

Fish Show and Expo 2025

25 – 27 April 2027

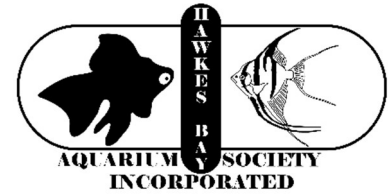
Exhibition Hall, Tomoana Showgrounds, Hastings

Pointing General Guidance

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FURNISHED AQUARIA POINTING AND GENERAL GUIDANCE

Fish [20 Points]

In which is considered the selection, matching in size and natural characteristics. The stage of growth in relation to the variety (the exhibitor showing all fully grown fish gaining priority in the event of a tie in all other respects) except in the case of the large fish where in fully grown specimens the size would be disproportionate to the size of the tank thereby disturbing the harmony. The quality and degree of perfection, and any faults in colour, condition, shape, fins, deportment and gross overcrowding are penalised.

When fish are not showing, tank will be heavily penalised.

Plants (Freshwater only) [20 Points]

In which is considered the appropriate relationship in variety, colour and texture to each other. The degree of perfection in colour, texture and quality. The lie of the stems, position of the crown, stem and leaves, and in which the overstocking, the indiscriminate mixture of too many varieties, plant weights or roots that are showing or damaged or unhealthy plants are penalised.

N.B. If warranted by layout there may be an absence of plants, in that case these 20 points will be divided and re-allocated, 10 to Design and 10 to Technique.

Other Marine Animals (Marine Only) [20 Points]

In which is considered whether the selection is appropriate to the layout and is conducive to a harmonious community. The size in relation to the species, and the quality, and any other faults, and overcrowding are penalised. If plants are present they will be judged in this section. If there are no 'other animals' or plants in the tank, these 20 points are to be divided and re-allocated, 10 to Design and 10 to Technique.

Rockwork [20 Points]

In which is considered the tone and texture of compost in relation to the rockwork. Natural qualities, texture, colour, character, general suitability and amount of any rockwork or accessory feature.

Credit being given to absence of rockwork if warranted by the layout.

Design and General Effect [20 Points]

In which is considered the merits of the layout and general appearance the grouping of rocks and their relationship to the fish, and any measure which brings about a practical and effective departure from the commonplace.

Technique [20 Points]

In which is considered the clarity of the water, and that measures have been taken to ensure that a mature well-established appearance has been achieved, and the pleasing qualities of the tank will last

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POND POINTING AND GENERAL GUIDANCE

Introduction

The pointing of ponds is best undertaken in the late summer months January-February March. Only ponds in the open should be considered for competition, these may be either formal or informal. The presence of fry is not to be encouraged as breeding should always be under controlled conditions, however the presence of young fish is desirable in a pond. All uncoloured metallic fish are to be discouraged.

Fish

[20 Points]

In which is considered the selection and quality of fish that there appears to be a harmonious relationship among them, that slow moving fancy types of fish are not in company with fast moving types, that there is a size range over the fish to include young as well as old specimens. The pond must not be overstocked, the fish must be well nourished, fearless and free from disease. The fish must be seen quite readily by the judge.

Plants

[20 Points]

In which will be considered the aquatic and semi-aquatic plants within the confines of the pond. The pond should be well stocked with varying plants showing good but not rampant growth, and water lilies should be of a type that is suited to the depth of the pond and be in flower, all their leaves must lie flat on the pond surface. Semi-aquatic (Bog) plants should be well set out and of a type suitable for the pond surround, they also should be in flower where applicable. All plants must be free from blight.

Design

[20 Points]

In which is considered the design and siting of the pond, the relationship of the pond to the surrounding buildings and trees etc, the size of the pond compared to the size of the garden, the selection and siting of the adjacent bushes and plants. If the pond is formal the degree of formality, or if informal the originality of the design.

