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General Rules & By-Laws

The American Budgerigar Society's Judges' Panel, by the authority of the A.B.S. Board of Directors, is a division of A.B.S. composed of qualified budgerigar judges. By the authority of the A.B.S. Board of Directors this division shall govern and police themselves, promote and protect the A.B.S. and set up rules and regulations pertaining to the qualifying of members of this panel.

Article I. The Executive committee shall consist of five (5) members of the Judges Panel. The chairman will be elected by the membership of the Judges' Panel. The Chairman of the Judges' Panel will appoint his/her secretary and three Executive Committee members for his/her four-year term. No member of the Executive Committee shall be paid for his or her services. With the approval of the Executive Committee, the Chairman may suspend any member of the Executive Committee who does not perform their duties in a timely and professional manner.

Article II. The Judges' Panel Executive Committee shall rule when the panel is not assembled. It shall, by majority vote, pass or reject items of business between annual meetings. All actions of this committee shall be documented in writing and retained by the Secretary of the Panel.

Article III. The Judges' Panel Executive Committee Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the panel, appoint such working committees as are needed from the Judges' Panel, and allocate the work of this panel to the appropriate committees. He will present all recommendations of this panel and/or the Judges' Executive Committee to the A.B.S. Board of Directors, and he will handle all communications from the A.B.S. Board of Directors to this panel. The chair, through written documentation, shall direct his orders through the Secretary, who will sign per his order as chairman.

Article IV. The Judges' Panel Executive Secretary shall be the guardian of the files of this panel and all communications from members of this panel shall be directed to the Secretary, who will pass it through the proper channels. On matters requiring a vote, the Secretary shall count the vote of this panel and advise the chairman of same. The Secretary is responsible for all correspondence between the committees and will keep the chairman informed of the result of same.

Article V. The chairman of the Judges' Panel Executive Committee shall appoint a committee of three (3) to make changes in the Standard of Perfection. This should go to the Judges' Panel for approval and then to the A.B.S. Board for approval.

Article VI. The chairman of the Judges' Panel Executive Committee shall appoint, from members of this panel, a committee of three (3) to be known as the Judges' Panel Qualifying Committee. It will be the duty of this committee to set up the examination for qualifying judges, to give same to all applicants to this panel, revise the examination and recommend appointment of a trainee to the Judges' Panel.

Article VII. The chairman of the Judges' Panel Executive Committee shall appoint from members of the panel a committee of three (3) to be known as the Rules Committee. It shall be the duty of this committee to review and update the rules of this panel from time to time and when warranted, print a revised edition of these general rules and by-laws of the Judges' Panel of the American Budgerigar Society Incorporated.

Article VIII. The chairman of the Judges' Panel Executive Committee shall appoint from the members of the panel a committee of three (3) to be known as the Internal Affairs Committee. It shall be the duty of this committee to review any complaint filed against any member of the panel and make recommendations regarding same to the Judges' Panel Executive Committee. The workings of this committee are of a confidential nature and should be shared on an "as needed" basis.

Article IX. A.B.S. Judges appointed by the Panel Chairman to serve as committee members or committee chair persons may be removed from their appointed positions by the Judges' Panel Chairperson with the approval of the Judges' Panel Executive Committee.

Article X. No member of this panel whether active, inactive, retired, or judge trainee, may be a judge or judge trainee, or officer or board member in any other budgerigar society other than A.B.S. or an affiliate, or the World Budgerigar Organization (WBO) on penalty of immediate dismissal from this panel.

Article XI. No member of this panel will act under any other authority but the

A.B.S. Standard of Perfection (refer to Appendix “E” and “F”) and its rules and regulations pertaining to the exhibition of budgerigars. This rule will apply while judging in the United States. A panel judge officiating in a foreign country, as a guest judge, will be exempt from this rule for that period of time.

Article XII. No member of this panel will officiate at an open exhibition of budgerigars for less than the panel’s minimum fee, plus expenses, at the discretion of the judge.

Article XIII. No member of this panel shall criticize the officiating of another panel member in the show room or in public, but should submit all complaints to the panel in writing and signed by the judge making the complaint. Each member shall conduct him or herself in such a manner as would become an ambassador of the A.B.S. and add to the dignity of the panel.

Article XIV. The Judges’ Panel shall hold a regular annual meeting for the purpose of organization and the transaction of business at each All American Show.

Article XV. The majority vote of the quorum of this panel assembled shall be the law of the panel. The quorum shall be constituted by one third (1/3) of the active members of this panel. If the quorum is not assembled, those present will send their recommendations to the Judges’ Panel Executive Committee and the Secretary of the Judges’ Panel will then send out these recommendations for a postal ballot to all judges of the panel. The majority vote of this postal ballot shall be the law of the panel, subject to approval of the A.B.S. Board of Directors.

Article XVI. New by-laws may be adopted, or these by-laws may be amended or repealed, by the vote, or written consent, of the majority of those members of the Judges’ Panel present or entitled to vote and with the approval of the A.B.S. Board of Directors.

Rules and Regulations Governing the A.B.S. Panel of Judges

In accordance with the A.B.S. policy of keeping the best possible facilities and services available to its affiliated societies and individual members, the following rules have been adopted for governing the A.B.S. Panel of Judges and for training, selection and appointment of new judges.

Failure to comply by the Judges' Panel Rules and Regulations or the A.B.S. Society will result in immediate suspension from this panel until investigation is completed.

