

Chapter 6: Bettas4all Sanctioned Shows – Europe

This chapter discusses all aspects regarding organizing a Bettas4all sanctioned show.

1. Definition 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. Subsequently, the aim of a Bettas4all sanctioned show is to promote all aspects of our beautiful hobby to the public.

2. Approval to host a Bettas4all sanctioned show

In order to host a Bettas4all sanctioned 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.

Important note:

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 6.1**).

Table 6.1 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. 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 show 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 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 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 will not be officially Bettas4all sanctioned. More information regarding the judging procedures can be found in **Chapter 7**.

2.3 Helper Team

The Helper Team at a Bettas4all sanctioned show often consists of dedicated hobbyists who offer practical support during the event. Helpers will not be burdened 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 colour perception of the fish in the show. Although *Betta splendens* 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.

Practical experience has taught that a Show Team of 3-5 members and a Judging Team of at least 2 certified Bettas4all judges can sustain shows of up to 200 entries. Shows with 200 entries or more will require a Show Team of 5-10 members and Judging Team of at least 4 certified Bettas4all judges.

4. Participants

At Bettas4all sanctioned 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:

For the time being, Participation is restricted to hobbyists living in these countries that belong geographical or political under any of the various common definitions of Europe (see **Table 6.1**). 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 a Bettas4all sanctioned show are:

- a. The registration fee at Bettas4all sanctioned shows on average is set to 3.00 euro per fish. The Show Team has the possibility to 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 show is usually 10 or 15. If two or more participants breed fish at the same location/address, maximally 10 fish per participant can be entered. 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. 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.
- c. Upon registration the following information is required: (1) the number of fish they would like to enter and (2) personal information (name, address, phone number and email).
 - d. Upon benching, all fish will be sorted by the Bettas4all Judging Team into that show class in which they fit best and stand the highest chance of winning an award (see **Chapter 7A**).
 - e. By sending the registration form the participant agrees with:
 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 Bettas4all sanctioned 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 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 Bettas4all sanctioned show therefore will be responsible for all financial aspects regarding such event. The financial support for a Bettas4all sanctioned show can be composed by temporary personal investments, gifts, sales of fish and aquarium related products and/or sponsorships. A strong financial base for a Bettas4all sanctioned 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 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 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 6.1**).



Figure 6.1 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 each fish within a range of 5-25 euro per 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, fintype, 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 Show Team 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. ≥ 1000).