

## **Rules For Advancement**

### **Novice, Intermediate and Junior Advancement Rules**

These rules are intended to protect the exhibitor from having to advance before he/she is ready. In addition these rules are to protect those exhibitors not winning top spots in their respective division by forcing the stronger exhibitor to advance. Nothing in these rules may be interpreted as grounds for allowing an exhibitor to drop back to a lower division or as holding an exhibitor back. Once you move up, you cannot drop back. It is up to the Show Secretaries to note the number of Exhibitors that compete, when making out the official ABS Show Reports.

An exhibitor may show in a higher division if he/she so desires, but once having voluntarily entered his/her birds in a higher division, where classes in his proper division are scheduled, he may not revert back to his former status. However, if there is no Intermediate Division scheduled at a show, an Intermediate exhibitor may enter birds in the Champion Division and will not be penalized. He/she may again show in Intermediate at later shows. If no Intermediate Division is scheduled and he/she enters birds in the Champion Division, he/she should mark the entry blank to indicate that he/she is an Intermediate breeder, and thus protect their status as an Intermediate exhibitor. Should the exhibitor place 1<sup>st</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> Best in Show, the win will count toward advancement.

#### **A. To advance from *Intermediate to Champion*:**

1. At anytime an Intermediate Exhibitor may declare him/herself to be a Champion Exhibitor.
2. Any Intermediate Exhibitor who receives three (3) points will be required to advance the following January 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - a. Placing Best in Show through Tenth Best in Show the Intermediate exhibitor will be assessed points.
  - b. These points must have been assessed at a minimum of three (3) shows at which there were at least three (3) Champion exhibitors and twenty five (25) Champion birds entered. At least one point must have been assessed for winning 6<sup>th</sup> Best in Show or higher.
  - c. Each win must be with a different bird bred and banded by the Intermediate exhibitor.
  - d. If an Intermediate enters a purchased or otherwise acquired bird in the Open Division and the bird places in 1<sup>st</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> Best in Show, then this win will result in the exhibitor being assessed a point toward advancement.

#### **B. To advance from *Novice to Intermediate*:**

1. At anytime a Novice Exhibitor may declare him/herself to be an Intermediate Exhibitor.
2. Any Novice Exhibitor who receives three (3) points will be required to advance the following January 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - a) Placing Best in Novice through 3<sup>rd</sup> Best in Novice the Novice exhibitor will be assessed points.
  - b) These points must have been assessed at a minimum of three (3) shows at which there were at least three (3) Novice exhibitors.
  - c) At least one point must have been assessed for winning Best in Novice.
  - d) Each win must be with a different bird bred and banded by the Novice exhibitor.
  - e) If a Novice places a bird on the top bench at a legal show, he/she is assessed a point towards advancement regardless of the number of Novice exhibitors at the show.
  - f) If a Novice enters a purchased or otherwise acquired bird in the Open Division and the bird places in 1<sup>st</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> Best in Show, then this win will result in the exhibitor being assessed a point toward advancement.

#### **C. To advance from *Junior to Novice*:**

1. At anytime a Junior Exhibitor may declare him/herself to be a Novice Exhibitor.
2. Any Junior Exhibitor who receives six (6) points will be required to advance the following January 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - a) Placing Best in Junior through 3<sup>rd</sup> Best in Junior, the Junior exhibitor will be assessed points.

- b) These points must have been assessed at a minimum of six (6) shows at which there were at least three (3) Junior exhibitors.
- c) At least three points must have been assessed for winning Best in Junior.
- d) Each win must be with a different bird bred and banded by the Junior exhibitor.
- e) If a Junior enters a purchased or otherwise acquired bird in the Open Division, and the bird places in 1<sup>st</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> Best in Show, then this win will result in the exhibitor being assessed a point toward advancement.
  - 1) Should a Junior win 1st through 5th in the Novice division, then this win will be assessed a point.

D. Only one win per show will be assessed a point toward advancement for the exhibitor, and all wins must be in Open Competition (Parlor shows, Baby shows, Invitational and/or all types of restricted shows will not be assessed points toward advancement).

E. If two novice or intermediate exhibitors form a partnership, the wins of both partners shall be considered for advancement to the next higher division.

**Note:** the phrase, “in open competition” in the Advancement Rules, means that the awards must be won at shows that are open to any exhibitor, regardless of club affiliations, whose entries meet the requirements set forth in the club’s programs or in their show rules. Awards won at shows not open to all exhibitors have no bearing on the show status of the exhibitor winning such awards.

F. A Champion Exhibitor is one who has won the title of Champion by graduating from the Novice and/or Intermediate Division in accordance with the rules in force at the time of advancement.

G. A Junior Member is an exhibitor or member of ABS between the ages of seven and seventeen, inclusive, paying dues in ABS and being carried on the membership roster as a Junior Member. If a show has a Junior Division scheduled, they are eligible to compete in it. Otherwise they may compete in the Novice Division and advance in accordance with ABS Advancement Rules, regardless of the status of the Junior’s parents or where the birds are housed.