble (absence or a less than 30% coverage of a dark base color on the body). The multicolor class can be further subclassified, based on the amount of underlying black pigment, into darkbody multicolor (presence of black pigment on the body) and lightbody multicolor (black pigment on the body).

4. Bettas4all Shows

In general the aim of a Bettas4all show is to bring hobbyists together and to promote all aspects of our beautiful hobby to the public (see **Chapter 7**). The new Bettas4all Standard© recognizes two types of shows:

- A. <u>Bettas4all-sanctioned show:</u> A Bettas4all-sanctioned show can be defined as a competition for self-bred show Bettas by European hobbyists which is being judged according to the Bettas4all Standard© by certified Bettas4all Judges. Bettas4all-sanctioned shows are restricted to hobbyists from countries belonging geographical or political under any of the various common definitions of Europe. At Bettas4all-sanctioned shows, each participant can earn show points for the prestigious Bettas4all Master Competition when his/her fish placed in any of the show classes or won (reserve) Best of Show awards.
- B. <u>Bettas4all-associated show:</u> A Bettas4all-associated show can be defined as a competition for self-bred show Bettas by (inter)national hobbyists which is being judged according to the Bettas4all Standard© by certified Bettas4all Judges. The organizing team of Bettas4all-assiciated shows is free to determine who is allowed to participate. Bettas4all-associated shows can be restricted to a national show, a limited set of countries or free to hobbyists from all over the world. At Bettas4all-associated shows, <u>no show points are awarded for the Bettas4all Master Competition</u>. *Table P1.3* gives an overview of the (plannted) Bettas4all-associated shows in 2018-2019.

#	Name Show	# Fish	Date	City + Country
1.	Vivarium 2018	48	24-25 November 2018	Rosmalen, the Netherlands
2.	Italian Betta Show	120	29-31 March 2019	Pisa, Italy
3.	German Betta Contest	Upcoming	11-15 October 2019	Dortmund, Germany
4.	Vivarium 2019	Upcoming	24-25 November 2019	Rosmalen, the Netherlands

Table P1.3 Overview of the (planned) Bettas4all-associated shows in the period 2018-2019

The maximum number of fish that can be entered by a participant at a Bettas4all-sanctioned or Bettas4all-associated show is determined by the organization of the show based on the number of tanks available. If the fish are entered under the name of a participant who is not actively breeding fish, the fish will not be admitted to the competition.

Important note:

At <u>Betta4all-sanctioned shows</u> the maximum number of fish that can be entered by a participant is usually limited to a maximum between 10 and 15 self-bred fish per single participant. If two or more breeders breed fish at the same household there are two options:

- i. Fish can be entered as a partnership under one (combined) name. The maximum number of fish a partnership can enter is similar that of a single participant.
- ii. Fish can be entered under independent names. The maximum number of fish per participant sharing the same household is limited to 70% of the maximum number of fish of a single participant. For example, at a show where the maximum is set to 10 fish per single breeder, two breeders sharing the same household can enter 7 fish each under separate names.

In case a show is fully booked the maximum number of entries can be reduced to maximally 10 fish per breeder in order to promote a more interesting competition by allowing more breeders to enter their fish.

Participating breeders are allowed to offer the fish they have entered in the show for sale. Fish will be sold for fixed prices (no auction). Each breeder is free to determine the price of their own fish of which 70% is paid to the breeder and 30% will be retained in favour of the organizing group/club.

5. Bettas4all Judging Manual

The current version of the Bettas4all Standard© describes duties and the role of the Head Judge in detail, to allow a more efficient implementation of the judging procedures (see **Chapter 8A section 3.1**). In particular, practical examples and tips are explained and should be used as a checklist during the show. Also some tips have been added to render the judging of show classes more professional and fair (see **Chapter 8A section 3.2**).

6. Bettas4all Judging Training Program

In the past 10 years, 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 and know how to apply the Bettas4all Standard[®] in practice at our shows. At this stage, nine hobbyists have been officially certified to Bettas4all Judge of which currently seven have an active status (see *Table P1.4a*). In addition, four hobbyists are currently actively participating in the training program (see *Table P1.4b*).

Last name: First name:		Country	Certification date	Status
Esch, van	Joep	The Netherlands	August 2014	Active
Fornasiero Eugenio		Italy Germany	August 2014	Active
King	Jamie	Australia Czech Republic	August 2014	Active
Brändström	Emelie	Sweden	August 2016	Active
Silverii	Roberto	Italy	October 2016	Active
Dumitrescu	Liviu	Romania	August 2017	Active
Grevenbroek	Jordy	The Netherlands	August 2018	Active
Stokkelaar	Michel	The Netherlands	August 2014	Inactive
Neber-Schwartz	Boris	Germany	August 2014	Inactive

Table P1.4b Overview Bettas4all Apprentice Judges

Last name:	First name:	Country	Aimed certification date	Status
Grimm	Alex	Germany	May 2019	In training
Bemmel, van	Michiel /	The Netherlands May 2019		In training
Örnberg	Maria 🖌 🖌	Sweden	To be determined in 2020	In training
		United Kingdom		
Leopold 🦉 🗾	Stefan	Germany	To be determined in 2020	In training

7. Closing words

We hope that this fourth updated version of the Bettas4all Standard© will be useful for all hobbyists around the world and we encourage hobbyists to give us feedback on this new version by contacting us at <u>Bettas4allstandard@hotmail.com</u>. In case you are interested in hosting a show judged with the Bettas4all Standard© also please to not hesitate to contact us in order to discuss the options.

Please stay tuned for Phase V!

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Stefan George Psarakos (Australia) for his continuous efforts in developing the models for the Bettas4all standard with us. In addition we would like to thank the Betta Freaks (Germany), the Associazione Italiana Betta (AIB; Italy), the National Betta Show (United Kingdom) and Jan's Kampffisch- und Meerwassershop (Germany) for their collaboration, trust and support. We sincerely hope to continue our collaborations for a long time.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Bettas4all is a non-commercial community for hobbyists by hobbyists. It all started with the Bettas4all Forum which was founded in September 2004 to bring Betta hobbyists together from all over the world to share knowledge and experience. In 2014, the Bettas4all Community was expanded with the **Bettas4all Facebook Group** which has grown into our main discussion platform. The Bettas4all Forum continues to serve as a long-lasting database for articles, spawn-logs and lots of other useful information.

The Bettas4all Community is well-known because of the following characteristics:

- Internationality: Due to the international character of our community, the main language is English. Almost all continents (except Antarctica) are represented on our community and we are internationally appreciated by many Betta hobbyists, clubs and other groups/forums.
- **Professionality:** The Bettas4all Community is managed and supervised by an international team of dedicated and experienced hobbyists.
- Respect: The Bettas4all Community has a friendly atmosphere where members respect each other's opinion.
- Informative: The Bettas4all Community provides you with all the information you need with respect to keeping, breeding and exhibiting show Bettas.
- Quality: Information on a high level and good quality.
- Speed: Quick response to your questions and prompt reactions.

The philosophy of the Bettas4all Community is to promote vital, healthy, balanced show Bettas. In the past years Bettas4all has been very active to promote the beautiful Betta hobby in the Europe by organizing several (inter)national events. This led to the development the **Bettas4all Standard**[®] in order to promote vital, healthy, balanced show Bettas at our events. The development and details of the Bettas4all Standard[®] will be discussed in the following chapters.

We would like to emphasize that the Bettas4all does not support (and refrains itself from the practice) of fighting Bettas and has a no tolerance policy against the actual practice of fighting. Alongside, the Bettas4all is against any malpractice in the handling and the breeding of fish that goes against local and international rules for keeping healthy and vital fish. Respect both the fish and other hobbyists.

BEWARE, THE "BETTA-VIRUS" IS OUT THERE!

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Chapter 2: Show Classes

<u>General remark:</u> When the finnage or color variety of a fish is of an "in-between" type the fish has to be shown in the class where it stands most chance.

1. Show classes Bettas4all Standard[©]

At Bettas4all sanctioned shows fish can be entered in the following **21 main show classes** (see **table 2.1**).

<u>a. Show class + gender</u>	<u>b. Finnage variety</u>	<u>c. Class code:</u>	d. Chapter:	e. Color variety
Male				_
	Traditional	M1	4A	All colors*
Shortfin	Asymmetrical halfmoon	M2	4B	All colors*
(plakat)	Symmetrical halfmoon	M3	4 C	All colors*
(plakat)	Doubletail	M4	4D	All colors*
	Crowntail	M5	4E	All colors*
0 1011	Veiltail	M6	4F	All colors*
Longfin	Halfmoon	M7	4G	All colors*
Longini	Doubletail	M8	4H	All colors*
	Crowntail	M9	41	All colors*
Special class	Form & Variation	M10	4J	All colors*
Trial class	Large pectoral fins	M11	4K	All colors*
Female				
	Traditional	F1	4M	All colors*
Shortfin	Halfmoon	F2+3	4M	All colors*
(plakat)	Doubletail	F4	4M	All colors*
	Crowntail	F5	4M	All colors*
	Veiltail	F6	4M	All colors*
Longfin	Halfmoon	F7	4M	All colors*
Longin	Doubletail	F8	4M	All colors*
	Crowntail	F9	4M	All colors*
Special class	Form & Variation	F10	4M	All colors*
Trial class	Large pectoral fins	F11	4M	All colors*

		Q
Table 2.1	Main show classes Bettas4all Standard	P

* If possible, show classes are further divided in subcategories based on color variety (see Chapter 5).

No difference will be made between new and experienced breeders, as well as hobby and commercial breeders.

2. Splitting show classes

The Bettas4all Judging Team has the right to split show classes in order to create a more interesting and challenging competition. Splitting show classes into extra classes is only allowed when there are <u>at</u> least six fish of a certain sub-variety which are entered by a minimum of two breeders. Here it is important that the amount of (sub)classes does not exceed the maximum prizes made available by the organization.

- Splitting color classes: Optional color show classes are for example separate classes for unicolor, bicolor, marble, grizzle, banded and multicolor fish and if possible even further division into subclasses. These subcategories are discussed in greater detail in the standard for color Characteristics (see *Chapter 5, 5A and 5B*).
- Splitting the Form & Variation classes: Optional show classes here are for example separate classes for doubletail crowntail (DTCT), doubletail veiltail (DTVT), doubletail crowntail plakat (DTCTPK) and/or swordtails. These subcategories are discussed in greater detail in the standard for Form & Variation (see Chapter 4J and 4M).
- **Splitting Trial classes**: Optional show classes here are for example separate classes for shortand longfinned varieties with large pectorals and/or giants as well as any of the other finnage varieties (see **Chapter 4A-J and 4M**).

3. Coding show classes

As depicted in Table 2.1, the main show classes are designated by a unique class code which includes all color varieties.

- **Example 1:** Class code 'M7' corresponds with the show class 'Male longfin' and finnage variant 'Halfmoon', color variety 'All colors'.
- **Example 2:** Class code '*M10*' corresponds with the show class '*Male special classes*' and finnage variant '*Form & Variations*', color variety '*All colors*'.

3.1 Coding color classes:

When the '*All color*' class, is split into specific color subclasses, the name of the color variety will be added to the class code.

- **Example 3:** If the Longfin male, halfmoon class, all colors (M7) can be split into a unicolor, a bicolor and an all other colors (AOC) class, the class codes will be:
 - i. M7 Unicolor
 - ii. M7 Bicolor
 - iii. M7 AOC
 - **Example 4:** When the '*M7 unicolor class*' mentioned in example 3 is divided in a dark- and lightbody class the class codes will be:
 - *i.* M7 Unicolor Darkbody
 - ii. M7 Unicolor Lightbody
 - iii. M7 Bicolor
 - iv. M7 AOC

3.2 Coding Form & Variation Classes

When the 'Form & Variation' classes, male (M10) or female (F10), are split into subclasses for specific finnage, size or form variants, a lower-case letter in alphabetical order in combination with the name of the variety will be added to the class code.

- **Example 5:** If the Male special classes, Form & Variation class, all colors (M10) is split into a doubletail veiltail (DTVT) and a Form & Variation class which includes the remaining variants (both all colors), the class codes will be:
 - i. *M*10
 - ii. M10 Doubletail veiltail**

** Further subdivision of these subclasses into specific colors should be done as mentioned above in section 3.1.

Chapter 3: General Characteristics

Chapter 3 of the Bettas4all Standard[©] describes the general characteristics that all show Betta should possess regardless of their fin and/or color variety. In addition, this chapter provides an overview of the relative weight of all aspects to which show Betta are judged according to the Bettas4all Standard[©] during the judging procedure (see **Table 3.1** and **Chapter 8A**).

Category:	Points	Weight Sub-category		Points	Weight
			Condition & Deportment	10	10%
Overall Appearance	25	25%	Body size	5	5%
		2	Overall balance	10	10%
Body	10	40	Form	8	8%
Бойу		10%	Scalation	2	2%
	35 35%	$\langle \Lambda \rangle$	Caudal fin	10	10%
		35%	Dorsal fin	8	8%
Finnage			Anal fin	8	8%
			Ventral fins	6	6%
N N			Pectoral fins	3	3%
Color	Onlyn Do	200/	Intensity/Contrast	15	15%
COIDI	Color 30		Distribution/Pattern	15	15%
Total	100	100%	Total	100	100%

 Table 3.1
 Overview of the relative weight of all characteristics within the Bettas4all Standard[©]

1. Overall appearance

The overall appearance of a show Betta is determined by its condition & deportment, size and overall balance.

1.1 Condition & Deportment

A show Betta needs to be in good condition and show a good deportment.

- Condition refers to a complete anatomy, the health and the state of the body and finnage, which contribute to the overall appearance of the show Betta. Ideally the fish should appear well-nourished and vigorous without any damage to the body or finnage. According to the Bettas4all Standard©, a male and female show Betta should possess all anatomical features as described in *Figure 3.1*. There should be a clear distinction between male and female Bettas of the various finnage varieties. The ideal size and shape of the different parts will be discussed in the different parts of the standard.
- **Deportment** refers to the behaviour of the fish. A show Betta ideally presents itself by actively swimming throughout the whole tank (up and down, forward and backward). The fish flares actively and immediately in response to its own mirror image or, when "uncarded", to neighbouring fish within the same show class. During flaring the gill membrane and gill cover on each side of the head are opened, the three unpaired fins (anal, dorsal and caudal fin) are fully spread and the ventral fins are directed forward. Females usually are slightly less aggressive than their male counterparts. An important note with respect to judging deportment is the fact that this can vary from time to time. All entrants have to keep in mind that the judging is done at a specific time point of the show and that the show Betta must be judged according to its performance at this timepoint. Each show Betta has to be given the chance to show itself to another fish from the same class and/or its mirror-image.



Figure 3.1 Betta anatomy.

1.2 Body size

The ideal body size for a regular-sized, mature show Betta is at least 4.00 cm (1.57 inch) for a male and 3.50 cm (1.38 inch) for female. The minimum body size for a show Betta accepted at shows is 3.50 cm (1.38 inch) for a male and 3.00 cm (1.18 inch) for female. Here, larger fish are preferred above smaller fish if no other faults apply.

1.3 Overall balance

Independent of the finnage variety, the general appearance of a show Betta must be balanced. In general, this means that the finnage has to be in proportion with the body in such a way that it does not interfere with the swimming abilities of the fish. The ideal proportion between body and finnage differs between the different fin varieties and therefore is described in more detail in the different standards (see Chapter 4A-4L).

2. Body

The body of a show Betta is determined by its form and scalation.

2.1 Form

The form of the body is that of a modified ellipsoid. The "mouth-to-dorsal" and "dorsal-to-peduncle" toplines should be smoothly curved without dips and bumps (see Figure 3.3).



Toplines of a showBetta. Figure 3.2

The thickest part of the body (α) is located at the place where the vertical midline (B) intercepts the horizontal midline (X) and thereby crosses the point of the body where the front of the anal fin starts (see Figure 3.3). The vertical midline (B) divides the total body length (A-D) into two parts with a 40/60

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percent distribution. The front part (A-B), compromises approximately 40 percent of the total body length and contains most of the internal organs. In females, the belly area is slightly more rounded than in males with the ovipositor situated at the part just before the front of the anal fin starts (B). The mouth and the eyes are located slightly below the horizontal midline (X). The pupil and iris of the eyes should be clearly visible. The back part (B-D) compromises the remaining 60 percent of the total surface area of the body and contains the spine and swim bladder. The back part of the body gradually tapers from α to the peduncle and is nearly symmetrical on both sides of the horizontal midline (X). The height of the body at the peduncle (β) is equal to ~0.6-times α in males and ~0.5-times α in females. (see Chapter 4A-4L). Here it is important to note that the female body is not as thick as the male body at α .



Figure 3.3 Ideal body form & dimension of a show Betta.

When judged from above, the spine should be straight without any distinct curvatures, dips and/or bumps. During flaring the gill membrane and gill cover on each side of the head are opened and displayed (see *Figure 3.4*). This happens in both male and female Bettas but in males the gill membrane is larger.



Figure 3.4 Example of a Betta male opening his gill membrane and covers during flaring.

2.2 Scalation

In general, the scalation on the entire body should be nicely aligned in a symmetrical way leading to a solid appearance. On the back part of the body, each individual scale should be approximately of the same form and size. On the head, the scales are a bit smaller.

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3. Finnage

The finnage of a show Betta is determined by the form & dimension of the unpaired (the caudal fin, dorsal fin and anal fin) and the paired (ventral fins and pectoral fins) fins. Please note that the width of the anal fin (B-C) is used as a reference to define the desired proportions & dimensions of the finnage in the Bettas4all Standard[©] (see Figure 3.5).



Figure 3.5: The breadth of the anal fin is used as a reference point to describe the ideal dimensions of the finnage.

3.1 Caudal fin

The caudal fin, or tail fin, extends from the end of the caudal peduncle. The caudal fin is used for propulsion. The ideal dimensions of the caudal fin differ among the different fin varieties and therefore are described in more detail in the different standards (see Chapter 4A-4L).

3.2 Dorsal fin

The dorsal fin is located on the posterior dorsal surface of the fish. The dorsal fin serves to protect the fish against rolling and assists in sudden turns. The ideal dimensions of the dorsal fin differ among the different fin varieties and therefore are described in more detail in the standards, which define these varieties (see Chapter 4A-4L).

3.3 Anal fin

The anal fin is located on the ventral surface behind the anus. The anal fin is used to stabilize the fish while swimming. The ideal dimensions of the anal fin differ among the different fin varieties and therefore are described in more detail in the standards which define these varieties (see Chapter 4A-4L).

3.4 Ventral fins

The ventral fins are important in swimming and maintaining balance in the water. The shape of the ventral fins mimics the blade of a knife with the cutting edge directed backwards. The ventrals are equal in length and size and run down into a single tip. During flaring the ventral fins are directed forward and ideally should not cross each other. The ideal dimensions of the ventral fins differ among the different fin varieties and therefore are described in more detail in the standards which define these varieties (see Chapter 4A-4L).

3.5 Pectoral fins

The pectoral fins control the up-and-down motion as well as the side-to-side motion and rolling of the body. The pectoral fins can be held close to the body to increase speed by reducing drag, or they can be extended to increase drag and serve as a brake. The pectoral fins are equal in length and size. The ideal dimensions of the pectoral fins differ among the different fin varieties and therefore are described in more detail in the standards which define these varieties (see Chapter 4A-4L).

