

# POULTRY CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN (PCGB)

## SHOW RULES

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

Poultry Clubs and Societies may affiliate to the PCGB on payment of a set annual fee. The following terms will apply:

#### **A. General Societies**

'**Voucher Show**' the first grade show to be held under PCGB rules. No limit to the number of entries or classes scheduled.

'**Regional Status Show**' entries are in the excess of 350 birds entries with certain criteria to be met as regards classes scheduled.

'**Championship Status Show**' entries are to be in excess of 500 birds. Entries averaged over a 3 year period with certain criteria to be met as regards classes scheduled.

Applications to upgrade a show from a '**Voucher Show**' to a '**Regional Status Show**' or from '**Regional Status Show**' to '**Championship Status Show**' are to be made at least six months before the show date in order that the application can be approved by PCGB Council. When approved the annual renewal date will then be the first day of October each year.

#### **B. Egg Societies and Stand-alone Egg Shows**

'**Regional Status Show**' if entries are in the excess of 200 plates of eggs

'**Championship Status Show**' entries are to be in excess of 400 plates of eggs averaged over a 3 year period.

That applications for '**Regional Status Show**' or up-grade to '**Championship Status Show**' are made at least six months before the show date in order that the application can be approved by PCGB Council. When approved the annual renewal date will then be the first day of October each year.

#### **C. Affiliated Societies must run all shows under PCGB rules and clearly state in the Schedule:**

**"This show is held under PCGB Rules and Exhibitors making entries agree to be bound by such rules"** (this also applies to non-PCGB members).

The cover of the Schedule and Catalogue must clearly state '**Held under PCGB Rules**' this must also appear at the head of the Poultry section in Schedules of composite shows.

**D.** The Entry form should state **"I agree to be bound by PCGB rules"** and should be signed by the exhibitor.

**E.** Affiliated Societies that are running Regional, Championship, or Royal Championship shows should return a list of exhibitors winning PCGB special awards to the PCGB show results co-ordinator within 14 days of the show in order to retain status.

## SHOW RULES

### **1. Poultry Club Representative**

The Show Committee must nominate a PCGB member to act as PCGB Representative at the show who must be independent from the Show Committee and who cannot judge at the show.

It is the duty of the PCGB Representative to monitor the administration of the show and bring to the attention of the Show Committee any points where the show fails to conform to PCGB rules. At Regional, Championship and Royal Championship shows a PCGB Representative's name should appear in the show Schedule, the Catalogue and in the show Report.

## **2. Cancellation and Amalgamation of Classes**

Affiliated Societies may cancel or amalgamate classes provided that the conditions for cancellation or amalgamation are given in the schedule.

## **3. Affiliated Societies and Affiliated Breed Clubs**

All shows held by Affiliated Societies must be held under PCGB rules. This rule also applies to Affiliated Breed Clubs holding their Club Show at an Affiliated Show or a Non-affiliated Show.

## **4. Classification**

**4.1 Species of Ornamental Waterfowl, Pheasants, and Jungle Fowl** cannot be shown at PCGB Affiliated Shows.

**4.2 Hard Feather (H/F)** The following breeds compete as H/F: **Old English Game, Modern Game, Indian Game and Asian H/F**. Where there is no provision for Asian H/F classes they must be entered under A.O.V. H/F.

**4.3 Utility** - Four class types:

**Purebred Male** for meat production. **Purebred Female** for egg production. **Waterfowl** for meat or egg production. **Commercial Hybrid** for meat or egg production.

The Schedule should state which class or classes are scheduled.

### **4.4 Cockerel and Pullet**

The words 'Cockerel' and 'Pullet' refer to birds that are hatched on or after 1 January of the current year or 'current year bred' this to include 'winter shows' the following year.

**4.5** Where classes are scheduled for 'Cock' or 'Hen', Cockerels and Pullets may not compete.

**4.6** Trio classes are one male, two females, judged to exhibition standard.

**4.7** Waterfowl Trios can only be shown in trio classes for waterfowl, not large fowl classes.

## **5. 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:

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

5.2 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.

5.3 Exhibits should be staged in pens that conform to the recommendations of the PCGB Welfare Committee (see '**Welfare Guidelines**').

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

5.5 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.

