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THE POULTRY CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

Registered Charity number 298415

Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales

SHOW RULES

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INTRODUCTION

Poultry clubs and societies may affiliate to the Poultry Club on payment of an annual fee. The following terms will apply:

1. All shows run by Affiliated Societies must be held under Poultry Club rules.
2. Affiliated societies should notify the Poultry Club in writing that they would like to hold their show under the Poultry Club's Show Rules prior to the printing of the schedule.
3. It shall be clearly stated in the Schedule 'This Show is held under Poultry Club Rules and exhibitors making entries agree to be bound by such rules'.
4. The words 'Under Poultry Club Rules' should appear on the cover of the Show Schedule and Catalogue. It should also appear at the head of the Poultry section in Schedules of composite Shows.
5. The entry form should state 'I agree to be bound by the Poultry Club Rules' and should be signed by the exhibitor.
6. An affiliated society that is running a Regional, Championship or Royal Championship Show should return a list of exhibitors winning the Poultry Club special awards to the Poultry Club Secretary within 14 days of the show in order to retain status.

Show Committees are asked to collaborate with the Poultry Club in these respects in order to help maintain a good relationship between the exhibitors, affiliated societies and the Poultry Club.

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1. Poultry Club Representative

The Show Committee must nominate a member of the Poultry Club to act as the Poultry Club Representative at the show. It is the duty of the Poultry Club Representative to monitor the administration of the show and to bring to the attention of the show committee any points where the show fails to conform to Poultry Club rules. If this is a Royal Championship, Championship or Regional Show this should be included on the show report. The Poultry Club Representative should be independent of the show committee. The Poultry Club Representative's name should be printed in both the Schedule and the Catalogue.

2. Admission of Public to Show

This rests with the Show Committee but The Poultry Club Council favours the admission of the Public during Judging providing there is no hindrance to the Judges. Show Committees should be aware of accessibility for wheelchairs and to ensure that the show complies with fire regulations and biosecurity precautions and should have a Child Protection Policy, Risk Assessments and Health and Safety Policy in place. Dogs should not be admitted to the Show Hall.

3. Amalgamation of Classes

Shows may amalgamate classes provided that the conditions for amalgamation of classes are given in the show schedule.

4. Cancellation of Classes

An Affiliated Society may cancel classes at their show provided the conditions for the cancellation of classes are given to exhibitors in the schedule.

5. Affiliated Society Shows

All shows held by Affiliated Societies must be held under Poultry Club rules. This rule also applies to the Breed Clubs recognised by the Poultry Club holding their Club Shows at affiliated Poultry Club shows. Breed Clubs may hold their Club Shows at the National Federation of Poultry Clubs Show.

6. Classification

6.1 **Hard Feather** The following breeds compete as Hard Feather - Old English Game, Indian Game, Modern Game and Asian Hard Feather.

6.2 **Species of Pheasant and Jungle Fowl** may not be shown in poultry classes.

6.3 **New Breeds or New Varieties** – any specimen of a new breed or variety as yet not standardized by the Poultry Club must only compete in a general class entitled 'Any non-standard breed or variety' until it is accepted within the Poultry Club Standards, not AOC or AOV, unless special classes for specific non-standard varieties of a given breed are provided. Non-standard breeds are not eligible for top awards.

6.4 **Asian Hard Feather** – where no provision is made for Asian Hard Feather classes, they must be entered under AOV Hard Feather.

6.5 **Utility** – any pure/cross breed can be entered and will be judged on utility features.

7. Cockerels and Pullets

The words 'Cockerel' and 'Pullet' refer to birds aged up to their first adult moult. Where classes for adult birds are so designated, Cockerels and Pullets may not compete.

8. Welfare of Exhibits

It is the duty of the Show Committee to ensure that the highest standards of welfare are maintained during the staging of a show. The following points should be adhered to:

8.1 Each Show Committee must appoint a Welfare Officer who is responsible for the welfare of the exhibits at each show and to ensure that biosecurity precautions are in place.

8.2 It is the responsibility of the Exhibitor or his/her representative to water and feed all of his/her exhibits after judging and for the Welfare Officer to ensure that this is carried out. This should be stated in the Schedule and also a notice should be posted to this effect at the Show.

8.3 Poultry food should be kept under cover to minimize wild bird attraction.

8.4 Exhibits should be staged in pens that conform to the recommendations of the Poultry Club's Welfare Committee: see the Welfare Guidelines.

