

## **How to Form an IBC Chapter** (Updated December 2017)

Thank you for deciding to become an IBC Chapter. Your chapter may consist of both members and non-members of the IBC. However to qualify for an IBC Chapter at least 5 people must belong to the IBC (*a family membership counts as 2 people toward the 5*). They must be a member in good standing and not a founding member of an active chapter. Once you have 5 IBC members you can send your completed application to the Chapters Committee. You will be emailed confirmation of your chapter's acceptance after your application form is reviewed and IBC E-Board accepts your petition. Please allow approximately 7 days for this process.

- Include the names of at least 5 IBC Members. These names will be verified with IBC Membership.
- Include the name of your club on the application form. The name and initials cannot be in conflict with any other IBC chapter within your specific IBC Area.
- The application must contain the name and email address of the contact person for the chapter. The contact person must be an IBC member and his/her name and email address will appear in FLARE! and on our official website. The contact person does not need to be an expert on the IBC or on Bettas, but they will respond to any questions dealing with their chapter.

Chapters are run independently from the IBC and they may prepare their own constitution that will fit their needs as long as it does not conflict with the IBC Constitution, By-Laws, or Exhibition Standards. However in accepting Chapter status, the Chapter agrees to comply with the provisions of the IBC Constitution, By-Laws, and Exhibition Standards. In order to maintain Chapter status you will be asked to confirm and/or update the information provided on your application each year.

If you are an IBC member you will receive the benefits listed below:

- You may apply to become a certified IBC Judge.
- You can attend the IBC Annual Membership Business Meeting.
- You can run for a position on the E-Board or J-Board (if a certified Judge for at least one year).
- You can be part of a committee.
- You will receive your own copy of FLARE!, either electronically or by regular mail.

If you have any questions feel free to contact the Chapters Chairperson, or members of the Executive Board or Judging Board. The email addresses for these people can be found in FLARE! and also on our website.

If you would like further information on how to run a chapter, a good source would be to get in touch with the contact person from one of our other chapters.