

SECTION TWELVE

TWO TENS & FOUR TWENTY POINTING SYSTEM

GENERAL FISH POINTINGS

Size	10
Body	20
Colour	20
Finnage	20
Condition & Department	20
Presentation	10
Total =	100

GUPPIES & GOLDFISH

Body	20
Finnage	20
Colour	20
Characteristics	10
Condition & Department	20
Presentation	10
Total =	100

BETTA SPLENDENS & KOI

Body	20
Finnage	20
Colour	20
Pattern	10
Condition & Department	20
Presentation	10
TOTAL =	100

BREEDERS TEAMS

Achievment & Quality	20
Size For Age	10
Colour	20
Matching	20
Condition & Department	20
Presentation	10
TOTAL =	100

PAIRS OF FISH

Size & Matching	10
Body	20
Colour	20
Finnage	20
Condition & Department	20
Presentation	10
TOTAL =	100

FIVE TWENTY POINTING SYSTEM

FURNISHED AQUARIA

Fish	20
Aquatic Plants	20
Rock & Gravel	20
Design	20
Technique	20
Total =	100

AQUASCAPES

Terrestrial Plants	20
Aquatic Plants	20
Design	20
Balance	20
Technique	20
Total =	100

PLANTS

Size	20
Colour	20
Leaves	20
Difficulty	20
Condition	20
TOTAL =	100

PONDS

Fish & Other Animals	20
Plants	20
Design	20
Effect	20
Originality	20
TOTAL =	100

SECTION THIRTEEN

POINTING PRESENTATION GENERAL GUIDANCE

INTRODUCTION

There has been a considerable update to the 1981 (Animal Act) Legislation regarding the keeping and exhibiting of animals. It is the duty of the Federation Judges & Standards Committee to ensure the exhibits are exhibited in such a way that Societies running both table and open shows do not contravene the new rules and regulations.

Whilst DEFRA is the governing body concerned with the new legislation the government has passed over to the RSPCA the policing of this new legislation. We have come to the conclusion that the RSPCA have the attitude that in general, animals should not be kept in captivity. To ensure that we do not fall foul of the new regulations we must show that we give our animals the best conditions at all times including exhibiting them. Therefore we make the presentation of exhibits on the show bench a pointed issue.

The issue then becomes from which sections of the 100 points divided into five twenties are we to take the points for presentation, and then how many points? Body, Finnage, Colour and Condition and Department are primary features in a fish on show whereas Size is not necessarily so.

The pointing of size when assessing live exhibits has long been one of contention. Some grow larger in captivity whilst others will never reach the size that is listed in nature. In reality the issue should be. Is the exhibit mature? Take ourselves for instance, some of us are 6 foot in height, say that is worth 18 Points whilst others are 5' 6" and are awarded 15 points and will never improve on this. However there should be recognition for those that grow their fish on to the best size possible.

The Judges & Standards Committee decided to 10 points away from size and make these available to presentation. With Goldfish the feature Characteristics has been reduced to 10, the Characteristics should have come into consideration when assessing the other four features. From Koi it is Pattern now 10. Breeders size for age 10, and Pairs Size & Matching 10.

Reducing these features to 10 has enabled the J&S to introduce the feature Presentation. The reason being to ensure that fish and other exhibits presented on the show bench are exhibited in the best possible way and to prevent any visitor from complaining that exhibits are being shown in poor conditions. The features to be considered in Presentation are set out on the following page. They are not set in stone, the J&S welcomes thoughts on other features that may be considered.

PRESENTATION 10 POINTS

- In which is considered the overall presentation of the exhibit including the show tank.
- Is the show tank large enough to allow the exhibit to display to it's full advantage?
- Is the tank filled with sufficient water for you to view the exhibit with ease? Some Livebearers and Killiefish for example will keep to the top of the container. If it is over filled you may not be able to completely view the exhibit. The same applies if the show tank is framed and it is filled to the top it also may not be possible to view the exhibit.
- Is the water clear and free from suspended matter or discoloured? Is there any detritus on the bottom of the show tank? With some Toothcarps and Catfish a very slight tan acidic tint may be acceptable.
- Are all the sides of the show tank clear, unmarked and free from scratches, distortion and or discolouration.
- Has the tank been wiped over with a cloth after benching to remove any water stains, finger marks etc?
- Is there a clear removable top cover to the show tank?
- Has the sealant been overdone is it discoloured or stained?
- If the tank has a black base fitted internally is it fully adhered and has no bulges, bumps, or is coming unstuck and lifting?
- If black tape or black plastic edging is fitted to the corners of the tank (this is to be encouraged) is it fully adhered with no creases and the correct width?
- Have all previous class and award labels been removed? Is the new class label fixed to the right hand corner of the show tank?
- If the show tank has a filter section have steps been taken to prevent water splashing outside the tank?
- Is the show tank showing any signs of leaking?
- Finally new show tanks are not to gain points and be favoured over older show tanks, providing they are in good condition and fulfil the requirements to be considered as set out above.