I. General Judge Trainee Requirements

A. A judge trainee must be sponsored by an A.B.S. affiliated club. This trainee is to study the approved methods of judging and become completely familiar with the standards set up by A.B.S. and is, in general, to prepare himself/herself for examination and possible appointment to the Panel of Judges. The trainee is encouraged to participate in club activities such as judging parlor or baby shows and in private training sessions conducted with other judges. While it is now mandatory that judge applicants become an ABS Classifier prior to applying, he or she must have also stewarded three (3) times, one time as Head Steward at A.B.S. sanctioned shows. If the trainee needs to relocate out of the area of the sponsoring club he/she should join another A.B.S. affiliated club and may continue the club activities without being sponsored by the new club. At all times he/she must be a member of an A.B.S. affiliated club. There is no limit to the number of trainees a club may sponsor. However, the sponsoring club and the trainee must be from the same district. The trainee is not limited to the sponsoring club to fulfill his/her club activity requirements.

B. Prospective trainees, meeting requirements in Section II, may request a trainee application form from the Judges' Panel Secretary listed in the A.B.S. bulletin. The application shall be completed and returned to the chairman of the qualifying committee, a judge whose name and address will be on the application. Within three (3) weeks the trainee will be informed by the Qualifying Committee Chairman whether his/her application has been approved or disapproved.

Reasons for rejection will be given. After approval, the trainee's name will be published in the A.B.S. Bulletin and he/she may then arrange for the training courses. Upon completion of the courses, the trainee will be invited to take his/her final tests, a practical and written test, at the next All American show.

C. The trainee is encouraged to judge club shows and participate in private training sessions conducted with other judges. He or she must have stewarded three (3) times, one time as Head Steward, at A.B.S. sanctioned shows.

D. The Judge Trainee shall choose three (3) A.B.S. patronage shows as mandatory training programs where he/she will actively participate. The Judge Trainee will need to acquire permission to schedule the training sessions from both the Affiliated Club sponsoring the show and the A.B.S. panel judge who will be judging the show. The Affiliated Club choosing to participate in the training session may list the name of the Judge Trainee and the supervising A.B.S. Panel Judge in their show catalog. All of the decisions shall be made under the supervision of the presiding A.B.S. Panel Judge. The final placement of all birds in these Training Sessions will be made by the A.B.S. Panel Judge.

Training Session # 1 - The Judge Trainee will assess at least one (1) class of normals and one (1) class of opalines.

Training Session # 2 - The Judge Trainee will assess at least one (1) class of cinnamons and one (1) class of red eyes.

Training Session # 3 - In the third training session the Judge Trainee will assess an entire section from any division of the show. The Judge Trainee will select Best, 2nd and 3rd Best in Section as well as Best Hen and Best Young.

The final placement of all birds at a training session remains with the presiding A.B.S. Panel Judge, not the Judge Trainee.

In the event the presiding A.B.S. Panel Judge and the Judge Trainee concur that additional training is needed, an additional training session will be scheduled.

E. A judging test will be given at the next All American by a panel of five (5) A.B.S. Judges composed of one (1) judge from the Qualifying Committee, three (3) judges drawn by lot, and one (1) judge proposed by the trainee.

The judge's test will be given by five judges unless there are eight or less judges present. In that case we will use any three judges present. Nothing less than Intermediate Division show entered birds to be used in the judge's test. With permission of the show manager, all excess people will be removed from the room for the judges testing. A written test will also be given with a passing grade of 70% required. Trainees who fail to qualify may continue to apply for acceptance at the next All American.

F. Initially, the recommendation from the Qualifying committee for acceptance as a trainee for the Judges' Panel shall be given to the Judges' Panel Executive Committee for approval. Later, when a decision has been reached by the Qualifying Committee that the trainee has completed all of his/her training requirements, the trainee shall then be duly notified by the Chairman of the Judges' Panel of acceptance onto the Panel. All pertinent papers shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Judges' Panel Executive Committee for placement in the Judges' Panel permanent files.

G. A Judge Trainee must qualify under General Rule II: Qualifications required of all applicants to the A.B.S. Panel of Judges items "A" through "J", with any amendments to these items, of the General Rules and By-Laws of the Judges' Panel of the American Budgerigar Society, Inc., before making an application as a Judge Trainee of the panel.

H. Training sessions shall be on a one-on-one basis: one (1) judge and one (1) trainee. It is recommended that the trainee work with the judge throughout the whole show.

I. The trainee may not exhibit his/her bred birds and those of his/her family or partner at an A.B.S. show when training, except for the All American.

II. Qualifications Required of Applicants to the A.B.S. Judges' Panel

A. The applicant must have bred and raised budgerigars for exhibition purposes for a minimum period of five (5) years.

B. The applicant must be a champion breeder and must have exhibited his/her birds in the champion division of A.B.S. patronage shows for a minimum period of 36 months prior to filing application as a trainee. The month in which he/she exhibits the first time as a champion counts as the beginning of the 36 month period. In addition to this, he/she must have placed, as a champion, two birds within the top 3 best in show (BIS), and one bird within the top 10 BIS, with three (3) different birds (bred by the trainee), at three (3) different shows with three (3) different ABS Panel Judges during the five (5) calendar years immediately prior to application to the panel. A maximum of two (2) wins per year may count. In order for these wins to count for the trainee, there must be a minimum of 100 budgies entered in each of these shows.

There must also be a minimum of three (3) champion exhibitors that exhibit at least a total of twenty five (25) birds.

Other wins that can be substituted for this trainee requirement are: 4th Best in Show in a 400 or more budgie show, 5th Best in show in a 500 or more budgie show, 6th Best in Show in a 600 or more budgie show, 7th Best in Show etc.

Birds listed for meeting this requirement shall carry different leg bands and shall have won under three or more A.B.S. Panel Judges.

One Exemption will be allowed, per Qualifying Committee approval.

