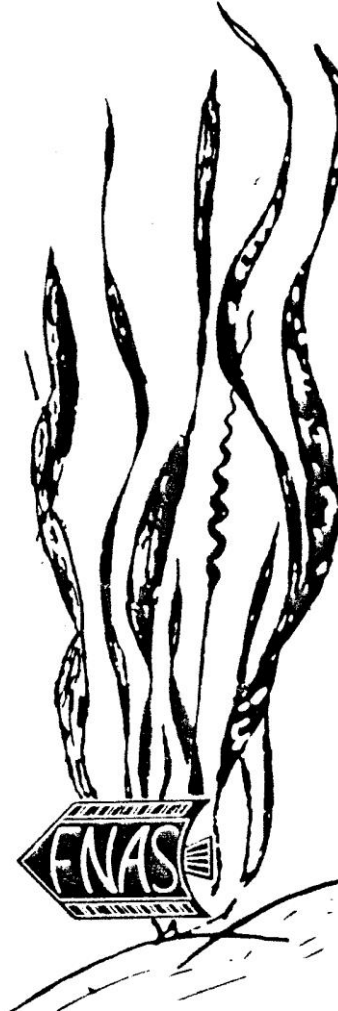


# THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN AQUARIUM SOCIETIES



**Judging Methods  
Show Rules  
and  
Show Guides**

# **JUDGING METHODS, SHOW RULES & SHOW GUIDES**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Judges and Standards Committee have reviewed the basis of pointing fish etc., and have decided to change from the 'five twenties' which was adopted many years ago to those listed below.

All F.N.A.S. judges must use the following pointing methods when judging at Open Shows. However, the J & S committee accept that specialist groups may prefer to place emphasis in other directions and so approve the pointing devised by these specialist groups and judges may use these pointing methods when judging purely specialist shows. **THEY MUST NOT HOWEVER USE THEM AT OPEN SHOWS**, when different types of fish have to be compared

### **APPROVED POINTING**

#### **FISH – SINGLE**

Size	10
(except Goldfish & Fancy Goldfish)	
Body	22
Colour	22
Fins	22
Condition & Department	24
	<u>Total 100</u>

#### **FISH – PAIRS**

##### **MALES :**

Size	10
Body	20
Colour	20
Fins	20
Condition & Department	20

##### **FEMALES :**

As above	90
Matching the pair	<u>10</u>
	<u>Sub Total 200</u>
Divide by two to give	<u>Total 100</u>

## **NEW SECTIONS AND CLASSES**

Not covered in the rules will not be permitted without prior approval of the Judges and Standards Committee

It is a condition of promoting either a full Open Show or a Mini Show that all dates be booked and accepted by the Federation Show League Secretary

The Best Fish in Show, 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Fish in Show and 3<sup>rd</sup> Best Fish in Show will qualify for entry in the Annual Champion of Champions Tropical Fish Contest

The Best Coldwater Fish in Show, 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Coldwater Fish in Show and 3<sup>rd</sup> Best Coldwater Fish in Show will qualify for entry in the Annual Champion of Champions Coldwater Fish Contest

## **N JUNIOR**

- 30 Junior Livebearer
- 31 Junior Egglayer
- 32 Junior Coldwater

## **M COLDWATER**

- 33 Common Goldfish & Comets
- 34 Shubumkins
- 35 Orandas & Lionheads
- 36 Fantails & Pearlscales
- 37 Veiltails & Moors
- 38 Bubble-Eyes, Celestials & Pom Poms
- 39 Any other variety of Goldfish
- 40 Any other variety of Coldwater fish

The above list is the recommended minimum number of sections and classes to constitute an OPEN SHOW

## **ACCEPTED OPTIONAL EXTRA CLASSES**

Marines, Furnished Aquaria, Mini Tanks, Novelty Tanks, Plants, Aquascapes

## **EXTRA CLASSES**

Any of the afore-mentioned classes or sections may be further divided if so desired, e.g. Large Cichlids extract Angel fish and Discus  
Marines divided into Tropical and Native Coldwater

The following are not considered as 'OPEN CLASSES' but will be judged similarly to single fish :- NOVICE, LADIES, PHOTOGRAPHIC or any other class introduced at Open Shows which may have some restriction against the true definition of being 'OPEN'

## **JUNIOR CLASSES**

All exhibits entered in the JUNIOR classes must be benched by the JUNIOR exhibitor, who must be a MINIMUM of eight years of age