5.6 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 or placed in a carrying box until the exhibitor can be found. 5.7 If necessary, the Welfare Officer should arrange for the exhibit to receive veterinary treatment at the owner's expense.

5.8 If an exhibit is removed from a pen because of disease or infection the pen should be disinfected immediately.

## **6. Cups and Specials**

6.1 Except where contrary permission is given in writing, the PCGB cups and special prizes can only be awarded in the following circumstances:

\*PCGB cups to PCGB members only

\*PCGB specials are open to all exhibitors

\*To a Breed whose standard of perfection has been approved by the PCGB 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 (pure bred and one colour of one variety) and must remain intact

6.2 PCGB 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 sub-divisions are excluded from the award of PCGB special prizes.

## **7. Complaints against Exhibitors**

The Council of the PCGB 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 procedures must be followed in respect of any complaint:

7.1 Any breach of show rules by an exhibitor should be reported to the Show Secretary at the show.

7.2 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 PCGB Representative should be present at all meetings of the Show Committee when the complaint is discussed. The exception to this rule is at an Agricultural Show where the poultry section is run by one person in which case the complaint will be considered by that person and the PCGB representative.

7.3 All parties involved in the complaint should be informed of the decision of the Show Committee whilst at the show.

7.4 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, stating the reasons for disqualification. 7.5 The Show Committee should ensure that a copy of the disqualification letter is retained for their records.

7.6 Exhibitors have the right to appeal against disqualification and should notify the show secretary of their intention to appeal whilst at the show.

7.7 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.

7.8 All interested parties should be present at the appeal. Written submissions are permissible in the case of witnesses who are unable to attend.

7.9 Any show awards relating to the complaint should be withheld pending the result of the appeal.

7.10 The Secretary of the PCGB should be informed, in writing, of the disqualification of any PCGB 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.

7.11 Any appeal to the Council of the PCGB concerning the complaint or the decision of the Show Committee should be made within four weeks of the show.

7.12 In this event, the PCGB 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 that Council Meeting. 7.13 All parties will be notified of the PCGB Council's decision within three weeks of the Council meeting.

7.14 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 PCGB will 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 PCGB rules.

7.15 The decision of the PCGB Council in relation to any case of disqualification may be published for circulation among members. Only the PCGB Council may disqualify any exhibitor from entering shows staged by other Affiliated Societies and held under PCGB rules

## **8. Judges**

Affiliated Societies must adhere to the following:

**8.1** Show Committees at *Voucher, Regional, Championship and Royal Championship* Shows held under **PCGB** rules must appoint the majority of judges from the Poultry Club's Judges Panel. Breed Clubs may appoint judges from their own Judges panels for their Club Shows.

**8.2** *The PCGB National Show, The National Federation of Poultry Clubs Show, The Scottish National Show, and The Reading and District Bantam Club Show.* At these four shows Judges may exhibit in Breed sections they

are not judging. 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.

**8.3 Championship Shows that have a Championship Judge** held under PCGB rules. Judges may exhibit in sections they are not judging. 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.

#### **8.4 Championship Shows that do not have a Championship Judge and Regional Shows**

No judge can exhibit at these shows.

**8.5** Championship judges at *Regional, Championship and Royal Championship* shows Should ideally be members of Panel 'A' of the PCGB Judges Panel, and not exhibit in any section.

### **9. At Shows where Bronze Stars are offered, i.e. 'Regional Show', 'Championship Show'**

**9.1** No exhibit can be awarded more than one Bronze Star (best in section).

**9.2 Show Champion** must be selected from the unbeaten Bronze star winners and awarded the 'Gold Star'

**9.3 Reserve Show Champion** must be selected from the remaining unbeaten Bronze star Winners and awarded the 'Silver Star'

**9.4 Best Opposite Sex** to the **Show Champion** or **Reserve Show Champion** is a special award and can be selected from any unbeaten Best Opposite Sex Breed Exhibits.

**9.5 Championship Judge** should not judge any sections that would result in awarding a Bronze Star, except Eggs.

**9.6** The schedule must clearly state the name of the judge, judging each section or breeds within that Section.

**9.7 Regional, Championship and Royal Championship** shows should produce a catalogue of exhibits, or have the exhibitors names written on the prize cards.