There may be other features that you feel should be considered when assessing presentation. If you have such a feature in mind, please submit it in writing to the J&S for consideration.

SECTION FOURTEEN POINTING & GENERAL GUIDANCE

GENERAL FISH POINTING

BODY - 20.

In which is considered the body shape of the fish. That the body is the correct shape for the species, that it has clean smooth flowing lines, if a fish is subject to a standard ensure that the body shape conforms to that standard. That the scales or scutes are uniform. That the lateral line is well defined where appropriate. That the eyes have a full iris.

COLOUR - 20.

In which is considered the colour of the fish. That the colour is that which is expected of the species. Colour should be clear, well defined and intense. Lighting that improves or enhances the natural colouring will result in the exhibit being disqualified.

FINNAGE - 20.

In which is considered the finnage of the fish. That all fins are present and in balance with each other. That the shape and size are in keeping with the species, that there is no ray malformation present. If the finnage is subject to a standard ensure that it conforms to that standard. Some fish are notorious fin nippers; damage of this type must be assessed under 'Condition' not under finnage.

SIZE - 10.

In which is considered the the size of the fish in accordance with that laid down in the FBAS Size Sheets (ensure the current sheet is being consulted). The fish being measured within the container using an official refraction rule, from from the tip of the snout to the caudal peduncle; and the points to be awarded calculated using an official sizing disc or slide rule.

PRESENTATION - 10.

In which is considered the overall presentation of the exhibit including the show container. The features that are to be considered are set out in section 13-2 of the Constitution. Judges will allot points taking the features list into consideration.

CONDITION & DEPARTMENT - 20.

In which is considered both the overall condition of the fish and its general deportment. That it is free from damage, disease and deformities. That the eyes are clear and bright, the finnage held erect, that the fish takes an interest in its surroundings, that it appears fearless and appears well cared for and nourished. That it moves well and displays so that it can be viewed with ease for judging. The known nature of the species or variety will be considered, does it inhabit the surface area or is it a bottom dweller. That a female fish is not in an advanced gravid state or egg bound.

BETTA SPLENDENS POINTING

BODY - 20

In which is considered the body shape of the fish. That the body is the correct shape for the species, that it has clean, smooth and flowing lines. If a fish is subject to a standard, ensure that it conforms to that standard. That the scutes or scales are uniform. That the lateral line is well defined where appropriate. That the eyes have a full iris. **That the fish is of sufficient size and development to be considered adult.**

COLOUR - 20

In which is considered the colour of the fish. That the colour is that which is expected of the species. Colour should be clear, well defined and intense. Lighting which improves or enhances the natural colouring will result in the exhibit being disqualified.

FINNAGE - 20

In which is considered the finnage of the fish. That all the fins are present and in balance with each other. That there is no ray malformation present. If the finnage is subject to a standard, ensure that it conforms to that standard. **Unhealed damage to finnage must be assessed under condition, not finnage**

CONDITION AND DEPARTMENT - 20

In which is considered both the overall condition of the fish and it's general deportment. That it is free from damage, disease, and deformities. That the eyes are clear and bright, the finnage is held erect and that the fish takes an interest in it's surroundings. That it appears fearless, well cared for and well nourished. That it moves well and displays so that it can be viewed with ease for judging. The known nature of the species or variety will be considered does it inhabit the surface area or is it a bottom dweller. That a female fish is not in an advanced gravid state or egg bound.

PATTERN - 10

In which is considered the pattern of the colour on the fish. Those patterns most attractive and pleasing to the eye are to take considerable preference of other patterns. The criterion is balance, patterns not in balance no matter how colourful, should achieve a lower mark. The colour pattern must be sharp and well defined. Self-coloured fish or fish of a single colour will not be considered any differently to fish with a combination of colours. Pattern points for self-coloured fish will be allocated to the degree of total and even coverage of the colour throughout the fish, including.

PRESENTATION - 10

In which is considered the overall presentation of the exhibit including the show container. The features that are to be considered are set out in Section 13-2 of the Constitution. Judges will allot points taking the features list into consideration.

GOLDFISH POINTING

BODY - 20.