C. The applicant must have a complete knowledge of show points and standards approved by the A.B.S. and will be required to show his/her proficiency in a written test.

D. The applicant must have been a member in good standing of the A.B.S. for a minimum period of five (5) consecutive years prior to filing his/her application for Judge Trainee.

E. The applicant must secure the endorsement of three (3) A.B.S. Panel Judges and the endorsement of the District Director in his/her district.

F. If accepted as a trainee and appointed to the panel, the applicant must agree to abide by all the rules and regulations now in existence and which may from time to time be issued by the A.B.S. or the Judges' Panel itself, which are applicable to the panel judges. Failure to abide by such rules and regulations shall be sufficient basis for removal from the panel or termination of his/her Judge Trainee status.

G. The applicant will be required to pay a fee of \$50.00 at the time of filing his/her application. If the applicant fails to qualify or pass the examination, the fee of \$50.00 will be retained by A.B.S. A judge's pin will be issued to all new judges at the All American by the Chairman of the Judges' Panel with the announcement of the new panel judge. The Secretary of the Judges' Panel will issue the judge's membership card and certificate. The initial pin will be provided free of cost.

H. No person shall be admitted to the A.B.S. Judges' Panel as a panel judge before they have reached their 25th birthday.

I. Dual members/partners who share the same band number, who are applying to become a judge trainee will be required to each have three (3) wins for the purpose of qualification in paragraph B above. Any applicant who holds dual membership with an A.B.S. Panel Judge or who is a partner of an A.B.S. Panel Judge shall apply on his/her own winnings.

These winnings must not have been used previously by the dual member / partner for his/her judge's qualification.

J. All applicants will receive a copy of these rules with their application form. They may then either agree to be bound by these rules or they should not apply, provided they are able to meet all other qualifications.

K. It is a prerequisite that a judge applicant must pass the test to become a classifier prior to becoming a judge. This requirement shall not be one of the allowed exemptions.

III. Foreign Judge Applicants

A. Definition of a "Foreign Judge" :

A budgerigar judge who resides outside the USA. *No judge shall be deemed a "foreign judge" for purposes of judging an A.B.S. show if that judge is a resident of the United States. (2011)

B. All Rules in Section II. "Qualifications Required of Applicants to the A.B.S. Judge's Panel" shall apply unless overridden by "Foreign Judge Rules".

C. Any foreign judge applying must submit proof of current or past status as a certified judge and submit a copy of rules from their society.

D. Applicant will only need to be a member of ABS in good standing for three (3) years.

E. Once being approved as a Trainee, he/she will not have to take training sessions, number one (1) and number two (2).

F. Any Judge Applicant can only serve on one USA panel.

IV. Rules for A.B.S. Panel Judges

A. Standards of Conduct

1. An A.B.S. Panel Judge shall at all times conduct himself/herself in such a manner that he/she shall not bring discredit upon himself/herself, the A.B.S, his fellow judges nor upon any member of the fancy.
2. It is expected that all courtesy will be extended by the judge to exhibitors, show committee members, show secretaries, and show workers. It is also expected that he/she will reply promptly to any inquiry seeking his or her services or advice.
3. An A.B.S. Panel Judge will not exhibit his/her budgerigars in any show where he/she has been engaged prior to the date of the show. The exception is when a two-day (dual) show is being held. An A.B.S. Judge is allowed to judge the first day of a two-day show and to exhibit birds on the second day of a two-day (dual) show.
4. All panel judges are expected to honor all of their judging commitments. If for some reason beyond their control they are unable to do so, they must immediately notify the club concerned and the A.B.S. Judges' Panel Secretary. Failure to do so may result in suspension or being dismissed from the panel.
5. Judges are required to list any health or other restrictions when responding to bid for a show.

B. Panel Membership Qualifications

1. No A.B.S. Panel Judge whether active, inactive, retired, or judge trainee shall become a judge or apply to become a judge in any other national budgerigar society, nor of any other society or group or affiliate of the same with the exception of the WBO. Failure to comply will result in immediate dismissal from this panel.
2. An A.B.S. Panel Judge must at all times be a member in good standing of an A.B.S. affiliated society.
3. To remain qualified as an active or inactive A.B.S. Panel Judge, all panel members will be required to attend a judge's clinic at least once in every two year period AND attend the annual judges' meeting once in every four year period.
4. To remain qualified as an active or inactive A.B.S. Panel Judge, he/she will be required to certify that all of the following statements are true and correct at the time of paying his/her panel dues and annually thereafter. Failure to comply will result in immediate dismissal from this panel.
 1. I currently own and breed budgerigars.
 2. I have purchased A.B.S. budgerigar leg bands for the coming year and will band exclusively with same.
 3. During the previous year, I exhibited budgerigars bred by me in at least one A.B.S. patronage show sponsored by _____

(Name of Club or Society)

Signed _____
(A.B.S. Panel Judge)

C. Judging Procedures

1. A panel judge shall make every effort to keep informed on all new varieties, changes in the standard or scale of points, and all other information pertaining to the fancy so that he/she may be able to discuss all of these matters with the exhibitors. ABS panel Judges will follow the "Budgerigar Society (BS) 2012 Colour Standards" book for our ABS color standard.
2. No judge shall be compelled to work more than eight (8) hours, or when the light is bad, or to judge more than 350 birds. It is, however, left to the discretion of the individual judge to interpret this ruling. He/she should be governed primarily by the consideration that each entry and each exhibitor is entitled to an equal chance and his / her interpretation of this rule should be based on this.

