

GENERAL RULES

NAME

1. The club shall be called THE POULTRY CLUB. Incorporating the British Bantam Association.

OBJECT

2. The object of the club shall be to promote high standards in the keeping and breeding of purebred poultry.
In furtherance of the above object but not or otherwise the club through its council shall have the following powers:
 - (a) To keep up-to-date the British Book of Poultry Standards and to govern the administration of new breeds to standardisation.
 - (b) To foster international collaboration in the poultry matters, to co-operate with specialist breed clubs, formulate rules for the conduct of shows and provide panels of qualified judges, and a breeder's directory.
 - (c) To promote a public consciousness of the worth of British Pedigree standard Poultry Stock.
 - (d) To encourage, assist and advise domestic poultry keepers.
 - (e) To assist and actively support all kindred poultry organisations.
 - (f) To raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by the way of subscription donation and otherwise provided the club shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its charitable objects;
 - (g) To do all such other lawful things as shall further the above object.

CONSTITUTION

3. The club shall consist of members, junior and pensioner members, family members, life members, honorary life members, overseas members, member-clubs and member organizations, elected subject to any necessary qualifications set in Rule 7 and in the manner specified in Rule 8.

OFFICERS

4. There shall be a President, Chairman, Treasurer, Auditor and General Secretary (appointed). The officers other than the General Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected in accordance with Rule 10 subject to the necessary qualifications contained in Rule 7.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

5.
 - (a) The President shall be an honorary position, elected by members and shall be an ex officio member of the council.
 - (b) The Chairman shall chair all council meetings and general meetings of members.
 - (c) The Vice-Chairman shall have precedence next to the Chairman and shall assist and deputise for him.
 - (d) The Auditor shall be responsible for auditing the club's accounts and prepare the annual statement of accounts and balance sheet to be submitted to the Annual General Meeting.

GOVERNMENT OF THE CLUB

6. Matters of the constitutional importance and of major policy shall be decided by the council or by reference by the council to the membership at large.

QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

7. Before election to membership (except honorary membership) any person, firm, company, club or organisation must have paid the subscription current and appropriate for the time being for the relevant category of membership and must state their full name and address and (where appropriate) place of poultry business in full. An applicant for membership not being a private person shall submit the name of a person to represent the concern for voting purposes. Before election to honorary life membership a person must have performed meritorious service to the Club or the poultry fancy.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS

8. Application for membership, except honorary membership, shall be made on the appropriate form. Election of members, other than honorary members, shall be effected by Council vote.

RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

9. Any member who shall have paid the current subscription appropriate for his category shall be entitled to:
- (a) Attend all general meetings of members with power to speak and vote on matters included on the agenda.
 - (b) Request and receive all the services rendered by the Club for the time being to its members.
 - (c) Compete for cups, trophies and special prizes and awards offered by the Club or its area branches at shows and similar events, which are granted Club support.
 - (d) Receive a free copy of each issue of the Club's yearbook and free copies of the Club's rules and show rules as well as a copy of all the other literature supplied free to its members by the Club from time to time.
 - (e) Accept nomination and election for office in the Club after a minimum of one year's membership.
 - (f) To appeal to the Council.
 - (g) To submit items for inclusion in the agenda of annual general meetings on giving five weeks' notice of such item.

An honorary life member and a life member shall be entitled to every right, privilege and service accorded to annual fee-paying members, including eligibility for election to office. A member-firm, member-company, whose current subscription is duly paid shall be entitled to the rights contained in (b), (c), (d), (f), and (g) in the foregoing part of this rule while in respect of (a) it shall be competent for the member-firm or company to be represented by its chosen representative at all general meetings of members, with full rights as in (a) and (e) in this rule.

An overseas member, member-club or member-organisation shall receive every possible assistance and service of the club on request but shall not have the right to exercise a vote while overseas. When in the United Kingdom such members shall, on notifying the General Secretary of their desire, have the right to exercise full voting power in the manner of home members and to call on the Club for facilitating social and technical contacts. Junior members shall have rights equivalent with (a) to (g) above in this rule.

