

**EXHIBITS:**

Bettas in this group are quite a mix of types. Simply put, it contains those other than the Single Color, Bicolor, Patterned and Wild Types that have been previously described. Also, there is a subgroup for optional exhibits, such as photography.

**GROUPED**

**PAIRS**

**EMPHASIS OF JUDGING:**

The Bettas are judged as a unit, not as individuals. Ideally the pair is compatible in size with the female being slightly smaller than the male. The pair must exhibit the ability to be a genuinely compatible pair for breeding.

Entries in this classification are comprised of a male and a female with the emphasis on breed ability – to perpetuate that type of Betta. Pair entries desirably will exhibit the best traits and characteristics for their type. The intent of this class is to exhibit the best breedable pair.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

™ The pair must match in form, color and finnage while taking into account the differences in male and female form and finnage. Thus, while a red male and a blue female may in fact be breedable, they cannot be shown as a breeder pair. Should a pair member die before the judging starts, the remaining member will be automatically entered in the appropriate single fish class.

™ Any type of Betta may be shown in pairs including the variations (assuming both show the variation). Entries must be siblings from the same spawn. Pairs will be shown as two groups- Splendens and Wild type.

™ There are two exceptions to the breedability requirement

1. Blue pairs may be shown although a cross would not produce blue fry.
2. Black males may be exhibited with either fertile or infertile black females.

™ Examples of pairs not permitted are:

1. Black male/Steel Blue Female (or any other color mismatch).
2. Betta imbellis male/Betta splendens female (or any other 'species/variation' mix).
3. Bubblenest builder male/Mouthbrooder female.
4. Singletail male/Doubletail female.
5. Pairs exhibiting the same faults. (Emphasis is placed on refraining from entering pairs that would not be entered singularly in a regular show class – therefore pairs displaying the same color fault such as red wash, irregular color patterns, etc., are not recognized as displaying exceptional qualities)

**GUIDELINE:** Judge for all standard Betta characteristics, applying appropriate guidelines for the color/classification represented by the fish. All form standards for each breed will apply as outlined by that particular standard.

**ALL GENERAL FORM AND FINNAGE AND COLOR FAULTS APPLY. MATCHING FAULTS THAT ARE MAJOR TO SEVERE AS EXPLAINED IN PREVIOUS PARAGRAPHS ARE SUBJECT TO DISQUALIFICATION.**

**FAULTS :**

1. Variations in color shades between the pair (major fault)
2. Patterned pairs not exhibiting the exact same color or pattern distribution (severe fault)
3. Size mismatch that would impede breeding (severe fault)
4. Mismatched dorsal fins such as St to DT (disqualifying fault)
5. Improperly matched pairs, as outlined in examples of pairs not permitted (disqualifying fault)

**Ignore Black Female Infertility.** This is essential since you are to judge on phenotype, and cannot be expected to know for certain that the female exhibited is infertile.

Mixed Colors	Alternating color stripes
Johnson Betta	Tangerine pastel
Symmetrical Marble	Half Black

**VARIATIONS**

New Trait

Bettas authorized here do not conform to the standard colors and/or form requirements of the previous Show Stock descriptions. They are the unusual and rare, or new colors and/or forms. Here, the judges are looking for the unusual color or the unusual form that may well become a standard of tomorrow. A high degree of subjectivity can be expected from the judging of these classes.

**COLOR:**

This category is for color or pattern variations; a showcase for the Betta colors of tomorrow. Breeders who discover a mutation or create a new color or color pattern variation may display their find, and its progressive development through this classification. As the trait becomes available in larger quantities, the breeder should also exhibit them as matched trios to demonstrate stability of the color. Eventually it may become significantly popular and receive a Type designation of its own. Exhibitors may also use this Category for color 'oddities' that are not being developed further.

Special Requirements

™ Bettas that fit other color classifications are not permitted in this one, and if not reclassified before the judging begins, are to be disqualified.

™ **Exhibitors are required to label their entries, and to be specific.** In particular, the label will be used by the judge to establish criterion for assessing the fish. A fish labeled "half black", therefore will be judged on the extent to which the fish is truly half-black, how clean the line separating the black and non-black region is, the depth and purity of the black, etc. For this reason it is essential that the exhibitor provides a descriptive label which will allow judges to assess the fish relative to an imagined ideal of that coloration. Names used to market Bettas, if not descriptive, are inappropriate. The exhibitor notes the label information on the entry form, and the show committee insures that the label is properly prepared and affixed to the show bowl.

Some example labels are:

<u>Inadequate Label</u>	<u>Sufficient Label</u>
Color	(Name or description) Purple

Guidelines for Judges

- ™ No Label? – Disqualify!
- ™ Judges should be reluctant to disqualify fish on the basis of the label and should do so only if the label and their inspection of the fish leaves them with no idea of the variation they are being asked to judge. If the judge can detect the variation but finds the label inadequate, s/he should judge the class in accord with his or her criteria and place a note on the entry form as suggested label. If it is necessary to disqualify any entry that is not sufficiently labeled, the judge should insure that the fault lies with the exhibitor, not the show committee.
- ™ Apply all standard judging criteria, except for the particular color or color pattern.
- ™ Use the label name or description as criteria. For example, if the name is "purple" treat the variation of color as if it were in a class called "purple". When judging single-color fish, judge for uniform color shade, intensity of color and degree of and contrast of second and third color intrusion.
- ™ When comparing dissimilar variations to each other:
  - Give preference to those colors or color patterns that are most clearly developed.
  - Because variations is the first step to the development of a new strain, if several entries exhibit the color variation, that variation should have an edge over other different color variations shown on single entries.
  - Some highly sought after color and color pattern variations are: Orange, Purple, Gold, striped Bettas, etc. See All About Bettas, page 49.

