

GROUP--PATTERNED BETTAS

All Bettas have a “pattern”. There are actually five patterns but, here again, we have a term that can be deceiving. The first two patterns are considered under their sections--the Single Color, pattern one and the Bicolor, pattern two, Bettas. So, normally when one hears the term “patterned” it refers only to the last three of the five patterns: the BUTTERFLY Bettas, the MARBLE Bettas, and the MULTICOLOR Bettas.

Emphasis of Judging Patterned Bettas:

Beyond general Betta characteristics that always apply, the primary concern of judges in evaluating this kind of Betta is the uniformity, density, and nature of the pattern. The fault levels allocated to color are assigned to the pattern and not the colors within the pattern.

GROUP CHARACTERISTIC = Non-singlecolor or bicolor
Presence of the singlecolor or bicolor pattern is a disqualifying fault.

SUBGROUP-- Butterfly

The Butterfly is a variegated Betta with a very specific fin pattern. The key is in the fins that display a banded pattern. Emphasis is placed on the contrast and crispness of the band not the coloring of the body and fins. The band should be crisp not just a lightening of opposing fin color. For example, a yellow Betta with yellow fins that have a lighter yellow outer band is not a butterfly but a fish with distinct yellow and clear bands on the fins is a butterfly. Bands should scribe an even oval around the fish. There are two forms the banding may take: A fin pattern with two bands, where the fins are divided in half by two opposing colors, and a multiple, three or more, band pattern, where the fins are divided equally between the number of bands. The multiple band pattern is sometimes difficult to identify since two of the bands, though distinct, may be subtle but different shades of the same color. In this case, shining a flashlight from behind the fins may aid in detecting this trait but the lack of definition between bands is considered a fault. The body color of the Butterfly Betta and the color in the first fin band may be either a single color, bicolored, marbled, or multicolor.



Chris Chua



Suporn

General Basis of Faults of the Butterfly Bettas

The principles which determine the fault levels found in this portion of the text are:

- For two band fins, the bands should occupy 1/2 the fin on all fins.
- For multiple band fins, each band should occupy 1/[number of bands] of the fin area on all fins.
- The dividing line between fin bands should be straight and scribe an oval around the Betta.
- The degree to which a second color intrudes, lack of crisp definition, also affects the degree of severity of the fault.

SUBGROUP CHARACTERISTIC = Butterfly Pattern
Absence of the Butterfly pattern is a disqualifying fault.

CATEGORY— Single Color based
Subcategory — Two and Multiple Bands
TYPE – Red / Red-White



Hermanus

In this kind of butterfly the body must be one color. The inner band on the fins must be the same color as the body. The outer fin band should occupy the appropriate percentage of the fin/fins and maintain a different single color within the band. Bettas of this Category are named in the following sequence: Body color/Inner band--Outer band. Though only one subtype is shown here to represent them, there are actually many: Red/Red-clear, etc. The color possibilities are same as those shown in the Single Color group.

CATEGORY— Bicolor based
Subcategory — Two Bands

Bicolor based butterflies are just like the Bicolor group of Bettas except that the fins have a third color in the outer bands on the fins. Again, the outer band ideally is one color and covers 1/2 the area of each fin.

TYPE – Clear / Red-White

This is a representative of the Types that are available. Rather than list all of them, let it be sufficient to say that the body and inner band are those colors found among the Bicolor group with an outer band of any other color. This type is commonly called a Cambodian butterfly.

Subcategory — Multiple Bands

For these, the outer bands ideally cover 1/[number of bands] of the area of each fin. If there are 3 bands, for example, each band covers 1/3 of the fin area.

TYPE – Clear / White-Red-White

While all multiple banded Bettas might be impressive, it is the unique contrast of the dark central band that made the Tutweiler Betta famous.

CATEGORY— Marble based
Subcategory — None

The body must be as described in the Marble Classification. The inner fin band may be any solid color or it may be marbled though that would probably disrupt the inner band's appearance of uniformity. In the later case, the outer band must still be distinctly different than the inner band. Sharp division of the marble pattern is preferable to blending.

CATEGORY— Multicolor Based
Subcategory — None

The body and inner band must conform to the Multicolor Betta as described in the Multicolor Classification. The outer band/bands may contain different colors in the same band. Sharp division and contrast between bands is preferred to blending.