In which is considered the body shape of the fish in relationship to that required by the standard. The length/depth ratio, ensuring that the fish is neither short or long bodied and out of proportion. Care is taken that the dorsal, ventral and lateral contours have smooth and flowing lines. The eyes should be clear and in metallic and nacreous fish have complete irises. The size of the fish will be considered in as much as the fish is mature; care will be taken not to over-point small and immature or large misshapen fish. Allowance will be made for the difference in the body shape of the sexes.

FINNAGE - 20.

In which is considered the shape and size of the finnage to that required by the standard. Consider the texture of all the fins that they are free from ray malformation and are not of an abnormal shape. Consider the fins in their relationship to the fish and to each other.

COLOUR - 20.

In which is considered the intensity of the colour or colours present on the fish, consider whether the colour fulfils the requirements of the variety exhibited. Ensure the colour extends well into the finnage. The colour should be clear, crisp and well defined, colours that merge one into another must do so in a pleasing manner. Self coloured fish must be the same colour throughout including the finnage and belly. Uncoloured (bronze) metallic fish will be awarded no points for colour.

CHARACTERISTICS - 10.

In which is considered the characteristics, i.e. the special features that are particular to the variety exhibited and as set out in the Standard. When assessing this feature an overall view of the fish must be taken. With mixed variety classes an intimate knowledge of the many Goldfish varieties is essential in assessing the comparative characteristics of a Veiltail against those of a Bubble-Eye. Care must be exercised that Common Goldfish; because their characteristics are nearer to the natural goldfish, do not gain an unfair advantage over other varieties whose characteristics are more advanced.

PRESENTATION - 10.

The matters that are to be considered regarding Presentation are listed in section 13-2 of the Constitution.

CONDITION & DEPARTMENT - 20.

In which is considered 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 and that it departs in such a way that it can be viewed on all sides for judging. That the fins are fully extended and carried with ease, and that fish looks alert. Care must be taken that any faults penalised in other sections are not further penalised under condition.

KOI POINTING

BODY - 20.

In which is considered the body shape of the fish, the length/depth ratio, ensuring that the fish is neither short or long bodied and out of proportion. Care is taken that the dorsal, ventral and lateral contours have smooth and flowing lines. The eyes should be clear and in metallic and nacreous fish have complete irises. The mouth to be well shaped and have four barbels, two on each side of the mouth and extending from the corners of the upper lip. The front barbels to be equal in length, thick and fleshy, the rear barbels are smaller than the front but should be quite distinct and match each other. The size of the fish will be considered; care will be taken not to over-point small and immature or large misshapen fish. Allowance will be made for the difference in the body shape of the sexes.

FINNAGE -20.

In which is considered the size, shape and texture of all the fins that they are free from ray malformation and are not of an abnormal shape. Consider the fins in their relationship to the fish and to each other, also to that which is required by the standard guide.

COLOUR - 20.

In which is considered the intensity of the colour or colours present on the fish, consider whether the colour fulfils the requirements of the variety exhibited. The margins of the colours should be clear, crisp and well defined, colours that merge one into another are a bad fault

PATTERN - 10.

In which is considered the pattern of the colour on the fish. Those patterns conforming to known and recognised combinations are to take considerable preference over all other patterns the criteria are balance; patterns not in balance, no matter how colourful, should be discounted. The colour pattern must be sharp and well defined, it is most important to appreciate that the pattern should be viewed from above, as they have been bred onto the fish this in mind. Self coloured fish will not be considered inferior to fish with a combination of colours; pattern points in these circumstances will be allocated to the degree of total and even coverage of the self colour throughout the fish. With mirror scaled fish the rows of scales may appear along the upper contour, along the lateral line or both. Complete even rows of mirror scales are to be preferred to random scaling.

PRESENTATION -10.

In which is considered the overall presentation of the exhibit including the show container. The features that are to be considered are set out in section 13-2 of the Constitution. Judges will allot points taking the features list into consideration.

CONDITION & DEPORTMENT - 20.

In which is considered 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 and that it deports in such a way that it can be viewed on all sides for judging. That the fins are fully extended and carried with ease, and that fish looks alert. Care must be taken that any faults penalised in other sections are not further penalised under condition.

GUPPY POINTING

As with class I we are dealing with a cultivated class. Some guppies, particularly a male with short bodied finnage, gains extra points due to its size. These fish are often commercial and not bred within the hobby. The suggestion is to give points for characteristics rather than size.

BODY - 20.

In which is considered the body shape of the fish. That the body is the correct shape for the species, that it has clean smooth flowing lines, if a fish is subject to a standard ensure that the body shape conforms to that standard. That the scales or scutes are uniform. That the lateral line is well defined where appropriate. That the eyes have a full iris.

COLOUR - 20.

In which is considered the colour of the fish. That the colour is that which is expected of the species. Colour should be clear, well defined and intense. Lighting that improves or enhances the natural colouring will result in the exhibit being disqualified.