4. Disqualifying faults

- 1. The fish entered in the show are not bred by the hobbyist who declares to have bred them by registering the fish for the Bettas4all show (**Disqualification**).
- 2. Undersized fish:
 - Males with a body size under 3.50 cm / 1.38 inch (Disqualification).
 - Females with a body size under 3.00 cm / 1.18 inch (Disqualification).
- 3. Any sign of disease: Protruding scales, clamped/sticky fins, finrot, popeye, egg-bound females, etc. (Disqualification).
- 4. Absence of an anatomical part of the fish (eye, gill membrane, gill cover, fins etc.) (Disqualification).
- 5. Malformations of the body:
 - Crooked spine (Disqualification).
 - Extreme spoonhead (Disqualification).
 - Disfigurement of the lips (Disqualification).
 - Extremely deformed scalation (> 3 misaligned scales) (Disqualification).
 - Blindness or so-called "alien-eyes" (dense layer of color over the eye obscuring the iris, often associated with metallic/opaque) (Disqualification).
- 6. Finnage/balance:
 - Extreme fin damage: Missing part of a fin, more than one split/tear in any of the fins, >4 pinholes in the finnage (Disqualification).
 - Extreme ray branching (Disqualification).
 - Extreme balloon webbing (Disqualification).
 - Fused fins (Disqualification).
 - Multiple ventral tips: > 4 tips in at least one ventral fin (Disqualification).
 - Extreme fin-curling (Disqualification).
 - Extreme imbalance due to disproportionate length of the (un)paired fins (Disqualification).
 - Extreme masculine finnage on a female (Disqualification).
- 7. Inability to swim properly (Disqualification).
- 8. Inactivity/fearful behaviour, the fish does not rise from the tank bottom or does not flare (within 3 minutes) (Disqualification).
- 9. Males with a (false) "egg-spot" and females without an "egg-spot" (Disqualification).
- 10. Cut finnage (Disqualification).

Chapter 4: Finnage Characteristics

Chapter 4 of the Bettas4all Standard[®] describes the general characteristics of different finnage varieties. The Bettas4all Standard[®] recognizes eleven different finnage varieties (see **Table 4.1**) in both males and females which make up the main show classes as described in **Chapter 2** (see **Table 2.1**).

Table 4.1 Overview of the various finnage varieties which make up the main show classes.

Finnage variety	Male	Female:
Traditional Plakat	Chapter 4A	Chapter 4L
Asymmetrical halfmoon Plakat	Chapter 4B	Chapter 4
Symmetrical halfmoon Plakat	Chapter 4C	Chapter 4L
Doubletail Plakat	Chapter 4D	Chapter 4L
Crowntail Plakat	Chapter 4E	Chapter 4L
Veiltail	Chapter 4F	Chapter 4L
Halfmoon	Chapter 4G	Chapter 4L
Doubletail	Chapter 4H	Chapter 4L
Crowntail	Chapter 4I	Chapter 4L
Form & Variation	Chapter 4J	Chapter 4L
Large pectoral fins	Chapter 4K	Chapter 4L



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Chapter 4A: Finnage Characteristics - Traditional Plakat



Figure 4A.1 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal traditional plakat (created by Stefan George Psarakos).

1. General appearance

1.1 Condition & Deportment

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.2 Body size

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.3 Overall balance

The ideal traditional plakat has an asymmetrical appearance which is caused by the length and shape of the anal fin and the breadth, length and shape of the ventral fins and dorsal fin (see Figure 4A.2). The contour of the ideal symmetrical short-finned Betta can be captured by an oval of which the width is approximately 1.5-times the height (see Chapter 4C). In contrast to the symmetrical short-finned Betta, the upper part of the ideal traditional plakat approximately fits this oval but the asymmetrical lower part does not follow these contours and both the anal fin and the ventral fins clearly extend beyond the bottom edge of the caudal fin.



Figure 4A.2 The upper part of the ideal traditional plakat approximately fits the ideal symmetrical oval but the asymmetrical lower part does not follow these contours. The horizontal (X) and vertical (Y) midline as well as vertical lines A-E are used to describe the proportions of the ideal traditional plakat.

The vertical line that runs through the point on the body where the outer rays of the caudal fin are attached (C), divides the total length of the traditional plakat (A-E) into two parts, A-C and C-E, with a ~70/30 distribution respectively (see Figure 4A.2).

An important point with respect to overall balance is the fact that the finnage has to be in proportion with the body. The width of the anal fin (B-C) is used as a reference to define the desired proportions (see Figure 4A.3). In the ideal situation the length of the rays in the middle of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle (D) to the outer rim (E), are equal to $\sim 1/2$ of width of the anal fin (B-C). In case of a spade shaped caudal, the central rays are slightly longer. When an imaginary vertical midline would be drawn, the vertical length of the dorsal and anal fin from the body to the outer rim is again equal to 1/2

of the width of the anal fin. The length of the longest ray in the posterior part of the anal fin is equal to the width of the anal fin. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 3/4 of the width of the anal fin (B-C).



Figure 4A.3 The width of the anal fin (B-C) is an important marker to demonstrate proportion.

2. Body

2.1 Form

As in all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3 and Figure 4A.4).



Figure 4A.4 Ideal body shape form & dimension of the traditional plakat.

2.2. Scalation

As in all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

3. Finnage

3.1 Caudal fin

The form of the caudal fin of the traditional plakat can be either rounded or slightly spade-shaped (see Figure 4A.5, left). In the case of the spade-shaped form the point is situated in the middle of the caudal. The caudal fin has a symmetrical appearance which means that it could be divided into two equal parts which are mirror-images of each other across a horizontal midline (X). The ideal caudal fin has a 180degree spread with uniformly rounded edges. A spread of more than 180-degrees is not preferred over a 180-degree spread. The caudal fin has 12-13 primary rays which extend from the peduncle with primary (2-ray) branching. The branching of the rays should be evenly distributed throughout the caudal fin. The webbing of the caudal fin has a smooth overall appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.





Figure 3A.5 Ideal form of the caudal fin (left) and dorsal fin (right) of the traditional plakat.

3.2 Dorsal fin

The dorsal fin of the traditional plakat may have a uniformly rounded appearance or come to a slight point towards the back (see *Figure 4A.5, right*). Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be equal to 1/3 of the width of the anal fin (B-C) with 8 to 10 rays which do not show any branching. The rays in the back of the dorsal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The rays in the front of the dorsal must be slightly directed forward, and the back of the dorsal fin overlaps the upper part of the caudal. Overlap of the back of the dorsal fin with the body is not desirable. The webbing of the dorsal fin has a smooth overall appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.3 Anal fin

The anal fin of the traditional plakat has the shape of a modified scalene trapezoid and starts at the thickest point of the body (B) (see *Figure 4A.6, right*). The longest ray of the anal fin clearly extends below the bottom edge of the caudal fin with a clear pointed tip. The length of the rays gradually declines towards the front. During flaring the front of the anal is directed forward and the back overlaps the lower part of the caudal. The rays in the anal fin do not show any branching. The webbing of the anal fin has a smooth overall appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.4 Ventral fins

The form of the ventral fins of a traditional plakat is as in all other show Betta (see **Chapter 3**). Additionally, the ventrals of the traditional plakat should be long and slender and not too voluminous (see **Figure 4A.6, left**).

3.5 Pectoral fins

As in all other show Betta (see **Chapter 3** and **Figure 4A.6**, **right**). The pectoral fins of the traditional plakat are delta-shaped with primary (2-ray) branching.





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Figure 4A.7

Example of traditional plakat males. (A) was bred by Liv<mark>iu</mark> Moc<mark>a</mark>nu (Rumania) (B) was bred by Somkit Shuptawee (Thailand) and (C) was bred by Dong (Thailand) Please note that these fish are an example and still exhibit points requiring improvement.

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Chapter 4B: Finnage Characteristics - Asymmetrical Halfmoon Plakat



Figure 4B.1 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal asymmetrical halfmoon plakat (created by Stefan George Psarakos).

1. General appearance

1.1 Condition & Deportment

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.2 Body size

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.3 Overall balance

As the name indicates, the ideal asymmetrical halfmoon plakat has an asymmetrical appearance which is mostly caused by the length and shape of the anal fin and is contributed to by the breadth, length and shape of the ventral fins and dorsal fin (see *Figure 4B.2*).

The contour of the ideal symmetrical short-finned Betta can be captured by an oval of which the width is approximately 1.5-times the height (see *Chapter 4C*). In contrast to the symmetrical short-finned Betta, the upper part of the ideal asymmetrical halfmoon plakat approximately fits this oval but the asymmetrical lower part does not follow these contours and both the anal fin and the ventral fins clearly extend beyond the bottom edge of the caudal fin.



Figure 4B.2 The upper part of the ideal asymmetrical halfmoon plakat approximately fits the ideal symmetrical oval but the asymmetrical lower part does not follow these contours. The horizontal (X) and vertical (Y) midline as well as vertical lines A-E are used to describe the proportions of the ideal asymmetrical halfmoon plakat.

The vertical line which runs through the point on the body where the outer rays of the caudal fin are attached (C), divides the total length of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat (A-E) into two parts, A-C and C-E, with a ~70/30 distribution respectively (see *Figure 4B.2*). An important point with respect to overall balance is the fact that the finnage has to be in proportion with the body. The width of the anal fin (B-C) is used as a reference to define the desired proportions (see *Figure 4B.3*). In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle (D) to the outer rim (E), are equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin (B-C). When an imaginary vertical midline would be drawn, the vertical length of the dorsal and anal fin from the body to the outer rim is again equal to 1/2 of the width of the

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anal fin. The length of the longest ray in the posterior part of the anal fin is equal to the width of the anal fin. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 3/4 of the width of the anal fin (B-C).



Figure 4B.3 The width of the anal fin (B-C) is an important marker to demonstrate proportion.

2. Body

2.1 Form & dimension

As in all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3 and Figure 4B.4).



Figure 4B.4 Ideal body shape form & dimension of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat.

2.2. Scalation

As in all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

3. Finnage

3.1 Caudal fin

The form of the caudal fin of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat can be compared with the shape of a capital letter "D" (see *Figure 4B.5, left*). The caudal fin has a symmetrical appearance which means that it could be divided into two equal parts that are mirror-images of each other across a horizontal midline (X). The ideal caudal fin has a 180-degree spread, straight rays and sharp corners. A spread of more than 180-degrees is not preferred over a 180-degree spread. The caudal fin has 12-13 primary rays which extend from the peduncle and ideally the branching of the rays can range from secondary (4-ray) to tertiary (8-ray) branching. The branching of the rays should be evenly distributed throughout the caudal fin. The webbing of the caudal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

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Figure 4B.5 Ideal form of the caudal fin (left) and dorsal fin (right) of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat.

3.2 Dorsal fin

The dorsal fin of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat snaps open like a fan and has the shape of a modified scalene trapezoid (see Figure 4B.5, right). The volume and the capacity of the dorsal fin to open up like a fan is achieved by an increase in branching of the rays (mostly secondary or tertiary branching) and possibly a slight increase of rays (ranging from 9 to 12 rays). Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin (B-C). The rays in the back of the dorsal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The rays in the front of the dorsal must be slightly directed forward, and the back of the dorsal fin overlaps the upper part of the caudal. Overlap of the back of the dorsal fin with the body is not desirable. The webbing of the dorsal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.3 Anal fin

The anal fin of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat has the shape of a modified scalene trapezoid and starts at the thickest point of the body (B) (see *Figure 4B.6, right*). The longest ray of the anal fin clearly extends below the bottom edge of the caudal fin (without a clear pointed tip) but the length of the rays gradually declines towards the front. During flaring the front of the anal is directed forward and the back overlaps the lower part of the caudal. The volume and the capacity of the anal fin to open up during flaring is achieved by a moderate branching of the fin-rays (mainly primary ray-splitting although secondary ray-splitting sometimes also can be observed). The webbing of the anal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.4 Ventral fins

The form of the ventral fins of an asymmetrical halfmoon plakat is as in all other show Betta (see **Chapter** 3). Additionally, the ventrals of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat should have a full volume (see **Figure 4B.6**, **left**).

3.5 Pectoral fins

As in all other show Betta (see **Chapter 3** and **Figure 4B.6**, **right**). The pectoral fins of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat are D-shaped with primary (2-ray) branching.



Figure 4B.6 Ideal form of the ventral & pectoral fins (left) and anal fin (right) of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat.



Example of asymmetrical halfmoon plakat males. (A) was bred by Josip Kevari (Austria), (B) was bred by Joep van Esch (The Netherlands) and (C) was bred by Eugenio Fornasiero (Italy). Figure 4B.7 Please note that this fish is an example and still exhibits points requiring improvement.



Chapter 4C: Finnage Characteristics - Symmetrical Halfmoon Plakat



Figure 4C.1 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal symmetrical halfmoon plakat (created by Stefan George Psarakos).

1. General appearance

1.1 Condition & Deportment

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.2 Body size

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.3 Overall balance

As the name indicates, the ideal symmetrical halfmoon plakat has a symmetrical appearance which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline which shows that the upper and lower part of the fish nearly form a mirror-image (see Figure 4C.2). The contour of the ideal symmetrical halfmoon plakat fits an oval of which the width is approximately 1.5-times the height. The outer rim of the unpaired fins follows the contours of the oval in a smooth way without any irregularities. Ideally the anal fin and dorsal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge and upper edge of the caudal fin, respectively.



Figure 4C.2 The contour of the ideal symmetrical halfmoon plakat fits an oval. The horizontal (X) and vertical (Y) midlines as well as vertical lines A-E are used to describe the proportions of the ideal symmetrical halfmoon plakat.

The vertical line which runs through the point on the body where the outer rays of the caudal fin are attached (C), divides the total length of the symmetrical halfmoon plakat (A-E) into two parts, A-C and C-E, with a ~75/25 distribution respectively (see Figure 4C.2).

An important point with respect to overall balance is that the finnage must be in proportion with the body. The width of the anal fin (B-C) is used as a reference to define the desired proportions (see Figure 4C.3). In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle (D) to the outer rim (E), are equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin (B-C). When an imaginary vertical midline would be drawn, the vertical length of the dorsal and anal fin from the body to the outer rim is again equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 1/2 to 2/3 of the width of the anal fin (B-C).

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Figure 4C.3 The width of the anal fin (B-C) is an important marker to demonstrate proportion.

2. Body

2.1 Form & dimension

As in all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3 and Figure 4C.4).



Figure 4C.4 Ideal body shape form & dimension of the symmetrical halfmoon plakat.

2.2. Scalation

As in all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

3. Finnage

3.1 Caudal fin

The form of the caudal fin of the symmetrical halfmoon plakat can be compared with a the shape of a capital letter "D" (see Figure 4C.5, left). The caudal fin has a symmetrical appearance which means that it could be divided into two equal parts which are a mirror-images of each other across a horizontal midline (X). The ideal caudal fin has a 180-degree spread, straight rays and sharp corners. A spread of more than 180-degrees is not preferred over a 180-degree spread. The caudal fin has 12-13 primary rays which extend from the peduncle and ideally the branching of the rays can range from secondary (4-ray) to tertiary (8-ray) branching. The branching of the rays should be evenly distributed throughout the caudal fin. The webbing of the caudal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.





Figure 3C.5 Ideal form of the caudal fin (left) and dorsal fin (right) of the symmetrical halfmoon plakat.

3.2 Dorsal fin

The dorsal fin of the symmetrical halfmoon plakat snaps open like a fan and has the shape of a modified scalene trapezoid (see Figure 4C.5, right). The volume and the capacity of the dorsal fin to open up like a fan is achieved by an increase in branching of the rays (mostly secondary or tertiary branching) and possibly a slight increase of rays (ranging from 12 to 14 rays). Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be equal to 2/3 of the width of the anal fin (B-C). The rays in the front of the dorsal must be slightly directed forward, and the back of the dorsal fin overlaps the upper part of the caudal. Overlap of the back of the dorsal fin with the body is not desirable. The webbing of the dorsal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.3 Anal fin

The anal fin of the symmetrical halfmoon plakat starts at the thickest point of the body (B) and has the shape of a modified scalene trapezium (see Figure 4C.6, right). The anal fin runs approximately parallel to the body. The length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. During flaring the front of the anal is directed forward and the back overlaps the lower part of the caudal. The volume and the capacity of the anal fin to open up during flaring is achieved by a moderate branching of the fin-rays (mainly primary ray-splitting although secondary raysplitting sometimes also can be observed). The webbing of the anal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.4 Ventral fins

The form of the ventrals fins of a symmetrical show plakat is as in all other show Betta (see Chapter 3). Additionally, the ventrals of the symmetrical show plakat should have a full volume (see Figure 3C.6, left).

3.5 Pectoral fins

As in all other show Betta (see Chapter 3 and Figure 4C.6, right). The pectoral fins of the symmetrical halfmoon plakat are D-shaped with primary (2-ray) branching.



Figure 4C.6 Ideal form of the ventral & pectoral fins (left) and anal fin (right) of the symmetrical halfmoon plakat.



Examples of symmetrical halfmoon plakat males. (A) was bred by David Bastiaensen (Belgium), (B) was bred by Jit Sin (Malaysia) and (C) was bred by Morris Gabriel (Singapore) Figure 4C.7 Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.





Chapter 4D: Finnage Characteristics – Doubletail Plakat



Figure 4D.1 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal doubletail plakat (created by Stefan George Psarakos).

1. General appearance

1.1 Condition & Deportment

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.2 Body size

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.3 Overall balance

As the name indicates, the ideal doubletail plakat has a symmetrical appearance which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline which shows that the upper and lower part of the fish nearly form a mirror-image (see Figure 4D.2). The contour of the ideal doubletail plakat fits an oval of which the width is approximately 1.5-times the height. The outer rim of the unpaired fins follows the contours of the oval in a smooth way without any irregularities. Ideally the anal fin and dorsal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge and upper edge of the caudal fin, respectively.



The contour of the ideal symmetrical crowntail plakat (right) fits an oval, whereas the lower part of the Figure 4D.2 asymmetrical crowntail plakat (left) does not follow these contours. The horizontal (X) and vertical (Y) midlines as well as vertical lines A-E are used to describe the proportions of the ideal doubletail plakat.

The vertical line which runs through the point on the body where the outer rays of the caudal fin are attached (C), divides the total length of the doubletail plakat (A-E) into two parts, A-C and C-E, with a ~75/25 distribution respectively (see Figure 4D.2). An important point with respect to overall balance is that the finnage must be in proportion with the body. The width of the anal fin (B-C) is used as a reference to define the desired proportions (see Figure 4D.3). In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle (D) to the outer rim (E), are equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin (B-C). When an imaginary vertical midline would be drawn, the vertical length of the dorsal and anal fin from the body to the outer rim is again equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 3/4 of the width of the anal fin (B-C) in case of the asymmetrical crowntail plakat (see Figure 3D.3, left).and equal to 1/2 to 2/3 of the width of the anal fin (B-C) in the symmetrical crowntail plakat (see Figure 4D.3, right).





Figure 3D.3 The width of the anal fin (B-C) is an important marker to demonstrate proportion.

2. Body

2.1 Form & dimension

As in all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3 and Figure 4D.4).



Figure 4D.4 Ideal body shape form & dimension of the doubletail plakat.

2.2. Scalation

As in all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

3. Finnage

3.1 Caudal fin

The caudal fin of the doubletail plakat is characterized by two caudal lobes. The two caudal lobes are allowed to overlap but should be separated by means of a split which runs up to the base of the peduncle. The form of the two caudal lobes of the doubletail plakat together can be compared with the shape of a capital letter "D" (see Figure 4D.5, left). The caudal fin has a symmetrical appearance which means that it could be divided into two equal parts which are mirror-images of each other across a horizontal midline (X). The ideal caudal fin has a 180-degree spread (both caudal lobes together), straight rays and sharp corners. A spread of more than 180-degrees is not preferred over a 180-degree spread. Each caudal lobe should possess 12-13 primary rays which extend from the peduncle and ideally the branching of the rays can range from secondary (4-ray) to tertiary (8-ray) branching. The branching of the rays should be evenly distributed throughout the caudal fin. The webbing of the caudal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.