3. No A.B.S. Panel Judge is to enter the show room where he is officiating until he has been notified that all entries are ready and all cage tags are sealed.
4. A judge's decision, once made, shall stand, and a bird once defeated cannot be placed over a bird which defeated it unless the bird which won is disqualified. Any bird disqualified should keep all awards it has won up to the time of disqualification.
5. When judging in class, section, division and for Best in Show, all panel judges will judge from left to right.
6. Judges are responsible for making sure Show Reports are correct and mailed within 7 days to appropriate ABS Official.
7. A.B.S. Panel Judges are only authorized to sign A.B.S. show reports and A.B.S. certificates. This rule does not apply to A.B.S. Judges that are invited to judge in foreign countries.
8. All judging and placement of birds by members of the A.B.S. Judges' Panel should be done according to the A.B.S. Standard of Perfection. (refer to Appendix "E" and "F").
9. No A.B.S. Panel Judge shall solicit clubs, organizations or breeders for judging assignments.
10. All A.B.S. Panel Judges will avoid using bright colored judging sticks which have a tendency to upset the birds. Natural, wood colored sticks are recommended since they more closely resemble perches.
11. At all A.B.S. sanctioned shows, only ABS Judges (with the exception of Foreign Judges, who may judge with ABS Judges) may be allowed to judge.

D. Reasons for Disqualification

1. Any budgerigar that displays evidence of "doctoring", excluding removal of excess spots should be disqualified by the judge.
2. Budgerigars shown in cages with black or other than white color interiors must be turned back.
3. Any budgerigar that appears to have a stretched or mutilated band will be reported to the show committee for examination and the show committee shall take whatever action is deemed advisable.
4. Any budgerigar showing signs of illness or bleeding shall be reported to the show committee and the show committee shall take whatever action is deemed advisable.
5. Any budgerigar showing signs of scaly face shall be reported to the show committee for removal from the show hall.

E. Panel Regulations

1. The minimum judging fee is \$75.00, plus expenses at the discretion of the judge. It is required that all members of the panel of judges adhere strictly to this minimum fee. If a judge desires to charge more for judging, hotel or transportation expenses, that is the privilege of the judge. Most show committees, however, are guided to a large degree by the amount of the fee you request.
2. Any judge who desires to be inactive must request in writing, to the Executive Committee, stating the reason for requesting inactive status and the approximate length of time. Upon approval of the executive committee, his/her inactive status will be indicated in the bulletin. Inactive status will be in effect for one year. If more time is necessary, inactive status must again be requested from the Executive Committee. If a judge is listed as inactive for longer than two (2) years and has met the three requirements as stated in Section IV.; Rules for A.B.S. Panel Judges, (B) Panel membership Qualifications, paragraph 4, he/she must apply for reinstatement and be given a refresher course by a chosen committee of two (2) or more judges at a regional show. If a judge goes inactive and does not meet our annual requirements, he/she must resign or be removed from the panel. An exception to this rule would apply to any judge who is 75 years or older, and has been a Panel Judge over 30 years. They will be given a Lifetime Active membership on the panel and would remain on Active Status as long as they are able to fulfill all the requirements.
3. A judge forming a partnership for the purpose of raising and exhibiting budgies must show their birds under the name of that partnership and only coded leg bands assigned to the partnership shall be used. Two judges or trainees involved in a partnership may not qualify with the same birds, but must qualify with different birds.
4. The annual dues of \$35.00 for judges includes a listing in the A.B.S. bulletin and is due January 1st of each year. All judges must pay same to remain on the panel. A notice of delinquency will be sent by February 1st to those who have not paid and, if the fee is not paid by March 1st, the names of all those who have not paid the fee will be dropped from the Judges' list in the A.B.S. bulletin.
5. A judges' clinic shall be held at all Regional Shows. All A.B.S. Panel Judges and Trainees attending the show should participate in the Clinic. It shall be the responsibility of the Panel Judge who judges the show to see to it that the clinic

is held and to send a report to the Secretary of the Judge's Panel, listing the names of those present and a brief report on the Clinic.

Additionally, Clinics may be held at all shows where two (2) or more Judges' are present. Judges' Clinic paperwork must be sent to the Judges' Panel Secretary within ten (10) days of the clinic and following receipt of the Clinic report, the Judges' Panel Secretary will forward all clinic reports to all Active Judges.

6. Any retired A.B.S. Panel Judge who wishes to be reinstated to the panel must file an application and deposit of \$35.00 reinstatement fee. He or she must have retired or resigned from the panel in good standing with the panel and with A.B.S. He or she must also follow the same procedures as a new Judge Trainee to be reinstated as a member of the Judges' Panel.
7. A new A.B.S. Panel Judge will not be permitted to give a test in his or her first year of judging.
8. No A.B.S. Panel Judge shall accept a judging assignment within the United States during the same period as the All American (Thursday – Monday).
9. Standing committees of the A.B.S. Judges' Panel shall be:
 - a. Internal Affairs - 3 members
 - b. Qualifying - 3 members
 - c. Rules - 3 members
 - d. Standard of Perfection - 3 members

These committee members shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Judges' Panel with the approval of the members of the Executive Committee or the Judges' Panel as a whole.