FINNAGE - 20.

In which is considered the finnage of the fish. That all fins are present and in balance with each other. That the shape and size are in keeping with the species, that there is no ray malformation present. If the finnage is subject to a standard ensure that it conforms to that standard. Some fish are notorious fin nippers; damage of this type must be assessed under 'Condition' not under finnage.

CHARACTERISTICS - 10

In which is to be considered the dorsal and caudal fin of the fish. The dorsal and caudal fin should match those shown in the standards pictures for male or female guppies. To gain maximum points for characteristics the caudal and anal fin should be showing the same fullness of shape and spread as in the standard. The fins should also be held erect and allow the fish to move smoothly within the container.

PRESENTATION - 10.

In which is considered the overall presentation of the exhibit including the show container. The features that are to be considered are set out in section 13-2 of the Constitution. Judges will allot points taking the features list into consideration.

CONDITION & DEPARTMENT - 20.

In which is considered both the overall condition of the fish and its general deportment. That it is free from damage, disease and deformities. That the eyes are clear and bright, the finnage held erect, that the fish takes an interest in its surroundings, that it appears fearless and appears well cared for and nourished. That it moves well and displays so that it can be viewed with ease for judging. The known nature of the species or variety will be considered, does it inhabit the surface area or is it a bottom dweller. That a female fish is not in an advanced gravid state or egg bound.

POINTING PAIRS OF FISH & GENERAL GUIDANCE

SIZE & MATCHING - 10.

In which is considered the size & matching of the pair of fish in accordance with that laid down in the FBAS Size Sheets (ensure the current sheet is being consulted). The fishes being measured within the container using an official refraction rule, from from the tip of the snout to the caudal peduncle; and the points to be awarded calculated using an official sizing disc or slide rule. **Note: where there is a difference in size between male and female this should be taken into account when assessing size & matching in pairs classes.**

BODY - 20.

In which is considered the body shape of the fish. That the body is the correct shape for the species, that it has clean smooth flowing lines, if the fish are subject to a standard ensure that the body shape conforms to that standard. That the scales or scutes are uniform. That the lateral line is well defined where appropriate. That the eyes have a full iris. **Note: in many species the female should be heavier and more rounded in the body than the male and this should be taken into account when assessing body in pairs classes.**

COLOUR - 20.

n which is considered the colour of the species being assessed. That the colour is that which is expected of the species. Colour should be clear, well defined and intense. Lighting that improves or enhances the natural colouring will result in the exhibit being disqualified. **Note: many species exhibit a difference in colour between male and female and this should be taken into account when assessing colour in pairs classes.**

FINNAGE - 20.

In which is considered the finnage of the fish. That all fins are present and in balance with each other. That the shape and size are in keeping with the species, that there is no ray malformation present. If the finnage is subject to a standard ensure that it conforms to that standard. Some fish are notorious fin nippers; damage of this type must be assessed under 'Condition' not under finnage. **Note: in some species the male should exhibit longer finnage than the female and this should be taken into account when assessing finnage in pairs classes.**

CONDITION AND DEPARTMENT - 20.

In which is considered both the overall condition of the fish in the exhibit and their general department. That they are free from damage, disease and deformities. That the eyes are clear and bright, the finnage held erect, that the fish take an interest in their surroundings, that they appear fearless and appear well cared for and nourished. That they move well and display so that they can be viewed with ease for judging. The known nature of the species or variety will be considered, does it inhabit the surface area or is it a bottom dweller.

PRESENTATION - 10.

In which is considered the overall presentation of the exhibit including the show container. The features that are to be considered are set out in section 13-2 Constitution. Judges will allot points taking the features list into consideration.

BREEDERS TEAMS POINTING

ACHIEVMENT AND QUALITY - 20.

In which is considered the achievement and overall quality of the exhibit. When assessing achievement one should consider whether the species is easy to breed or more difficult; in other words species which are considered more difficult to breed should be awarded more points for achievement. When assessing quality, one should check to see that the breeders team is well nourished and healthy.

SIZE FOR AGE - 10.

In which is considered the the size of the fish that make up the exhibit in relation to their age (ensure the current FBAS Size Sheet is being consulted). The fish being measured within the container using an official refraction rule, from from the tip of the snout to the caudal peduncle; and the points to be awarded calculated using an official sizing disc or slide rule. **One should take into account when awarding points for this category that some species grow more quickly than others.**

COLOUR - 20.

In which is considered the colour of the fish, for their age. That the colour is that which is expected of the species. Colour should be clear, well defined and as intense possible. If the colour is subject to a standard ensure that it conforms to that standard. Lighting that improves or enhances the natural colouring will result in the exhibit being disqualified.