Figure 4D.5 Ideal form of the caudal fin (left) and dorsal fin (right) of the doubletail plakat.

3.2 Dorsal fin

At first sight, the dorsal fin of the doubletail plakat approximately resembles the shape of the anal fin. The dorsal fin of the doubletail plakat snaps open like a fan and has the shape of a modified scalene trapezoid (see Figure 4D.5, right). The volume and the capacity of the dorsal fin to open up like a fan is achieved by an increase in branching of the rays (mostly secondary or tertiary branching) and an increase of rays (ranging from 18-21 rays). Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be equal to 7/8 of the width of the anal fin (B-C). Please note that the point where the rays of the back of the dorsal are attached to the body, is located closer to the caudal peduncle (C) than seen in singletail Bettas. The rays in the back of the dorsal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The rays in the front of the dorsal must be slightly directed forward, and the back of the dorsal fin overlaps the upper part of the caudal. Overlap of the back of the dorsal fin with the body is not desirable. The webbing of the dorsal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.3 Anal fin

The anal fin of the doubletail plakat starts at the thickest point of the body (B) and has the shape of a modified scalene trapezium. In the asymmetrical doubletail plakat, the longest ray of the anal fin clearly extends below the bottom edge of the caudal fin (without a clear pointed tip) (see Figure 4D.6, left). In the symmetrical doubletail plakat the anal fin runs approximately parallel to the body where the length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin (see Figure 4D.6, right). In both the asymmetrical and symmetrical doubletail plakat, the length of the rays gradually declines towards the front. During flaring the front of the anal is directed forward and the back overlaps the lower part of the caudal. The volume and the capacity of the anal fin to open up during flaring is achieved by a moderate branching of the fin-rays (mainly primary raysplitting although secondary raysplitting sometimes also can be observed). The webbing of the anal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.4 Ventral fins

The form of the ventrals fins of a doubletail plakat is as in all other show Betta (see Chapter 3). Additionally, the ventrals of the doubletail plakat should have a full volume (see Figure 4D.6, left).

3.5 Pectoral fins

As in all other show Betta (see Chapter 3 and Figure 4D.6, right). The pectoral fins of the doubletail plakat are D-shaped with primary (2-ray) branching.





Figure 4D.6 Ideal form of the ventral & pectoral fins (left) and anal fin (right) of the doubletail plakat.



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Chapter 4E: Finnage Characteristics – Crowntail Plakat

General remark:

A Betta will be classified as crowntail if it shows at least a 20% reduction in webbing between the primary rays in all three unpaired fins.



Figure 4E.1 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal crowntail plakat (created by Stefan George Psarakos).

1. General appearance

1.1 Condition & Deportment

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.2 Body size

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.3 Overall balance

The ideal crowntail plakat can be based on the form of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat (see **Chapter 4B**) or that of the symmetrical halfmoon plakat (see **Chapter 3C**). The contour of the ideal symmetrical shortfinned Betta can be captured by an oval of which the width is approximately 1.5-times the height. The outer rim of the unpaired fins follows the contours of the oval in a smooth way without any irregularities. Ideally the anal fin and dorsal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge and upper edge of the caudal fin, respectively. In contrast to the symmetrical shortfinned Betta, the upper part of the ideal asymmetrical halfmoon plakat approximately fits this oval but the asymmetrical lower part does not follow these contours and both the anal fin and the ventral fins clearly extend beyond the bottom edge of the caudal fin.



Figure 4E.2 The contour of the ideal symmetrical crowntail plakat (right) fits an oval, whereas the lower part of the asymmetrical crowntail plakat (left) does not follow these contours. The horizontal (X) and vertical (Y) midlines as well as vertical lines A-E are used to describe the proportions of the ideal crowntail plakat.

The vertical line which runs through the point on the body where the outer rays of the caudal fin are attached (C), divides the total length of the crowntail plakat (A-E) into two parts, A-C and C-E, with a \sim 75/25 distribution respectively (see *Figure 4E.2*). An important point with respect to overall balance is that the finnage must be in proportion with the body. The width of the anal fin (B-C) is used as a reference to define the desired proportions (see *Figure 4E.3*). In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the

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caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle (D) to the outer rim (E), are equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin (B-C). When an imaginary vertical midline would be drawn, the vertical length of the dorsal and anal fin from the body to the outer rim is again equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 3/4 of the width of the anal fin (B-C) in case of the asymmetrical crowntail plakat (see Figure 4E.3, left).and equal to 1/2 to 2/3 of the width of the anal fin (B-C) in the symmetrical crowntail plakat (see Figure 4E.3, right).



As in all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3)

3. Finnage

3.1 Caudal fin

The ideal crowntail plakat caudal is "double-ray (DR)" and shows a primary branching (2-ray) with a 40% reduction in webbing between the primary rays and a 20% reduction between the secondary rays thereby creating a crown-like appearance. The protruding rays ideally should be thick and straight. The branching of the rays should be evenly distributed throughout the caudal fin. The overall form of the caudal fin of the crowntail plakat can be compared with a the shape of a capital letter "D" (see Figure 3E.5, left). The caudal fin has a symmetrical appearance which means that it could be divided into two equal parts which are a mirror-images of each other across a horizontal midline (X). The ideal caudal fin has a 180-degree spread, straight rays and sharp corners. A spread of more than 180-degrees is not preferred over a 180-degree spread. The caudal fin has 12-13 primary rays which extend from the

peduncle. The webbing of the caudal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.



3.2 Dorsal fin

The dorsal fin of the crowntail plakat shows a 40% reduction in webbing between the rays thereby creating a crown-like appearance. The protruding rays ideally should be thick and straight without any branching. The dorsal snaps open like a fan and has the shape of a modified scalene trapezoid. Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin (B-C) in case of the asymmetrical crowntail plakat (see Figure 4E.5, left) and equal to 2/3 of the width of the anal fin (B-C) in the symmetrical crowntail plakat (see Figure 4E.5, right). The rays in the front of the dorsal must be slightly directed forward, and the back of the dorsal fin overlaps the upper part of the caudal. Overlap of the back of the dorsal fin with the body is not desirable. The webbing of the dorsal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.3 Anal fin

The anal fin of the crowntail plakat shows a 40% reduction in webbing between the primary rays thereby creating a crown-like appearance. The protruding rays ideally should be thick and straight without any branching. The anal fin of the crowntail plakat starts at the thickest point of the body (B) and has the shape of a modified scalene trapezium. In the asymmetrical crowntail plakat, the longest ray of the anal fin clearly extends below the bottom edge of the caudal fin (without a clear pointed tip) (see Figure 4E.6. left). In the symmetrical crowntail plakat the anal fin runs approximately parallel to the body where the length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin (see Figure 4E.6, right). In both the asymmetrical and symmetrical crowntail plakat, the length of the rays gradually declines towards the front. During flaring the front of the anal is directed forward and the back overlaps the lower part of the caudal. The volume and the capacity of the anal fin to open up during flaring is achieved by a moderate branching of the fin-rays (mainly primary raysplitting although secondary raysplitting sometimes also can be observed). The webbing of the anal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.4 Ventral fins

The form of the ventrals fins of a crowntail plakat is as in all other show Betta (see Chapter 3). Additionally, the ventrals of the crowntail plakat should have a full volume with a clearly jagged appearance (see Figure 4E.6, left).

3.5 Pectoral fins

As in all other show Betta (see Chapter 3 and Figure 4E.6, right). The pectoral fins of the crowntail plakat are D-shaped with primary (2-ray) branching with a clearly jagged appearance.



Figure 4E.6 Ideal form of the ventral & pectoral fins (left) and anal fin (right) of the crowntail plakat.



 Figure 4E.7
 Examples of crowntail plakat males

 (A) was bred by Vasu Lertpradit (Thailand), (B) was bred by Romulo Fonseca Vieira Junior (Brazil) and (C) was bred by Alex Grimm (Germany).

 Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.

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Chapter 4F: Finnage Characteristics - Veiltail



Figure 4F.1 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal veiltail (created by Stefan George Psarakos).

1. General appearance

1.1 Condition & Deportment

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.2 Body size

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.3 Overall balance

The ideal veiltail has an asymmetrical appearance which is mostly caused by the length and shape of the anal and caudal fin and is contributed to by the breadth, length and shape of the ventral fins and dorsal fin also the breadth, length and shape of the ventral fins and dorsal fin play an important role (see Figure 4F.2).

The contour of the ideal symmetrical long-finned Betta can be captured by an oval of which the width is approximately 1.2-times the height (see Chapter 4G and Chapter 4H). In contrast to the symmetrical long-finned Betta, the asymmetrical contour of the ideal veiltail cannot be captured by an oval shape as the dorsal, caudal, anal and ventral fins clearly extend beyond this ideal oval shape.



Figure 4F.2 Whereas the upper part of the ideal veiltail fits the ideal symmetrical oval, the lower part does not follow these contours. The horizontal (X) and vertical (Y) midlines as well as vertical lines A-E are used to describe the proportions of the ideal veiltail.

The vertical line which runs through the point on the body where the outer rays of the caudal fin are attached (C), divides the total length of the veiltail (A-E) into two parts, A-C and C-E, with a ~50/50 distribution respectively (see Figure 4F.2).

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An important point with respect to overall balance is that the finnage must be in proportion with the body. The width of the anal fin (B-C) is used as a reference to define the desired proportions (see Figure 4F.3). In the ideal situation the length of the rays in the middle of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle (D) to the outer rim (E), are equal to ~2-times the width of the anal fin (B-C). The length longest ray in the middle of the dorsal fin should be equal to ~1.5-times the width of the anal fin (B-C). The length of the longest ray in the posterior part of the anal fin is equal to ~1.5-times the width of the anal fin. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to ~ 1.25 times the width of the anal fin (B-C).



Figure 4F.3 The width of the anal fin (B-C) is an important marker to demonstrate proportion.

2. Body

2.1 Form & dimension

As in all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3 and Figure 4F.4).



Figure 4F.4 Ideal body shape form & dimension of the veiltail.

2.2. Scalation

As in all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

3. Finnage

3.1 Caudal fin

The caudal starts with a broad base at the peduncle. The upper rays which leave the peduncle initially run up, and reach the highest point at 20% of the total caudal length, before they gradually drop down to below the horizontal midline (X). From here the rays either run parallel to each other resulting in a flag-shaped caudal (see Figure 4F.5, left) or gradually slope towards each other into a blunt point (see Figure 4F.5, right). The caudal fin has an asymmetrical appearance which means that if an imaginary horizontal midline (X) would be drawn it would be divided in two unequal parts. The base of the caudal ideally has a 180-degree spread. The caudal fin has 12-13 primary rays which extend from the peduncle with a primary (2-ray) branching. The branching of the rays should be evenly distributed throughout the caudal fin. The webbing of the caudal fin has a smooth overall appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.



Figure 4F.5 Ideal form of the caudal fin (left) and dorsal fin (right) of the veiltail.

3.2 Dorsal fin

The dorsal fin of veiltail has the appearance of a modified droplet (see Figure 4F.5, right). Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be equal to 1/3 of the width of the anal fin (B-C) with 8 to 10 rays which do not show any branching. The length of the rays in the back and front of the dorsal slightly declines. The lower part of the back of the dorsal fin overlaps the upper part of the caudal. Overlap of the back of the dorsal fin with the body is not desirable. The webbing of the dorsal fin has a smooth overall appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.3 Anal fin

The anal fin of the veiltail is trapezoid shaped and starts at the thickest point of the body (B) (see Figure 4F.6, right). The longest ray of the anal fin is located in the posterior part of the fin, the length of the rays gradually declines towards the front. During flaring the front of the anal is slightly directed forward. Overlap of the upper part of the back of the anal with the upper part of the lower half of the caudal is allowed. The rays in the anal fin do not show any branching. The webbing of the anal fin has a smooth overall appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.4 Ventral fins

The form of the ventrals fins of a veiltail is as in all other show Betta (see Chapter 3). Additionally, the ventrals of the veiltail should be long and slender and not be too voluminous (see Figure 4F.6, left).

3.5 Pectoral fins

As in all other show Betta (see Chapter 3 and Figure 4F.6, right). The pectoral fins of the veiltail are delta-shaped with primary (2-ray) branching.







 Figure 4F.7
 Example of veiltail males.

 (A) Breeder unknown, (B) was bred by Tomas Chuda (Czech Republic) and (C) was bred by Joep van Esch (The Netherlands)

 Please note that this fish is an example and still exhibits points requiring improvement.

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Figure 4G.1 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal halfmoon (created by Stefan George Psarakos).

1. General appearance

1.1 Condition & Deportment

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.2 Body size

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.3 Overall balance

The ideal halfmoon has a symmetrical appearance which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline which shows that the upper and lower parts of the fish nearly form a mirror-image (see Figure 4G.2). The contour of the ideal halfmoon fits an oval of which the width is approximately 1.2-times the height. The outer rim of the unpaired fins follows the contours of the oval in a smooth way without any irregularities. Ideally the anal fin and dorsal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge and upper edge of the caudal fin, respectively.



The contour of the ideal halfmoon fits an oval. The horizontal (X) and vertical (Y) midlines as well as vertical Figure 4G.2 lines A-E are used to describe the proportions of the ideal halfmoon.

The vertical line which runs through the point on the body where the outer rays of the caudal fin are attached (C), divides the total length of the halfmoon (A-E) into two parts, A-C and C-E, with a ~60/40 distribution respectively (see Figure 4G.2).

An important point with respect to overall balance is the fact that the finnage has to be in proportion with the body. The width of the anal fin (B-C) is used as a reference to define the desired proportions (see Figure 4G.3). In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle (D) to the outer rim (E), are equal to the width of the anal fin (B-C). When an imaginary vertical midline would be drawn, the vertical length of the dorsal and anal fin from the body to the outer rim is

again equal to the width of the anal fin. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 5/6 of the width of the anal fin (B-C).



Figure 4G.3 The width of the anal fin (B-C) is an important marker to demonstrate proportion.

2. Body

2.1 Form & dimension

As in all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3 and Figure 4G.4).



2.2. Scalation

As in all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

3. Finnage

3.1 Caudal fin

The form of the caudal fin of the halfmoon can be compared with the shape of a capital letter "D" (see Figure 4G.5, left). The caudal fin has a symmetrical appearance which means that it could be divided into two equal parts which are mirror-images of each other across a horizontal midline (X). The ideal caudal fin has a 180-degree spread, straight rays and sharp corners. A spread of more than 180-degrees is not preferred over a 180-degree spread. The caudal fin has 12-13 primary rays which extend from the peduncle and ideally the branching of the rays can range from secondary (4-ray) to quaternary (16-ray) branching. The branching of the rays should be evenly distributed throughout the caudal fin. The webbing of the caudal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.



Figure 4G.5 Ideal form of the caudal fin (left) and dorsal fin (right) of the halfmoon.

3.2 Dorsal fin

The dorsal fin of the halfmoon snaps open like a fan and has the shape of a modified scalene trapezoid (see *Figure 4G.5, right*). The volume and the capacity of the dorsal fin to open up like a fan is achieved by an increase in branching of the rays (mostly secondary or tertiary branching) and possibly an slight increase of rays (ranging from 9 to 14 rays). Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be equal to 2/3 of the width of the anal fin (B-C). The rays in the back of the dorsal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The rays in the front of the dorsal must be slightly directed forward, and the back of the dorsal fin overlaps the upper part of the caudal. Overlap of the back of the dorsal fin with the body is not desirable. The webbing of the dorsal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.3 Anal fin

The anal fin of the halfmoon starts at the thickest point of the body (B) and has the shape of a modified scalene trapezium (see *Figure 4G.6, right*). The anal fin runs approximately parallel to the body. The length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. During flaring the front of the anal is directed forward and the back overlaps the lower part of the caudal. The volume and the capacity of the anal fin to open up during flaring is achieved by a moderate branching of the fin-rays (mainly primary ray-splitting although secondary ray-splitting sometimes also can be observed). The webbing of the anal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.4 Ventral fins

The form of the ventrals fins of a halfmoon is as in all other show Betta (see **Chapter 3**). Additionally, the ventrals of the halfmoon should have a full volume (see **Figure 4G.6**, *left*).

3.5 Pectoral fins

As in all other show Betta (see Chapter 3 and Figure 4G.6, right).



Figure 4G.6 Ideal form of the ventral & pectoral fins (left) and anal fin (right) of the halfmoon.

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Figure 4G.7

Examples of halfmoon males. (A) was bred by Kit Watchara (Thailand), (B) was bred by Anna Laura Maida (Italy) and (C) was bred by Sawanit Youchongdee (Thailand) Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.

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Figure 4H.1 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal doubletail (created by Stefan George Psarakos).

1. General appearance

1.1 Condition & Deportment

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.2 Body size

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.3 Overall balance

The ideal doubletail has a symmetrical appearance which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline which shows that the upper and lower part of the fish nearly form a mirror-image (see *Figure 4H.2*). The contour of the ideal doubletail fits an oval of which the width is approximately 1.2-times the height. The outer rim of the unpaired fins follows the contours of the oval in a smooth way without any irregularities. Ideally the anal fin and dorsal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge and upper edge of the caudal fin, respectively.



Figure 4H.2 The contour of the ideal doubletail fits an oval. The horizontal (X) and vertical (Y) midlines as well as vertical lines A-E are used to describe the proportions of the ideal doubletail.

The vertical line which runs through the point on the body where the outer rays of the caudal fin are attached (C), divides the total length of the doubletail (A-E) into two parts, A-C and C-E, with a ~60/40 distribution respectively (see *Figure 4H.2*). An important point with respect to overall balance is the fact that the finnage has to be in proportion with the body. The width of the anal fin (B-C) is used as a reference to define the desired proportions (see *Figure 4H.3*). In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle (D) to the outer rim (E), are equal to the width of the anal fin (B-C). When an imaginary vertical midline would be drawn, the vertical length of the dorsal and anal fin from the body to the outer rim is again equal to the width of the anal fin. The length of the

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ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 5/6 of the width of the anal fin (B-C).



Figure 4H.3 The width of the anal fin (B-C) is an important marker to demonstrate proportion.

2. Body

2.1 Form & dimension

As in all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3 and Figure 4H.4).



Figure 4H.4 Ideal body shape form & dimension of the doubletail.

2.2. Scalation

As in all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

3. Finnage

3.1 Caudal fin

The caudal fin of the doubletail is characterized by two caudal lobes. The two caudal lobes are allowed to overlap but should be separated by means of a split which runs up to the base of the peduncle (see Figure 4H.7). Particular attention should be paid that the two lobes of the caudal fin are well separated, ideally starting from the caudal peduncle. The form of the two caudal lobes of the doubletail together can be compared with the shape of a capital letter "D" (see Figure 4H.5, left). The caudal fin has a symmetrical appearance which means that it could be divided into two equal parts which are mirrorimages of each other across a horizontal midline (X). The ideal caudal fin has a 180-degree spread (both caudal lobes together), straight rays and sharp corners. A spread of more than 180-degrees is not preferred over a 180-degree spread. Each caudal lobe should possess 12-13 primary rays which extend from the peduncle and ideally the branching of the rays can range from secondary (4-ray) to guaternary (16-ray) branching. The branching of the rays should be evenly distributed throughout the caudal fin. The webbing of the caudal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.



Figure 4H.5 Ideal form of the caudal fin (left) and dorsal fin (right) of the doubletail.