COUNCIL

10. The council shall be composed of: the President, Chairman and Council members up to a maximum of 24 plus two Scottish members. The President is elected for one year, but is eligible for immediate re-election up to a maximum period of three consecutive years. The chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected by Council members annually at the September meeting. The six Council members are elected annually for a period of four years, six retiring each year, but eligible for immediate re-election. All elections are to be made by postal vote by all Club members wishing to vote. New Council members shall normally be installed at the November Council Meeting. The Council shall have power to co-opt technical advisers, such advisers not to be members of the council and consequently to have no power or part in the ordinary business and administration of the Club. In the event of the death or resignation of a council member, the vacancy so caused shall be filled by the candidate with the next highest number of votes behind those elected at the previous annual election. The Council member thus elected shall continue in office until the completion of the term or the member he has replaced. In the event of two such candidates being of equal votes such situation to be determined by vote of Council.
11. The Council shall normally meet in January, March, May, July, September, and November with the Annual General Meeting being decided on by Council and announced after the September Council meeting. This list of meetings is intended to be provisional, and may be altered, as circumstance demand, by the Council. Council members are requested to attend at least one Council meeting apart from the Annual General Meeting. The Council shall deal with all business relating to the management of the Club.

12. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be four Council members.

GENERAL SECRETARY

13. The General Secretary/Treasurer of the Club shall be appointed as may be necessary, by the Council, which shall also be the authority to terminate his or her employment, subject to an agreement, which shall be arranged between the parties. The General Secretary shall be the Club's chief administrative officer and shall carry out his or her duties in accordance with a schedule now in operation and to be varied as may be desirable or necessary from time to time between the parties. He or she shall be responsible for keeping the accounts of the Club, for banking income or making payments on behalf of the Club and for furnishing financial statements as may be required by the Council.

AREA BRANCHES AND COMMITTEES

14. Where the members of the Club in any one area of the four countries of the United Kingdom so desire, they may inaugurate and maintain an area branch of the Club, which shall exist to stimulate and maintain local interest by any means in conformity with the objects of the Club as laid down in Rule 2.
15. Liaison between the Council of the Club and each Area Branch shall be maintained between the General Secretary of the Club and the area branch secretary.
16. In the event of dissolution of an area branch prior notice of winding up shall be given in writing to the General Secretary before the said winding up actually takes place. Assets and trophies, which are the property of the Club, shall be returned to the General Secretary together with the records and funds in hand, prior to the act of winding up.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

17. The income and property of the Club from whatever source derived shall be applied towards the objects of the Club as set forth in Rule 2.
18. The annual subscription, affiliation and judges' panel fees shall be payable on the 1st October. The current rates shall be reviewed annually by the Council. Any alterations to these rates must be approved by a majority of members at the Annual General Meeting.
19. Grants will be made available to area branches by the Council, which shall take into consideration the special circumstances of the Club's finances and the Branch's work.
20. The Club's year shall begin on 1st October.
21. Three members of the Club shall be appointed trustees of the Club's investments and if through death or for any other cause the number of trustees should become less than three the vacancy shall be filled by further appointment, made by the Council.
22. All monies for investment on the Club's behalf shall, on instruction by the Council, be invested in names of the trustees in trustee securities. The trustees shall sell or otherwise deal with such securities, or any portion of them upon a resolution requiring them to do so being passed at a meeting of the Council by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.
23. The Club may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and been given to the members. Such resolutions may give instructions for the disposal of an assets held by or in the name of the Club provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Club but shall be given or transferred to such charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Club as the Club may determine and if and in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision then to some other charitable purpose.
24. All monies paid to the Club whether by way of subscription from members, or from any other source shall be paid into a bank account or accounts in the name of the Club with a trading bank and all

cheques drawn against the aforesaid banking account of the Club shall be payable on being signed by the Secretary and countersigned by the Club's President for the time being subject to the bank's requirements and conditions.