### **10. Complaints against Judges**

**10.1** All members of the PCGB Judges Panel are obliged to follow the PCGB Code of Practice for Judges.

**10.2** If an exhibitor believes that a judge has not followed the Code of Practice for Judges 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 PCGB Council within seven days of the show providing a full record of the complaint.

### **11. Complaints against the Show**

**11.1** It is open to anyone to lodge a protest to the Show Secretary for practices which are alleged to be contrary to the PCGB rules and it is the duty of the PCGB Representative to do so.

**11.2** 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 Show Committee, to have been made without reasonable grounds. If the protest is made by the PCGB Representative the £20 deposit shall be paid by the PCGB Council.

## **12. Conditions of Entry**

Every bird exhibited must be the bona-fide property of the exhibitor. 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 PCGB Council within seven days of the Show.

## **13. Persons Ineligible to make Entries**

13.1 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.

13.2 Any person under disqualification by the PCGB Council or under suspension is ineligible to compete at any show held under PCGB rules.

## **14. 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.

## **15. 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.

## **16. Local Rules**

Affiliated Societies may add local rules to their shows in addition to the PCGB rules but those of the PCGB must take precedence.

## **17. Loss or Damage**

Neither the Show Committee, the PCGB, 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.

## **18. Non-Members of the PCGB**

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

## **19. 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:

**19.1** PCGB Juvenile Classes for Bronze Awards are open to juniors aged from 5 to 16 years on the day of the show

**19.2** PCGB Junior Handler classes are open to juniors aged from 5 to 16 years on the day of the show, and different age classes may be scheduled.

## **20. Novices**

Eligibility for classes provided specially for novices shall be clearly defined in schedules issued by Show or Breed Club Committees.

## **21. 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 showschedule.

## **22. 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 birds from the show hall.

## **23. 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.

## **24. Distinguishing Marks on Birds**

**24.1** 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.

**24.2** 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.

## **25. Selling Classes**

Exhibitors entering birds in selling or price limit classes should:

**25.1** Price the individual bird to include the cost of a carrying box.

**25.2** 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*".

## **26. Observations**

The Council of the PCGB seeks to improve the quality of exhibits as measured against the Standards for our breeds and to support well-managed Shows. The PCGB 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 PCGB 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 PCGB Secretary.

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## P.C.G.B. SHOW RULES FOR EXHIBITING EGGS

These instructions concern the Staging and Judging of Egg Classes.

The PCGB 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. 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) Any other colour (AOC) should be used for other colours such as green and khaki etc.  
(N.B. 'Tinted' is not recognised by the PCGB and the Light Brown class is appropriate).
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 and include the wording; "Bantam eggs not to exceed 1.5 ounces or 42.5 grams".
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 not re-classify egg exhibits to classes for the correct colour prior to judging. It should be stated in the Schedule that Judges are not able to reclassify eggs.
10. Only fresh 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 and speckled eggs should be judged according to their ground colour unless the schedule states otherwise.
12. '*Distinct colour*' 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 colour*' eggs can be for shades of similar colours e.g. plates of eggs where each is a different shade of brown.
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 separate contents classes for Large Fowl, Bantam and Waterfowl 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/Internal' eggs. Both elements should be judged separately according to the PCGB 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.

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## **GUIDELINES FOR P.C.G.B. 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 mis-interpretation 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 PCGB.
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 bantam 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 e.g. unofficial leg rings except for birds with 2009 BWA leg rings which are acceptable. Birds with official PCGB 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 PCGB Representative if there is any suspicion of cheating with an exhibit e.g. dyeing of feathers.
13. No judge may knowingly award any prize or commendation to any bird sold, lent, or given by him/her within one month 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 PCGB rules is barred from judging during the period of his/her suspension/disqualification.
15. All judges must report to the Secretary of the PCGB 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 or subsequent prizes in a class.

18. No person may exhibit at any show held under PCGB rules where he/she is judging, other than;

*The Poultry Club National Show, The National Federation of Poultry Clubs Show, The Scottish National Show, The Reading and District Bantam Club Show.*

At these four shows judges may exhibit in breed sections they are not judging.

At *Championship Shows that have a Championship Judge* held under PCGB rules judges may exhibit in sections they are not judging.

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.

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.

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