10. The members of the Judges' Panel shall exclusively purchase and band with A.B.S. bands except where prohibited by law.
11. Failure to abide by the By-Laws or the Rules and Regulations of the A.B.S. Judges' Panel may be grounds for reprimand, suspension or dismissal from the panel.
 - a. All complaints filed against a Judge must be in writing and signed by the person or persons making the complaints

b. If the complaint concerns actions or decisions made at a show, the complaint must be filed within 10 days of the show with the Secretary of the Judges' Panel.

c. All complaints are to be of a confidential nature and are not to be discussed by any A.B.S. Judge outside of the group considering the case until after all investigations, reviews, and any appeals, and final decision has been completed.

d. All complaints will be sent to the Internal Affairs Committee who will receive, investigate, gather facts and generally consider and review such complaint and make recommendations to the Judges' Panel Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will make the final decision as to the disposition of the complaint.

e. Any Judge who is the subject of a written complaint shall be provided a copy of that complaint within 30 days of the time that the complaint is referred to the Internal Affairs Committee. At the same time, the Internal Affairs Committee shall advise the subject judge in writing of his or her right to respond to the written complaint and to submit such evidence as he or she feels relevant to the issues raised by the complaint. Any response made by the subject judge shall be delivered to the Chairperson of the Internal Affairs Committee within 30 days of the time the subject judge receives the written notice of the complaint.

f. The Judges' Panel Executive Committee shall have the authority to impose discipline which includes a letter of information, require further training, private reprimand, suspension and dismissal from the panel.

The final decision of the Executive Committee shall be reported to the Secretary of the Judges' Panel, the ABS member filing the complaint and the President of A.B.S. Further communication of the final decision shall be authorized by the Judges' Panel Executive Committee.

g. Any person suspended or dismissed from the A.B.S. Judges' Panel shall have the right of appeal to the A.B.S. Executive Committee. This appeal must be initiated within 30 days after receipt of such disciplinary notice from the Judges' Panel Executive committee. If a judge is suspended, the judge should be notified that the suspension period is over as soon as possible and that reinstatement will be based on fulfilling qualifications for reinstatement.

h. Any judge who is a member of both the Judges' Panel Executive Committee and the A.B.S. Executive Committee shall not participate in the decision of the appeal process.

12. The position of “Chairman of the Judges’ Panel” is open to all current members of the A. B. S. Judges’ Panel with one or more years on the Panel. The term of office is to be four years beginning on 1st of April, coinciding with the election year for the term of office for A.B.S. officers. A person shall serve as Chairman of the Judge's panel for a maximum of two terms.

a. Any active judge who wishes to run for the position of Chairman of the A.B.S. Panel of Judges is required to submit, in writing, his/her wishes to be placed on the ballot, at or before the “All American” of the election year, to the Secretary of the Judges’ Panel. The Candidate is required to have five (5) active judges sponsor his/her request. Sponsorship request will be sent to the secretary in writing either by e-mail or mail. A mailed ballot requires a judges' signature. The candidate names will then be announced at the annual meeting.

b. The Secretary of the Judges’ Panel will mail ballots to all active members of the panel by November 30th following the All American at which candidates were announced. The Secretary will compile all ballots returned by December 31st to determine the new Chairman of the Judges’ Panel. Results and ballots will be presented to the President of A.B.S. via the outgoing Chairman of the Judges’ Panel. In the case of a tie, the President of A.B.S. will cast the tie-breaking vote (the A.B.S. President will not vote during the normal voting if a member of the panel).

c. In case a vacancy occurs in the office of Chairman of the Judges’ Panel, a temporary Chairman may be appointed by the Judges’ Executive Committee until the Judges’ Panel may nominate and elect a successor.

13. The items listed in the Appendix A through F have from time to time been approved by the Judges’ Panel and will be a part of the General Rules and By-Laws of the Judges’ Panel. These are the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the A.B.S. Judges’ Panel, with all previous amendments in proper order, as approved by the A.B.S. Board of Directors.

F. Regulations for Becoming a Retired Judge

1. To become a Retired A.B.S. Judge the individual must notify the Secretary of the Judges' Panel that they no longer wish to remain on the Active or Inactive list of A.B.S. Panel Judges.
2. The Retired A.B.S. Judge must continue his or her membership in A.B.S.
3. In order to become a member of the Retired A.B.S. Judges' Group the Individual must have been an Active Judge for a minimum period of five years.
4. Retired A.B.S. Judge shall receive the Judges' Panel quarterly report if he/she indicates such to the Secretary of the Judges' Panel.
5. Retired A.B.S. Judges shall be eligible to attend Judges' Clinics held at Regional shows. They may participate, enter discussions and vote on any item under consideration.
6. Retired A.B.S. Judges shall be eligible to attend the Judges' Panel Annual Meeting. They may participate and enter discussions but may not vote on items under consideration.
7. The annual judges fee shall be waived for members of the Retired A.B.S. Judges' Group if he/she so desires.
8. All past A.B.S. Judges who have given up their Active or Inactive Judges status shall be invited to become a member of the Retired Judges Group provided they can certify to the condition set forth in this Regulation.
9. Any Retired A.B.S. Judge who wishes to be reinstated to the A.B.S. Judges' Panel must file application and deposit \$35.00 reinstatement fee. He or she must have retired in good standing with the Judges' Panel and A.B.S. To be reinstated, he or she must take a practical test at the All American, just as a Judges' Trainee would.
10. A Retired A.B.S. Judge may be allowed to Judge an A.B.S. show and or assist in cases of unforeseen emergencies when no other active judge is available.

Appendix “A”

Judging Procedures for ABS Panel Judges and Affiliated Clubs

All classes must be judged and cage tags marked 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. A judge may mark further if he or she so desires and hold as many as they feel can compete in further competition.

In section, the judge will mark 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, Best Hen and Best Young. Again, he or she may mark further and hold those that they feel may be strong for further competition.

This will be done with all classes and sections in Rare, Junior, Novice, Intermediate and Champion Divisions.

A division shall be judged by a single judge.

In judging the Division finals, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place birds, Best Young and Best Hen in every section, plus, whatever birds the judge has seen fit to hold will now be presented for the judge to start eliminating.