25. No person, including the Club's officer, shall have authority to or shall pledge the credit of the Club or involve the Club in any debt except by the prior approval by resolution of the Council, or in a case of emergency, with the approval of the President and Chairman of the Council subject to confirmation by resolution of the Council at its first meeting following.

DISCIPLINARY POWERS

- 26 (a) If, in the opinion of the Council, a member shall have acted dishonourably the council shall pass A resolution to that effect and shall have the power to expel him from the Club or to impose such other penalties or inhibitions as it may think fit. Any such member has the right of appeal to the council but notice of appeal must be lodged with the General Secretary within fourteen days of notification of the Council's decision.
- (b) If, in the opinion of the Council any person shall have been guilty of discreditable conduct (or any conduct which is injurious to those interested in poultry) in connection with any matter whatsoever relating to poultry or connected therewith or arising out of a Show under Poultry Club Rules, or shall be in default in regard to any transaction whatsoever arising out of or relating to a Show under Poultry Club Rules, the Council shall pass a resolution to that effect and shall have the power to suspend or inhibit such person for such time as the Council may deem fit from taking part or having connection with any Show held under Poultry Club Rules.
- (c) Any person who shall, to satisfaction of the Council, have been proved to have knowingly employed or been employed in any action under Rule 26 (b) by any person suspended or inhibited under Rule 26 (b) shall be liable to be dealt with under the aforesaid Rule and to be subject to similar penalties.
- (d) The Council may withhold its show rules and awards from any show. Any member of the Club who, after due notice of the fact, exhibits at a show so disqualified, shall cease to be a member of the club unless the council shall decide by resolution to accept the members explanation as satisfactory.
- (e) Any exhibitor found guilty of fraudulent practices may be inhibited from competing at any show held under Poultry Club Rules for such period as the Council may decide, the disqualified exhibitor having first been invited to attend the council meeting when his case will come on for hearing, or to send a written explanation or defence if unable to attend.
- (f) The decision of the Council in relation to any case of disqualification, with names of the persons affected, may be published by the Council in the Club's records, and any person making an entry at a show held under Poultry Club Rules shall be deemed to have consented to such publication. Any exhibitor inhibited for fraudulent practices by the Council shall have his name forwarded to the Area Branch Secretaries and the Secretaries of all show held under Poultry Club Rules with instructions to refuse any entries during his period of inhibition.
- (g) The Council shall have the power to consider any complaint between members.
- (h) The council shall have the power to remove or modify any suspensions, inhibitions, disqualifications or penalties.
- (i) Any inhibition of a member will extend to and embrace any member of any inhibited member's family residing normally under his roof. The inhibition will also apply to associates in exhibition partnership.

GENERAL

27. The General Secretary of the Club shall convene all ordinary and special meetings of the Council and ad hoc sub-committees by giving not less than 7 days notice. He or she shall also convene the annual general meeting and any extraordinary general meetings of members by giving not less than 14 days' notice. He or she shall specify in all cases the time, place and business of the meetings. Except that 20 members of the Club or six members of the Council may request an extraordinary general meeting or special Council meeting respectively, when the General Secretary shall be informed and shall as aforesaid give notice of the time, place and business of the meeting as requested. The business for

which the extraordinary general or special Council meeting is called shall be the only business considered at such meetings.

28. The annual general meeting of members shall be held at such place and time, as the Council shall determine, when the Chairman for the time being shall take the Chair.
29. All subscriptions and affiliation fees shall be due and payable on 1st October. Any member or affiliated society whose subscription is not will be considered no longer a member or affiliated society and to be excluded from the list of members or societies. Any member or affiliated Society joining the Club during July, August or September of any year shall not be liable for a second subscription on 1st October following.
30. For the purpose of these rules any other rules of the Club including standing orders, rules of procedure for meetings, show or panel rules or rules relating to breeds of poultry be read as part of these rules.
31. Every person or firm joining the Club or continuing as a member after the passing of these rules shall be deemed to have waived any rights against the Council or any of the members thereof or against the county or district committees or member thereof, for any damage resulting to him from the operation or enforcement of these rules, notwithstanding that such person or firm may have ceased to be a member before the alleged damage shall have resulted.
32. A notice recording any decision of the Council signed by the General Secretary of the Club for the time being shall be conclusive evidence of the meeting of the Council at which such decision was made having been duly convened and of the decision therein recorded having been made thereat.
33. Alterations to this Constitution shall receive the assent of two-thirds of the members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. A resolution for the alteration of the constitution must be received by the Secretary of the Club at least 21 days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. At least 14 days' notice of such a meeting must be given by the Secretary to the membership and must include notice of the alteration proposed. Provided that no alteration shall be made in clause 2 (objects), clause 23 (dissolution) or this clause, until the approval in writing of the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction shall have been obtained; and no alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Club to cease to be a charity in law.

