

IBC 2014-2015 Show Year Changes

Financial Incentives

In order to promote betta showing among participants and chapters, the IBC Executive Board has authorized certain incentives for IBC International Shows. Chapters incur great expenses holding a show, particularly when they're first starting out, including buying show bowls/beanies, building stands renting show space, obtaining supplies, buying awards, etc. We hope that this assistance will make it easier for chapters to hold shows and entrants to participate.

- Chapters holding a show during the 2014-2015 show season can apply online after a show to receive US\$200. This is applicable for all chapters, in all areas. The chapter must 1) not have earned more than US\$200 in final accounting totals and 2) not have spent more than US\$200 on awards/trophies. The online form will be presented in four languages and show chairs can email for assistance on filling it out.

These incentives are authorized for the 2014-2015 show season only. They will be reviewed next year to see if they have helped the IBC Show Circuit.

Please note that the US\$25 sanction fee refund has been discontinued – all shows must pay the sanction fee to hold their date and their show. The Area 1 sliding scale entry fees has also been eliminated.

Show Entry Changes

Some parts of Areas 2 and 6 already allow entries to be open to non-IBC members. As well as making it formal for Area 2, Areas 1 and 7 are also adopting this with specific rules.

IBC Shows will be open to entries from non-IBC members as long as non-members:

1. Pay at least 150-200% more than IBC members in entry fees.
2. Are limited to no more than 10 entries per show.
3. Will not receive end-of-year awards.

Giving the 200% example: For Area 1, that would be a \$2/entry for IBC and \$4/entry for non-members. For Area 2, it's variable, but in many areas would be Euro 3,50/entry for IBC and Euro 5,00/entry for non-members. For Area 6, it's variable. For Area 7, it's variable, but in many shows would be AU\$3 for IBC and AU\$6 for non-members.

Each chapter can also create their own incentive fee structure, such as lower fees for chapter members. We encourage chapters to work something out that will be fair to all. Entrants must carefully review each chapter's posting of show information to see what their fee structure and incentives are.

Apprenticing, Judging, Show Chairs/Committees, and Participant Changes

- The Judging Board has clarified what the steps of apprenticeship are expected to be, and also more clearly defined what parts of the show an apprentice and judge can help with, and which they cannot.
- The apprenticeship "start" date has been changed to be the last seminar taken, at which point their 3 years will be from that date. (Instead of the first show they apprentice at, because of the potential of lapsed time from the seminars to the first apprenticed show.)
- All certified judges can judge any area shows. The JB recommends, however, that judges from another area do team judging with an area judge before doing individual judging in that area. (For example, a judge from Area 2 can judge shows in Area 7, however, we recommend that the Area 2 judge first judge in conjunction with an Area 7 judge before the Area 2 judge judges an Area 7 show by themselves.)
- After judging at an IBC show, Head Judges shall send a report to the Judging Board as an overall of what they saw at the show and opinions of the show. A standard form will be made available.
- After their IBC show is completed, Show Chairs shall send a report in addition to the show results that lists the entrants by category (regular and new breeder, IBC member and non-member). They shall also send the full show log to the JB in addition to the Show Results form. Show logs must have entrant 'label/remarks' on them.
- After their IBC show is completed, a member of the Show Committee should submit pictures of BOS winners (if possible), and if photos are taken, a selection of photos sent back to the JB with award winners noted. (Show Chairs – please assign this duty to another member of your show committee... show chairs have too much to do! This should be a separate job. We do also recognize the resources it might take, so we're asking for best efforts, not an absolute.)
- Expanded show container approval. Chapters are approved to purchase what they would like for show containers providing:
 - Containers must be of a firm plastic that can easily be seen through for both judging and photography. Any time containers get scratched up so their visibility is diminished, the host club should replace those containers.
Exception: Those chapters with existing half-gallon glass bowls can continue to use them. The glass bowls are not, however, approved for new purchases.