Effect

[20 Points]

In which is considered the overall effect of the pond, the types of rockwork if used, the manufacture of waterfall and waterways, secondary pools, bridges, lighting and fountains, indeed any effect must be seen to add to the pond and not to overawe. Simplicity of effect is to be recognised.

Clarity

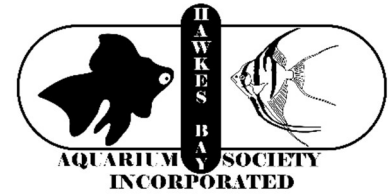
[20 Points]

In which will be considered the clarity of the water. A sample will be examined in a clear glass, it must be seen not to have an oily appearance, after vigorous shaking it must smell wholesome with a slight earthy tang, it must not smell foul. Any smell of chlorine is to incur vigorous down pointing.

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BREEDERS CLASS

Achievement in Presenting Entry [20 Points]

These points are allocated for the difficulty in breeding, rearing and getting the entry on to the show bench. The pointing is left to the judge, because an easy to breed fish in one area could be difficult in another, and vice versa. Four fish from one spawning constitute an entry.

Size for Age [20 Points]

It is important that the correct age of exhibit should be entered, as the judge will take size for age into consideration at the time of judging.

It is generally recognised that when growing fish, it is comparatively easy to grow them to half size, more difficult to grow them to the three-quarters mark, and very difficult to grow them to full size. It is then logical to award points for size with these facts in mind.

N.B.: - Any specimens which are of abnormal development for their age may be down-pointed.

Colour and Quality [20 Points]

Some young fish will be devoid of fine colour of adults, but in most cases, they will have enough colour to define species and quality.

Matching [20 Points]

When matching the four fish, they should be as uniform in size, shape and colour as possible, care being taken that where there is a difference in size between males and females this is taken into consideration. Two matched pairs will be given precedence on points, where sexable.

Condition and Deportment [20 Points]

"Condition" is the well-nourished, and free from blemish or signs of disease appearance, and "Deportment" the easy carriage, fearlessness, and general display, of the exhibit.

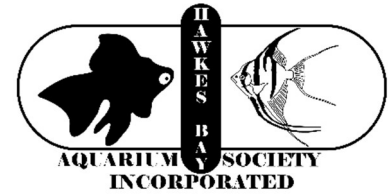
Note:

- Fish raised from stripped eggs are eligible providing the fry have been raised by the exhibitor and the exhibitor was in possession of the parents at time of stripping.
- Fish raised from transferred eggs are not eligible for this class.
- Fish heavy in spawn or gravid will be down pointed.

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GENERAL GUIDANCE & INFORMATION ON GOLDFISH

Nomenclature first introduced by the Goldfish Society has been used in these standards, i.e. Metallic, Nacreous and Matt to describe the scale groupings; Single tail and Twin tail to describe the fin groupings into which the fish fall.

The use of technical terms for their own sake has been avoided and descriptions are couched in the simplest manner possible. The specifications of fish have been kept sufficiently flexible to allow for improvements that cannot be foreseen at the present time. It is felt that measurements expressed in fractions are not only impractical when judging goldfish but only add to the confusion of the exhibitor. At this time the Standards Committee also feels that it is not practical to "pedigree Goldfish," the word pedigree indicates a long line of recorded parentage. We were unable to meet with any Goldfish breeder who kept records suitable for pedigreering the fish raised.

The ~~FNZAS~~ HBAS acknowledges the need to maintain and improve the quality of the strains of goldfish. With this in mind we have decided to adopt the type testing principle. All fish shown to the standards will first be submitted to the Type Test by the judge before the exhibit is pointed. Fish failing the test will not be pointed and will not be eligible to win awards.

By the vigorous application of the type test all goldfish not to type will be removed from the show bench. Any request to relax the type test must be rejected by the judge if the quality of the goldfish is to be maintained.