THE POULTRY CLUB SHOW RULES

AUTHORITY WILL BE GIVEN to all societies, on application, to advertise their shows as 'Under Poultry Club Rules' on the following terms:

1. 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'.
2. On the entry form signed by the exhibitor shall appear the statement, 'I agree to be bound by Poultry Club Rule'.
3. The words 'Under Poultry Club Rules' to appear on covers of Poultry Schedule and Catalogue and at the head of classification in the case of poultry shows.
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Show Authorities are asked to collaborate with THE POULTRY CLUB in these respects and so help maintain dignity and integrity in exhibitors and show.

It is urgently requested that Show Authorities will notify THE POULTRY CLUB of their desire to accept the Club's Show Rules not less than six weeks before the show date.

1. **Accredited Representatives.** With their applications for Poultry Club support show secretaries may nominate a Poultry Club member to act as representative but approval must be given by The Poultry Club or appropriate County Brand before schedules are issued bearing his/her name. The Representative shall co-operate with the Show Manager and Executive in the manner set out in this leaflet or handbook.
 2. **Admission of Public to Show.** This rests with the Show Executive. THE POULTRY CLUB Council, however, favours the admission of the public during judging providing there is no hindrance to the judge.
 3. **Amalgamating Classes.** Classes may be amalgamated but only if notice of such intended amalgamation is given in the schedule.
Note: it is reasonable for a class to stand with 8-10 entries.
 4. **Cancellation of Classes.** Classes may be cancelled at discretion of the Show Executive. It is recommended that six clear days' notice be given to exhibitors. No breed, variety or colour scheduled in cancelled classes may subsequently be transferred to compete under 'Any Other variety' of 'Any Other Colour', but can compete if a class is specially provided as a 'Transfer' class. Show Secretaries are asked to put a note in schedules requesting exhibitors to state whether they agree to birds being so transferred in the event of breed classes being cancelled.
 5. **Affiliated Breed Club Shows.** These must be held under POULTRY CLUB Rules when other sections of the Show are not so held. All affiliated societies organising open shows must hold them under POULTRY CLUB Rules.
 6. **CLASSIFICATION** (a) Hard feather. The following breeds are eligible to compete as Hard Game. (b) Pheasant and jungle Fowl may not be shown in poultry classes. (c) New Breeds or New Varieties. Any specimen of a new breed or new variety must compete in 'Any Other Distinct Variety' class until it is accepted to THE POULTRY CLUB Standards, unless special classes for such new breeds or varieties are provided in a section clearly described as 'For new breeds or varieties not yet standardised'.
- Note:** Blue-tailed Wheaten OEG Bantams must not compete in Wheaten classes, but must be shown in Off-Blue classes; failing provision for which, they must be entered under AOC.
7. **Cockerels and Pullets.** The words 'Cockerel' and 'Pullet', respectively shall mean birds hatched on or after November 1st of the previous year. Where classes for adult birds are so designated Cockerels and Pullets may not compete.
 8. **Cups and Specials.** Except where contrary permission is given in writing. THE POULTRY CLUB cups and special prizes can be won only by birds which are owned by fully paid-up individual members of THE POULTRY CLUB; which are of a breed whose standard of perfection has been approved by the Council; which are awarded money prizes and which are exhibited in classes other than selling classes. No bird taken from a trio is eligible for single bird specials. A trio is classed as one exhibit and must remain intact.
 9. **DISQUALIFICATIONS.** Any exhibitor disqualified at a show for fraudulent practices 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 that may have been awarded to him or her at the Show, in addition to entry fees, and shall be liable to be prohibited temporarily or permanently from exhibiting at any show held under POULTRY CLUB Rules. The recommendation of the County Committee and the decision of the Council in relation to any case of disqualification, may be published for circulation among members.