MATCHING - 20.

In which is considered the matching of the exhibit. When assessing this category the exhibit should, if sexable contain equal numbers of male and female fish which should be the same size unless there is a difference in size between male and female when the species being pointed is adult in which case this can be taken into account. Exhibits that contain unequal numbers of males or females and/or fish of differing sizes will be down pointed.

CONDITION & DEPARTMENT - 20.

In which is considered both the overall condition of the fish in the exhibit and their general department. That they are free from damage, disease and deformities. That the eyes are clear and bright, the finnage held erect, that the fish take an interest in their surroundings, that they appear fearless and appear well cared for and nourished. That they move well and display so that they can be viewed with ease for judging. The known nature of the species or variety will be considered, does it inhabit the surface area or is it a bottom dweller.

PRESENTATION - 10.

In which is considered the overall presentation of the exhibit including the show container. The features that are to be considered are set out on in section 13-2 of the Constitution. Judges will allot points taking the features list into consideration.

FURNISHED AQUARIA POINTING

FISH - 20.

In which is considered the selection, matching in size and natural characteristics. The stage of growth in relation to the species the quality and degree of perfection. Any fault in colour, condition, shape, finnage, and deportment as well as over-crowding will be penalised. The exhibitor exhibiting fully grown fish will gain a point advantage in the event of a tie, but where the the size is disproportionate to the size of the container, a heavy points penalty will be incurred. All exhibits will be seen to contain live fish during Judging or suffer disqualification.

PLANTS - 20.

In which is considered the appropriate relationship in variety, colour, texture and quality, the correctness of planting, the lie of the crowns, stems and leaves; the over-stocking 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 design there may be an absence of plants, in which case the point for plants will be re-allocated; 10 more available for design and 10 more available for technique.

ROCKWORK & GRAVEL - 20.

In which is considered the tone and the texture of the compost or planting medium to the plants, the ease of planting in the medium, its relationship to to any rockwork, cork, tree bark or natural wood, the harmonious relationship of all the materials used in the construction considering their general suitability, tone and texture, that it is felt that the best use has been made of the materials to produce a pleasing lasting effect. Credit being given for their absence if warranted.

DESIGN - 20.

In which is considered the overall design, the general appearance when viewed as a whole. That credit is given for the use of new materials and ideas that are acceptable within the class, including any measure that has been taken to bring about a practical and effective departure from the commonplace.

TECHNIQUE - 20.

In which is considered the technical skill employed by the exhibitor to achieve the finished exhibit. That measures have been taken to ensure an established appearance is achieved, that the water has clarity and that the pleasing qualities of the exhibit will last.

AQUASCAPE POINTING

TERRESTRIAL PLANTS - 20.

Included in terrestrial plants will be any marginal and bog plants. All plants to be correctly planted and penalties will be levied for the indiscriminate use of plants. The lie of the crowns, leaves and stems to be properly positioned. Twigs or leaf sections of branches of shrubs or trees as well as any unestablished cuttings will be severely down pointed. If no terrestrial plants are present due to the design of the Aquascape. The points for this section will be divided 10 to design and 10 to originality.

AQUATIC PLANTS - 20.

Only plants that flourish under true aquatic conditions will shown. Penalties will be levied for the indiscriminate mix of species, the over-crowding of them for any disease or damage to leaves and stems, Snail Spawn Blanket Weed and Algae. Floating plants should be used with discretion so as not to impair the view of the substrate. The total lack of plants will result in no points being allocated to this category.

DESIGN - 20.

In this category the overall pleasing effect is assessed. The use of the rockwork, cork, tree bark and bogwood and their contribution in terms of tone and texture to the overall design should be considered. The general layout of the exhibit and the clarity of the water. Consider the balance of both the terrestrial and aquatic sections of the exhibit and that they are complimentary to each other. Aquascapes that do not have a clearly definable aquatic content will be disqualified. As will any that contain fish.

TECHNIQUE - 20.

Points to be allocated according to the technical skill employed by the exhibitor to achieve the best possible finished exhibit with the materials used. That measures have been taken to ensure an established appearance has been achieved and that the pleasing qualities of the exhibit will last. Points will be deducted if lead weights or other supports are showing as will roots if they should not be on view.

ORIGINALITY - 20.

The use of new materials, water features and ideas that are not commonplace will be rewarded in this section. Features used as part of the exhibit will be assessed and preference given to features made by the exhibitor. Any aids e.g. water pumps, mist generators etc must be contained within the exhibit and hidden from view.

PLANT POINTING

SIZE - 10.