It is realised that this alone will not raise the quality of strains. We have therefore designated certain varieties as "Basic Varieties" and others as "Intermediate Varieties," Where at shows societies are considering staging limited classes of goldfish we urge them to give greater consideration to the Basic Varieties.

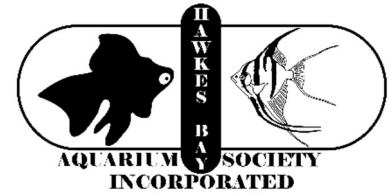
All varieties of goldfish having the caudal and anal fins single and median are known as Single tails, those types in which the caudal and anal fins are divided and paired are known as Twin tails. Single tails are normal bodied, i.e. Common Goldfish shape, they have a body depth of less than half the body length; it is very important to ensure that single tails are normal bodied by observing the head into body length factor. The required proportions of all differing varieties can be fully understood by the careful study of the "Configuration Diagrams," note the horizontal register and the relative positions of the vertical coordinates, the start and termination points of the fins, the body length and depth ratios. All these factors are simply assessed by the application of the grid configuration system. Twin tails are short bodied, i.e. Veiltail shape, they have a body depth more than half the body length, the caudal and anal fins of a twin tail must be fully divided and the two halves of each fin should be of equal development.

Size in itself is not a pointing feature but is taken into consideration with the body pointings. Size often relates to the length of a fish, the depth and width are equally important. What a judge will expect to see exhibited is a mature adult fish. As fish continue to grow throughout life, large fish are invariably old fish and therefore are not necessarily good show specimens. This is not to say that small fish are to be pointed above their true value.

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In all varieties, both single tail and twin tail, the front lobe of the dorsal fin is equal in length to the pelvic fins. The general criterion with finnage is that all fins follow the rule of matching; one long all long, one pointed all pointed.

There are five known diaphanic scale groups at this time. These groups are determined by the amount of reflective material in the skin and under the scales, this material is called Guanine. There is a complex genetic factor surrounding its inheritance. Fish are grouped into three main units for the purposes of exhibiting. These are: Metallic, in which all the scales are quite visible and have the appearance of burnished metal. Nacreous, in which the scales are still visible but the fish has a pearly lustre. Matt, in which the scales are difficult to see and the surface of the fish is quite dull. A Metallic fish has no matt scaling and a full iris to the eyes. A Matt fish has no Metallic scaling and no eye iris. A Nacreous fish has both Metallic and Matt scaling and the eyes can have either an iris or none. The best specimens have an eye iris.

If show organisers do not wish to cater for all of the diaphanic groups in the varieties for which they are holding classes, then this can be stated on the show schedule, i.e. Metallic Comets, or Nacreous Veiltails, etc. This committee would wish to point out however, that with the introduction of the type test they can see no advantage to be gained by restricting the exhibiting of basic varieties in any of the diaphanic groups, indeed we feel that these fish should be encouraged at all levels.

Colour requirements are difficult to define in words and the exhibitor is best shown that which is required. Note should be taken of the colours on fish that gain high points for this feature on the show bench. Broadly, the colours sought for in Metallic fish are, a rich orange, almost red or a deep chrome yellow. In Moors the colour required is velvet black.

A Metallic fish exhibiting one of these primary colours is referred to as a self-coloured, the lack of colour on Metallic fish allows the Guanine to show through as Silver. On many fish Black is often seen at the extremities of the caudal and dorsal fins as well as along the back of the fish and this Black invariably indicates that the fish has not fully completed the colour change from the wild bronze colour and in most cases the Black will fade out. With Metallic fish the colour should always be intense and spread into the fin extremities, if more than one colour is present on the fish then a pleasant and symmetrical pattern is desired.