3.2 Dorsal fin

At first sight, the dorsal fin of the doubletail approximately resembles the shape of the anal fin. The dorsal fin of the doubletail snaps open like a fan and has the shape of a modified scalene trapezoid (see Figure 4H.5, right). The volume and the capacity of the dorsal fin to open up like a fan is achieved by an increase in branching of the rays (mostly secondary or tertiary branching) and an increase of rays (ranging from 18-21 rays). Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be equal to 7/8 of the width of the anal fin (B-C). Please note that the point where the rays of the back of the dorsal are attached to the body, is located closer to the caudal peduncle (C) than seen in singletail Bettas. The rays in the back of the dorsal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The rays in the front of the dorsal must be slightly directed forward, and the back of the dorsal fin overlaps the upper part of the caudal. Overlap of the back of the dorsal fin with the body is not desirable. The webbing of the dorsal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.3 Anal fin

The anal fin of the doubletail starts at the thickest point of the body (B) and has the shape of a modified scalene trapezium (see Figure 4H.6, right). The anal fin runs approximately parallel to the body. The length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. During flaring the front of the anal is directed forward and the back overlaps the lower part of the caudal. The volume and the capacity of the anal fin to open up during flaring is achieved by a moderate branching of the fin-rays (mainly primary raysplitting although secondary raysplitting sometimes also can be observed). The webbing of the anal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.4 Ventral fins

The form of the ventrals fins of a doubletail is as in all other show Betta (see **Chapter 3**). Additionally, the ventrals of the doubletail should have a full volume (see Figure 4H.6, left).

3.5 Pectoral fins

As in all other show Betta (see Chapter 3 and Figure 4H.6, right).







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Examples of doubletail males.
(A) Breeder unknown (picture by Just Betta; Singapore), (B) was bred by Patsayawan (Thailand) and (C) was bred by Pornpat Sangmanee (Thailand).
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Chapter 4I: Finnage Characteristics - Crowntail

General remark:

A Betta will be classified as crowntail if it shows at least a 25% reduction in webbing between the primary rays in all three unpaired fins.



2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal crowntail (created by Stefan George Psarakos). Figure 4I.1

1. General appearance

1.1 Condition & Deportment

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.2 Body size

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.3 Overall balance

The ideal crowntail has a symmetrical appearance which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline which shows that the upper and lower part of the fish nearly form a mirror-image (see Figure 41.2). The contour of the ideal crowntail fits an oval of which the width is approximately 1.2-times the height. The outer rim of the unpaired fins follows the contours of the oval in a smooth way without any irregularities. Ideally the anal fin and dorsal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge and upper edge of the caudal fin, respectively.



Figure 4I.2 The contour of the ideal crowntail fits an oval. The horizontal (X) and vertical (Y) midline as well as vertical line A-E are used to describe the proportions of the ideal crowntail.

The vertical line which runs through the point on the body where the outer rays of the caudal fin are attached (C), divides the total length of the crowntail (A-E) into two parts, A-C and C-E, with a ~60/40 distribution respectively (see Figure 41.2).



An important point with respect to overall balance is that the finnage has to be in proportion with the body. The width of the anal fin (B-C) is used as a reference to define the desired proportions (see Figure 41.3). In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle (D) to the outer rim (E), are equal to the width of the anal fin (B-C). When an imaginary vertical midline would be drawn, the vertical length of the dorsal and anal fin from the body to the outer rim is again equal to the width of the anal fin. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 5/6 of the width of the anal fin (B-C).



The width of the anal fin (B-C) is an important marker to demonstrate proportion. Figure 41.3

2. Body

2.1 Form & dimension

As in all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3 and Figure 41.4).



2.2. Scalation

As in all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

3. Finnage

3.1 Caudal fin

The ideal crowntail caudal is "double-ray (DR)" and shows a primary branching (2-ray) with a 50% reduction in webbing between the primary rays and a 25% reduction between the secondary rays thereby creating a crown-like appearance. The protruding rays ideally should be thick and straight (with exception of the crossray variants as described below). The branching of the rays should be evenly distributed throughout the caudal fin. The overall form of the caudal fin of the crowntail can be compared with the shape of a capital letter "D" (see Figure 41.5, left). The caudal fin has a symmetrical appearance which means that it could be divided into two equal parts which are mirror-images of each other across a horizontal midline (X). The ideal caudal fin has straight rays (with exception to the crossrays) and a 180-degree spread. A spread of more than 180-degrees is not preferred over a 180-degree spread.

The caudal fin has 12-13 primary rays which extend from the peduncle. The webbing of the caudal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing (with exception of the crossray variants as described below).



Figure 41.5 Ideal form of the caudal fin (left) and dorsal fin (right) of the crowntail.

3.2 Dorsal fin

The dorsal fin of the crowntail shows a 50% reduction in webbing between the rays thereby creating a crown-like appearance. The protruding rays ideally should be thick and straight without any branching. The dorsal snaps open like a fan and has the shape of a modified scalene trapezoid (see Figure 41.5, right). Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be 2/3 of the width of the anal fin (B-C) which can be achieved by a slight increase of rays (ranging from 9 to 14 rays). The rays in the back of the dorsal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The rays in the front of the dorsal must be slightly directed forward, and the back of the dorsal fin overlaps the upper part of the caudal. Overlap of the back of the dorsal fin with the body is not desirable. The webbing of the dorsal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.3 Anal fin

The anal fin of the crowntail shows a 50% reduction in webbing between the primary rays thereby creating a crown-like appearance. The protruding rays ideally should be thick and straight without any branching. The anal fin of the crowntail starts at the thickest point of the body (B) and has the shape of a modified scalene trapezium (see Figure 41.6, right). The anal fin runs approximately parallel to the body. The length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. During flaring the front of the anal is directed forward and the back overlaps the lower part of the caudal. The webbing of the anal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.4 Ventral fins

The form of the ventrals fins of a crowntail is as in all other show Betta (see **Chapter 3**). Additionally, the ventrals of the crowntail should have a full volume with a clearly jagged appearance (see Figure 41.6, left).

3.5 Pectoral fins

As in all other show Betta (see Chapter 3 and Figure 41.6, right). The pectoral fins of the crowntail are D-shaped with primary (2-ray) branching with a clearly jagged appearance.





Ideal form of the ventral & pectoral fins (left) and anal fin (right) of the crowntail.



Figure 4I.7 Examples of crowntail males. (A) was bred by Stingrays (Singapore), (B) was bred by Joty Amadja (Jotya; Indonesia) and (C) was bred by Boris Weber-Schwartz (Germany). Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.

Chapter 4J: Finnage Characteristics – Form & Variations

The form of fish shown in the Form & Variations class does not match the finnage characteristics of the other classes described in **Chapter 4A** to **4I**.

- Show Bettas shown in the Form & Variations class are characterized by:
 - i. A combination of one, two or three of the finnage variants described earlier in the other chapters, for example: doubletail crowntail (DTCT), doubletail veiltail (DTVT) and doubletail crowntail plakat (DTCTPK).
 - ii. A new development with respect to size and/or form such as giants and swordtails.

Importantly, the variation should not interfere with the swimming behavior and other general characteristics of the fish such as its condition, deportment and body shape as described in the general standard (see **Chapter 3**).



4J.1 Examples of fish which belong in the Form & Variation class
 Doubletail veiltail (A), Doubletail crowntail (B), Doubletail crowntail plakat (C), Giant halfmoon plakat (D)
 swordtail plakat (E) and swordtail plakat (F)
 (A) was bred by Kit Watchara (Thailand); (B) Breeder unknown; (C) was bred by KinggiantBetta (Thailand); (D)
 was bred by SuperstarBetta (Thailand, picture by Gianne Souza; USA); (E) was bred by Jirasak Vimonrattanakit
 (Thailand) and (F) was bred by Somsak_Bettafarm (Thailand).

Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.

Rough description of some likely rarer variations which have to be shown in this class (see Figure 4J.1):

- 1. <u>Doubletail veiltail (DTVT)</u>: The doubletail veiltail is a relatively symmetrical longfin variation resulting from a combination of the asymmetrical veiltail and symmetrical doubletail tailtype. The doubletail veiltail shows *characteristics* of both the veiltail (see *Chapter 4F*) and doubletail (see *Chapter 4H*) standard.
- 2. <u>Doubletail crowntail (DTCT)</u>: The doubletail crowntail is a symmetrical longfin variation resulting from a combination of the symmetrical doubletail and crowntail tailtype. The doubletail crowntail shows characteristics of both the doubletail (see Chapter 4H) and crowntail (see Chapter 4I) and standard.

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- <u>Doubletail crowntail Plakat (DTCTPK)</u>: The doubletail crowntail plakat is a relatively symmetrical longfin variation resulting from a combination of the symmetrical doubletail Plakat and crowntail plakat tailtype. The doubletail crowntail plakat shows characteristics of both the doubletail plakat (see Chapter 4D) and crowntail plakat (see Chapter 4E) and standard.
- 4. <u>Giant:</u> As the name already indicates, giant Bettas are characterized by their extremely large body size as comparison to regular sized mature Bettas which usually reach a maximum body size of ~4,5 cm (1.77 inch), although there are exceptions. Ideally, the body size for a giant Betta should be at least <u>6.00 cm (2.36 inch)</u>. The minimum body size for a show Betta to be classified as giant is <u>5.8 cm (2.28 inch)</u>. Here, larger fish are preferred above smaller fish if no other faults apply. This variety can exist in combination with all other finnage and size variations described in this standard and should be judged according to the finnage characteristics of these variations (see *Chapter 4A*–4J).
- 5. <u>Swordtails</u>: The overall appearance of the swordtail Betta can be both asymmetrical and symmetrical and is characterized by at least one elongated ray extending from the caudal fin. The swordtail variation is more likely to appear in short- than long finned fish and can show characteristics of the traditional plakat (see **Chapter 4A**), asymmetrical halfmoon plakat (see **Chapter 4B**) and/or symmetrical plakat (see **Chapter 4C**) standards.
- 6. <u>All other variations</u>: All variations which are not described in any in the current version of the standard.

All variations shown in the Form & Variation class are candidates for a future separate show class of their own. In order to achieve such status, the following characteristics are required:

- a. The variation has to be fixed and stabilized in a line.
- b. The variation has to gain more popularity among breeders.
- c. The variation has to be entered at shows judged according to the Bettas4all Standard[®] for a larger period of time by multiple breeders.

When these requirements are met, a more detailed description of the variation will be developed and the variation will receive its own trial class. Initially, the trial class will be a separate subclass of the Form & Variation class and the Judging team eventually will decide whether the variation will receive full class status of with its finnage characteristics described in a separate chapter.

Chapter 4K: Large pectoral fins (Trial Class)

General remark:

A Betta will be classified with the large pectoral fins when the pectorals are at least 1/3 of the width of the anal fin (B-C).

Large pectoral fins can be combined with all other finnage and size variations as described in the Bettas4all Standard (see Chapter 4A-4J). Bettas with large pectoral fins are often referred to as "Dumbo", "Big Ears" or Elephant Ears".



Figure 4K.1 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal large pectorals in a shortfin (left) and longfin (right) (created by Stefan George Psarakos).

1. General appearance

1.1 Condition & deportment

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.2 Overall size

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

1.3 Overall balance

An important point with respect to overall balance is that the finnage has to be in proportion with the body. The width of the anal fin (B-C) is used as a reference to define the desired proportions (see Figure 4K.2). In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the pectoral fins, are equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin (B-C).



Figure 4K.2 Ideal form of the pectoral fins in a shortfin (left) and longfin (right).

2. Body

2.1 Form & dimension

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

2.2. Scalation

As described for all other show Bettas (see Chapter 3).

3. Finnage

3.1 Caudal fin

As described for all other finnage varieties (see Chapter 3 and Chapter 4A-4J).

3.2 Dorsal fin

As described for all other finnage varieties (see Chapter 3 and Chapter 4A-4J).

3.3 Anal fin

As described for all other finnage varieties (see Chapter 3 and Chapter 4A-4J).

3.4 Ventral fins

As described for all other finnage varieties (see Chapter 3 and Chapter 4A-4J).

3.5 Pectoral fins

As described for all other finnage varieties (see Chapter 3 and Chapter 4A–4J) in combination with the ideal dimensions (see Paragraph 1.3 and Figure 4K.2).



Figure 4K.3 Examples of shortfinned males with large pectoral fins. (A) Breeder unknown (picture by Silvio Westphal; Germany), (B) Breeder unknown (picture by Evan Quek; Singapore) and (C) was bred by Sattawas Bandasak (Thailand). Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.



Figure 4K.4 Examples of longfinned males with large pectoral fins. Veiltail with large pectoral fins (A), Halfmoon with large pectoral fins (B) and (C) (A) Breeder unknown, (B) was bred by Sarawut Angkunanuwat (Thailand) and (C) was bred by Sattawas Bandasak (Thailand). Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.

Chapter 4L: Finnage Characteristics - Females

The Bettas4all Standard[©] recognizes ten different female show classes: traditional plakat, halfmoon plakat, doubletail plakat, crowntail plakat, veiltail, halfmoon, doubletail, crowntail, form & variation and large pectorals (*see Chapter 2*). The condition, deportment and body shape of female show Bettas are as described in the general standard (*see Chapter 3*).

1. Traditional plakat females

Although traditional plakat females have a shorter finnage, the overall form of the caudal, dorsal, anal, ventral and pectoral fins is similar to that of their male counterparts (see **Chapter 4A**). The ideal traditional plakat female has an asymmetrical appearance which is caused by the length and shape of the anal fin and the breadth, length and shape of the ventral fins and dorsal fin which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline. In contrast to halfmoon plakat females, the upper part of the ideal traditional plakat approximately fits this oval but the asymmetrical lower part does not follow these contours and both the anal fin and the ventral fins clearly extend beyond the bottom edge of the caudal fin. A slight dip is allowed in the contour between dorsal and caudal as long as the dorsal is overlapping the upper part of the caudal in such a way that there is no gap between the body and finnage. The body/caudal distribution in traditional plakat females is ~80/20.



Figure 4L.1 Example of a traditional plakat female. (A) was bred by Daniella Vereeken (Belgium), (B) was bred by Sebastiaan van der Wijngaart (the Netherlands) and (C) was bred by Boris Weber-Schwartz (Germany). Please note that this fish is an example and still exhibits points requiring improvement.

Similar to the overall balance in their male counterparts, it is important that the finnage must be in proportion with the body (see Figure 4L.1). The width of the anal fin is used as a reference to define the desired proportions. In the ideal situation the length of the rays in the middle of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle to the outer rim, are equal to 2/5 of the width of the anal fin. Although the dorsal fin does not extend beyond the upper edge of the caudal fin, the anal fin extends below the bottom edge of the caudal fin with a clear pointed tip. The length of the rays gradually declines towards the front. Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be 1/3 of the width of the anal fin. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin.

2. Halfmoon plakat females

Both asymmetrical and symmetrical halfmoon plakat females are shown in this class. Although halfmoon plakat females have a shorter finnage, the overall form of the caudal, dorsal, anal, ventral and pectoral fins is similar to that of their male counterparts (see **Chapter 4B** and **Chapter 4C**). The ideal halfmoon plakat female has a symmetrical appearance which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline which shows that the upper and lower parts of the fish nearly form a mirror-image. In contrast to their male counterparts the contour of the ideal halfmoon plakat female is that of a more rectangular-shaped oval. The outer rim of the unpaired fins follows the contours of this oval in a smooth way although a small exception is made in singletail females for the contour between dorsal and caudal. Here a slight dip is allowed as long as the dorsal is overlapping the upper part of the caudal in such a way that there is no gap between the body and finnage. The body/caudal distribution in halfmoon plakat females is ~80/20.



Figure 4L.2 Examples of halfmoon plakat females. (A) was bred by Roberto Mancuso (Italy), (B) and (C) were bred by Joep van Esch (The Netherlands) Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.

Similar to the overall balance in their male counterparts, it is important that the finnage must be in proportion with the body (see Figure 4L.2). The width of the anal fin is used as a reference to define the desired proportions. In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle to the outer rim, are equal to 2/5 of the width of the anal fin. Ideally the anal fin and dorsal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge and upper edge of the caudal fin, respectively. Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be between 1/2 - 2/3 of the width of the anal fin. The anal fin of halfmoon plakat females, being either from asymmetrical or symmetrical lines, should not show a pointed tip but should run approximately parallel to the body. The length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin.

3. Doubletail plakat females

Although doubletail plakat females have a shorter finnage, the overall form of the caudal, dorsal, anal, ventral and pectoral fins is similar to that of their male counterparts (see **Chapter 4D**). The ideal doubletail plakat female has a symmetrical appearance which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline which shows that the upper and lower parts of the fish nearly form a mirror-image. In contrast to their male counterparts the contour of the ideal doubletail plakat female is that of a more rectangular-shaped oval. The outer rim of the unpaired fins follows the contours of this oval in a smooth way. The body/caudal distribution in doubletail plakat females is ~80/20.



Figure 4L.3 Example of a doubletail plakat female.

(A) was bred by Joep van Esch (The Netherlands), (B) and (C) were bred by Andrej Tihomirović (Croatia). Please note that this fish is an example and still exhibits points requiring improvement, such as a more pronounced splitting until the base of the peduncle.

Similar to the overall balance in their male counterparts, it is important that the finnage must be in proportion with the body (see **Figure 4L.3**). The width of the anal fin is used as a reference to define the desired proportions. In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle to the outer rim, are equal to 2/5 of the width of the anal fin. The two caudal lobes are allowed to overlap but should be separated by means of a split which runs up to the base of the peduncle. Ideally

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the anal fin and dorsal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge and upper edge of the caudal fin, respectively. Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be equal to the width of the anal fin. The anal fin of doubletail plakat females should not show a pointed tip but should run approximately parallel to the body. The length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin.

4. Crowntail plakat females

Although crowntail plakat females have a shorter finnage, the overall form of the caudal, dorsal, anal, ventral and pectoral fins is similar to that of their male counterparts (see Chapter 4E). A female Betta will be classified as crowntail if it shows at least a 20% reduction in webbing between the primary rays in all three unpaired fins. The ideal crowntail plakat female has a symmetrical appearance which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline which shows that the upper and lower parts of the fish nearly form a mirror-image. In contrast to their male counterparts the contour of the ideal crowntail plakat female is that of a more rectangular-shaped oval. The outer rim of the unpaired fins follows the contours of this oval in a smooth way although a small exception is made in singletail females for the contour between dorsal and caudal. Here a slight dip is allowed as long as the dorsal is overlapping the upper part of the caudal in such a way that there is no gap between the body and finnage. The body/caudal distribution in crowntail plakat females is ~80/20.



Figure 4L.4 Examples of crowntail plakat females. (A) was bred by Alex Grimm (Germany), (B) and (C) were bred by Sanya Ponpal (Thailand). Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.

Similar to the overall balance in their male counterparts, it is important that the finnage must be in proportion with the body (see Figure 4L.4). The width of the anal fin is used as a reference to define the desired proportions. In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle to the outer rim, are equal to 2/5 of the width of the anal fin. Ideally the anal fin and dorsal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge and upper edge of the caudal fin, respectively. The caudal shows a primary branching (2-ray) with a 33% reduction in webbing between the primary rays and a 15% reduction between the secondary rays. The dorsal and anal both show a 33% reduction in webbing. Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be between 1/2 - 2/3 of the width of the anal fin. The anal fin of crowntail plakat females should not show a pointed tip but should run approximately parallel to the body. The length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin.