In which is considered that the plant is, or the cuttings are, of a mature size for the species or variety exhibited. Length or height alone will not suffice; the plant must carry number and spread of leaves in keeping with it's size. A medium size plant with many plants attached is not to be considered superior to a fully grown plant with no young plants attached. Cuttings must match and be of good size, their whorls correctly spaced. Floating plants must not be crowded; each seperate plant must be distinguished from those next to it. Immature plants, short, and unmatched cuttings and over-crowded floating plants will suffer penalties.

DIFFICULTY - 20.

In which is considered the merit of the plant(s) or cuttings in relationship asto their difficulty of maintainance and also of that in producing the exhibit. These points are preset for each plant(s) in accordance with the list of plants within the Federation's current Plant Book.

COLOUR - 20.

In which is considered that the plant(s) and cuttings are of a good colour throughout their structure

LEAVES - 20.

In which is considered the formation of the leaf structure. That they lie well and are not malformed. That the whorls of cuttings are full and evenly spaced along their length. Where have terrestrial leaf forms these will not be shown on the submerged plant. The leaves and form of young plants and plantlets attached to the main plant will also be considered in the pointings. Plants bearing flowers or buds which normally are only carried emersed will be severely penalised.

PRESENTATION - 10.

In which is considered the overall presentation of the exhibit including the show container. The features that are to be considered are set out on in section 13-2 of the Constitution. Judges will allot points taking the features list into consideration.

CONDITION - 20.

In which is considered the overall condition of the plant. The plant(s) or cuttings should be well nourished and fully formed; the plants should be presented facing the front for ease of judging. Penalties wil be incurred for disease, damage or blight occurring on either leaf, stem, or root structure, as well as the presence of snails, snail spawn, blanket weed, thread algae or any other aquatic plant or animal.

POND POINTING

FORWARD

The judging of ponds is best undertaken in the late summer months of July or August. Only ponds in the open should be considered for competition, these could be formal or informal. They may be constructed of Concrete, Glass-fibre, Pond Liners, heavy gauge plastic sheeting or any materials considered suitable.

FISH - 20

In which is considered the selection and quality of the fish, and that there appears to be harmonious relationship among them. That slow swimming fancy varieties are not in company with fast swimming fishes. That there is a size range over the fish to include young as well as old specimens, but the pond should not be overstocked. The fish should be well nourished, fearless and free from disease and must be readily seen by the judge. The presence of fry is to be penalised (as breeding should always take place under controlled conditions), as is the presence of uncoloured goldfish.

PLANTS -20

In which is considered the aquatic and marsh plants within the confines of the pond. The pond should be well stocked with varying species and/or varieties of plants showing good but not rampant growth. Water lilies should be of a type suited to the depth of the pond and bear flowers, all lily leaves must lay flat on the surface. Marsh plants should be well placed around and within the borders of the pond and be of a type suitable for their position, they should also be in flower where applicable. All plants must be free from blight, disease and attack from insects.

DESIGN - 20

In which is considered the sitting of the pond, the relationship to the surrounding buildings, trees and shrubs. The size of the pond in relationship to the size of the garden, the selection and sitting of the adjacent bushes and plants. If a pond is formal the degree of formality, if informal the originality of design.

EFFECT - 20

In which is considered the overall effect of the pond and any complementary feature; a rockery, waterfalls, secondary pools, bridges, fountains and lighting. Indeed any effect must be seen to add a pleasing character to the pond and not overawe. Simplicity of effect is a feature to be recognised and that measures have been taken to ensure an established appearance is achieved.

CLARITY - 20

In which is 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 and cling the glass (a feature so desirable in quality wine). After a vigorous shaking it must smell wholesome with a slight earthy tang, it must not smell unpleasant or foul. A smell of chlorine will be severely penalised

HOME FURNISHED AQUARIA POINTING

INTRODUCTION

When judging Home Furnished Aquaria using the basic five twenty pointing system set out for judging Furnished Aquaria, one must appreciate that many of the features considered with exhibition furnished aquaria have little resemblance to home furnished aquaria. They will not only differ in tank size between one set up and another but also often have a variety of community fish, variation in lighting, added filtration and many other aspects. Therefore the features considered in home furnished aquaria have to be adapted bearing this in mind.

FISH - 20

All the fish must be free from disease and damage, be well nourished and active, fish not fulfilling this criteria will be down pointed. Consider the amount of fish in the aquaria in relation to the size, overstocking will be down pointed. In a mixed community of fish compatibility has to be considered, large fish or fish with the potential to grow large may be aggressive to smaller fish or possibly kill and/or eat them. Is there harmony between the varying species? Are naturally shoaling fish being kept singly instead of a group; have territorial fishes been allowed enough room to avoid being stressed? Simply are all the fish compatible?