Judges, at discretion, may 'pass' a bird.

10. **ENTRIES:** Duplication. Duplication of entries is allowed only from open classes into challenge classes. No exhibit may be entered in more than three classes in all. A class or classes for teams of birds nominated by Societies may be staged, such birds being drawn from open or members' classes elsewhere in the Show.
11. **Entries:** Persons Ineligible to make. It shall not be permissible for an exhibitor to exhibit at any show where his or her employer or employee is judging. Any person under disqualification by the Council of THE POULTRY CLUB for fraudulent practices, or under suspension, is ineligible to compete.
12. **Exhibits:** Right to refuse or return. Show Executives are particularly requested to refuse admission to the Show of any birds which in their opinion are suffering from any disease affecting poultry. If, during the duration of the show (or previous to, or after judging) any exhibit is found (or suspected) to be suffering from any disease affecting poultry, the right is reserved to Show Executive to return the exhibit at any time (either after or without corrective treatment) at the exhibitor's expense, in order that the pen occupied may be disinfected.
13. **Entry. Condition of.** Every bird exhibited must be the bona-fide property at time of entry, of the exhibitor in whose name it is entered. If proved to the satisfaction of the Show Executive that the bird is not the exhibitor's property the Show Executive has the same power as if a protest had been made before the close of the Show.
14. **Guaranteed Classes.** Where classes are guaranteed they must stand and full prize money be paid unless a stipulation as to minimum number of entries is clearly stated in the schedule.
15. **Handling Exhibits.** While at a Show, the whole of the exhibits are in the custody to the Show Executive, and must not be touched or handled either by the owner or by an unauthorised persons except with the permission of the Show Executive and in the presence of a Steward.
16. **JUDGES.** Note: Show Authorities are strongly advised to appoint as poultry Judges, in the open section of their Show held under THE POULTRY CLUB Rules, only those who are fully paid-up members of THE POULTRY CLUB and registered on the Panel of the Club's Judges.
 - (a) Under Poultry Club regulations no POULTRY CLUB trophies or POULTRY CLUB special prizes will be offered in any sections of open shows where the judges appointed to officiate are not registered Panel Judges in good standing. (A special rider to the regulation, dealing with the position of affiliated specialist breed club judges, will be found in the general regulations of the Judges' Panel.)
 - (b) Judges officiating at poultry shows held under Poultry Club rules shall not exhibit at that show. The only exception are the National Show and the Scottish National Show when judges may show in 'breed classes' other than those in which they are judging. A 'breed' at these shows includes all varieties/colours of a breed even if represented by separate breed clubs; thus all Wyandottes are a 'breed'. In addition for the purpose of this rule waterfowl, rare breeds and eggs are classed as a 'breed'

A JUDGE MAY not knowingly award any prize or commendation to any bird sold by him within two months of the date of the Show.

ANY PERSON INHIBITED from showing under POULTRY CLUB Rules is debarred from judging during the period of his or her disqualification.

ALL JUDGES MUST report to the secretary of the POULTRY CLUB any person or persons endeavouring to convey to them directly or indirectly, information calculated to influence in any way their decisions.

IT SHALL BE the duty of the Judge to co-operate with the Show Manager and Executive in regard to health and hygiene.

17. **Local Rules.** Local rules can be in addition to THE POLUTRY CLUB Rules, but where they are in contradiction, the Rules of THE POULTRY CLUB shall take precedence.