8.5 All pens should be disinfected before and after each show and stored vermin-free.

- 8.6 Show Committees should refuse admission to the Show of any birds which, in their opinion, are suffering from any disease or infestation. A veterinary surgeon ideally to be on site but at least readily contactable.
- 8.7 If during the Show any exhibit is found (or suspected) to be suffering from any disease or infestation the Show Committee must remove the exhibit from the pen immediately and return it to the exhibitor.
- 8.8 If necessary, the Welfare Officer should arrange for the exhibit to receive veterinary treatment at the owner's expense.
- 8.9 If an exhibit is removed from a pen because of disease or infection the pen should be disinfected immediately.

9. Cups and Specials

- 9.1 Except where contrary permission is given in writing, the Poultry Club cups and special prizes can only be awarded in the following circumstances:
- Poultry Club cups to Poultry Club members whilst Poultry Club specials are open to all exhibitors
 - to a Breed whose standard of perfection has been approved by the Poultry Club Council
 - to birds which are exhibited in classes other than selling classes
 - No bird taken from a Trio class is eligible for single bird specials
 - A Trio is classed as one exhibit and must remain intact
- 9.2 Poultry Club special prizes must be awarded to the best exhibit in its Section at the Show (e.g. Soft Feather Heavy, True Bantam etc.). If there is duplication of entries or if certain parts of the show are not freely open to all exhibitors, these subdivisions are excluded from the award of Poultry Club special prizes.

10. Complaints Against Exhibitors

The Council of the Poultry Club can disqualify exhibitors for the following offences:

- Breach of show rules
- Fraudulent practices
- Cheating
- Abusive and/or violent behaviour
- Bringing the Fancy into disrepute

The following procedure must be followed in respect of any complaint:

- 10.1 Any breach of show rules by an exhibitor should be reported to the Show Secretary at the show.
- 10.2 The Show Committee should consider the complaint as soon as possible on the day of the show. A quorum of a minimum of three of the show committee should be present at this meeting and take part in any vote. The Poultry Club Representative should be present at all meetings of the Show Committee when the complaint is discussed.
- 10.3 All parties involved in the complaint should be informed of the decision of the show committee whilst at the show.
- 10.4 If the exhibitor is to be disqualified from the show, the reasons for the disqualification should be put in writing and handed to the exhibitor.

- 10.5 The Show Committee should ensure that a copy of the disqualification letter is retained for their records.
- 10.6 Exhibitors have the right to appeal against disqualification and should notify the show secretary of their intention to appeal whilst at the show.
- 10.7 Any appeals against disqualification should be heard within 15 days of the show on a date mutually agreed between the Show Committee and the exhibitor.
- 10.8 All interested parties should be present at the appeal. Written submissions are permissible in the case of witnesses who are unable to attend.
- 10.9 Any show awards relating to the complaint should be withheld pending the result of the appeal.
- 10.10 The Secretary of the Poultry Club should be informed, in writing, of the disqualification of any Poultry Club member. Full details of the case should be given including:
- The nature of the complaint
 - Name and address of person making the complaint
 - Name and addresses of any witnesses
 - Name of show official receiving the complaint
 - Details of the show committee meeting hearing the complaint including the time of the meeting, list of those present and the decision taken
 - Details of any appeal and the process followed together with the decision of the show committee
- 10.11 Any appeal to the Council of the Poultry Club concerning the complaint or the decision of the Show Committee should be made within four weeks of the show.
- 10.12 In this event, the Poultry Club Council shall request details of the complaint and the procedure followed by the Show Committee which will be discussed at the next Council Meeting. The interested parties may be required to attend the Council Meeting.
- 10.13 All parties will be notified of the Poultry Club Council's decision within three weeks of the Council meeting.
- 10.14 Any exhibitor disqualified at a Show shall, except in the event of an appeal being decided in his or her favour by the Council of the Poultry Club, forfeit all or any cups, prizes or honours, in addition to prize money that may have been awarded to him/her at the Show, and shall be liable to be prohibited temporarily or permanently from exhibiting at any Show held under Poultry Club rules.
- 10.15 The decision of the Poultry Club Council in relation to any case of disqualification may be published for circulation among members. Only the Poultry Club Council may disqualify any exhibitor from entering shows staged by other affiliated societies and held under Poultry Club Rules.