Color faults of Butterfly Bettas:

1. Lack of butterfly pattern in pectoral fins (slight fault)
2. Lack of butterfly pattern in ventral fins (minor fault)
3. Jagged separation between colors on pattern in one unpaired fin (minor fault)

4. Blurred, non-crisp separation between colors on pattern in one unpaired fin (minor fault)
5. Slight third color intrusion (not part of pattern) on fins (minor fault)
6. Less than ½ of fin length but more than ¼ occupied by one of the two colors in one fin (minor fault)
7. Bleeding of fin pattern color into body (minor fault)
8. On 3-banded patterns – 3rd band is less than ¼ of length of fin (minor fault)
9. On 3-banded patterns – 3rd band is missing on dorsal fin (minor fault)
10. Lack of contrast between colors in pattern (minor fault)
11. On 3-banded patterns – 3rd band is missing on caudal or anal fin (major fault)
12. Jagged separation between colors on pattern in two or more unpaired fin (major fault)
13. Blurred, non-crisp separation between colors on pattern in two or more unpaired fin (major fault)
14. Less than ½ of fin length but more than ¼ occupied by one of the two colors in two or more unpaired fins (major fault)
15. Less than 1/4 of fin length occupied by one of the two colors in one unpaired fins (major fault)
16. Lack of butterfly pattern in any unpaired fin (major fault)
17. Less than 1/4 of fin length occupied by one of the two colors in two or more unpaired fins (severe fault)
18. Lack of butterfly pattern in 2 unpaired fins (severe fault)
19. Lack of butterfly pattern (Disqualifying fault)

SUBGROUP--Marble

The Marble Betta, like the Butterfly, is a Patterned Betta. However, it is variegated in a different manner. The key differences are the lack of fin banding and the presence of other colors on the body in a “marbled” effect. Two types of Marbles exist, the “Traditional Marble” or piebald, which is a dark bodied fish with a white head and/or face, and the newer “Colored Marble” which may have many colors other than the black/flesh/white combination. Though cellophane is sometimes considered to be a genetic marble variant, it is not classed as a marble phenotypically. The fins and body must show at least two colors. These must include a light and dark color mix. Fish exhibiting sharp “edges” to the marbling pattern are preferred over those with blended colors.



Sarawut



Hermanus

General Basis of Faults of the Marble Bettas:

The principles which determine the arrangement of the fault charts found in this portion of the text are:

- Mixing of the colors is a must -- “marbled”.
- High Contrast between light and dark colors with good definition
- Symmetrical marbles should be studied closely for reclassification as variations.

SUBGROUP CHARACTERISTIC--Marble pattern

Absence of the marble pattern is a disqualifying fault.



Suporn

CATEGORY— None
Subcategory — None
TYPE – PIEBALD

This is the type of marble also known as Traditional Marble. It distinctly lacks the colors red, green, blue, and steel blue that appear on colored marbles. The newer Metallic colors would also not be present on the Traditional Marble. Fins also do not contain those colors, and the fish is a mixture of black/flesh/white.

TYPE – COLORED

The face/chin area retains characteristic marble flesh-color or white, but the body and fins may show a mix of red, green, blue, and steel blue. The fish should not be faulted if the face/chin is a different color (black or red) as long as the fish has a definite marble pattern on the body. The body of these colored marbles may include any of the aforementioned colors, but must also include flesh-color. The color mixes with greater contrast are preferred. A mix of only green and red, for example, is not sufficient.

TYPE – RED MARBLE

This representative subtype shows the same colors of the piebald, but includes red. Other subtypes include the color of their name.



Kelson

Color faults of Marble Bettas:

1. A 50/50 blend between light and dark colors is ideal. Between 25% - 33% of either dark or light colors (minor fault)
Exception to 1: A good "Dalmatian" pattern with even spread of spots and good contrast should not be faulted.
2. Pattern has poor contrast in 1 unpaired fin only (minor fault)
3. Less than 25% of either dark or light colors (major fault)
4. Lack of marble pattern in one unpaired fin (major fault)
5. Pattern has poor contrast in body (major fault)
6. Pattern has poor contrast in body and 1 or more unpaired fins (severe fault)
7. Lack of pattern on body (severe fault)
8. Lack of pattern in two unpaired fins (severe fault)
9. Butterfly pattern on 1 or more unpaired fins should not be faulted if the fish has a good marble pattern on the body. The exhibitor has the option of showing a fish with a butterfly pattern on all three unpaired fins in the butterfly class.

SUBGROUP--Multicolor



This designation is for Bettas with two or more colors that do not fit into any of the other patterned categories. Ideally, the colors are in high contrast to each other. The colors are those normally seen in Bettas. However, simply having the head alone a different color or only having a different color on the tip of the ventrals is not sufficient to be designated as Multicolor. Judges need be particularly cautious of Bettas shown as Multicolor that show as a second color only a fine wash, such as a “Blue with a bad Red wash”, which is not sufficient.

Lapheng – 2-Color MultiColor



Perez

Perez

SUBGROUP CHARACTERISTIC-- Non-singlecolor or bicolor Presence of the singlecolor or bicolor is a disqualifying fault.