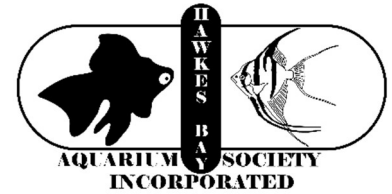
Nacreous and Matt fish exhibit a far greater variety of colours than Metallics, these include Red, Blue, Violet and Brown. These, combined with the primary colours, produce an abundance of shades and hues. The basic body colour sought is a deep Blue with an overlaying mottling of all the other colours with a minimum of metallic scaling showing on the fish.

When exhibiting goldfish it is the duty of the exhibitor to ensure that the fish is shown in a container of a size suitable for the comfort of the fish, that the container is clean and free from distortion, that the fish is free from disease and parasites. It is the duty of the judge to see that the fish is healthy, active and nourished and well cared for, free from disease, deformities and parasites, and to point all fish that pass the type test. The cursory examination of fish will not pass as fair judging. If goldfish breeders are to be encouraged to exhibit fish, then it is not unreasonable to expect the judge to point them. Finally, goldfish standards, regardless of their quality or their acceptability, will produce not one goldfish. The primary aim of all goldfish enthusiasts, is not the production of standards, but of Goldfish.

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GOLDFISH POINTING AND GUIDANCE

Body

[20 Points]

In which will be taken into consideration the size of the fish, the shape of the body, the depth/length ratio, ensuring that single tails are not short bodied and that twin tails are not long bodied: careful consideration of the dorsal, ventral and lateral contours, the eyes and mouth, metallic and nacreous fish to have complete eye irises: allow for the differences in the body shape of the sexes.

Finnage

[20 Points]

In which will be taken into consideration the size, shape and texture of all the fins', that they are free from ray malformation, the fins relationship to the fish and to each other, to that which is required by the standard: that all twin tails have fully divided anal and caudal fins: that those varieties without the dorsal fin have a clean smooth back without knobs or spikes.

Colour

[20 Points]

In which will be taken into consideration the intensity of the colours present, their dispersal throughout the fish, their penetration into the finnage: with multi coloured fish the variety of colours present: a ground colour of deep blue to be desired with nacreous and matt types, overlaid with the other colours found in goldfish: self coloured metallics should have intensive colour throughout the fish: multi-coloured metallics should have colours set in a pleasing pattern: it is to be noted that silver denotes a lack of colouring material in the tissue and except where required by a set colour pattern as in the Redcap Oranda is not necessarily a desirable feature. In the Moor black is invariably a transitional colour, nevertheless black and silver are acceptable. Care must be taken when pointing on metallic fish to denote their true value.

Characteristics

[20 Points]

In which will be taken into consideration the feature as laid down for the type on show; in mixed classes the difficulty in keeping, rearing, breeding and showing will be allowed for, the mark in this section should act as an instant evaluation of the fish as a specimen; any variety showing the features of any other variety will be severely pointed down.

Condition and Deportment

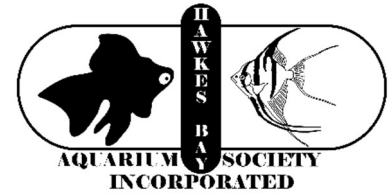
[20 Points]

In which will be taken into consideration the overall condition of the fish, that it is free from damage and disease, that it is well nourished and has the general appearance of being well cared for: that it deports itself in such a way that it can be viewed on all sides for judging, that fins are held erect and carried with ease: that the fish looks and acts alert.

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MARINE FISH POINTING AND GENERAL GUIDANCE

This marine fish pointing and general guidance sheet is based on that of the British Marine Aquarist Association. The Federation has agreed to use their system keyed to our five 20 pointing system.

Size [20 Points]

In which is considered the size of the fish, its approach to that which one would expect the fish to attain whilst kept under aquarium conditions, taking into consideration that the majority of marine fish are imported or caught in an immature state, that there is a recognised difficulty in promoting growth. That some species do not make easy growth in captivity whilst others will thrive.