5. Veiltail females

Although veiltail females have a shorter finnage, the overall form of the caudal, dorsal, anal, ventral and pectoral fins is similar to that of their male counterparts (see Chapter 4F). The ideal veiltail female has an asymmetrical appearance which is caused by the length and shape of the anal fin and the breadth, length and shape of the ventral fins and dorsal fin which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline. In contrast to halfmoon females, the upper and lower parts of the ideal veiltail female do not follow the contour of the symmetrical oval, but the dorsal fin, anal fin and the ventral fins clearly extend beyond the bottom edge of the caudal fin. A slight dip is allowed in the contour between dorsal and caudal as long as the dorsal is overlapping the upper part of the caudal in such a way that there is no gap between the body and finnage. The body/caudal distribution in veiltail females is ~70/30.



Figure 4L.5 Examples of a Veiltail females.

(A) Bred by Daniel Dold (Germany), (B) breeder unknown (pictured by Jodi-Lea Matheson - Australia) and (C) bred by Josef Kanok (Czech Republic). Please note that this fish is an example and still exhibits points requiring improvement.

Similar to the overall balance in their male counterparts, it is important that the finnage must be in proportion with the body (see *Figure 4L.5*). The width of the anal fin is used as a reference to define the desired proportions. In the ideal situation the length of the rays in the middle of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle to the outer rim, are equal to 3/4 of the width of the anal fin. Both the dorsal fin and anal fin extend beyond the upper and lower edge of the caudal fin with the anal fin showing a clear pointed tip. The length of the rays gradually declines towards the front. Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be 1/3 of the width of the anal fin. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 1/2-2/3 of the width of the anal fin.

6. Halfmoon females

Although halfmoon females have a shorter finnage, the overall form of the caudal, dorsal, anal, ventral and pectoral fins is similar to that of their male counterparts (see **Chapter 4G**). The ideal halfmoon female has a symmetrical appearance which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline which shows that the upper and lower part of the fish nearly form a mirror-image. In contrast to their male counterparts the contour of the ideal halfmoon female is that of a more rectangular-shaped oval. The outer rim of the unpaired fins follows the contours of this oval in a smooth way although a small exception is made in singletail females for the contour between dorsal and caudal. Here a slight dip is allowed as long as the dorsal is overlapping the upper part of the caudal in such a way that there is no gap between the body and finnage. The body/caudal distribution in halfmoon females is $\sim 75/25$.



Figure 4L.6 Examples of halfmoon females.

(A) was bred by Kirsti Sætran (Norway), (B) was bred by Jamie King (Australia/Czech Republic) and (C) was bred by Michel Stokkelaar (The Netherlands).
 Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.

Similar to the overall balance in their male counterparts, it is important that the finnage must be in proportion with the body (see *Figure 4L.6*). The width of the anal fin is used as a reference to define the desired proportions. In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle to the outer rim, are equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin. Ideally the anal fin and dorsal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge and upper edge of the caudal fin, respectively. The length

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of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin. Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be between 1/2 - 2/3 of the width of the anal fin. The anal fin of halfmoon females should not show a pointed tip but should run approximately parallel to the body. The length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin.

7. Doubletail females

Although doubletail females have a shorter finnage, the overall form of the caudal, dorsal, anal, ventral and pectoral fins is similar to that of their male counterparts (see **Chapter 4H**). The ideal doubletail female has a symmetrical appearance which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline which shows that the upper and lower part of the fish nearly form a mirror-image. In contrast to their male counterparts the contour of the ideal doubletail female is that of a more rectangular-shaped oval. The outer rim of the unpaired fins follows the contours of this oval in a smooth way. The body/caudal distribution in doubletail females is ~75/25.



 Figure 4L.7
 Examples of a doubletail female.

 (A) was bred by Chaba (Thailand), (B) was bred by Michel Stokkelaar (The Netherlands) and (C) was bred by Holger Rabe (Germany).

 Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.

Similar to the overall balance in their male counterparts, it is important that the finnage must be in proportion with the body (see *Figure 4L.5*). The width of the anal fin is used as a reference to define the desired proportions. In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle to the outer rim, are equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin. The two caudal lobes are allowed to overlap but should be separated by means of a split which runs up to the base of the peduncle. Ideally the anal fin and dorsal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge and upper edge of the caudal fin, respectively. Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be equal to the width of the anal fin. The anal fin of doubletail females should not show a pointed tip but should run approximately parallel to the body. The length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin.

8. Crowntail females

Although crowntail females have a shorter finnage, the overall form of the caudal, dorsal, anal, ventral and pectoral fins is similar to that of their male counterparts (see **Chapter 4I**). A female Betta will be classified as crowntail if it shows at least a 25% reduction in webbing between the primary rays in all three unpaired fins. The ideal crowntail female has a symmetrical appearance which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline which shows that the upper and lower part of the fish nearly form a mirror-image. In contrast to their male counterparts the contour of the ideal crowntail female is that of a more rectangular-shaped oval. The outer rim of the unpaired fins follows the contours of this oval in a smooth way although a small exception is made in singletail females for the contour between dorsal and caudal. Here a slight dip is a allowed as long as the dorsal is overlapping the upper part of the caudal in such a way that there is no gap between the body and finnage. The body/caudal distribution in crowntail females is ~75/25.

Similar to the overall balance in their male counterparts, it is important that the finnage must be in proportion with the body (see *Figure 4K.8*). The width of the anal fin is used as a reference to define

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the desired proportions. In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle to the outer rim, are equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin. Ideally the anal fin and dorsal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge and upper edge of the caudal fin, respectively. The caudal shows a primary branching (2-ray) with a 33% reduction in webbing between the primary rays and a 15% reduction between the secondary rays. The dorsal and anal both show a 33% reduction in webbing. Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be between 1/2 - 2/3 of the width of the anal fin. The anal fin of crowntail females should not show a pointed tip but should run approximately parallel to the body. The length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin.



Figure 4L.8

Examples of crowntail females.

(A) was bred by Boris Weber-Schwartz (Germany), (B) was bred by Roberto Mancuso (Italy) and (C) was bred by Michel Stokkelaar (The Netherlands). Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.

9. Form & Variations females

Although Form & Variation females have a shorter finnage, the overall form of the caudal, dorsal, anal, ventral and pectoral fins is similar to that of their male counterparts (see Chapter 3K). The body size for a giant Betta female ideally should be at least 5.50 cm (2.17 inch). The minimum body size for a show Betta to be classified as giant is 5.3 cm (2.09 inch). Here, larger fish are preferred above smaller fish if no other faults apply.

10. Large pectoral females

A female Betta will be classified with the large pectoral fins when the pectorals are at least 1/3 of the width of the anal fin (B-C). Large pectoral fins can be combined with all other finnage and size variations as described in this Chapter. Similar to the overall balance in their male counterparts, it is important that the finnage must be in proportion with the body (see Figure 4L.9). The width of the anal fin (B-C) is used as a reference to define the desired proportions. In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the pectoral fins, are equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin (B-C).



Figure 4L.9 Examples of large pectoral females.

(A) was bred by Stefan Leopold (Germany), (B) was bred by Sabrina Molitor (Germany) and (C) was bred by Pagasit Duangprasert (Thailand).

Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.

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Chapter 5: Color Characteristics - General

Besides the Characteristics on finnage variety, the various show classes are further classified into color varieties (see *Chapter 2*). This chapter of the Bettas4all Standard[®] describes the general characteristics of the color Characteristics. The Bettas4all Standard[®] recognizes five different color patterns, namely: single color, bicolor, multicolor, marble and butterfly. These patterns are classified in the various color classes.

Table 5.1	General overview of the color classes and patterns
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Unicolor	Single color
All Other Colors (AOC)	Bicolor
	Marble
	Grizzle
	Banded
	Multicolor
	Unicolor All Other Colors (AOC)

The "**All colors**" class is the main class and encapsulates all color patterns. This main class can be further divided into two separate color classes, the "**Unicolor**" and "**All Other Colors (AOC)**" classes (see **Table 5.1**). In the "Unicolor" class the color pattern of the fish consists of one single color. In the "All Other Colors" class, the color pattern of the fish can be bicolor, grizzle, marble, multicolor or butterfly. As mentioned in Chapter 2, the Bettas4all Judging Team has the right to split show classes in order to create a more interesting and challenging competition. Optional color show classes for the "Unicolor" and "All Other Colors" class are discussed in more detail **Chapter 5A** and **5B**, respectively.



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Chapter 5A: Color Characteristics - Unicolor

General remark:

The Bettas4all Judging Team has the right to include colorpatterns which are not described in this standard but which classify as "unicolor" based on their appearance.

Please note that the figures shown in his Chapter are used to illustrate the various color variants. Most of the examples still exhibit points requiring improvement.

In the "Unicolor" class, the color pattern of the fish consists of one single color. This means that body and finnage have the same solid, uniformly, distributed color. This with exception of the tips of the ventrals which are allowed to be white. Color coverage of the head, also called mask, is allowed but not a necessity.

Depending on the number of fish and color variations entered in a particular finnage variety, the Bettas4all Judging Team can decide to split the unicolor class into separate subclasses. This is only allowed when there are at least six fish of a certain sub variety which are entered by a minimum of two breeders and that the amount of (sub)classes does not exceed the maximum prizes made available by the organization (see **Chapter 2**).

Table 5A.1, 5A.2 and **5A.3** give a hierarchical overview of the optional sub-classification of the unicolor class based on the presence or absence various color pigments on the body of the show Betta:

- Individual color variation
- Darkbody: Presence of black pigment (melanophores) on the body (black scaling).
- Black-edged scaling: Presence of black pigment limited to the outer rim of the scales on the body.
- Lightbody: Absence of the black pigment on the body.
- Iridescent: Presence of blue/green/yellow-reflecting crystal elements (iridophores) on the body.
- Non-iridescent: Absence of iridescence on the body.

Table 5A.1	Optional subclasses of the unicolor class - Primary division individual color variations		
		Non-metallic turquoise, steel blue and royal blue.	
	Blue/green	Metallic turquoise, steel blue and royal blue (including copper and teal).	
		Turquoise, steel blue and royal blue "dragons".	
-	Black		
<u>Unicolor</u>	White	Non-metallic pastel and/or opaque white, blue and green.	
		Metallic pastel and/or opaque white, blue and green.	
		Pastel and/or opaque white, pastel blue and pastel green "dragons".	
	Red	Lightbody and black-edged scaling.	
	Orange	Lightbody and black-edged scaling.	
	Yellow	Lightbody and black-edged scaling.	
	Cellophane		
	Albino		

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Table 5A.2	Optional subclasses of the unicolor class - Primary division Darkbody vs. Lightbody			
	Darkbody	Iridescent	Blue/green	Non-metallic turquoise, steel blue and royal blue. Metallic turquoise, steel blue and royal blue (including copper and teal).
				Turquoise, steel blue and royal blue "dragons".
		Non-iridescent	Black	
	Black-edged scaling	Non- <u>iridescent</u>	Red	
			Orange	
<u>Unicolor</u>			Yellow	
	<u>Lightbody</u>	<u>Iridescent</u>	White	Non-metallic pastel and/or opaque white, blue and green.
				Metallic pastel and/or opaque white, blue and green.
				Pastel and/or opaque white, pastel blue and pastel green "dragons".
		Non-iridescent	Red	
			Orange	
			Yellow	
			Cellophane	
			Albino	

Table 5A.3	Optional subclasses of the unicolor class - Primary division iridescent vs. non-iridescent			
	Iridescent	Darkbody	Blue/green	Non-metallic turquoise, steel blue and royal blue. Metallic turquoise, steel blue and royal blue (including copper and teal).
				Turquoise, steel blue and royal blue "dragons".
		<u>Lightbody</u>		Non-metallic pastel and/or opaque white, blue and green.
			White	Metallic pastel and/or opaque white, blue and green.
				Pastel and/or opaque white, pastel blue and pastel green "dragons".
	Non-iridescent	Darkbody	Black	
		Black-edged scaling	Red	
			Orange	
			Yellow	
		Lightbody	Red	
			Orange	
			Yellow	
			Cellophane	
			Albino	

This chapter describes the various colors and to which sub-classification they belong (see **Table 5A.1**, **5A.2** and **5A.3**).

1. Darkbody

1.1 Iridescent

The darkbody, iridescent class is characterized by a range of colors varying from blue to green. In this class the colors can be either non-metallic (see Figure 5A.1) or metallic, including "dragons" (see Figure 5A.2). The body and finnage must be uniformly colored without traces of opaque, red or any other type of pigment. The iridescent colors are often referred to as structural colors as they are the result of the light reflection from thin colorless crystal elements found inside cells called iridophores which are present on the surface of the body. The spread iridescence trait is responsible for the distribution of the iridescent colors over the body (with exception of the head). The head can be either classical "black head" or fully masked.

Some examples of unicolored variants belonging to this subclass are:

- Non-metallic turquoise, steel blue and royal blue.
- Metallic turquoise, steel blue and royal blue (including green, copper and teal).
- Turquoise, steel blue and royal blue based "dragons".



Figure 5A.1 Examples of darkbody – iridescent fish: Turquoise (A), steel blue (B) and royal blue (C) (A), (B) and (C) were bred by Joep van Esch (The Netherlands).



Figure 5A.2 Examples of darkbody – iridescent fish: Homozygous metallic turquoise (A), copper (B) and teal (C) (A) was bred by Kit Watchara (Thailand), (B) and (C) were bred by Joep van Esch (The Netherlands).

1.2 Non-Iridescent

The darkbody, non-iridescent class is characterized by an absence of iridescence. Ideally this should result in uniform, dark intense black color (see Figure 5A.3). The body and finnage must be uniformly colored without traces of (metallic) iridescence, opaque, red or any other type of pigment.

Some examples of unicolored variants belonging to this subclass are:

Black



Figure 5A.3 Examples of darkbody - non-iridescent fish: Black (A, B and C) (A) was bred by Bettina Sperl (Germany), (B) was bred by Kit Watchara (Thailand) and (C) breeder unknown.

2. Black-edged scaling

2.1 Non-iridescent

The black-edged scaling, non-iridescent class is characterized by black pigment limited to the outer rim of the scaling on the body and a total absence of iridescence (see *Figure 5A.4*). Because of the black pigment is limited to the outer rim of the scaling the underlaying red, orange, yellow layer becomes clearly visible. In case the contrast between body and finnage becomes too big due to too much black pigment on the body, fish will be classified in the bicolor class (see Chapter 5B).

Some examples of black-edged scaling, non-iridescent variants belonging to this subclass are: A. Red, orange, and yellow.



Figure 5A.4 Examples of black-edged scaling – non-iridescent fish: Black-edged scaling red (A), orange (B) and yellow (C) (A) was bred by Michel Stokkelaar (The Netherlands), (B) was bred by Sumet Chaonahuitak (Thailand) and (C) breeder unknown. .

3. Lightbody

3.1 Iridescent

The lightbody, iridescent class is characterized by an absence of black pigment. In this class the colors can be either non-metallic or metallic, including "dragons". The body and finnage must be uniformly colored without traces of black, red or any other type of pigment. Ideally this should result in an uniform white color (see Figure 5A.5). A slight steel blue wash is allowed. Please note that roval blue and turquoise based pastels and/or opaques show a blue/green wash and are less favored than the steel blue based pastels and opaques which have a clean white appearance.

Some examples of unicolored variants belonging to this subclass are:

- Non-metallic pastel and/or opaque white, blue and green.
- Metallic pastel and/or opaque white, blue and green.
- Pastel and/or opaque white, pastel blue and green "dragons".





3.2 Non-Iridescent

The lightbody, non-iridescent class is characterized by a total absence of black pigment and iridescence. Because of the absence of these dominant layers, this results either in a uniform red, orange, yellow or colorless appearance. Please note that in the case of a sufficiently large color contrast between body and finnage, red, orange and yellow Bettas have to be reclassified to the bicolor class (see *Chapter 5B*).

Some examples of unicolored variants belonging to this subclass are (see Figure 5A.6):

- Red, orange, yellow.
- Cellophane (clear).
- Albino.



Figure 5A.6 Examples of Lightbody – non-iridescent colored fish: Lightbody red (A), orange (B) and yellow (C) (A) was bred by Mareike Reimers (Germany), (B) was bred by Jean-Michel Jeannerat (Switzerland) and (C) was bred by Akesit FortuneBetta (Thailand); Picture by Mareike Reimers (Germany).

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Chapter 5B: Color Characteristics - All Other Colors (AOC)

General remark:

The Bettas4all Judging Team has the right to include color patterns which are not described in this standard but which classify as "AOC" based on their appearance.

Please note that the figures shown in his Chapter are used to illustrate the various color variants. Most of the examples still exhibit points requiring improvement.

In the "All Other Colors (AOC)" class, the color pattern of the fish consists of minimally two colors. The AOC class can also be called the "patterned" class as it encapsulates all color patterns which do not match the criteria of the unicolor class.

Depending on the number of fish and color variations entered in a particular finnage variety, the Bettas4all Judging Team can decide to split the AOC class into separate subclasses. This is only allowed when there are <u>at least six fish of a certain sub variety which are entered by a minimum of two breeders</u> and that the amount of (sub)classes does not exceed the maximum prizes made available by the organization (see *Chapter 2*).

7	able 5B.1 Opt	tional subclasses of the All Oth	ier Colors class
		Bicolor	
		Marbla	Lightbody
	All Other	marple	Darkbody
	Colors	Grizzle	
	<u>(AOC)</u>	Banded	
		Multicolor	Lightbody
		MULLICOIOI	Darkbody

Table 5B.1 gives a hierarchical overview of the optional sub-classification of the AOC class based on four different color patterns bicolor, grizzle, marble, multicolor and butterfly. This chapter describes these color patterns in more detail.

1. Bicolor

The bicolor pattern is characterized by a combination of two colors with a sharp boundary between the color of the body and that of the finnage (see *Figure 5B.1* and *Figure 5B.2*). The color of both body and finnage ideally should have a solid, uniform distribution without any "bleeding" of the color of the body onto the finnage. A strong contrast between both colors is preferred. In general bicolors are described using the following nomenclature: "body color"/"finnage color".



Figure 5B.1 Examples of fish with a bicolor pattern

Cambodian red bicolor (A), Blue/yellow bicolor (B) and Black/red bicolor (C)

(A) was bred by Melina Vogelmann (Switzerland) (B) breeder unknown (picture by Evan Quek; Singapore) and (C) was bred by Kit Watchara (Thailand).

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Figure 5B.2 Ex Blo

Examples of fish with a bicolor pattern Blue 'dragon'/red bicolor (A), Red 'dragon' bicolor (B) and cambodian 'dragon'/red bicolor (C) (A) was bred by Supakon (Thailand); (B) was bred Stefan Leopold (Germany) and (C) was bred by Kit Watchara (Thailand).

2. Grizzle

The grizzle pattern is characterized by an iridescent layer on a pastel/opaque underlayer (see **Figure 5B.3**). The iridescent color is distributed over the body as dense, organized spots whereas in the finnage it appears as equally distributed streaks. Ideally there is a 50/50 distribution between the iridescent color and the lighter under-layer. Because of the pastel/opaque under-layer the perception of the iridescent color is more of a pastel shade.



Figure 5B.3 Examples of a fish with a grizzle pattern Blue grizzle (A, B and C)

(A) breeder unknown, picture by Ezekiel Lyon Goh (Singapore); (B) was bred by Joep van Esch (The Netherlands) and (C) was bred by Kit Watchara (Thailand).

3. Marble

Marble can be described as a randomly organized, stained pattern of at least two colors on the body and finnage. The various colors ideally should be equally distributed over body and finnage. A strong contrast between various colors is preferred. Ideally there is 50/50 distribution between dark and light colors.

Based on the amount of a dark base color (black, green, blue) on the body, the marble class can be further subclassified into.

- Darkbody marble: Presence of a dark base color (black, green, blue) on the body covering at least 30% of the body (see Figure 5B.4).
- Lightbody marble: Absence or a less than 30% coverage of a dark base color (black, green, blue) on the body (see Figure 5B.5).