Color faults of Multicolor Bettas:

1. Only two colors – both present in all unpaired fins and body (minor fault)
2. Only two colors with the body or one or more of the unpaired fins being a single solid color (major fault)
3. Dull coloring or lack of bright colors (major fault)
4. One color is dominant (>80%) over the others (major fault)
5. Poor contrast between the colors (i.e. green blue and turquoise) (major fault)
6. Only two colors and one is only a light red or yellow wash (severe fault)
7. Only two colors and one is clear patches in fins (severe or disqualify and move to single-color if clearing is minimal)
8. Marble pattern on body (disqualify and move, if allowed, to marble class). NOTE: do not disqualify a fish that only has flesh/yellow color on the face/chin. These may be genotypically marble but can compete in multicolor if they lack any other marble pattern and, yet, have good blend of colors.
9. Butterfly pattern on 2-3 unpaired fins (disqualify and move, if allowed, to butterfly class). Note: a multicolor should not be faulted for having butterfly-type pattern on a single unpaired fin

Contrast?

When the standards refer to contrast it means the relationship of the categorized colors.

High Contrast = Dark vs. Light / Iridescent vs. Non-Iridescent / Opaque vs. Non-Opaque.

Low Contrast = Colors within the same Subgroup, Category, Subcategory, or Type.

SUBGROUP—Grizzled



photo by Siegbert Illig



photo by Jim Sonnier

The Grizzle Betta is a patterned Betta. The grizzling shows a random flecking, spotting, or peppering of any iridescent color over a pastel or opaque body. Each of the fins should demonstrate some grizzled pattern exhibiting a swirled or paint brush stroke effect of color on all of the unpaired fins. Fins and body should show distinctly two shades of iridescent color (any one of the iridescent colors combined with the lighter pastel or opaque base color). Fish exhibiting an even spread, close to 50% iridescence and 50% lighter base color are preferred. No one grizzle color is preferred over another.

Color faults of Grizzled Bettas:

1. The presence of Black (minor fault). If the Black is extensive the Judge should consider moving the Betta to the Marble class.
2. The presence of Red (major fault). If the Red is extensive the Judge should consider moving the Betta to the Multicolor class
3. Fish with a Butterfly pattern (major fault). If the Butterfly pattern is extensive the Judge should consider moving the Betta to the Butterfly class
4. Fish with 80% or more pastel or opaque base color (Disqualifying Fault) These should be moved to either the Pastel or Opaque class.

AREA 6 CLASS ONLY - BLACK ORCHID

The following Black Patterned Betta for Area 6 only is included in Division E Classes.

A Black Orchid patterned Betta should be a black fish with any one of the dark iridescent colors as a color streak between each ray of all the unpaired fins. The iridescent color streaks between the rays can be steel blue, blue, or green/turquoise but steel blue is preferred over the other iridescent colors.

The body of a Black Orchid should be a solid dark black throughout and not show the presence of marbling or red wash. A uniform color depth from the tip of the mouth to the end of all fin rays is ideal, and there should not be any bleeding of the iridescent coloration from the fins onto the body.



In general, the faults of a Black Orchid are similar to Black.

Fault Guide for the Black Orchid

- 1) Clear pectoral fins (should be black) – Slight
- 2) White ventrals - Slight
- 3) Iridescent color missing on the ventral fins – Slight
- 4) Iridescent color missing between 2 rays of the unpaired fins – Slight
- 5) Iridescent color missing between rays of more than 1 unpaired fin – minor
- 6) Red on fins – minor
(unless extensive – judge may upgrade to major; or move to multicolor or butterfly as required)
- 7) Clear fin edges – minor
(unless extensive – upgrade to major)
- 8) Iridescent color on the body – Severe
- 9) Presence of metallic on body – Severe
(if extensive should be moved to bicolor; or multicolor if unevenly spread. Intrusion of metallic onto the body may manifest itself as yellow spots against a black background)
- 10) Presence of red wash (“rust”) – Severe
- 11) Presence of marbling – Severe
(should be moved to marble)
- 12) Presence of opaque is a disqualifying fault unless restricted to the ventral fins.



COLOR FAULT SUMMARY FOR ALL COLORS

	Slight(-3)	Minor(-5)	Major(-9)	Severe(-17)	Disqualify
DARK					
1-Red 2-Black	White ventrals	Black(1) Red(2)	Steel(2)	Iridescence(1) Rust(2)	Wrong Class Opaque
3-Blue 4-Steel Blue 5-Turquoise 6-Green 7-Dk Metallics	White ventrals	Yellow wash Steel(3) Blue(4) Green(5) Turquoise(6) Black Red Ventrals	Red wash Steel(4,6) Blue(5,6) Green(3,4) Turq.(3,4) Purple wash (7)	Red	Wrong Class Opaque Metallic(3,4,5,6)
LIGHT	Slight(-3)	Minor(-5)	Major(-9)	Severe(-17)	Disqualify
8-Yellow 9 - Orange 10 –Clear 11 - Red	Red vein (8,9,10) White ventrals	Clear(8,9,11) Red (9) Yellow(10) Orange (8,10,11)	Red (8,10) Black	Iridescence	Wrong Class Opaque Dark- Undercoat (9,11)
12-Pastel 13-Opaque 14 – Lt Metallics		Clear	Iridescence (of another type)	Opaque(12)	Wrong Class Metallic (12,13)
	VIOLATION	LEVEL -----	Type/ subtype	Category/ subcategory	Group/ subgroup