- Containers must have flat surfaces for viewing the fish. Fully round containers are not suitable as they distort the fish. (Slightly rounded corners are okay, as in the CCW containers, or the drum bowls which are flat on the viewing side and rounded on the edges.)
 - Containers for regular show fish must be no smaller than 4 inches wide by 4 inches depth by 4 inches tall. Preferred containers are larger than that in one dimension or another (such as the 'beanies' which are 4x4x8, or the mini-keepers which are 7x4x5).
 - Containers must have individual lids.
Exception: Area 2 has some chapters that use long lengths of plastic to cover multiple containers. Those chapters can continue using their method. This method is not, however, approved for new purchases/chapters.
 - All fish showing in a category ***MUST*** have the same container during the show so that all fish are judged under equal conditions. If for some reason, other containers must be used, then group the other containers to the other categories. (i.e., All regular class fish can be shown in one type, all new breeder class fish can be shown in a different one, and owned fish in a third.) (ex: all regular fish are shown in beanies while all new breeders are shown in mini-keepers.)
 - Host clubs must also keep on hand larger size containers for giants, small wilds, and large wilds. Giants and small wilds should be in nothing less than 6x6x6 (ex - small kriter keepers are 9x6x7), and large wilds should be no less than 8x8x8 (ex - med kriter keepers are 11x7x8)
 - Host clubs must plan their show settings to match their containers. This might entail building new stands. Consider resources, including available show space, when planning containers.
- Show Chairs this year were sent a JB Show Chair Guide. All Show Chairs, no matter how experienced or not they are, are expected to review this Guide before their show. Review it when first planning the show, a month before the show, and the day before the show at minimum. We expect Show Chairs and Show Committees to represent the IBC and the IBC Standards, and to be detailed on their care for the entries and participants.
 - Participants are reminded that Shows are not expected to make any special efforts for them and they will be treated just the same as every other participant. If a participant makes a mistake in entry forms, bagging, or otherwise, that mistake is on the participants' end. A Show Chair is expected to make some effort for figuring things out, but participants shouldn't expect great lengths if it was their mistake. Participants should read the JB Participant Show Guide and know what is expected as well of them.

- Clarified participant entry rules that the number of entries limit is per each IBC member. It is not defined by address (we recognize that flat mates can keep separate fish rooms). Family members can enter separately as long as they don't share fishroom duties for their own bred fish. If families **do** share fishroom duties, they are expected to enter as a family ("Sieg and Judy Illig") (which is not a "team" or "collaboration" entry – see those clarifications below). (All family entrants must all be IBC members in good standing.) Note that this is on the honor system – we can't police your fish rooms. We expect all participants to hold to the high standards of honor and make the correct designations when entering shows.
 - *Exception: Area 6 currently has an exemption on the overall IBC 50 limit entries, and it continues to keep this exemption.*

- The Judging Board is officially retiring the "team" entry designation. It was originally supposed to be used for people working together on lines and has instead been used over time for simply purchased fish. This designation is no longer in use. Instead we now have:
 - Purchased Fish: Purchased fish will now be shown in their own group, not to be mixed with breeders' fish. This includes any fish that an entrant did not breed themselves, whether literally bought from a store or aquabid or another breeder, or a gift fish that somebody gave to them. Purchased fish must have been in the owners' possession for at least one month before the show.
 - Exceptions:*
 - *Area 6 continues to show purchased fish as their regular shows. Area 6 has always had this exemption and continues to keep it.*
 - *Area 2 chooses not to allow purchased fish shown at any IBC show. All fish shown must be self-bred.*

 - Collaborative Fish: Collaboration fish are the product of two people working closely together in different fishrooms to produce a line of bettas. Collaborations usually involve one person breeding the fish and then giving the young, unsexed juveniles to another person who will rear them in their fishroom to showable size and training. Collaborations are **not** people who simply purchase another fish from another breeder (see "purchased fish showing"). True collaborations involve multiple decisions being made along the way by both people on the breeding and raising of the fish. The difference between collaboration fish and family showing is that while family showing all work in the same fishroom together, in collaboration, the fishrooms are separate and often miles away from each other.

Collaboration fish may be shown in regular classes and are eligible for year-end awards. Collaboration fish must be from people in the same Area working together. Both parties in a collaborative effort **MUST** be IBC members in good standing. Collaborations must register with the JB prior to showing with both parties names, member IDs, and lines they'll be working together. The JB will send the list of approved Collaborations to Show Chairs prior to the shows.

- All participants should make their IBC entries under **real** names only (the names listed in the IBC Membership) - not business or trade names. Entries with business or trade names only will be disqualified. People can put business or trade names in parenthesis after their real names if they want to. (Example: A correct entry would be Larissa Williams (alatri). Incorrect and subject to disqualification would be simply Alatri.)
- To assist in IBC Membership checking for Show Chairs, entry forms should now have a spot for the IBC Membership number. The IBC has started issuing membership cards with the IBC number on them. We highly recommend it for this show year, but will not be requiring it until next year due to most people not being familiar with their membership IDs yet.
- An Area's year-end points will be for people in that Area only. Out-of-Area entrants will get show awards, but not year-end. Area will be by address, unless self-selected. People who legitimately are living/working in two Areas can have an exemption for their Areas if they register with the JB.
- Rules for District Shows have been updated. A district show is allowed to limit their entries to a maximum of between 100-200 fish (though they might receive less), with pre-registrations opened preferentially to district members first and then allowed to open to the rest of the area for entries. (Conversely, Area/International shows are not allowed to limit the entries to any *less* than 300 fish (though they might receive less).)
- Created districts for Area 7, and updated the districts for Area 1. (Areas 2 and 6 do not currently have districts.)
- Updated the code of ethics for showing.