PLANTS - 20

A home furnished aquarium should form some kind of aquascaping. Plants must be seen to be growing in a healthy condition, the colour of the of the foliage must be correct, whether a light or dark shade of green, red or variegated. Dead or decaying leaves should have been removed. One single plant should not dominate the aquaria in that it does, or will overgrow the aquaria. An example of this being a plant that is growing excessively through and out of the waters surface, or spreading across the water surface cutting out light to the other plants. However, just as we expect to see a to see a community of fish it would be expected to see the same in established plants that may have been collected over a period of time whilst maintaining the general look, this point has to be considered when awarding points. One is not necessarily looking for a wide variety of plants but they should be compatible tropical or coldwater depending on the type of aquaria. There must not be any plants that are "bog" or plants that are not recognised as being a fully submerged aquatic species. Artificial plants however natural they look will not be taken into consideration when awarding points for plants. The Judge will not look at artificial plants as a natural attraction and may well use his discretion by down-pointing the display.

ROCKS, WOOD & GRAVEL - 20.

One would expect to see either rock, slate, wood, bark etc as added furnishings. The absence of the foregoing is not to be considered a fault, whereas a mixture of these furnishings may look quite unnatural. It is important that furnishings look compatible and present a pleasing vista. The strata in rocks or the grain in wood should flow from one peice to another to produce the most pleasing effect the same is to be considered with any gravel or sand. Whilst most forms of coloured gravel will be pointed as unnatural, there is always the exception and the judge will give this consideration when pointing. Home Furnished Aquaria often have coloured gravel along with other forms of artificial furnishings; ceramic arches, sections of wall, air operated water weels, divers and alligators etc. Although they may not impress the judge they must not be totally discounted. However a natural look is to be preferred.

DESIGN - 20.

Has thought been put into the design; has the most been made of the furnishings available? There is no substitute for the best in natural qualities and design. Are the positioning of the furnishings compatible with the maintainance and cleaning of the aquarium. The heater, internal filter or external tubes and air lines should not be in view but be hidden behind plants or rocks etc. The aquarium should look a jewel of underwater excellence, a living picture, gaining the highest praises by all who look into the aquarium.

TECHNICAL ABILITY - 20.

The overall presentation home furnished aquaria is important. Is the aquarium installed safely? Is the mounting of the tank strong enough to support its weight? Are the electrics installed to a safe standard? Is a circuit breaker fitted? If not deduct points. Are the lighting tubes or bulbs insulated from water condensation, is the air pump properly mounted or hanging from the tank by its air line or lead? Check the filtration; is the filter mounted correctly? Is the filter medium in good heart? Both internal and external types must be considered. Check both inlet and outlet pipes are fitted correctly and are secure, when external filtration is being used, where any filter tubing is situated below the level of the aquarium it should be fitted with a non-return valve so that the tank cannot be accidently emptied. Is the water level correct to the top of the tank, and most imortantly, "crystal clear." The front glass should be clean, clear and free from distortion. Consider the general tidiness of the aquarium stand or cabinet, often seen with a door (or doors) missing, an aquarium lid that has bowed or is ill fitting and letting out light and condensation.

HOME MARINE FURNISHED AQUARIA POINTING

INTRODUCTION.

When judging Home Furnished Aquaria using the basic five twenty pointing system set out for judging furnished aquaria. One must appreciate that many of the features considered with exhibition furnished aquaria have little resemblance to the Home Furnished Aquaria. They will not only differ in tank size between one set up and another but also often have a variety of community fish, variation in lighting, added filtration and many other aspects. Therefore the features considered in home furnished aquaria have to be adapted bearing this in mind.

FISH - 20.

Furnished Marine Aquaria set up to show fishes of the same species have an advantage over a collection of "mixed species" as they give the most natural look to the judge. However many aspects when pointing this category remain the same: in that all the fish must be free from disease and damage and should look alert, fish must look alert. Consider the amount of fish in the aquaria in relationship to its size. The number of marine fish kept in an aquarium is much less than the number freshwater species that can be kept in a similar sized aquarium, is the tank over stocked. As a rule of thumb it is 25mm of fish per 90 litres in a "fish only" aquarium and 20mm of fish per 90 litres in a "fish plus invertebrate" set up. In a community of fish consider are they compatible. Large fish, or fish with the potential to grow large may be aggressive to smaller fish or possibly kill them. Are the fish deporting well in their environment? Is there harmony between the varying species? Are they all looking happy. Marine species are often best kept as solitary specimens (many often quarrel with their own kind) within a community collection and a lack of shoaling fishes should not be down pointed. Some marine species often lack pelvic fins or swim with fins folded; folded fins need not always be a sign of ill health.