In doing the Division finals, an A.B.S. Judge will mark the cage tags from first through tenth, Best Young and three Best Hens in the Junior Division. In doing the Rare, Novice, Intermediate and Champion Divisions, an A.B.S. Judge will mark the cage tags first through tenth, Best Young and three Best Hens. This does not in any way affect the awards that a club is presenting and it in no way dictates as to what awards must be given. It is merely to have a standard judging procedure for our panel, to let our exhibitors know how and where their birds placed and for our A.B.S. Registry Division.

Before the judge has completed each of the Junior, Novice, Intermediate and Champion Divisions any birds placing in the Rare Division will be compared against its respective divisions. In other words, if the 4th Best Rare was a Novice entry it would be compared against the Novice Division before the cage tags were marked and continued with each division. The only time the “Best Rare” will compete for “Best in Show” is if they are in the top of their respective division, example; Best Novice, Best Intermediate and if the Champion Rare penetrated it’s division, it would depend where it placed!

Eliminate judging the Best Rare Division if it does not meet this criteria.

After the cage tags have been marked first through tenth in the Rare, Junior, Novice, Intermediate and Champion Divisions, the judge shall then compare the

Best Intermediate bird with the tenth best Champion bird to see if it can move into the top ten. Let's assume that this bird moves up to fifth; this means that the tenth Best Champion bird has been eliminated. Then the 2nd Intermediate bird would be brought up to compare against the ninth Best Champion bird; if it cannot move in, the judge would then compare the Best Novice with the same procedure. If there were only two hens in the top ten, the judge would bring up the Best Intermediate, Best Novice, and Best Junior hen to be compared against the 3rd Best Champion hen to select the 3rd Best Hen in Show. The same would apply for Best or 2nd Best hen and Best Young if not already part of the top ten in show. Rare Division, Color Divisions, Open Divisions etc., and any other division that an entry fee has been charged, the bird winning that division is also entitled to be compared against the tenth best bird. If deserving, that bird will move into the top ten. A.B.S. Judges are allowed to judge the Best of Variety as the divisions are being judged throughout the show. This would be left to the judge's discretion, with the exclusion of the Rare Division. Some of your specials may be found in the top ten and be automatic.

After all division winners have been compared to the top bench and either moved into or eliminated, the judge will mark the cage tags first through tenth Best in Show, three Best Hens and Best Young and stamp them as being eligible for A.B.S. Registration. The Best Young Bird in show is eligible for A.B.S. Registration.

The judge will also stamp the Rare Division winners as being eligible for A.B.S. Registration. The judge will review the Variety exhibits and judge for the Best Varieties at the end of the show, with the exclusion of the Rare Division. The judge must obtain a rough draft of the show report the day of the show. One thing we must all remember, if the quality is strong enough at any given show that every one of the top ten Novice and Intermediate birds could be capable of moving into the top ten of a show, we should never take this possibility away from the bird or the owner. Example, with a show that has a high quality Novice and Intermediate entry, the final top ten could look something like this:

Best in Show	Best Intermediate Bird
2nd Best in Show	2nd Best Intermediate Bird
3rd Best in Show	Best Novice Bird
4th Best in Show	Best Champion Bird
5th Best in Show	3rd Best Intermediate Bird
6th Best in Show	4th Best Intermediate Bird
7th Best in Show	5th Best Intermediate Bird
8th Best in Show	2nd Best Novice Bird
9th Best in Show	2nd Best Champion Bird
10th Best in Show	6th Best Intermediate Bird

Just think what you could take away from the birds and exhibitors if the judge marked the Intermediate and Novice division winners only to third place, and it could happen if marked only to fifth place also.

So again, it is very important to have the judge mark Best in Show and divisional awards to tenth place, Best Young and three Best Hens, regardless of what awards are being presented.

Appendix “B” Standard Judging Procedures Do's and Don'ts

The following list of Do's and Don'ts has been established as a guide for A.B.S. Panel Judges in order to attain a degree of uniformity in the method of handling judging assignments. The list will be revised from time to time as the need arises. All judges are encouraged to submit any suggested additions or changes to the Chairman of the Rules Committee of the A.B.S. Judges Panel. All the following were accepted by the Judges Panel at the annual meetings and are inclusive of all changes through September 2014.

Do's

1. Do study the show catalog before the show so that you will know exactly what birds must be held for the various awards and specials.
2. Do get a good night's rest before the show so that you will be at your best.
3. Do dress neatly and in every way conduct yourself as a goodwill ambassador for A.B.S.
4. Do make certain that you have enough light to judge the birds properly.
5. Do be deliberate and calm while placing birds, working neither too fast nor too slow.
6. Do judge from left to right at all times.
7. Do give every bird a good look at eye level before elimination.
8. Do punch or mark every show tag at least once.
9. Do put remarks on show tags, whenever possible, giving reason for elimination.
10. Do make comments to the exhibitors when doing anything unusual or worthy of comment.
11. Do tell the steward the number of birds you want held in each class/section
12. Do answer all exhibitors' questions politely and cheerfully.
13. Do check all birds in every class for mis-classification as to sex or variety.
14. A.B.S. Judges are allowed to judge the Best of Variety as the divisions are being judged throughout the show. This would be left to the judge's discretion, with the exclusion of the Rare Division.

