

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**).

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

#	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, The Netherlands
28.	11 th Betta Freaks Show	Upcoming	11-12 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

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

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
Overall Appearance	25	25%	Condition & Department	10	10%
			Body size	5	5%
			Overall balance	10	10%
Body	10	10%	Form	8	8%
			Scalation	2	2%
Finnage	35	35%	Caudal fin	10	10%
			Dorsal fin	8	8%
			Anal fin	8	8%
			Ventral fins	6	6%
			Pectoral fins	3	3%
Color	30	30%	Intensity/Contrast	15	15%
			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 or symmetrical halfmoon plakat.

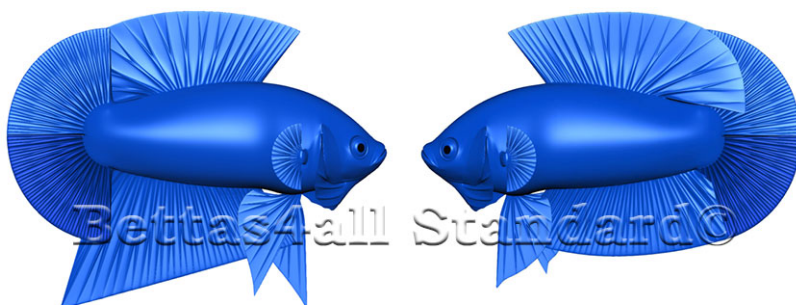


Figure P1.1 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal doubletail plakat based on the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat (left) and symmetrical halfmoon plakat (right).

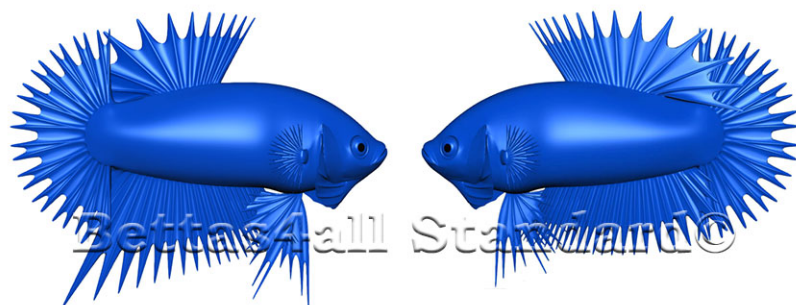


Figure P1.2 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal crowntail plakat based on the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat (left) and symmetrical halfmoon plakat (right).

- 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

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**).

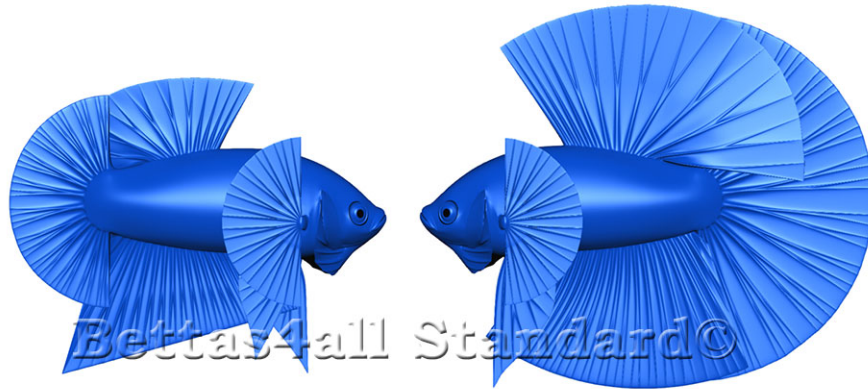


Figure P1.3 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal large pectoral Betta based on the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat (left) and halfmoon (right).

iii. Form & Variation: Breeding giants at a minimum body size of at least 6.00 cm (2.36 inch) 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 6.00 cm (2.36 inch) will remain the ideal, the minimal body size for a show Betta male or female to be classified as giant has been decreased to 5.5 cm (2.17 inch) 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).

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** (absence of the 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. Bettas4all-sanctioned show:** 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. Bettas4all-associated show:** 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-associated 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, no show points are awarded for the Bettas4all Master Competition. **Table P1.3** gives an overview of the (planned) Bettas4all-associated shows in 2018-2019.

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

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:

- 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**).

Table P1.4a Overview certified Bettas4all Judges

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
Weber-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 United Kingdom	To be determined in 2020	In training
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 Bettas4allstandard@hotmail.com. 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 VI!

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.