Body and Colour [20 Points]

In which is considered the body, shape and colour of the fish. As there are no known variety mutations as yet, body shape will be judged on the judges' experience and from the accepted marine text books. Colour is also judged on the experience of seeing fish under aquarium conditions. Those fish that possess the ability to alter their colour, Chameleon Fish, should exhibit their most intense colouring. Lighting that improves on the natural colour will result in the fish being disqualified.

Fins [20 Points]

In which is considered the finnage of the fish. As most marine fish are notorious fin nippers, damage of this type will be pointed under "condition." The shape and texture of the fins to be assessed will be ascertained by the judge on his/her experience and accepted text books.

Deportment [20 Points]

In which will be considered the deportment of the fish, that it moves well and can be viewed with ease for judging, that the finnage can be seen, that the fish presents itself for assessment. The nature of the fish will also be considered ranging from the Amphiprion which behave as if it were still within an anemone, whereas Dasyllus may swim with jerky movement as if emerging from coral and a Goby will cling to the container glass as if attached to a rock.

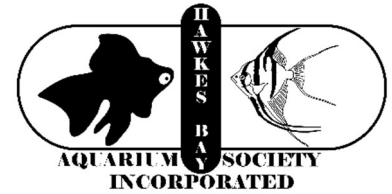
Condition [20 Points]

In which is considered the condition of the fish, that it is free from damage, disease and deformities; that it appears to be well nourished and cared for.

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PLANTS

POINTING AND GENERAL GUIDANCE

Size [20 Points]

In which is considered that the plant is of a mature size for the species or variety exhibited. Immature plants will be penalised.

Colour [20 Points]

In which is considered that the plant is of good colour throughout its structure.

Leaves [20 Points]

In which is considered the formation of the leaf structure, that where plants have a terrestrial leaf formation this will not be shown as the aquatic version. Any plants bearing flower buds which are normally only carried when above water will be heavily down pointed if shown immersed.

Difficulty [20 Points]

In which is considered the overall condition of the plant. Penalties will be incurred for malformation of the leaf structure, disease or blights, damage to leaves and stems, and root structure if floating type. The plant should appear to be well nourished.

Condition [20 Points]

In which is considered the overall condition of the plant. Penalties will be incurred for malformation of the leaf structure, disease or blights, damage to leaves and stems, and root structure if floating type. The plant should appear to be well nourished.

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AQUASCAPE POINTING AND GENERAL GUIDANCE

Fish and Other Animals [20 Points]

In which is considered the selection, matching in size and quality of all the animal life exhibited, their degree of perfection and their relationship to each other. Exhibitors showing fully grown animals will be given a points advantage, but where size or quantity is disproportionate to the size of the container, a heavy points penalty will be incurred. All exhibits will contain live fish.

Plants [20 Points]

In which is considered both the aquatic and terrestrial plants, the appropriate relationship of the varieties on show, their colour and quality, the correctness of planting, the lie of the crowns, stems and leaves. The overstocking and indiscriminate mixture of too many species, the showing of plant roots and weights, as well as damaged and unhealthy plants will be penalised. If warranted by the layout there may be an absence of plants, in which case the points for plants will be re-allocated, 10 more for Design and 10 more for Originality.

Design [20 Points]

In which is considered the general effect, the merit of the layout, the use of rockwork, cork, tree bark and wood, the relationship of all the materials used in the construction considering their tone and texture, that it is felt that the best use has been made of the materials to produce an effect, that measures have been taken to ensure that an established appearance is achieved, that the water has clarity and that the pleasing qualities of the exhibit will last.

Balance [20 Points]

In which is considered the harmony of the exhibit, that neither the aquatic nor the terrestrial parts of the layout are out of balance with each other, that each is complementary to the other.

Originality [20 Points]

In which is considered the degree of departure from the commonplace, that credit be given to the use of new materials and ideas that are acceptable within the class. It is within this section that the models and figurines which are exhibited in novelty Aquascape are to be pointed, a decided preference being given to models made by the exhibitor.