Don'ts

1. Don't enter the show hall until advised that all entries are ready and all cage tags are sealed.
2. Don't be late.
3. Don't judge so fast that the exhibitors feel their birds didn't get a fair shake.
4. Don't discuss your selections with the steward or anyone else until after the judging is completed.
5. Don't handle cages roughly or move the cages by the cage front.
6. Don't smoke while judging.
7. Don't joke or fool around while judging.
8. Don't make uncomplimentary remarks about any bird or exhibitor.
9. Don't criticize the selection of a fellow judge under any circumstances.
10. Don't remove any bird from its show cage. If this should be necessary have the show manager do it.
11. Don't reverse yourself. A judge's decision, once made, shall stand and a bird once defeated cannot be placed over a bird that has defeated it unless the bird that won is disqualified.
12. Don't change ribbons or rosettes. Even if a bird is disqualified, that bird is entitled to keep all awards earned up to the time of disqualification.
13. Don't forget to note on show tags as to the reason for disqualifying any bird. For example: Bird died, bird sick, bird injured, etc.
14. Don't lose track of birds that are being held for special awards.
15. Don't drink alcoholic beverages in excess at any time while on a judging assignment.
16. Don't use bright colored judging sticks which have a tendency to upset the birds. Natural wood colored sticks are recommended since they more closely resemble perches.
17. Don't mention that you recognized any bird while judging or after the show.

Appendix "C"

Procedures for Judges Giving Judges Training Course

1. Go through catalog, classifications, awards, specials, etc., prior to judging. Provide directions on the proper way to handle cages and move birds up on bench. Review Do's and Don'ts. Explain procedure regarding instructions to Steward on holding birds and procedures if a bird is miss-classified and or disqualified.

2. When judging begins, introduce Judge Trainee to the Exhibitors and explain that the Trainee will be with you at the show bench throughout the judging, receiving training. Emphasize that all decisions will be made by the A.B.S. Panel Judge.
3. Instruct Trainee in punching tags, marking tags with comments, and stamping winners for registration with explanation of why or when a judge speaks to the exhibitors.
4. Explain to Trainee throughout the entire judging (classes, sections, divisions, top bench, color varieties and show specials) the proper procedure of judging as well as the reasons for the decisions. Encourage Trainee to ask questions.
5. Advise the Trainee of the Show Reports and Certificates which must be signed.
6. Notify the Chairman of the Qualifying Committee after the course has been given with a brief written commentary on the progress of the trainee. The in-depth instructions given our trainees are an important contribution to maintaining and improving the high standards of our A.B.S. Judges' Panel.

Appendix "D"

A Suggested Guide on How to Conduct a Judges' Clinic

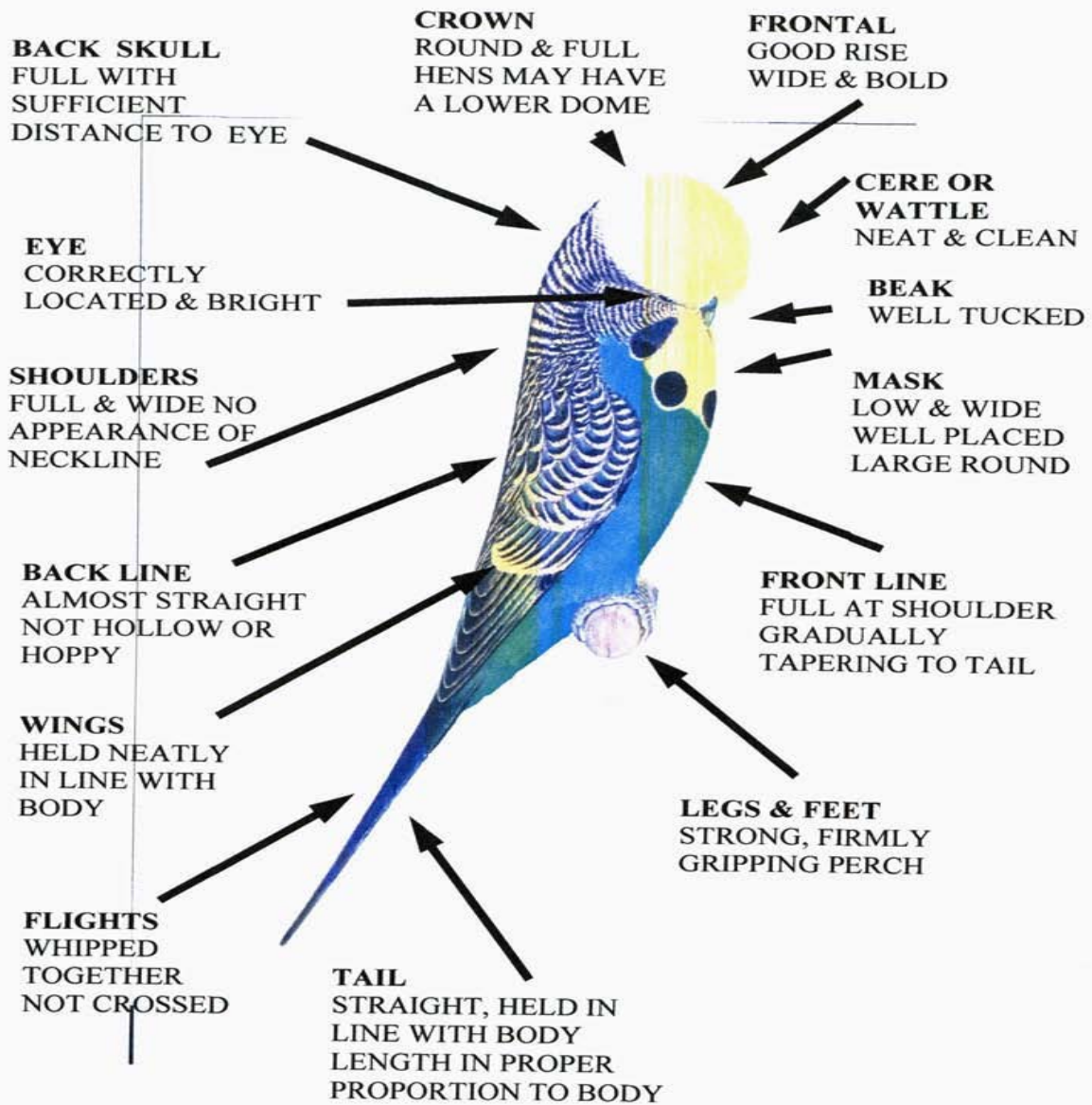
The General Rules and Regulations and By-Laws of the A.B.S. Judges' Panel, rule E-5 requires that a Judges' Clinic be held at all Regional Shows. This same rule states that all Judges attending the show should attend the Judges' Clinic. The Judge(s) retained to judge the Regional Shows are responsible to coordinate, schedule and make all arrangements for the Judges' Clinic with the Show Chairman. This judge is also responsible to make a report on the clinic, in accordance with the above referenced rule. All arrangements regarding the clinic should be made well in advance so as to avoid any last minute problems. One of the main objectives of holding a Judges' Clinic is to study and develop a more uniform perception of the budgies that we judge at all shows. It should be noted that the suggestions herein are closely tied to the study and understanding of the Standard of Perfection.