11. Judges

- Affiliated Societies must adhere to the following:
- 11.1 Show Committees in their Open Shows held under Poultry Club Rules must appoint the majority of judges from the Poultry Club's Judges Panel. Breed Clubs may appoint judges from their own panels for their Club Shows.
- 11.2 No person shall exhibit at any Show held under Poultry Club Rules where he/she

is judging, other than the Poultry Club National Show or the Scottish National Show. Judges may exhibit at the National Federation of Poultry Clubs Show. However, a judge must never judge his/her own exhibit or take part in any decisions regarding his/her bird who may be in contention for an award. As of 1st October 2010 for a trial period of 12 months, judges at a Championship Show may show in sections they are not judging.

- 11.3 No Judge may knowingly award any prize or commendation to any bird sold, lent or given by him/her within 4 weeks of the date of the Show. If a judge recognises such a bird it must be passed, reported to the show organizers and the exhibitor issued with a warning by the show committee.
- 11.4 Any person suspended or disqualified from showing under Poultry Club Rules is debarred from judging during the period of his/her suspension/disqualification.
- 11.5 All Judges must report to the Secretary of the Poultry Club in writing within seven days of a show any person or persons endeavouring to influence them directly or indirectly in their judging decisions.
- 11.6 It shall be the duty of the Judge to co-operate with the Show Manager and Committee in regard to health and hygiene of the birds, exhibitors and show visitors
- 11.7 Judges, at their discretion, may 'pass' a bird without judging it or only award a second and subsequent prizes in a class.
- 11.8 Where possible Affiliated Societies should appoint a separate judge(s) for the Show Championship.
- 11.9 Championship Judges at Regional, Championship and Royal Championship Shows should ideally be members of Panel A of the Judges Panel.
- 11.10 Judges should wear a clean white coat and use handwash (if provided) between exhibits.

12. Complaints Against Judges

- 12.1 All members of the Poultry Club's Judges Panel are obliged to follow the Poultry Club's Code of Practice for Judges.
- 12.2 If an exhibitor believes that a Judge has not followed the Judges' Code of Practice or has otherwise behaved disreputably, he/she should report the matter to the Show Secretary. If the Show Committee finds the complaint to be proven the Show Secretary should inform the Poultry Club Council within seven days of the show providing a full record of the complaint.

13. Complaints Against The Show

- 13.1 It is open to anyone to lodge a protest to the Show Secretary for practices which are alleged to be contrary to the Poultry Club Rules and it is the duty of the Poultry Club Representative to do so.
- 13.2 A deposit of £20 shall be paid with each protest at any time before the close of the Show. The deposit will be forfeited should the protest be considered by the Committee to have been made without reasonable grounds. If the protest is made by the Poultry Club Representative the £20 deposit shall be paid by the Poultry Club Council.

14. Persons Ineligible to Make Entries

It shall not be permissible for an exhibitor to enter in a class which a member of

their family who resides at the same address is judging. Any person under disqualification by the Council of the Poultry Club or under suspension is ineligible to compete at any show held under Poultry Club rules.

15. Conditions of Entry

Every bird exhibited must have been the bona-fide property of the exhibitor at the time of entry for a minimum of 4 weeks. If proved to the satisfaction of the Show Committee that the bird is not the exhibitor's property the Show Committee should disqualify the entry. This action together with all the evidence should be reported to the Poultry Club Council within seven days of the show.

16. Guaranteed Classes

Where classes are guaranteed they must stand and full prize money (if any) be paid unless a stipulation as to the minimum number of entries is clearly stated in the schedule.

17. Handling Exhibits

Whilst at a show all the exhibits are in the custody of the Show Committee and, from penning until the completion of judging, must not be touched or handled either by the owner or by any unauthorised person. The same applies after judging, except that the owner (or a person authorized by the owner) may then handle the bird, but not remove it from the immediate area of its pen. It is permitted for the owner to secure the pen (padlock or cable tie) after judging.

18. Local Rules

Affiliated Societies may add local rules to their shows in addition to the Poultry Club Rules but the Rules of the Poultry Club must take precedence.

19. Loss or Damage

Neither the Show Committee, the Poultry Club, its officials or any person employed or appointed by them shall be held liable for the loss of or for any damage sustained by any bird while they are in their possession whether for exhibition, inspection or for any other purpose whatsoever.

20. Non-Members of The Poultry Club

Any exhibitor at a Show who is not a member of the Poultry Club shall submit to the jurisdiction of the Poultry Club whose rules will apply as if he/she were a Poultry Club member.

21. Juniors

Eligibility for classes provided specially for Juniors shall be clearly defined in schedules issued by Show or Breed Club Committees. A parent/guardian should remain in close proximity to any entrant in the junior/juvenile handling classes and any judge in this section *must* have a steward in attendance.