**FORM:**

This category is for variations of structure, a showcase for the fish form of tomorrow. Breeders who discover a mutation or create a new form variation may display their find, and its progressive development through this classification. As the trait becomes available in larger quantities, the breeder should also exhibit them as matched trios to demonstrate stability of the trait. Eventually, the variation may become significantly popular and receive a Type classification of its own. Exhibitors may also use this category for structural 'oddities' that are not being developed further. IBC does not condone the use of hormones, radiation treatment, or other techniques that may artificially alter a Betta's genetic inheritance. Judges who have reason to suspect that an entry has been so treated will judge the fish anyway, but file a written report, identifying the owner and the reason for suspicion, with the Judging Board.

Special Requirements

Exhibitors are required to label their entries and to be specific. The exhibitor notes the label information on the entry form and the show committee insures that the label is properly prepared and affixed to the show bowl.

Some example labels are:

<u>Inadequate Label</u>	<u>Sufficient Label</u>
Form	Hearttail
Form of Fish	Fusetail
Form of Tail	Tripletail
Scales	Doubletail Plakat

Guidelines for Judges

Disqualify an entry that is not sufficiently labeled, after insuring that the fault lies with the exhibitor, not the show committee. If the label is improper, judges should disqualify the entry even if the variation is obvious.

- ™ Apply all standard judging criteria, except for the particular item of variation.
- ™ Use the label name or description as a criteria (for example), if the name/label is 'tripletail', judge the equality of the lobes, depth of split, etc., as if the class existed.
- ™ When comparing dissimilar variations to each other:
  - Give preference to those form variations that are most clearly developed.
  - Give preference to those forms that appear to the judge to have potential for development into an actual variant strain. Thus if several entries exhibit the variation, that variation should have an edge over other form variations shown on single entries.

Some undesirable traits are:

- Reduction in the number of fins;
- Reduction in the relative size of the fin;
- Traits reducing vision, deportment, symmetry or health;
- Transfer of male form or finnage to females, or the reverse.

Some highly sought after form variations are:

- Tripletail;
- Sailfin Dorsal;
- Hearttail;
- Fusetail;
- Fusefin (dorsal, caudal and anal actually become one fin)
- Giant Bettas
- Double-tail crowntail

**Trait Development**

**FORM AND FINNAGE:**

Ignoring the color of a fish in not easy but it is often just as important to consider another trait. In this case it is CHAPTER 9 COPYRIGHT 2006

the development of the body and fins. Bettas considered appropriate for this class should have extensive development of the body and/or fins.

Special Notes:

1. Bettas entered in this class will not be moved or disqualified for misclassification.

**OPTIONAL**

Novelty classes are included during convention shows. They may also be included in any other sanctioned show as desired by the host club.

None of the Optional classes compete for Best of Show Awards, IBC points or the end-of-year awards. Judging is uniquely difficult since IBC provides no training and only sketchy standards for these classes. The judge is free to make his decisions entirely on his own personal preference. Whenever possible it would be ideal to select an art oriented Judge to evaluate the first three of these classifications.

Unlike the fish classes, the exhibitor in an optional class (except the last two categories) must also be the creator/artist. Entries by a second party will be **disqualified**, unless entered in the name of the creator or artist.

**ART**

**PHOTOGRAPHY:**

This classification is open to film entries, including still photography, digital or video taping or motion picture exhibits. However, the entries are judged on their artistic representation of the Betta, not on educational content.

The photographic setting must not reveal the exhibitor's identity or the work will be disqualified. Placing a small piece of paper over any signature or initials can conceal the identity. Do not use tape if it can damage the item.

Special Requirements

Betta theme is required. The exhibitor is responsible for all display arrangements including any needed stands, lighting, projection devices and so forth.

Guidelines for Judges

Consider the physical condition of the entry.

- ™ Is it framed appropriately?
- ™ Is the entry damaged?

Consider the subject.

- ™ Is it uniquely interesting?
- ™ Is it an appropriate presentation of setting?

Consider the print quality

- ™ Is it in sharp focus?
- ™ Is it free from enlargement or film defects?

**ILLUSTRATION:**

This category is specifically for oil, acrylic or watercolor paintings; pen and ink; pencil or chalk drawings, and other such illustrations.

Special Requirements

Betta theme is required. The exhibitor is responsible for any special display requirements such as stands or lights.

If the artist has signed or initialed the exhibit on the display side, the show committee must conceal the signature/initials or the work will be disqualified.

Guidelines for Judges

Consider the physical condition of the entry.

- ™ Is it framed appropriately?
- ™ Is the entry damaged?

Consider the subject.

- ™ Is it uniquely interesting?
- ™ Is it an appropriate presentation of setting?

**CRAFT:** This unique classification serves for the exhibition of all other types of work not permitted in the previous two classifications. Some typical inclusions might be: figurines of clay, glass, metal or wood; leatherwork items; needlework items, manuscripts, etc.

An entry may be disqualified only if it should be in the previous two classifications, the identify of the exhibitor is revealed, or the exhibitor is not also the creator or artist.

Special Requirements

Betta theme is required. As in the other two classes, the exhibitor is responsible for any display requirements.

Guidelines for Judges

- ™ Does the object carry a Betta theme?
- ™ Artistic items have preference over novelty items.