Figure 5B.4

Examples of fish with a darkbody marble pattern (A) bred by Kit Watchara (Thailand), (B) was bred by Jolanda Rijks (The Netherlands), (C) breeder unknown (picture by Evan Quek; Singapore), (D) was bred by Susanne Ziolkowsky (Germany), (E) was bred by Alex Grimm (Germany) and (F) was bred by Tittipark Ritirong (Thailand).



(A) bred by Eugenio Fornasiero (Italy), (B), (C), (D), (E) and (F) breeder unknown (pictures by Evan Quek; Singapore)

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4. Multicolor

Multicolor can be best described as a pattern which is characterized by a combination of two or more colors which do not fit in any of the other AOC classes. Usually the colors have a solid, uniform distribution on the body and finnage. A strong contrast between the various colors is preferred.

Based on the amount of underlying black pigment scaling on the body, the multicolor class can be further subclassified into:

- Darkbody multicolor: Presence of black pigment (melanophores) on the body (black scaling) (see Figure 5B.6).
- Lightbody multicolor: Absence of the black pigment on the body (see Figure 5B.7).



Figure 5B.6 Examples of fish with a darkbody multicolor pattern Blue/red multicolor (A), Copper black lace multicolor (B), Blue/red multicolor (C) (A) was bred by Susanne Ziolkowsky (Germany), (B) was bred by Kit Watchara (Thailand) and (C) was bred by Zaldi (Indonesia).



Figure 5B.7 Examples of fish with a lightbody multicolor pattern Metallic white/black multicolor (A), 'pink' multicolor (B) and 'pink' multicolor (C). (A) was bred by Suporn Khumhom (Thailand), (B) was bred by Eugenio Fornasiero (Italy) and (C) was bred by Susanne Ziolkowsky (Germany).

5. Banded

The banded pattern is characterized by at least one, distinct, sharp banded pattern around all three unpaired fins. Two or more bands are allowed in the finnage as long as each band covers an equal area in the three unpaired fins (the coverage can be calculated by the following formula: 1/[number of bands]). Please note that the banded pattern can exist in combination with a unicolor, bicolor, grizzle, marble or multicolor base. Here the bodycolor as well as the inner band of the finnage should be judged to the best applicable standard. A strong contrast between various colors is preferred.



Examples of fish with a butterfly pattern Blue/white butterfly (A), Steel blue/white/red butterfly (B), Black/yellow butterfly (C), Black/yellow marble butterfly (D), Pastel blue/red butterfly (E), Blue/white marble butterfly (F) (A), (C), (D) and (E) were bred by Kit Watchara (Thailand); (B) was bred by Phil Ngo & Indrata (Singapore & Indonesia) and (F) breeder unknown (picture by Evan Quek; Singapore).

Chapter 6: Awards

1. Awards per show class

Per class the following places can be awarded:

- 1st 5th place in classes with more than 12 fish entered.
- **1**st **3**rd **place** in classes with <u>6 12 fish</u> entered*.
- **1**st **place**, in classes with <u>up to 5 fish</u> entered*.

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

2. Best of Show (BOS) awards

The Best of Show prizes will be awarded to those fish whose form & color best approaches the ideal standard of their own show class.

- Best of Show male (BOSM).
- Best of Show female (BOSF).
- Reserve Best of Show male (rBOSM).
- Reserve Best of Show female (rBOSF).

After all classes are judged, all the 1st placed fish are potential candidates for the Best of Show awards. For the election of reserve Best of Show, the 2nd placed fish in the class where the Best of Show fish was competing also has to be considered as a candidate for this award.

3. Special prizes

Four special prizes will be awarded:

Best European Breeder: This special prize is awarded to the European participant with the most 1st place rankings at the show. In order to determine the winner of this special prize the winner fish of each participant are listed according to their rank in the various show classes (1st, 2nd 3rd, 4th and 5th place). The Best of Show awards also is counted as a 1st place whereas the reserve Best of Show awards count as a 2nd place. First is determined which participant has the most 1st place rankings. If there are more participants with an equal amount of 1st places the other ranks will also be considered.

Jury prize: This special prize is awarded by the jury to a fish they think deserves some special attention. A fish does not have to be in a winning position within its show class to be awarded with this prize.

Consolation prize: This special prize is awarded a breeder who did not win in any of the show classes but deserves some special recognition.

Public prize: This special prize is awarded to the fish which has received the most votes from the public. The public can do this by voting for the box number of the fish which has their personal preference.

4. Bettas4all Masters Competition

The prestigious title "Bettas4all Master" will be awarded to the hobbyist who collected 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 6.1**) are automatically assigned to participants when his/her fish placed in any of the show classes or won (reserve) Best of Show awards.

Awards per show class	Show points			
1 th place	25			
2 nd place	20			
3 rd place	15			
4 th place	10			
5 th 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			

 Table 6.1
 Overview show points Bettas4all Masters Championship

Special Prizes	Show points
Jury prize	25
Public prize	25

Please note that the award for "Best European Breeder" 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.

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.



Chapter 7: Bettas4all-sanctioned and Bettas4all-associated Shows

In general, the aim of a Bettas4all show is to bring hobbyists together and to promote all aspects of our beautiful hobby to the public. This chapter discusses all aspects regarding organizing a Bettas4all show.

1. Bettas4all Shows

Important note:

The Bettas4all Standard© recognizes two types of shows:

- A. <u>Bettas4all-sanctioned show:</u> A Bettas4all-sanctioned show can be defined as a competition for self-bred show Bettas by European hobbyists which is being judged according to the Bettas4all Standard© by certified Bettas4all Judges. Bettas4all-sanctioned shows are restricted to hobbyists from countries belonging geographical or political under any of the various common definitions of Europe. <u>At Bettas4all-sanctioned shows, each participant can earn show points for the prestigious Bettas4all Master Competition</u> when his/her fish placed in any of the show classes or won (reserve) Best of Show awards.
- B. <u>Bettas4all-associated show:</u> A Bettas4all-associated show can be defined as a competition for self-bred show Bettas by (inter)national hobbyists which is being judged according to the Bettas4all Standard© by certified Bettas4all Judges. The organizing team of Bettas4all-assiciated shows is free to determine who is allowed to participate. Bettas4all-associated shows can be restricted to a national show, a limited set of countries or free to hobbyists from all over the world. <u>At Bettas4all-associated shows, no show points are awarded for the Bettas4all Master Competition</u>.

2. Approval to host a Bettas4all show

In order to host a Bettas4all-sanctioned or Bettas4all-associated show official approval of the Bettas4all Judging Board is required. In order to obtain approval, the group/club intending to organize the show should contact the Bettas4all Judging Board to discuss the options and possibilities.

Bettas4all-sanctioned shows are restricted to all countries belonging geographical or political under any of the various common definitions of Europe (see Table 7.1).								
Table 7.1 List of the 51 independent states belonging geographical or political to Europe.								
Albania Czech Republic Italy Montenegro Spain								
Andorra	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 King								
Belgium Germany Luxembourg Russia* Vatican City								
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Greece	Macedonia	San Marino					
Bulgaria	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 or Bettas4all-associated is depending on the developmental status of the Bettas4all Standard[®] and the progress of the Bettas4all Judging training program. In addition, the number of shows per year within Europe should not interfere with each other with respect to show dates and frequency. We aim for quality not quantity!

2. Show Team, Judging Team and Helper Team

In order to organize/host a Bettas4all-sanctioned or Bettas4all-associated an efficient interplay between the Show Team, Judging Team, and Helper Team is crucial to realize the event.

2.1 Show Team

The Show Team is appointed by the organizing group/club and is responsible for all aspects regarding the organization a given show. This team should be composed of highly motivated, inventive, flexible and assertive people who can work together in a constructive way. A crucial feature of the Show Team is to be able to self-reflect, positively cope with criticism (from within and outside the organization) and

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to learn from mistakes. Within the team it is advisable to divide tasks such as general management, show set-up, financial aspects, sponsorships, awards, promotional work, show registration/benching, sleeping accommodations for the participants and more. In order to efficiently plan an entire show it is important that the Show Team has an efficient platform for communications, such as a hidden subsection of a forum or a mailing list, where all aspects regarding the organization of the show and the relative progresses can be discussed. Regular meetings are advisable as they combine efficiency with team-building opportunities.

2.2 Judging Team

A Bettas4all-sanctioned or Bettas4all-associated show needs to be judged by a Judging Team appointed by the Bettas4all Judging Board. The Judging Team should consist of at least one certified Bettas4all Judge who is allowed to function as Head Judge. Without this requirement the show cannot be Bettas4all-sanctioned or Bettas4all-associated. More information regarding the judging procedures can be found in **Chapter 8**.

2.3 Helper Team

The Helper Team at a Bettas4all-sanctioned or Bettas4all-associated show often consists of dedicated hobbyists who offer practical support during the event. Helpers will not be burden by the responsibilities deriving from the organization and the judging, but their practical help is precious and highly appreciated to grant the efficient deployment of the show.

3. Show set-up

The Show Team should provide a suitable show environment that guarantees quality housing and optimal care for the entered fish. National and regional rules for housing fish in small volumes may vary. The Show Team is responsible to strictly adhere to these rules, and provide the minimal volume and water conditions sanctioned by law. This is a very important aspect of hosting a show as participating breeders trust the organization with their fish. Show tanks should be square and have a volume of at least 1.5L. Water should be clean, unstained and maintained at a constant temperature of minimally 22°C (although a temperature of 24-25°C is considered to be ideal). A constant temperature can be maintained by heating the room or by using heaters, heating cables or mats underneath the show tanks. In addition, the entire set-up should be evenly illuminated using daylight lamps (6000-6500K), which should not distort the color perception of the fish in the show. Although show Bettas are resistant to a wide range of water conditions, ideal parameters of pH are between 6 and 7.5, with general hardness between 5° and 20° GH. Particular attention should be paid to prevent metal (copper and lead) and ammonia poisoning. As a practical rule if the water of the show location is usually used for hosting freshwater fish shows Bettas will be able to adapt to that water. In any case a general water check before the show will save the Show Team from shocking surprises. The fish entered in the show should be acclimatized properly, providing 15 minutes of time for temperature and the chemical equalization of the water between the transport container and the show tank.

3.1 Maximal number of entries

When hosting a show, it is wise to set a maximal number of entries. The Show Team should be fully aware of their capabilities. Important aspects to consider when determining the maximum number of entries are the number of available show tanks, experience of the organizing group/club and the number of certified Bettas4all Judges present at the show. As a general rule, the organization of a smaller show of high quality will give more satisfaction and positive feedbacks than a big show where the organization might not be able to correctly cope with the high number of entries.

4. Participants

At Bettas4all-sanctioned and Bettas4all-associated shows participants are only allowed to enter fish that have been bred and were subsequently raised by themselves. Team entries are not allowed.

Important note:

Participation at Bettas4all-sanctioned shows is restricted to hobbyists living in these countries that belong geographical or political under any of the various common definitions of Europe (see **Table 7.1**). 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.



Some important notes with respect to participating at Bettas4all-sanctioned and/or Bettas4all-associated shows are:

- The registration fee on average is set to 3.00 euro per fish. The Show Team has the possibility to а change this amount to cope with national differences in costs. The registration fee should be paid when benching the fish. The option to allow advanced payment (through bank transfer or PayPal) should be evaluated by the organizing group/club. The registration fee is used to cover at least a part of the costs involved in organizing the show such as stand fee, transport of the show set-up, purchasing awards and any other materials necessary for the event.
- b. The maximum number of fish that can be entered by a participant at a Bettas4all-sanctioned or Bettas4all-associated show is determined by the organization of the show based on the number of tanks available. If the fish are entered under the name of a participant who is not actively breeding fish, the fish will not be admitted to the competition.

Important note:

At Betta4all-sanctioned shows the maximum number of fish that can be entered by a participant is usually limited to a maximum between 10 and 15 self-bred fish per single participant. If two or more breeders breed fish at the same household there are two options:

- iii. Fish can be entered as a partnership under one (combined) name. The maximum number of fish a partnership can enter is similar that of a single participant.
- Fish can be entered under independent names. The maximum number of fish per iv. participant sharing the same household is limited to 70% of the maximum number of fish of a single participant. For example, at a show where the maximum is set to 10 fish per single breeder, two breeders sharing the same household can enter 7 fish each under separate names.

In case a show is fully booked the maximum number of entries can be reduced to maximally 10 fish per breeder in order to promote a more interesting competition by allowing more breeders to enter their fish.

- Upon registration the following information is required: (1) the number of fish they would like to С enter and (2) personal information (name, address, phone number and email).
- Upon benching, all fish will be sorted by the Bettas4all Judging Team into that show class in which d. they fit best and stand the highest chance of winning an award (see Chapter 8A).
- By sending the registration form the participant agrees with: e.
 - 1. The show rules of Bettas4all sanctioned shows;
 - 2. The fact that their fish will be judged according to the Bettas4all Standard[®] by a team of certified Bettas4all Judges and their apprentices;
 - 3. Paying the entry fee for the number of registered fish;
 - 4. The fact that the organizing group/club, the organization of the main event hosting the show and/or show location are not responsible for the entries or the condition of the entries, although they will do everything possible to ensure safety and health of the fish.

A standard entry form can be found in Appendix I.

5. Financial aspects

Groups/clubs hosting a Bettas4all-sanctioned and/or Bettas4all-associated show do not have to pay a sanction fee to the Bettas4all organization. As Bettas4all is a non-profit organization (and not a club with paying members) there is no financial income. For this reason, Bettas4all cannot offer financial support to groups/clubs hosting a Bettas4all sanctioned show. The show team of the group/club hosting the show therefore will be responsible for all financial aspects regarding such event. A strong financial base for a Bettas4all-sanctioned and/or Bettas4all-associated show can be achieved by temporary personal investments, gifts, sales of fish and aquarium related products and/or sponsorships. Well-established Show Teams with experience in organizing Bettas4all-sanctioned and/or Bettas4all-associated shows are able can provide valuable information and suggestions regarding this topic.

6. Promotion

In order to let hobbyists know you are hosting a show it is important to launch a promotional campaign. Although this might sound trivial, this will largely affect the success of the show. The Show Team should be ready to invest time and resources in the promotion campaign. Each group/club is responsible for their own promotion campaign. The campaign should include the physical spreading of paper posters & flyers in aquarium/pet stores, fish-related events & fairs (including other Betta shows), advertisement in fish keeping/breeding magazines and also comprise digital promotion using the Internet (websites, forums, blogs and social media such as Facebook).

6.1 Logo "Supported by the Bettas4all Standard[©]"

In order to show the affiliation with the Bettas4all Standard[®], a special "Supported by the Bettas4all Standard[®]" logo has been designed to be used on websites, banners and posters announcing Bettas4all sanctioned shows (*see Figure 7.1*).



Figure 7.1

Logo used in order to indicate a show is judged by the Bettas4all Standard[©].

7. Sales

Participating breeders are allowed to offer the fish they have entered in the show for sale.

- a. Fish will be sold for fixed prices (no auction). Each breeder is free to determine the price of their own fish.
- b. Each participant is allowed to offer additional fish for sale. The organization cannot guarantee that these additional fish can all be displayed as this depends on the number of free tanks available after each show day.
- c. Fish are offered for sale using a special "for sale" ticket (*see Appendix V*). These tickets mention the tank number, name of the breeder, color, fin-type, whether the fish is male or female or comes in a pair and the price. A "for sale" ticket has two identical sides. After payment, one ticket is given to the buyer for additional information and one ticket is kept for administrative purposes.
- d. A percentage of 30% of every fish sold at the show will be retained in favour of the organizing group/club. The remaining 70% will be paid to the breeder when he/she collects his/her fish or transferred to his/her account afterwards.
- e. In order to prevent confusion and mix-ups, a good management of the sales is necessary. When additional fish (other than the ones entered in the show) are being offered for sale it is advisable not to use the same number as the tanks which participate in the show but to give them a distinct number (e.g. \geq 1000).

Chapter 8: Bettas4all Judging Manual

1. Introduction

Bettas4all-sanctioned and Bettas4all-associated shows are judged by Bettas4all certified judges. 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.

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.

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Chapter 8A: Judging Procedures

Bettas4all sanctioned shows are judged by Bettas4all certified judges (*see Chapter 8D*). This chapter describes which procedures to follow during benching, division of show classes and judging.

1. Benching

- a. When breeders arrive at the show location, they will have to register at the benching administration desk where they will receive the tank numbers for their fish upon payment of the entry fee.
- b. A benching officer and/or a benching assistant will provide the show tanks filled with water. Please note that the fish should be displayed in bare-bottomed tanks (with no decoration and with non-colored water). If the water for the transport is stained or polluted each breeder should take great care of changing the water to clean water before adding it to the show tank.
- c. After acclimatization of your fish the benching officer and helper(s) will pre-sort your fish into the show setup. During the pre-sorting phase, the fish will be mainly sorted based on their finnage variety and gender according to the main show classes (see Chapter 2) although a rough pre-sorting upon color variety can already take place (e.g. solid colored vs. AOC) (see Chapter 5). Please note that pre-sorting is done in order to make the division into the definitive show classes easier for the Bettas4all Judging Team when all fish are benched.
- d. Fish arriving after the benching deadline (to be determined by the hosting organization) can be refused. Please note that exceptions can be made in extreme situations in consultation with the Bettas4all judging team and the hosting organization.

2. Division of Show Classes

- a. When all fish have been benched and pre-sorted, the Bettas4all Judging Team will further divide the main show classes into the definitive show classes based on the various color and finnage variations as well as the number of fish of a certain sub-variety (see *Chapter 2*).
- b. Fish have to be included in the show class in which they fit best according to the Bettas4all Judging Team and stand most chances of winning an award. During the actual judging procedure, the Bettas4all Judging Team is allowed to move an entry to another show class if the head Judge approves that the reason(s) for the re-classification are valid.
- c. Show classes are only further subdivided when (1) the rules allow splitting (see **Chapter 2**) and (2) it creates a more interesting and challenging competition**. For this reason the final subdivision in color classes depends on the participants within each provisional class.

The number of awards per show class will depend on the number of fish represented in this class (see **Chapter 6). The philosophy behind this is the fact that with this system prizes carry more weight and actually say something, e.g. winning 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in a class where only 3 fish are entered does not have to say much, but winning a 5th prize in a class with more than 12 fish entered does!

3. General Judging procedures

- a. Although a Bettas4all Judge is allowed to judge his own entries and should be able to do this in an honest and objective way, he/she should do his/her best in order to avoid any conflict of interest. In the case of any conflict of interest, direct or indirect, the duty of a certified judge is to (1) ask a judge with no entries in that particular show class to judge that class and/or (2) step back from the judging group until his/her fish have been knocked-out from award winning positions during the judging procedure.
- b. Within the Bettas4all Judging Team discussions about the ownership of fish entered to the show should be avoided until the judging itself has finished.
- c. Judges who recognise a fish that they have seen/judged before, should not be influenced in their judgement. They should be as honest and objective as possible and treat the identified fish as any other entry in the same class by judging it on its present performance.
- d. The judgement of the Bettas4all Judging Team is based on the phenotype alone (exterior appearance and not genetic background). No consideration should be given to the (supposed) genetics of the fish entered to the show.
- e. The Bettas4all Judging Team should not hesitate to disqualify an entry based on the reasons described in the General Standard (*see Chapter 3*).