## **FISH – BREEDERS**

Difficulty of breeding (as per list, 8, 10, 12, 15)	max	15
Body		15
Fins		15
Colour		10
Matching		20
Condition & Deportment		15
Overall presentation		<u>10</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## **FRESHWATER FURNISHED AQUARIA**

FISH selection 5; size 8; quality 12	25
PLANTS selection 10; quality 15	25
DESIGN & TECHNIQUE design and general effect	15
Originality 5; permanency 5; clarity 5	15
Compost, rockwork and/or other features	10
Planting	<u>10</u>
	<b>Total</b> <u>100</u>

## **MARINE FURNISHED AQUARIA**

As for freshwater but read 'CORAL AND OTHER MARINE LIFE' for plants, and 'CORAL ARRANGEMENT AND OTHER SUITABLE MARINE DÉCOR' for planting

**Total** 100

## **AQUARIUM PLANTS**

Size 20; Colour 20; Leaves 20;  
Roots 20; General Condition 20

**Total** 100

## **AQUASCAPE**

Design 20; Colour and Harmony 20; Balance 20;  
(inc. fish); Originality 15; Construction 25

**Total** 100

## **FURNISHED MINI TANKS**

Plant selection 20, Design 20, Rockwork etc. 20,  
Planting 20, Clarity 20 Total 100

## **NOVELTY TANKS**

Design 20, Originality 20, Colour & Harmony 20,  
Detail 20, Quality 20 Total 100

## **DEFINITIONS**

**SIZE** The Aquarium Norm Size is a term used by the J & S Committee, to establish a recognized show size EXCLUDING THE TAIL and is defined thus :-

The Aquarium Norm for maximum size which is nominally attainable in the home aquarium, is that which is measured from the anterior tip of the snout to the posterior end of the caudal peduncle which will be awarded 10 points. Under this size will be awarded less than 10 points

**CONDITION** Is soundness of body and finnage

**DEPARTMENT** Is carriage and behaviour

## **SHOW RULES**

### **SECTION A : JUDGES AND JUDGING**

- A 1 Judges will be catagorised; 'A' class and 'B' class and must be a member of a recognized or affiliated society
- A 2 An 'A' class judge is a qualified person of a number of years standing, who is considered by the Judges and Standards Committee on the independent written recommendation of 3 existing 'A' class judges to be of sufficient ability and experience to judge at a Society Table Show on their own

## **B BARBS**

- 6 Small Barbs (up to 75mm)
- 7 Large Barbs (over 75mm)

## **C CHARACINS**

- 8 Small Characins (up to 75mm)
- 9 Large Characins (over 75mm)

## **D CICHLIDS**

- 10 Small Cichlids (up to 100mm)
- 11 Large Cichlids (over 100mm)
- 12 Rift Valley Cichlids

## **E RASBORAS, DANIOS and MINNOWS**

- 13 Rasboras
- 14 Danios and Minnows

## **F EGGLAYING TOOTHCARPS**

- 15 Killifish

## **G ANABANTIDS**

- 16 Fighters
- 17 Small Anabantids (up to 80mm)
- 18 Large Anabantids (over 80mm)

## **H CATFISH**

- 19 Coryadoras, Brochis & Aspidoras
- 20 A.O.V. Catfish

## **I LOACHES & BOTIAS**

- 21 Loaches and Botias

## **J SHARKS & FOXES**

- 22 Sharks and Foxes

## **K A.O.V. TROPICAL**

- 23 A.O.V. Tropical Fish not listed elsewhere

## **L PAIRS**

- 24 Livebearer pairs
- 25 Egglayer pairs

## **M BREEDERS**

- 26 Livebearers (Groups 1 & 2)
- 27 Livebearers (Groups 3 & 4)
- 28 Egglayers (Groups 1 & 2)
- 29 Egglayers (Groups 3 & 4)

Planting In which is considered the natural posture of the plants, the lie of the stones, the position of crown, stem and leaves in relation to the compost and the concealment of any lead weights, roots etc., account being taken of any plants where it is natural for part of the root system to show

### APPENDIX 2

#### NOVELTY TANKS

Design The way the design keeps to the theme

Originality Choice of materials used to give a realistic scale

Colour and Harmony That in which it is considered to be pleasing to the eye and the theme

Detail That sufficient detail is present to make the theme realistic

Quality That in which skill of workmanship in construction is evident

### APPENDIX 3

#### APPROVED LIST OF SECTIONS AND CLASSES AT OPEN SHOWS

##### A LIVEBEARERS

- 1 Guppies
- 2 Platies
- 3 Mollies
- 4 Swordtails
- 5 A.O.V. Livebearers

(The Judges and Standards Committee rely on the individual societies to only nominate persons who have a number of years experience of fishkeeping and have shown an ability to judge fish)