The following rules will apply:

- 21.1 To qualify for Junior Poultry Club awards juniors must be aged from 5 to 16 years on the day of the show
- 21.2 Poultry Club Junior Handler classes are open to juniors aged 9 years and under on the day of the show

- 21.3 Poultry Club Juvenile Classes for bronze awards are open to juniors aged from 9 to 15 years on the day of the show
- 21.4 Poultry Club judging tests for single breeds are open to Junior members aged from 12 to 16 years on the day of the judging test
- 21.5 The Poultry Club Junior Husbandry Proficiency Certificate is set for Juniors under 16 years on the day of the exam.
- 22. Novices**
Eligibility for classes provided specially for Novices shall be clearly defined in schedules issued by Show or Breed Club Committees. A Novice has not won first prize at a Club Show.
- 23. Prizes or Prize Money**
Show Committees may award prize money at their discretion. However, the conditions under which prize money is awarded should be clearly stated in the Show Schedule.
- 24. Removing Birds from Show**
No bird may be removed from the Show Hall before the close of the Show without the permission of the Show Committee. A Show Steward should supervise the removal of the bird from the Show Hall.
- 25. Stewards**
The appointment of Stewards rests with the Show Committee. A judge may appoint his/her own Steward provided that this is approved by the Show Committee. No one should act as a Steward for a class or classes in which he/she is exhibiting.
- 26. Distinguishing Marks on Birds**
- 26.1 It is permissible for birds to wear only PCGB official leg rings (includes Isle of Man, EU and 2009 BWA rings) or matching tattoos, so long as they do not indicate in any way the actual ownership of exhibits, or otherwise identify them with their exhibitors.
- 26.2 Judges are, however instructed to pass or disqualify, at their discretion, any Exhibit to which improper attempts at identification have been made; i.e: special bedding in pens or similar methods or unofficial rings.
- 27. Selling Classes**
Exhibitors entering birds in selling or price limit classes should
- 27.1 Send each bird in a separate container which should conform to the PCGB Welfare Guidelines.
- 27.2 Price the individual bird to include the cost of the container.
- 27.3 Exhibitors wishing to sell and exhibit should mark each such entry FOR SALE on the entry form. Show Secretaries should provide a special column on their entry form headed with the words "price including container." Receptacles for the transport of livestock to Shows should be of a standard and recognized pattern.
- 27.4 The Poultry Club recommends that birds in selling classes are *bona fide* owned by PCGB members and preferably PCGB rung.

28. Observations

The Council of the Poultry Club seeks to improve the quality of exhibits as measured against the Standards for our Breeds and to support well managed Shows. The Poultry Club Council appeal to Show Committees to adopt progressive Schedules, to prepare suitably sized, clean pens and staging for exhibits and to put on well-managed and stewarded events.

The Poultry Club when granting the use of its Rules to any Show does not thereby render itself in any way responsible for the liabilities incurred by the Show Committee or Managers of the Show.

Schedules should contain the relevant DEFRA guidelines. For further advice please contact the Poultry Club Secretary.

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EXHIBITING OF EGGS

These instructions concern the Staging and Judging of Egg Classes.

Standard descriptions and Scale of Points are included in *British Poultry Standards*.

1. Each egg exhibit should be staged on uniform plates provided by the Show Committee. A little softwood sawdust or similar suitable material on the plate helps in arranging the exhibits to the best advantage. Eggs look at their best when they are not touching. Plates should not be fixed to the table to allow judges to move exhibits to the front of the show bench for ease of inspection when judging.
2. The Show should appoint a Steward for the Egg Section whose name should appear in the schedule.
3. Where possible Eggs should be exhibited out of reach of the Public. Exhibits should only be handled by the judge, steward or exhibitor.
4. At Shows where duplication of entries is permitted, this applies only to duplication into challenge classes.
5. The colour classification for large fowl and bantam egg classes can be shown as follows:
 - (a) Dark Brown
 - (b) Light Brown
 - (c) White
 - (d) Cream
 - (e) Blue
 - (f) AOC - AOC should be used for other colours such as green and khaki etc.
6. Shows have the discretion to offer any combination of eggs in each class. Plates of 1, 3 or 6 eggs are the usual combinations.
7. Show committees should state Large Fowl or Bantam in the Schedule for Egg exhibits.
8. Separate classes must be given to Waterfowl, Turkeys and Guinea Fowl etc. and for any classes that a Breed Club may deem necessary.
9. Judges should reclassify egg exhibits to classes for the correct colour prior to judging. It should be stated in the Schedule that Judges are able to reclassify eggs.