- Ideally, all show classes are judged in groups of at least two certified judges and one apprentice. f. When judging groups are bigger, the number of apprentices should be the number of judges minus one (e.g. for a group of three judges, the optimal number of apprentices is two). This general rule can be amended in case of exceptional situations. In case an apprentice is taking the final practical exam (s)he should be in a group with at least one certified judge and no other apprentices.
- On the day of the judging all fish have to remain carded before the judging starts and are only g. allowed to be uncarded by the judging team (see paragraph 3.2b).
- h. During the judging procedure, an area in front of the show set-up should be reserved for the Judging Team and possibly furnished with tables and judging materials.
- i. There is no time limit during the judging procedure; and, although decisions will be taken as quickly as possible, the Judging Team should be provided with all the time necessary to judge the show.
- The audience (including show participants) is allowed to watch the judging procedure in silence as j. long as they respect and not influence or disturb this process.

3.1 Head Judge

- When the Bettas4all Judging Board composes the Judging Team a Head Judge is designed. All а Bettas4all certified judges are eligible for this position, but the judging board will consider competence and experience while determining the Head Judge.
- b. The Head Judge is responsible for the final outcome of the judging procedure, and her/his role is to make sure the Bettas4all Standard[©] is applied correctly and efficiently.
- Depending on the number of available judges, the Head Judge can either participate in one of the C. judging groups or supervise the judging process by assisting where necessary.
- The Head Judge should help to solve efficiently any dispute during the judging process. In case of d. doubt when the judging group(s) cannot agree on a result in a certain show class the Head Judge should take the final decision. e.
 - During a show, the Head Judge should follow these general procedures:
 - **Benching day:** On the day of benching the fish, the Head Judge will perform the following tasks: Overview benching/sorting: Keep an overview on the sorting process and check the sorting i. and highlight the classes that might require more precise sorting the next day.
 - Planning judging approach: Draft a scheme listing all the show classes in which the judges ii. and apprentices are showing fish. This information, supported by practical experience, will be taken into account by the Head Judge when assigning judges to a certain judging group.
 - Judging day: On the day of judging the fish, the Head Judge will perform the following tasks
 - Introduction of Judges: At the beginning of the judging day, the Head Judge should take i. care of introducing all the judges in order to making sure that everybody knows each other. Motivational speech: The Head Judge will give a short motivational speech where (s)he explains how the judging will be approached by providing information about the judging groups (including apprentices), the timing of the lunch pause and whether (s)he will participate in one of the judging groups or supervise the judging process by assisting where necessary.
 - Solve sorting issues: Before, but also during the judging procedure, the Head Judge and iii. all the certified judges (without apprentices and guest judges) should quickly resolve common sorting issues such as determining the sex of a fish and (re)classification of certain finnage and/or color variations.
 - Appointing judging groups: After all main sorting issues are resolved, the Head Judge will iv. define the judging groups which can be re-shuffled during the judging process (see Paragraph 3f).
 - Class order: Once the initial judging groups have been determined, the Head Judge should ν. define the order in which the classes should be judged during the show. Large and/or more complicated classes are preferred to be judged at first.
 - vi. Final review: Before voting for the special prizes, the Head Judge, together with the certified judges (but without apprentices or guest judges) should review all show classes in order to approve/confirm the results. This is an essential process that should never be skipped. In case the Head Judge wants to have more information about the result of a certain class, the responsible judging group might be asked to explain their decision(s) to the Head Judge. In case something has been overlooked or a mistake has been made, the class might be openly discussed with all judges involved, depending on the time. In any case,



the Head Judge has the right to alter the outcome of judging by both changing the ranking of the fish, and/or awarding prices to fish that were not previously classified.

- vii. <u>Voting Special Prizes:</u> During the vote of the special prizes, the Head Judge should make sure that the fish that wins is the one that adheres most to the standard. Once 4 or 5 fishes are left on the table, the certified judges are allowed to pick a fish of their interest and can talk about that fish objectively. It is important that both strong points and weak points about a fish are presented. After the judges have had the chance to talk, also the apprentices can say what they think, but also in this case the Head Judge should underline that both strong points and weak points about a fish should be presented. In case of a tie when voting for the special prizes such as (reserve) Best of Show Male and Female as well as the jury prize, Head Judge should take the final decision (see **Paragraph 3.3**).
- viii. <u>Closing words:</u> At the end of the judging, the Head Judge should make another small speech, thanking all the judges and the public.

3.2 Judging show classes

- a. At the beginning of the judging for each class, it is necessary to fill the administrative information concerning the class using the Bettas4all Judging Form (see Appendix I) by writing: (*i*) the names of all Bettas4all Judges and apprentices; (*ii*) the name of the show class (finnage variety; color; gender) (*iii*) the tank numbers of the fish in the show class and (*iv*) the total number of fish in the show class.
- b. During the judging, all the comments about fish should be made in an objective manner, avoiding to use sentences, words or exclamations that could offend the breeders who are observing the judging.
- c. The initial placements, before being approved from the Head Judge, should be written on small stickers, instead of medals. This will avoid that, if the placements are changed during reviewing, the owner of the fish will be disappointed.
- d. The judging should be time-optimized. Discussions are of course allowed, but in general they should be aimed at taking decisions, which should be taken possibly fast and efficiently.
- e. In case of any conflict during judging, the Head Judge should be included in the discussion to help solving the situation as efficiently as possible. None of the discussion should be taken on a personal level.
- f. In order to judge all aspects described in the Bettas4all Standard[©], fish should be allowed to present themselves in full flare. In order to stimulate show fish to flare two techniques are allowed: (1) Uncarding of show tanks allowing the fish to flare at the fish in an adjacent tank and (2) Presenting a small mirror allowing the fish to flare at its mirror-image. Fish should rest from flaring when the judging team is not focussing on them. Therefore, show tanks of fish that are not under observation should be carded and no mirror should be presented.
- g. Fish with disqualification faults (see Chapter 3) have to be excluded from the competition. The tank number of the fish will be noted down on the Bettas4all Judging Form (see Appendix I) and the number of disqualified fish will be subtracted from the total number of fish in the show class. The latter might influence the number of prizes to be awarded (see Chapter 6).
- h. Fish are compared based on their faults following a knock-out (KO) procedure. The fish with the least (serious) faults will be determined as the winner of the class. During the KO procedure the number of fish with a chance of winning a prize (that depends on the number of fish competing in a certain show class, see **Chapter 6**) will be selected and compared with great attention.
- i. No ties are allowed! Only one fish can be placed per rank according to the award system (see **Chapter 6**). In case of ties, the judging team can take advantage of the comparison form.
- j. In case a judging group cannot agree on a certain placement within a certain show class, the other judging groups and the Head Judge should be involved in the discussion and in case the comparison form should be used. In case no agreement is reached, the Head Judge should make the final decision (*see paragraph 3.1*).
- k. The Head Judge should review all show classes after they have been judged by the appointed judging groups in order to approve/confirm the results (see *paragraph 3.1e*).

3.3 Determination of the Best of Show awards and Jury prize

a. The awards for Best of Show (BOS) and Jury prize are determined by voting. All certified Bettas4all judges are allowed to express 1 vote, apprentice or guest judges' votes are worth 0.5 whereas the vote of the Head Judge will have a double weight (2 votes).

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- b. A Bettas4all Judge if strictly required is allowed to vote for his/her own entries and should be able to do this in an honest and objective way.
- c. No ties are allowed also in BOS! Only one fish can be placed per rank according to the award system (see **Chapter 6**). In case of a tie the Head Judge will decide which fish will be the winner.
- d. For both male and female, the fish to be awarded with BOS should be determined first, followed by the reserve BOS (rBOS). For more information about which fish are eligible for these awards see **Chapter 6**.
- e. After the prizes for BOS and rBOS for both male and female have been awarded, the Judging Team will decide which fish will be awarded the Jury prize. For more information about which fish are eligible for these awards see **Chapter 5**.

4. Show certificates

After the judging is completed, show certificates should be signed by the Head Judge. Additional signatures of the other certified Bettas4all Judges are optional.

5. Judging aids

In order to judge the classes properly the judging team should have access to the following judging aids:

- A copy of the Bettas4all Standard[©].
- Mirror
- Flashlight (LED; non-colored/white)
- A set of straws cut at 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 6.0 cm in order to check minimal and ideal body size of males, females and giants.
- Bettas4all Judging Form I Show classes (see Appendix II).
- Bettas4all Judging Form II Special Prizes (see Appendix III).

Chapter 8B: Bettas4all Judging Board

This chapter describes the function and responsibilities of the Bettas4all Judging Board.

1. Definition, function & responsibility of the Bettas4all Judging Board

The Bettas4all Judging board is a committee is responsible for the contents, quality, development and correct application of the Bettas4all Standard[®]. The Bettas4all Judging Board also responsible for the Bettas4all Judging training program including approval of its candidates. In addition, the Bettas4all Judging Board has to give its permission before a show can be Bettas4all-sanctioned.

1.1 Financial compensation

As Bettas4all is a non-profit organization and the Bettas4all Standard[©] has been developed from a hobby perspective. Therefore members of the Bettas4all Judging board therefore <u>will not receive any financial</u> <u>compensation</u>.

2. Composition of the Bettas4all Judging Board

In general, the voting members of the Bettas4all Judging Board are certified Bettas4all Judges. Members which are not certified Bettas4all Judges will have a supporting/advisory role.

2.1 The core team

The core team is the leading committee within the Bettas4all Judging Board with the main task to guard & maintain the quality of the Bettas4all Standard© as well as its application and development.

The core team of the Bettas4all Judging Board is composed of:

	Chair
	Name: Joep van Esch, PhD
100	Country of origin: The Netherlands
	Co-Founder and owner of the Bettas/all Forum
Chanter -	Founder of the Bettas4all Standard [®]
	Certified EHBBC judge
- 400	Vice-Chair
	Name: James King, MA
las b	Country of origin: Australia (currently lives in the Czech Republic)
	Certified IBC Judge
	Certified Bettas4all Judge
	General member (Full)
	Name: Eugenio Fornasiero PhD
	Country of origin: Italy (currently lives in Germany)
	, , , , , , , , , ,
	Co-founder of the Italian Betta Club
	Club representative italian Betta Club
	Certified IBC Judge
ALCON A	Certified Bettas4all Judge

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	General member (Full)
	Name: Liviu Dumitrescu Country of origin: Romania
C. and and a	Certified Bettas4all Judge
	General member (Full)
1 march	
MAR AN	Name: Emelie Brändström
600	Country of origin: Germany
JA AS D	Certified Bettas4all Judge
-A-K	

2.2 Honorary members



Honorary member (Advisory)

Name: **Stefan George Psarakos** Username: **SplendidBetta** Country of origin: **Australia**

Graphic designer/developer of the 3D models

<u>Note:</u> In case of irresponsible behaviour of a member of the Bettas4all Judging Board, a member can be expelled when a majority of the votes within the team is in favour of such decision.



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.

<u>Note:</u> 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.

<u>Note:</u> 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**).

Chapter 8D: How to become a certified Bettas4all Judge

In order to become a certified Bettas4al 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 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.						
T2	Judging general characteristics, form, finnage and color 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.						
Practical train	ning						
Practice (P)	Description						
P1	Practical training judging procedures Learn how to apply the judging procedure in practice focussing on the division of show						
P2 classes, judging of the various show classes and the determination of the E Show awards and Jury prize.							

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":

Practical exam: Apprentices will have to show their ability to (1) divide show classes and (2) judge 1. 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.

<u>Note:</u> 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.

<u>Note:</u> 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.

Chapter 8E: Certified Bettas4all Judges and Bettas4all Apprentice Judges

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 and know how to apply the Bettas4all Standard© in practice at our shows.

1. Certified Bettas4all Judges

At this stage, nine hobbyists have been officially certified to Bettas4all Judge of which currently seven have an active status (see **Table 8E.1**).

Table 8E.1 Overview certified Bettas4all Judges

Last name:	First name:	Country	Certification date	Status	
Esch, van	Joep	The Netherlands	August 2014	Active	
Fornasiero	Eugenio	Italy	August 2014	Active	
		Germany			
King 📃 🔪	Jamie	Australia	August 2014	Active	
		Czech Republic			
Brändström Emelie Sweden		August 2016	Active		
Silverii	Roberto	Italy	October 2016	Active	
Dumitrescu Liviu Romania		Romania	August 2017	Active	
Grevenbroek	Jordy	The Netherlands	August 2018	Active	
Stokkelaar	Michel	The Netherlands	August 2014	Inactive	
Weber-Schwartz	Boris	Germany	August 2014	Inactive	

2. Bettas4all Apprentice Judges

Currently, four hobbyists are currently actively participating in the training program (see Table 8E.2).

1	able of Z Overview	bellas4all Apprentic	e Juuyes			
	Last name:	First name:	Country	Aimed certification date	Status	
	Grimm	Alex	Germany	May 2019	In training	
	Bemmel, van	Michiel	The Netherlands	May 2019	In training	
1	Örnberg Maria		Sweden To be determined in 2020		In training	
-			United Kingdom			
	Leopold	Stefan	Germany	To be determined in 2020	In training	

Table 8E.2 Overview Bettas4all Apprentice Judges

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<u>Appendix</u>

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Appendix I - Entry Form Bettas4all Sanctioned Shows

	Entry Form	
Registration will open on	and will close at	
-		

	General information
Surname*	
First name*	
Username Bettas4all forum	
(Only if you are a member)	
Street + house number*	
Postcode*	
City*	
Country*	
Phone number*	
Email address*	

* These fields are required.

In order to exhibit your fish at Bettas4all sanctioned shows we to ask you to specify the number of fish you would like to enter.

			Regis	stration of fish	
Number	of	fish**			
(Maximum	of 15 fish)				
dist.					

** In case all show tanks are booked but more breeders would like to enter fish, the maximum number of entries per breeder could be reduced to maximally 10 fish in order to promote an even more interesting competition.

Benching of the fish takes place on		bety	ween	:	-	:	<u>h!</u>
You can collect your fish again on	at		h.				

Entry fee to be paid

Number of fish x 3.00 euro

Payment of the entry fee has to be made when you bench your fish.

In order to submit your entry form please mark that you agree with the following statements:

By sending this entry form, the participant states to agree with (1) the show rules of the Bettas4all Standard[®]; (2) that his/her fish will be judged according to the Bettas4all Standard[®] and (3) to pay the entry fee when benching your fish.

L		The E	Betta	s4all	Judgi	ing teal	n, Be	ttas4a	ll Jud	ging E	Boai	rd, th	e orga	aniziı	ng gro	up/club
a	nd/	or sho	ow Ic	ocatio	n are	not res	pons	ible fo	or the	entrie	s or	r the o	condi	tion e	of the	entries,
a	lthc	ough t	hey	will d	o eve	rything	poss	sible to	o ensu	ıre saf	fety	and	health	n of tl	he fisl	h.

After sending this entry form via our show website you will receive an email to confirm your entry as soon as possible. In case you have not received this email within 5 days upon registration, please contact the organizing group/club.

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Appendix II - Bettas4all Judging Form I – Show classes

Name of Show:	AND
Location:	Supported by the
Date:	Bettas <mark>4all Stan</mark> dard©
	www.bettas4all.nl

Names of Bettas4all Judges & Apprentices 1 2 3 P P

Show Class:	
No. of entries:	
Tank no.:	
Tank no. DSQ:	
	Tank numbers of award winning fish:
1. Place:	
2. Place:	
3. Place:	
4. Place:	
5. Place:	

Show Class:	
No. of entries:	
Tank no.:	
Tank no. DSQ:	
	Tank numbers of award winning fish:
1. Place:	
2. Place:	
3. Place:	
4. Place:	
5. Place:	

Approved by Head Judge (signature):

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Appendix III - Bettas4all Judging Form II - Show classes

Name of Show:	ANN AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND
Location:	Supported by the
Date:	Bettas <mark>4all Stan</mark> dard©
	www.bettas4ail.nl

	Names of Bettas4all Judges & Apprentices (P)	Vote value:
1	Head Judge:	2
2		1
3		1
4		1
5		1
6		1
7		1
8		1
9		1
10		1
Ρ		1/2

Best o		
Tank no.:	Votes:	
		2
	2	
0		

Best of Show Female						
Tank no.:	Votes:					

Jury Prize							
Tank no.:	Votes:						

Reserve Best of Show Male						
Tank no.:	Votes:					

Reserve Best of Show Female						
Tank no.:	Votes:					
N ALLINA						

Public Prize						
Tank no.: Votes:						

Approved by Head Judge (signature):

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Appendix IV - Application Form – Bettas4all Judging Training Program

Name:			
Street:			
Zipcode:	City:		Supported by th Bettas4all Standar
Country:	0.00		
By signing this	entry form, the ca	ndidate applies	Signature of candidate:
and agrees w concerning the tr Bettas4all Judge	ith the rules and raining program to be	requirements come a certified	
Application date:			
Application appro	oved by Judging Boa	rd member:	Signature of Judging board:
		\bigcirc	
Approval date:			
		Dette e dell Tueinin	
(Completion Courses	Bettas4all Trainin	g Program:
Theory (T):	Completion Courses	- Bettas4all Trainin Signature of c	ig Program: ertified Bettas4all Judge:
Theory (T): T1	Completion Courses - Date:	- Bettas4all Trainin Signature of c	ng Program: ertified Bettas4all Judge:
Theory (T): T1 T2	Completion Courses - Date:	- Bettas4all Trainin Signature of c	ng Program: ertified Bettas4all Judge:
Theory (T): T1 T2 Practice (P):	Date:	Bettas4all Trainin Signature of c	ertified Bettas4all Judge: ertified Bettas4all Judge:

Completion Exams - Bettas4all Training Program:									
Exam: Date: Signature of certified Bettas4all Judge:									
Practical exam									
Theoretical exam									

P2

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Appendix V – "For Sale" tickets

A. Instruction:

In order to use the standardized "For Sale" tickets at Bettas4all sanctioned shows, please follow the following instructions:

- 1. The boundaries of each "For Sale" ticket are marked by thick red lines (see Figure V.1).
- 2. Each "For Sale" ticket for one particular show tank consists of two copies (a left and right side) which are folded at the thick dotted red line. One copy is used for the show administration whereas the other copy is given to the person buying the particular fish (see **Figure V.1**).

ANN WA	a.				a.				
	Tank #:	b.				Tank #:	b.		
Color & Finty	vpe:	С.	1/1		Color &	Fintype:	c .		
Breeder (cou	ntry):	d.	Y		Breeder		d.		
Website:	0	е.			Website	:	е.		
Sex:	I	24	Price:	g.	Sex:	f.		Price:	g.

Figure V.1 Overview of the various fields to be filled in on left and right side of each individual "For Sale" ticket.

- 3. Fill in the following fields on both sides of each "For Sale" ticket (see Figure V.2):
 - a. The name of the show/event can be filled in by the .
 - b. Tanknumber.
 - c. Color & Fintype.
 - d. Name of the breeder and county of origin.
 - e. Personal website (optional).
 - f. Sex of the fish(es) being offered for sale. This can be: Male, Female, Pair or Trio.
 - g. Price.
- 4. The individual "For Sale" tickets are now ready for use and can cut at thick red lines and folded at the dotted line (see *Figure V.2*).

ANNI I	10 th Betta Freaks Show			ANN MAR		10 th Betta	a Freaks Sh	ow		
	Tank #		163				Tank #:	163		
Color 8	& Fintype:		Metallic blue	/red HM		Color & Finty	vpe:	Metallic b	lue/red HM	
Breede	er (country):	1	Bruce Lee (G	ermany	0	Breeder:	111	Bruce Lee	(Germany)	
Websit	e:		www.brucele	eBettas	s.de	Website:		www.bruc	ele <mark>eBettas.</mark>	de
Sex:		Pai	ir	Price:	€ 15,00	Sex:	Pair	20180	Price:	€ 15,00

Figure V.2 Example of a completed "For Sale ticket.