- A 3 It is preferred that societies only nominate a maximum of 3 persons to be eligible to be 'B' class judges at any one time
- A 4 A judge must not judge his/her own society's Open Show
- A 5 An 'A' class judge must not judge any exhibits belonging to him/herself or his/her immediate family, nor exhibit at a show at which he/she is employed  
A 'B' class judges family may exhibit at a show where he/she is judging provided that the 'B' class judge(s) declare their interest in WRITING, in the class(es) affected, PRIOR to the start of judging. This list to be passed to the Show Secretary/Manager of the hosting society. They will have no influence or debate in the selection of Best in Show
- A 6 When employed at Open Shows 'A' and 'B' class judges from the same society MUST NOT work together (except in unavoidable circumstances)
- A 7 Judges MUST only judge to F.N.A.S. approved judging methods
- A 8 No judge can accept an engagement from a society which is affiliated outside the F.N.A.S., except by permission of the Judges and Standards Committee
- A 9 All judges must sign the judges Code of Conduct
- A 10 Judges and societies are reminded that using the 'Gate Method' is approved to establish a short list where time or other good reason does not permit the judge to apply the full pointing to all exhibits. The top SIX exhibits however, must be given full priority

## SECTION B : SHOWS AND SCHEDULES

- B 1 Every society running an Open Show MUST engage at least 3 'A' class judges and preferably 2 'B' class judges
- B 2 It is a condition of engaging a judge, that full acknowledgement is given to the Federation in their schedules, catalogues and other publicity materials
- B 3 The engagement of a judge implies acceptance by the society of the Federations approved judging methods and show rules
- B 4 All judges MUST be booked direct by societies except 'B' class judges who must approach the societies themselves
- B 5 It is strongly recommended that Classes and Sections be indicated by numbers and letters running consecutively
- B 6 The Breeders Class should be divided into at least FOUR classes namely :
- (1) Harder Livebearers (Groups 1 & 2)
  - (2) Easier Livebearers (Groups 3 & 4)
  - (3) Harder Egglayers (Groups 1 & 2)
  - (4) Easier Egglayers (Groups 3 & 4)
- B 7 The Coldwater section should be divided into at least EIGHT classes
- Namely :-
- A) Common Goldfish and Comets
  - B) Shubunkins
  - C) Orandas and Lionheads
  - D) Fantails and Pearlscales
  - E) Veiltails and Moors
  - F) Bubble-eyes, Celestials and Pom Poms
  - G) Any Other Variety of Goldfish and Non Nationwide Varieties
- B (7a) Any Other Species of Coldwater
- B (7b) It is recommended that the promoting Society engage the services of a specialised Coldwater Judge

## DESIGN AND TECHNIQUE

### Design & General Effect

In which is considered the merits of the layout and general appearance and the grouping of the plants. Whether exploitation of materials is to the best advantage in forming a realistic and harmonious picture and in which any faults in general technique which detract from the finished picture and whether or not the fish are visible, are taken into account

### Originality

In which it is considered any measure which brings about a practical and effective departure from the commonplace, whether by the use of particular rockwork, planting, or the use of any kind of legitimate but unusual materials

### Permanancy

In which it has been considered whether measures have been taken to ensure that a mature, well established appearance has been achieved, whether the plants have been treated in such a manner, that they are likely to flourish and the pleasing qualities of the tank will last

### Clarity

For which only tanks containing water of crystal clarity receive full marks

### Compost Rockwork and/or other

In which is considered the tone and texture of the compost in relation to the plants and the rockwork, the composition, natural qualities, texture, colour, character, general necessary suitability and amount of any rockwork or other accessory features feature.

