

Chapter 1C: Development of the Bettas4all Standard® – Phase III (2016)**November, 2015**

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

1. Introduction

The release of the Bettas4all Standard® in 2010 resulted in both positive and negative reactions within the betta scene. Some hobbyists were open to developments whereas others were reluctant to change. However, the support and development in the past five years within the European betta scene have shown that the Bettas4all Standard® is an excellent standard to judge international show, and is here to stay. By now the Bettas4all Standard® has been used at eighteen international betta shows in three different European countries (see **Table 1B.1** and **Table 1C.1**).

Table 1C.1 Overview shows judged according to the Bettas4all Standard® 2013-2015

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

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

2. Show Classes

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

- i. Doubletail plakat and crowntail plakat males:* In 2013 separate show classes for doubletail plakat and crowntail plakat males were added to the Bettas4all Standard® (see **Chapter 3D** and **Chapter 3E**, respectively). These Chapters have now been updated with 3D models for the doubletail plakat (see **Figure 1C.1A**) and crowntail plakat (see **Figure 1C.1B**).

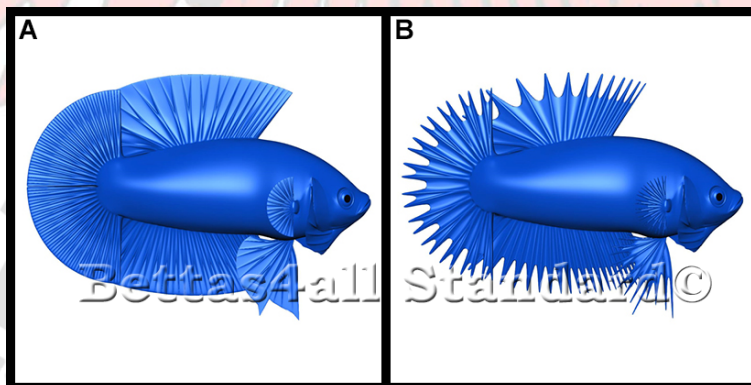


Figure 1C.1 2D representation of the 3D models of the two new symmetrical shortfin varieties (created by Stefan George Psarakos).
Doubletail plakat (A) and Crowntail plakat (C)

ii. Form & Variations: In 2013, we decided to make a clear distinction between regular and giant show bettas which have to be shown in the Form & Variations class (see **Chapter 1B**). In the updated standard we have further improved this definition for “giant” males and females. In order to be classified as “giant” at a Bettas4all sanctioned show, a male has to have a body size of at least 6.00 cm / 2.36 inch (see **Chapter 3J**). In light of the sexual dimorphism between males and females we have adjusted to a body size for a female to at least 5.50 cm / 2.17 inch in order to be classified as “giant” (see **Chapter 3K**).

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

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

ii. Bettas4all Masters Competition: As the Bettas4all Standard® currently is used in three different European countries (Germany, Italy and the Netherlands), we have decided to add a new award. The prestigious title “Bettas4all Master” will be awarded to the hobbyist who collects the most show points at Bettas4all sanctioned shows during one show year. A show year here is defined as the period from the 1st of January to the 31st of December. Show points (see **Table 1C.2** and **Chapter 5**) are automatically assigned to participants when his/her fish placed in any of the show classes or won (reserve) Best of Show awards. The top 20 of the prestigious “Bettas4all Masters Competition” will be presented at the annual Holland Betta Show (Arcen, the Netherlands), following the show year in which the competition has been completed.

Table 1C.2 Overview show points Bettas4all Masters Championship

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

Please note that the award for “Best European Breeder”, a special prize that is awarded to the breeder with the most 1st prizes at a particular show (see **Chapter 5**), 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 1C.3**).

Table 1C.3 Top 10 ranking Bettas4all Masters Competition 2014.

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

4. New additions

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

4.1 Bettas4all Sanctioned Shows – Europe

This chapter discusses all aspects regarding organizing a Bettas4all sanctioned show. A Bettas4all sanctioned show can be defined as competition for self-bred show bettas which is being judged according to the Bettas4all Standard® by certified Bettas4all Judges. For the time being, Bettas4all sanctioned shows are restricted to all countries belonging geographical or political under any of the various common definitions of Europe (see **Table 1C.4** and **Chapter 6**). This also accounts for participation although the judging Board can make an exception to this rule when a hobbyist from outside of Europe is personally attending the Bettas4all sanctioned show and would be willing to participate.

Table 1C.4 List of the 51 independent states belonging geographical or political to Europe.

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

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

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

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

4.2 Bettas4all Judging Manual

The Bettas4all Judging Manual will discuss all aspects with respect to judging procedures, the Bettas4all Judging board, Bettas4all Judges and how to become a certified Bettas4all Judge (see **Chapter 7**).

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 1C.5a**) whereas four hobbyists are participating in the training program (see **Table 1C.5b**).

Table 1C.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 1C.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!