10. Only freshly laid Eggs should be entered in the egg classes and Judges should disqualify any exhibit which, in their opinion, does not conform to this ruling. Judges may, at their discretion, break open an egg to check that it is fresh.
11. Mottled Eggs should be judged according to their ground colouring, unless the schedule states otherwise.
12. Distinct classes (separate colours e.g. white, brown and blue) should include eggs from the classification as shown in rules 5 and 6. Classes for Different eggs can be for shades of similar colours.
13. Cream eggs should not be judged in classes for white eggs unless specially stated in the Schedule, i.e. White or Cream
14. Eggs may be washed but not be artificially polished or over-prepared by heavy rubbing. No artificial colouring is permitted.
15. If appropriate, shows should include contents classes for Large Fowl, Bantam and Waterfowl eggs. Waterfowl Eggs should be exhibited in a contents class for Waterfowl and not in contents classes for Large Fowl or Bantam eggs.
16. When judging contents it is important that the spread of the egg is not restricted. Therefore, it is recommended that china or hard plastic plates are used for this section.
17. Shows may offer classes for external and internal eggs. These should be judged separately according to the Standard.
18. Classes can be offered for decorated eggs, painted eggs and displayed eggs. Only in classes for displayed eggs are judging points awarded for the quality and matching of the eggs which therefore should not be hidden by the display.
19. The maximum size of a displayed egg exhibit should be stated.

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES

1. When offered a judging appointment judges should ask for clarification on the number of classes to be judged, the arrangements for judging the championship and the payment of expenses.
2. Judges are requested to confirm, in writing, their acceptance of an invitation to judge to the show secretary.
3. If unable to undertake a judging appointment, judges should notify the show secretary as early as possible.
4. Where possible judges should travel to shows independently of exhibitors and should be mindful that too close an association with exhibitors whilst at a show is open to misinterpretation by others present.
5. Judges should report to the Show Secretary at least 15 minutes before judging commences and should check which classes they are judging, the arrangements for judging the show championship and the time schedule for judging.
6. It is recommended that judges dress smartly in a clean, white coat with male judges wearing a shirt and tie. Judges should be aware that, as panel judges, they represent the Poultry Club.
7. Judges should ensure that they have the current edition of the *British Poultry Standards* with them, together with any amendments and should refer to the Standards if they are unsure on any point.

8. Judges of egg classes must use egg scales when judging eggs.
9. Judges should adhere to the time schedule given and should refrain from talking to exhibitors and members of the public whilst judging. Judges should aim to judge between 40-50 birds per hour.
10. Birds that are diseased or infested should be immediately reported to the Welfare Officer with the suggestion that the bird should be removed from the pen.
11. Judges should pass any birds that have identifying marks eg: unofficial leg rings except for birds with 2009 BWA leg rings which are acceptable. Birds with official Poultry Club rings should not be passed or the rings removed.
12. It is the duty of the judge to report to the Show organisers and the Poultry Club Representative if there is any suspicion of cheating with an exhibit eg: dyeing of feathers.
13. No judge may knowingly award any prize or commendation to any bird sold, lent, or given by him/her within two months of the date of the show. If a judge recognises such a bird it should be passed, reported to the show organisers and the exhibitor issued with a warning by the show committee.
14. Any person suspended or disqualified from showing under Poultry Club rules is debarred from judging during the period of his/her suspension/disqualification.
15. All judges must report to the Secretary of the Poultry Club in writing within seven days of the show any person or persons endeavouring to influence them directly or indirectly in their judging decisions.
16. It shall be the duty of the judge to co-operate with the Show Manager and Committee with regard to the health, hygiene of the birds, exhibitors and show visitors.
17. Judges may, at their discretion, 'pass' a bird without judging it or only award a second and subsequent prizes in a class.
18. No person may exhibit at any show held under Poultry Club rules where he/she is judging, other than the Poultry Club National Show or the Scottish National Show. Judges may exhibit at the National Federation of Poultry Clubs Show. However, a judge must never judge his/her own exhibit or take part in any decisions regarding his/her bird which may be in contention for an award. As of 1st October 2010 for a trial period of 12 months, judges at a Championship Show may show in sections they are not judging.
19. Judges should ensure that the Judge's Book is completed clearly and returned to the show organisers promptly as agreed.
20. If possible the judge should allow time to talk to exhibitors and members of the public once judging has been completed.
21. It is recommended that all judges attend at least one Judges Workshop every three years.