Credit being given for the absence of rockwork if warranted by the layout

## APPENDIX I

### FURNISHED AQUARIA

#### **FISH**

Selection In which it is considered whether the selection is appropriate to the general layout, whether the fish of a species are matched in size and natural characteristics and the selection is conducive to a harmonious community and in which gross overcrowding is penalised

Size In which is considered the stage of growth in relation to the variety

Quality In which the degree of perfection is assessed and any faults in colour, condition, shape, fins and deportment are penalised

#### **PLANTS**

Selection In which is considered the appropriate relationship in variety, colour and texture to each other, to the fish and the rockwork, and in which overstocking the indiscriminate mixture of too many varieties and the inclusion of oversized/disapproved varieties is penalised

Quality In which is assessed the degree of perfection in colour, texture and quality and in which all damaged or unhealthy plants are penalised

However please note : Due to National Shows the Coldwater specialists are very seasonal exhibitors and are not available from 2<sup>nd</sup> week in September until 2<sup>nd</sup> week in October. It is recommended that classes be reduced to suit

B 8 The Best Exhibit /Fish, is the one gaining the highest average marks given by ALL 'A' class judges at the show

B 9 The Best Exhibit will come from all classes, whereas the Best Fish will be restricted to the SINGLE fish classes. In order to obtain the Best Fish in Show, each 'A' class judge presiding at that show will nominate at least ONE fish from their respective classes, to be re-judged by each 'A' class judge to establish the Best Fish at the show

B 10 The judges decision is final

### SECTION 'BB'

To encourage Societies who may have a small membership and/or cash flow problems.

However it is not restricted solely to such Clubs/Societies.  
Nor is it restricted to the promotion of only one show a year

### MINI SHOWS FOR LEAGUE INCLUSION

#### Shows and Schedules

BB (1) A Mini Show **MUST** have a **MINIMUM** of TWELVE classes and a **MAXIMUM** of FOURTEEN classes and be open to all exhibitors

BB (2) The Show **MUST HAVE** A Minimum of Two Breeders Classes, One Junior Class and One Coldwater class

BB (3) Every society running an Open Mini Show must engage at least TWO 'A' class judges and preferably ONE 'B' class judge

BB (4) It is a condition of engaging a Judge that full acknowledgement be given to the Federation in their schedules and publicity material

- BB (5) The engagement of a Judge implies the acceptance by the society, of the Federation's approved Judging Methods and Show Rules
- BB (6) All Judges must be booked directly by the societies
- BB (7) It is strongly recommended that classes and sections be indicated by letters and numbers running consecutively
- BB (8) The Breeders classes should be divided into at least TWO classes namely:-  
 Livebearers and Egglayers  
 With the option at the promoting societies pleasure of dividing these classes again into :  
 Harder Livebearers (Groups 1 & 2)  
 Easier Livebearers (Groups 3 & 4)  
  
 Harder Egglayers (Groups 1 & 2)  
 Easier Egglayers (Groups 3 & 4)  
 Or alternatively  
 Divide the Livebearing and Egglaying classes into species
- For the benefit of counting classes the Breeders classes no matter how divided shall still only count as TWO classes**
- BB (9) The Best Exhibit/Fish is the one gaining the highest average of the points awarded by ALL of the 'A' class Judges on duty at the Show
- BB (10) The Best Exhibit will come from ALL classes, whereas the Best Fish is restricted to the SINGLE Fish classes  
 In order to select the Best Fish in Show, each 'A' class judge on duty at the Show, will nominate at least one fish from their respective classes, to be re-judged by each 'A' class Judge, to establish the Best Fish in at the Show
- BB (11) All other relevant Rules and Standards shall apply
- BB (12) The Judges decision is final

- K 3 Water is optional
- K 4 The title theme must be displayed
- K 5 Obscene representations may be disqualified
- K 6 Tanks must not contain fish
- K 7 See also Appendix 2 for definitions
- SECTION L : GENERAL**
- L 1 These rules may be amended for National Shows (see respective schedules)
- L 2 Any infringement of these rules may result in disqualification



shall constitute an entry. The plants shall be exhibited in shallow containers with water and be viewed from above

Sub – division B Floating plants with considerable root systems which shall be exhibited in containers where the roots can be readily seen while the plant can also be viewed from above. A single plant may constitute an entry

H 3 All plants must be shown in clear containers or plastic bags and those in groups 3 and 3A must also be visible from above

### **SECTION I : SHOWING AQUASCAPES**

I 1 Natural aquascapes must contain water

I 2 Natural aquascapes must contain ONLY natural materials and fauna

### **SECTION J : SHOWING FURNISHED MINI TANKS**

J 1 All exhibits must be shown in flat sided tanks

J 2 Tanks to be a minimum size of 100mm x 100mm x 150mm and a maximum size of 110mm x 110mm x 160mm