CORALS - 20.

These might be considered the natural replacement for plants. Compatibility is most important as many corals and sea-anemones are not tolerant of any close neighbours and may sting. Soft corals should have any tentacles (polyp heads) expanded, looking for drifting food particles. Some macro algae are permissible with several species of *Caulerpa* being commonly featured. These growths should not dominate the tank, as there is a chance of rapid 'die-back' from time to time. Inclusion of natural filamentous green algae is allowable for the benefit of herbivorous fishes (Surgeons and Tangs) which should be present. A small amount can be controlled by 'clean up' gangs of hermit crabs and snails. Red algae may be present, if in 'large leaf' forms rather than as a thin coating of film growing over everything.

ROCK & GRAVEL - 20.

Depending upon the system installed, the substrate may be fairly deep (where a plenum system is used) or minimal living rock provides part of the biological processing system. A mixture of bare 'ocean rock' acting as foundation stones with living rock placed on top is permitted although a tank completely equipped with living rock is preferable. When using rock, the tank would be expected to have all of the same type set in a natural manner. Any rock showing metallic ores should result in severe down pointing. Living rock is usually covered with a purple coralline algae. The substrate might be deeper (coarser in particle size) in places where burrowing species, such as Yellow-faced Jawfish and /or tunnelling shrimps are kept.

DESIGN - 20.

We have discussed the natural aquaria set up in the above three areas of furnished aquaria and whilst a Judge may be forgiving when judging Home Furnished Aquaria compared to its competitive counterpart on the Show bench, there is no substitute for the best in natural qualities and design. Has the best been made of the materials used, does the layout have harmony, is it pleasing to view. A furnished aquaria must look a jewel of underwater excellence, gaining its owner the highest praises by all who look into the aquarium.

TECHNICAL ABILITY - 20.

Technical ability is more important in the marine aquarium. Because of the importance to maintain water quality at its highest at all times, allowance should be made for the presence of 'hardware' some of which it may not be possible to hide completely, equipment placed in cupboards below the water line is preferable but externally mounted in view protein skimmers should not be down pointed solely for this reason. The heater need not be in view, but hidden behind plants or rocks. See that the water level is correct to the top of the tank and most importantly "crystal clear". The front glass spotless and polished. Look to all these points but also taking into account other factors. Is the aquarium installed safely? Is the mounting of the tank strong enough to support its weight? Are the electrics installed to a safe standard? The air pump isn't hanging from the tank by its cable or air line and if situated below the level of the aquarium is a non-return valve fitted? Check the filtration; is the filter mounted correctly? Both internal and external types must be considered. Check both inlet and outlet pipes are fitted correctly and are secure, when external filtration is being used. Lastly the presentation of our Home Furnished Aquaria is also important when awarding points the general tidiness of both tank, stand or cabinet, often seen with a door (or doors) missing. Is the aquarium lid mishapen or bowed and letting out light. Is there a cover glass fitted. Look for salt 'creep' as it is a major feature of marine fish keeping and some effort should be made to minimise this.

SECTION FIFTEEN

FEDERATION CODES OF PRACTICE

The federation's Codes of Practice (COP) Booklet deals with such issues as the way fish should be transported to and from exhibitions, how excess fish stocks should be offered for sale or auctioned at open shows or society meetings. Together with some advice for all on fish keeping.

The COPS do not replace nor do they circumvent any Show Rules, they are to be used as additions to them as an aid to best practice fish keeping.

A copy of the COPS can be obtained from the Federations Merchandising officer. To find the address see the bottom of this page. More information on the COPS is to be found on the FBAS website www.fbas.co.uk

DEFRA & CITES LISTED FISH.

The department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs. (DEFRA), Have listed foreign fishes that could survive in our native waters. For example North American, European and coldwater Asian and Chinese Fish. As such they require a licence to enable you to keep them and therefore exhibit them. With some a general licence is issued for the complete Genus. Whereas some require a species licence. However some fish are CITES listed and banned from importation as these fish are either thought to be at risk from extinction in nature or pose such a risk to our native fish that they are banned from importation.

A current list of all the fish involved and licences for those not banned can be obtained from: DEFRA, ROOM 316, 17 Smith Square, London. SW1P 3JR.

Having been informed of the requirements above by entering a listed fish in any FBAS Show you are confirming that you possess a valid DEFRA licence for the fishes you exhibit.

**ALL FBAS BOOKS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE
FEDERATION MERCHANDISING OFFICER
WHOSE ADDRESS IS TO BE FOUND ON THE FBAS WEBSITE**

www.fbas.co.uk