Class Standards Changes

- Updated Marble standards. This includes removing the piebald as a subtype (piebalds are NOT ideal marbles and should not be rated over other marbles – a 50/50 patterning is ideal) and removing the out-dated flesh-colored requirement.
- Change iridescent and metallic standards to include options for masked or unmasked. Masked should be 100% coverage, including head. Unmasked fish should have a head without iridescent/metallic coverage. Partial coverage (in either case) is a minor fault.
- Form and Finnacle standards. Clarification that form and finnage is open for **all** fish regardless of breed or gender, as long as there are set standards for said form. In other words, it's not just for males, and it's not just for longfins. All fish – male and female, longfin, shortfin, crown or double... all can compete in form and finnage. They should be matched to the ideal for their form, whichever that form is, and color is disregarded while judging form and finnage in that class. Also - a reminder of last year's update of that while in their class, form and finnage

competes without color faults, that when they get to BOV and BOS judging, they should be judged by the color class they best fit. (i.e. if it's marble, when it's in class judging, disregard the marble standard – when it's up for BOV, judge also with the marble standard in mind.)

- Added to the Art Standards that "if an art entry exceeds 60cm x 60cm / 2ft x 2ft (2D) or 30x30x30cm / 1x1x1ft (3D), the artist needs to give advance notice and confirm with the show chair that there is room to properly display the item. Items exceeding those dimension are at the Show Chair's discretion, however the IBC requests all reasonable efforts be made to accommodate larger works.
- Wilds are now counted separately for points and will be given their own awards at year-end, rather than simply being part of class awards.
- New Breeder classes are now limited to people living in the Area the show is being held in. (Area being the IBC Area, such as Area 1, 2, 6, or 7. So people from Area 2 cannot enter New Breeder in Area 7, etc.)

In addition to these changes, the Judging Board chair will be sending out emails to all Show Chairs and Head Judges before every show reminding them of the changes, and warning them to be alert for certain trends that we've seen happening. When in doubt, read the Standards. When something needs a clarification, ask the Judging Board.

The MAP program will continue as a regular program. Entries for MAP will be entitled to the normal auction split as the regular class fish, and not be required to be donated entries. People are reminded that the number of MAP entries are for the whole show year, not for individual shows.

While Area 2 changed their show calendar year to a January through December schedule last year, there were urgent changes they needed to make on the show class list that the JB agreed to let them make. This is odd, but we think the points can be worked out fairly for them. If you have any questions, please contact the Area 2 representative.

Revised class lists have been completed for Areas 1, 2, 6, and 7. See posted files. A revised Entry Form has also been posted.

The Judging Manual is currently undergoing a formatting update, and will be posted on the IBC website when completed, and will be announced in the BetterBettas mailing list, the judge's mailing list, and the IBC Facebook page. If you have any questions about the changes, please send an email to the JB Chair at jbchair@ibcbettas.org.

Changes under consideration for next year (please let us know if you have feedback on these):

- Combination of the current Multicolor Standard with Form & Finnacle to make an Any Other Color class category. (Area 6 currently uses this, the other areas are considering it.)

- Updating the marble standards with a revised description and points guide.
- Increasing year-end points for more entries in a class. First place fish only. 1-3 fish = 20 points. 4-8 fish = 25 points. 9 plus fish = 30 points. Convention points will stay the same.
- Adding show experience for pre-apprenticeship qualifications (show chair or show helper)

The IBC EB and JB would like to get more membership feedback on things we're working on. In particular, we'd like to get a set of people from each area to help advise on area-specific needs. To help us determine this, we've devised two polls for feedback and the committee group. If this does well, we plan to expand the use for more topics. Please take a look and let us know if you have any thoughts about the IBC and things you'd like to see us do in the future.

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1679810/Area-feedback>

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1727133/Area-Advisory-Committees>

If you have any suggestions for how to promote showing, or any questions about the changes, please send an email to the JB Chair at jbchair@ibcbettas.org.