18. **Loss or Damage.** Neither the executive of the Show, The Poultry Club, its officials, or any person employed or appointed by them or any of them shall be held liable for the loss of or for any damage sustained by any bird while the same is in their possession whether for exhibition, inspection, or for any other purpose whatsoever.
19. **Non-members of THE POULTRY CLUB.** Any exhibitor at a Show not being a member, shall submit to the jurisdiction of THE POULTRY CLUB, and shall be dealt with as if he or she were a member thereof.
20. **Novices.** Eligibility for classes provided specially for novices shall be clearly defined in schedules issued by Show of Breed Club Executives.
21. **Penning and Unpenning Exhibits.** Exhibitors may be permitted to pen or unpen their birds only by permission of the Show Executive.
22. **Prizes or Prize-money.** The basis on which prize-money shall be paid is left to the discretion of the Show Executive; but the said basis must be clearly stated at the head of the poultry classification in the Schedule or the Advertisement so that prospective exhibitors may know exactly what to expect (see also Rule 14).
23. **PROTESTS.** It is open to anyone to lodge a protest to the Show Secretary for practices which are alleged to be contrary to POULTRY CLUB Rules, and it is the duty of THE POULTRY CLUB representative to do so. A deposit of £2 shall be paid with each protest at any time before the close of the Show, the deposit to be forfeited should the protest be considered by the Executive to have been made without reasonable grounds. If the protest is made by THE POULTRY CLUB representative the £2 deposit shall be paid by the County Branch, or by the Council where no County Branch exists.
24. **Removing Birds from Show.** No bird may be removed before the close of the Show without the permission of the Show Executive.
25. **Stewards.** Appointment of Stewards rests with the show executive. (Recommendation: The Council strongly advise that no one should act as Steward for a class or classes in which he or she is exhibiting.)
26. **Distinguishing marks on exhibits.** It is permissible for birds to wear official leg rings or wing bands, so long as they do not indicate in anyway the actual ownership of exhibits, or otherwise identify them with their exhibitors. Judges are, however, instructed to pass or disqualify at their discretion any exhibit concerning which improper attempts at identification have been made – such as the placing of special bedding in pens, or similar methods. (Note: To prevent errors in penning and basketing it is strongly recommended that the Show Executives should issue for all exhibits numbered leg rings corresponding with their pen numbers.)

SELLING AND PRICE LIMIT CLASSES

27. Exhibitors entering birds in selling or price limit classes should (a) send each in a separate container, and (b) price the individual bird to include the cost of container.
Exhibitors not wishing to sell their birds should mark the entry form N.F.S (Not for Sale).
Show secretaries should provide a special column on their entry form headed with the words 'Price including container'.
28. Receptacles for the transport of the live birds to Shows should be of a standard and recognised pattern.

OBSERVATIONS

The Council of THE POULTRY CLUB seeks to improve the Standard Points of our Breeds, and to support well managed Shows. They appeal to Show Executives to adopt progressive Schedules, to prepare 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 Executive or Managers thereof.

THE EXHIBITING OF EGGS

Instructions to Show Executives and Panel Judges issued by THE POULTRY CLUB.

These instructions concern the Staging and Judging of Egg Classes. Standard descriptions and Scale of Points are included in BRITISH POULTRY STANDARDS.

- (a) Show executives should provide uniform plates for each egg exhibit. No containers, the property of individual exhibitors, should be used with or without special packing materials. A little softwood sawdust on the plate helps in arranging the exhibits to the best advantage. Eggs look at their best when not touching.
- (b) The executive should elect for the egg section, a steward whose name should appear in the schedule. This official should receive all the eggs at the show. The egg steward should take care of all boxes for safe return with eggs to the respective exhibitors.
- (c) Where possible eggs should be exhibited out of each of the public.
- (d) At shows where duplication of entries is permitted, this applies only to duplication into Challenge classes.
- (e) Where a schedule provides for three classes of Large Fowl or Bantam Eggs i.e. (a) White; (b) Brown; (c) A.O.C., other colours such as tinted blue, green, cream, etc. must be exhibited in the ANY OTHER COLOUR (A.O.C.) Class. Executives should state Large Fowl or Bantam in the schedule for egg exhibits. Separate classes must be given to waterfowl, turkeys and guinea fowl etc. and for any Breed Club that may be necessary.