J 3 Natural sand, gravel or compost only

J 4 No artificial media

J 5 Tanks may be filled to the top with water

J 6 Tanks must not contain fish

J 7 Marine mini tanks must contain saltwater

J 8 The back and sides of the tank may be covered or painted

J 9 See also Appendix 1 for definitions

### **SECTION K : SHOWING NOVELTY TANKS**

K 1 All exhibits must be shown in clear flat fronted tanks

K 2 Tank size is optional

### **SECTION C : SHOW MATERIAL**

C 1 Judges will provide judging sheets, Diplomas and recommendation labels (where appropriate)

C 2 Societies may obtain from the Show League Secretary, posters and place labels

### **SECTION D : DIPLOMAS**

D 1 Diplomas will only be awarded at Open Shows for open classes

D 2 Diplomas will be awarded, only by judges, judging to F.N.A.S. approved methods, to outstanding exhibits gaining the required 90 points or more agreed by 2 F.N.A.S. 'A' class Judges

D 3 It is a condition of awarding Federation Diplomas that they are fully advertised in the Show Schedules, catalogues etc.

### **SECTION E : SHOWING – FISH CLASSES**

E 1 All exhibits MUST be show in Glass slab sided tanks

E 2 Exhibits must be able to be seen on all four sides and from above. (NO divided tanks allowed except for pairs and breeders)

E 3 Tanks may have a natural gravel, sand or black base

E 4 Tanks MUST NOT contain plants or rockwork

E 5 Tanks MUST bear either common or scientific names of the exhibits and entry number clearly displayed

E 6 Fish shown heavy in spawn or gravid will be down pointed

E 7 The water in the tanks must be adequate, must not have any artificial colourants in it and must not be clouded by food or other particles

E 8 Diseased fish will be disqualified

E 9 Exhibits must not be benched after judging has commenced

- E 10 Tanks must be of adequate size and capacity to ensure the well being of the exhibit. The MINIMUM tank size being 75mm x 75mm x 75mm internally
- E 11 A pair must be one male and one female of the same species
- E 12 Tape on exhibitors tanks, if used must be BLACK. No clingfilm or similar type of material will be allowed
- E 13 If handles are used on lids, they must be CLEAR GLASS (NO marbles)
- E 14 Where a class is divided by size of fish and the norm size shows different sizes for both male and female, then both sexes must be shown in the same class, that of the larger sex

### **SECTION F : BREEDERS CLASSES**

- F 1 Rules E 1 to E 10, E 12 and E 13 inclusive apply equally to Breeders exhibits
- F 2 All fish must be the property of, and have been bred by the named exhibitor
- F 3 The date of hatching or delivery must be clearly stated on the tank
- F 4 All fish must be at least two (2) months old and not more than fourteen (14) months old
- F 5 The exhibit shall be termed a team and will consist of four (4) fish. Two (2) MATCHED pairs where sexable will be given precedence when points are equal

### **SECTION G : SHOWING FURNISHED AQUARIA**

- G 1 The tank size for freshwater furnished aquaria is :- 600mm x 300mm x 300mm
- G 2 Where conditions allow, it shall be permissible for Show Organisers to state in their Show Schedule type, number and wattage of lights to be provided over the furnished aquaria class. Exhibitors may be permitted by the organisers to adjust the lighting

in order to obtain special effects, provided the conditions in the Show Schedule are not broken or exceeded.  
No colour enhancing bulbs are permitted

- G 3 Where exhibitors desire a 'background' for furnished aquaria, they shall supply their own, which may be coloured or decorated to suit their layout. In the case of external backgrounds, these shall be restricted to the flat card type attached to the rear of the tank
- G 4 No artificial aids are permitted (including artificial plants and gravel)
- G 5 These rules to be read in conjunction with Appendix 1
- G 6 Plants must be aquatic, (moss, ferns, houseplants etc., will not be allowed)

### **SECTION H : SHOWING AQUARIUM PLANTS**

- H 1 An aquarium plant is considered to be one which can be adapted to permanent life, including reproduction, in an aquarium as either a floating or a submerged plant
- H 2 Aquarium plants may be grouped as follows :
  - Group 1 Rooted plants which cannot be propagated by cuttings and which shall be exhibited as one complete plant with roots showing. For the convenience of the exhibitor, a plant in the process of reproduction may be shown complete with the new growth
  - Group 2 Plants which can be propagated by cuttings and which shall be exhibited as such. Three cuttings of the same species or variety shall constitute an entry.  
The cutting shall be weighed if shown in a tank
  - Group 3 Floating plants which shall be further divided into 2 sub groups according to whether the root system is simple or considerable from the point of view of appearance
- Sub-division A Floating plants with no appreciable root system. A quantity of plant of the same species or variety