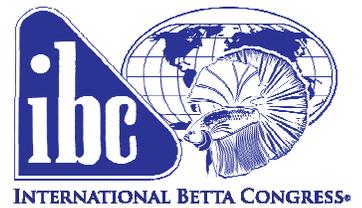


IBC 2015-2016 Show Year Changes



Fish Show Changes

- TRIAL PERIOD: Mildly undersized fish are no longer automatically disqualified. There is now a ½ inch “buffer” zone in which undersized is a severe fault instead of a DQ. This is applicable for all Areas EXCEPT Area 2 (Area 2 continues to keep the strict disqualification rules.) This is a TRIAL rule for one year, and then the JB will review. The new guidance for judges is:

Males: DQ under 1 inch [2.5cm]. Severe fault 1"-1.5" [2.6-3.80cm]

Females: DQ under .75" [2.0cm]. Severe fault .75"-1.25" [2.1-3.2cm]

All judges are reminded that if the fish is on the edge, and within an 1/8" [.3cm] to give them the benefit of doubt.

Entrants should still strive for the ideal entry of minimum of 1.5" for males and 1.25" for females.

The reason we have minimums for fish size is that we want to judge *adult* fish, and not juveniles. A fish that is too small has not fully developed and there are many faults that do not show until a fish is fully mature – color faults, spinal issues, blindness issues, to name just a few. (We call this “masking faults”.) While it is true that we judge the fish as it is shown at the time without regard to genetics, it is the IBC policy to strive for the best genetics and the best breeding of bettas. We want to make sure that the fish we breed and show are able to be held up as the best representatives of their species. Mature fish are the only way to demonstratively hold this ideal.

The JB is making this exception for a trial year primarily because of hardship issues with members who inaccurately judge the size of their fish. We realize how discouraging it can be to send your fish to a show only for them to be DQ'd.

For this reason, we are allowing more of a flexibility on the size issues, while still giving the advantage to the mature fish that we'd prefer to see in the shows.

- Members are allowed to show fish for other members that they are holding for those members due to specific hardship issues (travelling, fish can't be shipped back, weather, health issues, etc.), as long as the holding does not extend beyond more than one month. If the holding goes beyond a month, then the members should apply for a “hardship” collaboration showing and show with both names. (Show fish are half-breeding, half-raising, and both need to be equally acknowledged.)

Logistic Show Changes

- Local-level shows are now allowed to judge their own shows per IBC Standards, with the option of having an IBC Judge skyping or calling in for questions.
- Show stands are no longer required to be black. Grey or black backgrounds are still preferred over white, however, they are no longer required. Black fish classes are still required to have a white background for judging (putting a white card behind them).
- Continuous labels are no longer required to wrap around the edge of a container (done previously to hide the continuous number and whether the fish is to be auctioned).
- Class winning fish are no longer required to be auctioned first (if they are being auctioned).
- Prior to bidding on holding an IBC Area Convention, an IBC Chapter must within 3 years of the bid have held at least one successful International show.

Financial Incentives

In order to promote betta showing among participants and chapters, the IBC Executive Board has authorized the following financial incentive for IBC International Shows. Chapters often incur great expenses holding a show. The EB hopes that making this assistance available will make it easier for chapters to hold shows and entrants to participate.

- Chapters holding a show during the 2015-2016 show season can apply 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
 2. Not have spent more than US\$300 on awards/trophies.

If a Chapter would like to apply for the US\$200 after a show, please have the Chapter Chair or authorized representative send an email to jbchair@ibcbettas.org and let us know what your general accounting for the show was.

These incentives are authorized for the 2015-2016 show season only. They will be reviewed next year to see if they have helped the IBC Show Circuit.

Judging/Apprenticeship Changes

- District shows are now eligible to qualify for renewing judging certificates. (International shows are still preferred, but the JB recognizes that this won't always be possible.)
- Swimming faults now clarify that a slight wiggling from side to side (esp. longfins) is okay, but will be faulted if the fish is *clearly* fighting to swim upright due to excessive finnage.

- The bi-color class is no longer restricted to “only accepted IBC colors” and will now simply be defined as having a body of one color and fins of a different color.
- Opening up seminars to more judges

Judging Seminars can be given by IBC Judges who:

- a) have been a certified judge for at least two years
- b) have judged at least four different IBC shows, at least three of them international

Because information is best relayed in common languages, other judges may also give seminars if they get prior approval from the Judging Board. We recommend, if possible, a combination of an experienced judge along with a judge who speaks the language where the seminars are being given. If enough notice is given, the Judging Board can work with the judge and show chairs to create guides to the seminars in the appropriate language.

Any Judges wish to give a seminar must contact the IBC Judging Board Chair in a timely manner to obtain the most current seminar information, and also to get the seminar onto the events calendar officially.

- Giving Seminars outside an Judge's Area

Due to regional differences in IBC Standards (such as self-bred or purchased fish showing), the Judging Board highly recommends that Judging Seminars be given by an accredited judge from the area where the seminars are being held. Some circumstances due to travel or timing may make this impractical, or other instances might make it desirable to have a guest judge hold the seminars. In that case, approved judges from other areas may give seminars, but the Show Chair must notify the Judging Board ahead of time, and explain why the exception is being requested. To be qualified, judges must have judged at an Area Convention before giving a seminar outside their Area. Any judge who hasn't attended an Area convention needs to request an exception from the Judging Board. Note that all plans for seminars must go to the IBC JB Chair in a timely manner before the seminar, so it can go on the official show calendar, and the latest seminar information can be distributed.

- Due to the newness of holding official IBC shows in Area 7, there is now a two-year exemption for approving Area 7 Apprentices for the show placement requirements, provided that person applying for apprentice:
 - Has been an IBC member for 2 years
 - Must be a member of an IBC Chapter
 - Must do all seminars before the first Apprenticeship show (normally we allow this to done slightly out of order, but for the two-year exemption, we're taking that part away)