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B. Template "For Sale" Tickets Bettas4all Sanctioned Shows

AVE	1100				AND	lø,				
	Tank #:						Tank #:			
Color	& Fintype:				Color	& Finty	pe:			
Breed	er (country):				Breede	ər:				
Websi	ite:				Websi	te:				
Sex:			Price:		Sex:			Ķ	Price:	
AVE	1100				AN					
	Tank #:	011	1/1				Tank #:			
Color	& Fintype:		Y		Color	& Finty	/pe:			
Breed	er (country):	1 10	7	~	Breede	ər:				
Websi	ite:				Websi	te:				
Sex:			Price:		Sex:				Price:	
Aller	110				AND					
ALL	Tank #:	2					Tank #:			
Color	& Fintype:				Color	& Finty	pe:			
Breed	er (country):	~			Breede	ər:				
Websi	ite:				Websi	te:				
Sex:			Price:		Sex:				Price:	
Aller	1100				AND	10				
No.	Tank #:						Tank #:			
Color	& Fintype:	2//	1		Color	& Finty	pe:			
Breed	er (country):				Breede	ər:	111	1 1		
Websi	ite:				Websi	te:				
Sex:			Price:		Sex:		1110	salka.	Price:	
ALL	Tank #:				ALL DE LE		Tank #:		U	
Color	& Fintype				Color	& Finty	me:			
Brood	er (country).				Brood		P.			
Waha	ite: (0001111 y).				Makal					
Sex.			Price		Sex.				Price	
00A.			. 1100.						. 1100.	

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Appendix VI: Development of the Bettas4all Standard©

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Appendix VI-1 - Development of the new Bettas4all Standard© – Phase I (2010)

July, 2010

This article describes the first phase of development of the new Bettas4all Standard[®] and will provide more information and insight regarding the motivation and background behind this new show standard for Betta splendens.

1. Introduction

Show standards of animals are in general characterized by a clear description of the various show varieties. Dimension parameters are very important as they tell us what the overall appearance of the ideal show animal should look like. When we take a look at show standards of several show breeds, for example German shepherds [1], Arabian horses [2], English budgerigars [3], goldfish [4] and guppies [5], they all include a clear description of the ideal dimensions.

The current standards for show Bettas give a clear description of ideal form and color of the various show varieties we know today. In order to describe the ideal form, these standards often use terms like "symmetry" and "balance", but what do they mean with these words? "Symmetry" in our hobby refers to the situation where the upper and lower parts of the fish nearly form a mirror-image when an imaginary horizontal midline would be drawn. "Balance" refers to the proportion of the finnage in relation to that of the body. Here, a clear dimension parameter which indicates the ideal size of the finnage in relation to that of the body is lacking.

Previously, I discovered that the width of the anal fin could function as a suitable reference point to describe the dimensions of the finnage of a show Betta [6]. In the past two years I further explored this option by studying the form and the dimension of the body and finnage of both male and female Bettas in my own fishroom, at shows and from pictures. As the width of the anal fin is depending on the body size of the fish, the advantage of taking this as a reference point is that it automatically relates the ideal finnage size to that of the body. Keep in mind that this does not mean that we have to start measuring Bettas during the judging procedure but with good training an experienced judge should be able to recognize whether a fish has the correct dimensions or not. We have used this tool to develop a new show standard.

2. Development of a new standard

The philosophy of the new Bettas4all Standard[®] is to promote vital, healthy, balanced show Bettas. Condition, deportment, overall balance, form of body & finnage, and color are important aspects which are incorporated into the standard. "Characteristics like extreme branching, webbing that is too voluminous (e.g. "balloon"), misaligned scales, and bad toplines (e.g "spoonhead"), are not compatible with our philosophy and will be heavily faulted.". I think one can imagine that development of a such a standard takes time and this article will discuss what we have accomplished so far in phase I of this elaborate project.

Ideally a show standard, regardless of the type, should be accompanied by clear examples which match the written text in order to enhance understanding and prevent confusion. Because the perfect fish does not exist it is very difficult to illustrate the form and dimensions written in the standard. We therefore have used a different approach. With the help of my friend Stefan George Psarakos (Australia) we developed three-dimensional (3D) models to visualize the ideal shape, balance, dimensions and proportions of the different finnage varieties of Betta splendens. But how did we approach this? We started with a longfinned symmetrical variety, the halfmoon. As our dimension parameter depends on the form and proportions of the body, we put a lot of effort into the development of a good 3D model of the body with a smooth topline and strong appearance (see Figure VI-1.1A). Subsequently we made a dimension model for the finnage (see Figure VI-1.1B). and from here we step by step added the caudal fin(see Figure VI-1.1C), anal fin (see Figure VI-1.1D), dorsal fin (see Figure VI-1.1E), ventral and pectoral fins (see Figure VI-1.1F).



Body (A), body & finnage dimension sketch (B), modelling of the caudal fin (C), modelling of the anal fin (D), 3D model with all three unpaired fins (E) and the complete model after addition of the pectoral and ventral fins (F)

The 3D model of the body also formed the base for the development of the other finnage varieties where we followed the similar approach as described previously.

3. Finnage varieties

The Bettas4all Standard[®] recognizes two asymmetrical shortfin show variants (traditional plakat and asymmetrical halfmoon plakat), one symmetrical shortfin variant (symmetrical halfmoon plakat), one asymmetrical longfin variant (veiltail) and three symmetrical longfin variants (halfmoon, doubletail and crowntail). In this article we introduce the main characteristics of these different finnage standards illustrated with a 2D preview of the corresponding 3D models.

3.1 Plakat

For many years the traditional plakat was the only shortfinned type seen at Betta shows but the development of the halfmoon fever also led to the evolution of the shortfinned tailtype. Outcrossing the traditional plakat type to longfinned halfmoons led to the development of the halfmoon plakat. The overall appearance of these fish is asymmetrical and combines traits of both traditional plakats and halfmoons. Besides more raysplitting in the caudal fin, the outcrossing to longfinned halfmoons also introduced more raysplitting in the anal and dorsal fins which also influenced their shape and volume. Both types have a clear asymmetrical appearance which is mainly caused by the extended rays in the rear (posterior) part of the anal fin but also by the length and shape of the ventrals and the dorsal. When breeding longfinned halfmoons the ultimate goal is a fish with a balanced appearance. The increasing interest in asymmetrical show plakats lead to the development of another plakat type, the symmetrical halfmoon plakat. This type is the shortfinned equivalent of the longfinned halfmoon and is often referred to as "shortmoon". Because we are now dealing with three different shortfinned show varieties which have been evolved from each other by years of selective breeding, this also resulted in intermediate types which are sometimes difficult to place in a certain show class. In this standard we have tried to create a clearer distinction between the traditional plakat (see Figure VI-1.2A), the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat (see Figure VI-1.2B) and the symmetrical halfmoon plakat (see Figure VI-1.2C).



Figure VI-1.2 2D representation of the 3D models of the asymmetrical and symmetrical shortfin varieties (created by Stefan George Psarakos). Traditional plakat (A), Asymmetrical halfmoon plakat (B) and Symmetrical halfmoon plakat (C)

3.2 Veiltail

The veiltail is a form which gradually has disappeared from the class list of many international Betta shows. We personally think this is a negative development, because we should not forget that it was this variety which was the base of the development of the modern longfinned show Betta. Additionally the veiltail, without any doubt, is the most known variety of *Betta splendens* among the public. It often is this variety which is responsible for people getting "infected" with the "Betta-virus". Because the veiltail is still greatly appreciated among aquarium hobbyists and is clearly distinct from the other longfinned show Bettas we think there still should be room for this variety within the show circuit. We therefore developed a show standard for veiltails and hope that this standard will stimulate and challenge breeders to bring the current quality of the veiltail to a higher level by well-thought and dedicated breeding programs (see *Figure VI-1.3A*).



Figure VI-1.3 2D representation of the 3D model of the asymmetrical longfin variety (created by Stefan George Psarakos). Veiltail (A)

3.3 Halfmoon

Ideally the caudal fin of a halfmoon, both short- and longfinned, should have a 180 degree spread with the length of the rays being equal throughout the whole caudal. This characteristic is only found in a limited number of fish and most of the times the outer rays are shorter in length than the rays found in the midsection of the caudal fin. When judging longfinned halfmoons it is often said that the fish has an unbalanced appearance because the anal fin is too long in the back. Interestingly, in most cases it are not the rays in the anal fin which are too long but it actually are the outer rays of the caudal fin which are too short. This observation requires both breeders and judges to look with a different eye at halfmoons (see Figure VI-1.4A).

3.4 Doubletail

The ideal doubletail can be considered as the ultimate example of symmetry of all show Bettas. Because of the broad dorsal fin which almost resembles the anal fin in both width and shape the upper part and lower part of the fish nearly are a mirror-image. In many standards doubletails are allowed to have a

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shorter body. We personally feel that ideally the perfect doubletail should have a good proportioned body which is comparable to that of any singletail variant (see *Figure VI-1.4B*).



Figure VI-1.4 2D representation of the 3D models of three symmetrical longfin varieties (created by Stefan George Psarakos). Halfmoon (A), Doubletail (B) and Crowntail (C)

3.5 Crowntail

According to the Bettas4all Standard[©], the ideal crowntail caudal is "double-ray (DR)" and shows a primary branching (2-ray) with a 50% reduction in webbing between the primary rays and a 25% reduction between the secondary rays thereby creating a crown-like appearance (*see Figure 1A.4C*). The dorsal and anal fin of the crowntail show a 50% reduction in webbing. We decided to choose this type because it represents a good balance between the empty spaces and remaining webbing between the rays of the fins. Two variants of this type are recognized, the normal crossray and reverse crossray.

4. Trial version

After all the hard work in the past months we are extremely proud to present this trial version of the Bettas4all Standard[®] to the public. This version will be used to judge the Bettas by a knock-out system at the Holland Betta Show (20 - 22 August 2010, Arcen, the Netherlands) and at the 15th EHBBC show (30 September - 3 October 2010, Duisburg, Germany). It is likely that this version of the standard still shows imperfections and after both shows we will evaluate which parts need further improvement. In Phase II, our goal is (1) to expand the standard by adding a detailed fault system for the finnage and color standards and (2) to further develop the standard for female show Bettas.

So please keep your eyes open for Phase II!

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Stefan George Psarakos (Australia, <u>www.superbBettas.com</u>) whose contribution is of crucial importance in the development of this new standard. His artistic skills and dedication enabled him to create 3D models of the show Betta varieties, based on dimensions and diagrams I produced. I hope we can continue this collaboration for a long time!

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Appendix VI-2: Development of the Bettas4all Standard[©] – Phase II (2013)

April, 2013

This article describes the second phase of development of the Bettas4all Standard[®] and will provide more information and insight regarding the motivation and background behind this new show standard for Betta splendens.

1. Introduction

In July 2010 we proudly presented the first phase of development of the Bettas4all Standard[®] which included a detailed description of the ideal show Betta and the various finnage and color varieties. To date, three years have passed and the current version of the Bettas4all Standard[®] has been used at eight international Betta shows in Germany and the Netherlands by an international judging team which consists of group of experienced, motivated breeders/hobbyists (*see Table VI-2.1*).

#	Name Show	# Fish	Date	City + Country
1.	Holland Betta Show 2010	265	20-22 August 2010	Arcen, The Netherlands
2.	15 th EHBBC Show 2010	>150	30 September-3 October 2010	Duisburg, Germany
3.	16 th EHBBC Show 2011	>150	28-30 January 2011	Hannover, Germany
4.	Holland Betta Show 2011	308	19-21 August 2011	Arcen, The Netherlands
5.	17 th EHBBC Show 2011	176	30 Sepember-3 October 2011	Duisburg, Germany
6.	1 st Betta Freaks Show 2012	160	20-22 April 2012	Frechen, Germany
7.	Holland Betta Show 2012	308	17-19 August 2012	Arcen, The Netherlands
8.	2 nd Betta Freaks Show 2012	188	29-30 September 2012	Dortmund, Germany

Table VI-2.1 Overview shows judged according to the Bettas4all Standard[©] 2010-2012

Even though there still is quite some work needed to further develop, expand and improve the standard, the Bettas4all Standard[®] already has been proven to be an excellent standard at the shows where it was applied. During and after the shows the standard was extensively tested, discussed, evaluated and reviewed. This feedback was used in the second phase of development resulting in a further improved version of the Bettas4all Standard[®].

2. Critique & respect!

The release of the new Bettas4all Standard[®] did not only lead to positive reactions as not everybody thinks a new standard is a welcome addition to our hobby. Some points of critique which were raised were:

- No certified judges: Currently there are no official certified Bettas4all Judges yet. We decided that the development of a good standard and fault system had first priority and that this would be a stable base to start educating/training judges in the future. However this does not mean that the current Bettas4all Judging Team does not know what they are doing. Each member of the current judging team understands the contents and philosophy of the standard and all decisions made during the judging procedure are extensively discussed within the team. In addition, all show classes are double checked by the Head Judge.
- Fish bred to the ideals of the Bettas4all Standard[®] do not stand a chance at other shows: According to some it would not be possible to participate successfully anymore at shows using other show standards when hobbyists would breed fish according to the ideals described in the Bettas4all Standard[®]. This critique has been proven not to be valid as the ideal form and colors described in the Bettas4all Standard[®] only show subtle differences in comparison to other show standards. The Bettas4all Standard[®] mainly distinguishes itself from other standards in (1) the way dimension parameters are incorporated and used to describe and visualize the ideal form, (2) the use of clear example pictures, (3) the way show classes are divided and (4) the way the number of awards are determined. In practice, breeders winning at our shows also have been proven very successful at other shows in Europe using different show standards.

The use of one single worldwide show standard for show Bettas has been suggested several times. It is important to realize that the Bettas4all Standard[®] was not developed to critique other show standards and/or organizations. We deeply respect other Betta organizations and their show standards but in our opinion more diversity is a positive development which on the long run will stimulate the development of our hobby. We hope to receive the same respect in return.

3. Body size

In order to put more focus on body size in our breeding programs and to prevent hobbyists entering small, underdeveloped fish at our shows, we have decided to increase the ideal body size for a regularsized, mature show Betta to at least 4.00 cm (1.57 inch) for a male and 3.50 cm (1.38 inch) for female. The minimum size for a show Betta accepted at our shows will remain 3.50 cm (1.38 inch) for a male and 3.00 cm (1.18 inch) for female but it is important to note that larger fish will be preferred above smaller fish if no other faults apply.

As regular fully matured Bettas can grow up to 5.50-6.00 cm (2.16-2.36 inch) we think it is important to make a clear distinction between regular and giant show Bettas which have to be shown in the Form & Variations class. The ideal body size for a Giant-sized, mature show Betta should be bigger than 6.00 cm (2.36 inch) for both males and females.

4. Show Classes

In the 2013 version, the main show classes for registering fish to our shows have been adjusted. Fish can now be entered in 19 main show classes which are divided based on a more clear subdivision based on gender, shortfin and longfin varieties including form & variations (see Table VI-2.2).

a. Show class + gender	b. Finnage variety	c. Class code:	d. Chapter:	e. Color variety
Male				
	Traditional	M1	3A	All colors*
Obsetfin	Asymmetrical halfmoon	M2	3B	All colors*
Shortfin	Symmetrical halfmoon	M3	3C	All colors*
(plakat)	Doubletail	M4	3D	All colors*
	Crowntail	M5	3E	All colors*
	Veiltail	M6	3F	All colors*
Lonafin	Halfmoon	M7	3G	All colors*
	Doubletail	M8	3H	All colors*
	Crowntail	M9	31	All colors*
Special classes	Form & Variations	M10	3J	All colors*
Female				
	Traditional	F1	3K	All colors*
Shortfin	Halfmoon	F2+3	3K	All colors*
(plakat)	Doubletail	F4	3K	All colors*
	Crowntail	F5	3K	All colors*
	Veiltail	F6	3K	All colors*
- I and in	Halfmoon	F7	3K	All colors*
Longtin	Doubletail	F8	3K	All colors*
	Crowntail	F9	3K	All colors*
Special classes	Form & Variations	F10	3K	All colors*

Table VI-2.2 Main show classes Bettas4all Standard[©]

* If possible, show classes are further divided in subcategories based on color variety (see Chapter 4).

The following changes have been made:

- i. Doubletail plakat and crowntail plakat males: Since 2011, doubletail plakats and crowntail plakats were added as a trial class within the Form & variation class. After a trial period of 2 years, both classes appeared very popular. We therefore decided to recognize the doubletail plakat and crowntail plakat as separate show classes with the ideal form described in a separate chapter within in the show standard. The 3D models for these finnage variations are under construction.
- ii. Veiltail males: As both spade and rounded caudals are allowed in traditional plakats, we have decided to also allow this for the longfinned equivalent of this form, the veiltail. A new 3D model has been constructed to demonstrate this (see Figure VI-2.1).




Figure VI-2.1 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal veiltail (created by Stefan George Psarakos).

- iii. Form & Variations: A detailed description of this show class has been added and includes a rough description of some likely more rare variations which have to be shown in this class accompanied by some example pictures.
- *iv. Females:* The female show classes have been expanded by the addition of a female class for doubletail plakat, crowntail plakat and form & variation.
- v. All main show classes now include all colors: In contrast to the 2010-2012 version of the Bettas4all Standard[®] all main show classes now include all color varieties. After benching show classes will be further split into subclasses when there are at least six fish of a certain subvariety (color or finnage) which are entered by a minimum of two breeders. This together with the award system, were the number of awards per show class is depending on the number of fish per show class, has been proven to be very successful at our shows so far and resulted in an interesting and challenging competition which was highly appreciated by both Bettas4all Judging Team and participants.

5. Bettas4All Judging Board

In order to take the standard to the next level and to guarantee its quality we have instated an official Bettas4all Judging Board consisting of the following members:

- Boris Weber-Schwartz (Germany)
- Stefan G. Psarakos (Australia)
- Jamie King (Australia/Czech Republic), MA.
- Eugenio Fornasiero (Italy), phD
- Joep H.M. van Esch (The Netherlands), phD

6. Supported by the Bettas4all Standard[©]

We have designed a special "Supported by the Bettas4all Standard[©]" logo, which can be used on websites, banners and posters that announce shows will be judged according to the Bettas4all Standard[©]. The logo currently comes in three different versions (*see Figure VI-2.2*).



Figure VI-2.2 "Supported by the Bettas4all Standard[©]" logo.

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7. Upcoming developments

In the next phase of development, the current version of the Bettas4all Standard[®] will be tested, critically discussed, reviewed, and evaluated in order to further improve the standard where necessary. The Bettas4all Judging Board will work on the development of a detailed fault system which will bring the current standard to an even higher level. In addition, we will develop an extensive program to train enthusiastic, dedicated hobbyists to become a fully certified Bettas4all Judges.

Please keep your eyes open for Phase III!

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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 her 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).

#	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

 Table VI-3.1
 Overview shows judged according to the Bettas4all Standard[©] 2013-2015

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)

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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 <u>at least 6.00 cm / 2.36 inch</u>. In light of the sexual dimorphism between males and females we have adjusted to a body size for a female to <u>at least 5.50 cm / 2.17 inch</u> 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. Bases 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 <u>6 12 fish</u> (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.

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.

Awards per show class	Show points
1 th place	25
2 nd place	20
3 rd place	15
4 th place	10
5 th 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

Table VI-3.2 Overview show points Bettas4all Masters Championship

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**).

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

	Rank	Name	<mark>5th Betta</mark> 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.

List of the of macpendent states belonging geographical of pointear to Earope.	Table VI-3.4	List of the 51 independent states belonging geographical o	r political to Europe.
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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.

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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. <u>We aim for quality</u> 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!