Judges' Clinic Check List

1. Coordinate and arrange with the show manager the best time and place to hold the Judges' Clinic. Allow at least 30-60 minutes for the clinic. Don't rush just to get through. The best time is usually immediately following the completion of judging.
2. Be sure that all Judges and Judge Trainees in attendance are notified as to the time and place of the Judges' Clinic.
3. Coordinate and arrange with the show manager for the use of some of the birds entered in the show. It might be best not to use any of the Best in Show birds as exhibitors will want to look over the winners.
4. The Judges' Clinic should be held in a semi-formal manner, thus assuring proper decorum. Arrange to have notes taken by one of the judges in attendance, including the names of all those in attendance. A copy of the Judges' Clinic Report is to be sent to the Secretary of the A.B.S. Judges' Panel.
5. At the beginning of the clinic, the presiding judge should emphasize that the purpose of the clinic is to help us all reach a more uniform understanding of the Standard of Perfection and its application in our judging.
6. A brief outline of your subject for the clinic would be helpful.
7. The presiding judge might want to give, or have someone else give, a short 10 - 15 minute program. He might choose to open the clinic with a discussion of some special aspect of judging. He might want to consider only one point or several, such as condition, size and shape of head, wing markings on opalines and cinnamons, improper grooming, visibly marked cages, stretched leg bands, etc.
8. The chair will allow judges to comment on their issues concerning the panel. This clinic is open to all active and retired judges and trainees.
9. Ask for items to improve the A.B.S. Judges' Panel performance.
10. Ask for items to be brought up at the annual meeting of the panel.

11. If you are the sole judge at a regional meeting you should submit comments and/or suggestions to be presented at the annual meeting.

Appendix "E"



Appendix "F"

The American Budgerigar Society Scale of Points				
Variety	Size, Shape, Balance, Deportment & Condition	Size, Shape, of Head Incl. Mask & Spots	Color	Variety Markings
Normal (Light, Dark, Olive, Grey Green)	35	25	15	25
Normal (Skyblue, Cobalt, Mauve, Violet, Grey)	35	25	15	25
Opaline (Light, dark, Olive, Grey Green)	35	25	15	25
Opaline (Skyblue, Cobalt, Mauve, Violet, Grey)	35	25	15	25
Cinnamon (Light, Dark, Olive, Grey Green)	35	25	15	25
Opaline Cinnamon (Light, Dark, Olive, Grey Green)	35	25	15	25
Opaline Cinnamon (Skyblue, Cobalt, Mauve, Violet, Grey)	35	25	15	25
Lutino & Albino	35	25	40*	—
Clearwings (Whitewing & Yellow-wings Light, Dark, Olive & Grey Green)				
Skyblue, Cobalt, Mauve, Violet & Grey)	35	25	15	25
Crested or Tufted (in all shades & all varieties)	35	25	15	25+
Spangles (in all shades & all varieties)	35	25	15	25
Spangles Double Factor	35	25	40*	—
Pied (Dominant) (in all shades & all varieties)	35	25	15	25
Pied (Clearflighted) (in all shades & all varieties)	35	25	15	25
Pied (Recessive) (in all shades & varieties)@	35	25	15	25#
Dark-Eyed (Clear Varieties)	35	25	40*	—
Yellowface (Mutant 1, Mutant 2 and Goldenface all varieties Blue Series)	35	25	15	25
Rainbows (Opaline Whitewing Yellowface & Goldenface)	35	25	15	25
Yellow (Light, Dark, Olive) (including Opaline & Cinnamon)	35	25	40*	—
Yellow & White (Suffused) (in all shades Including Opaline & Cinnamon)	35	25	15	25
Grey Yellow & Grey White (in all shades – Light, Medium & Dark including Opaline & Cinnamon)	35	25	15	25
Greywing (Light, Dark, Olive, Grey Green, Skyblue, Cobalt, Mauve, violet & Grey) (including Opaline Greywing)	35	25	15	25
Lacewings (Yellow & White) (including Opalines)	35	25	15	25
Fallow (Light, Dark, Olive, Grey Green, Skyblue, Cobalt, mauve, Violet & Grey) (including Opaline Fallow)	35	25	15	25
Opaline, Cinnamon & Opaline Cinnamon Clearwings	35	25	15	25
Clearbody Texas & Easley (Yellow & White, suffusion may vary in intensity) (Green, Greygreen, Blue & Grey) (including Opalines)	35	25	15	25

* Points for depth and clarity of color
Points for contrast of color and variegation and % of wing markings
+ Points included for shape and quality of Crest
@ Our standard that calls for up to 6 spots means 0-6 spots and you don't get credit nor are you penalized for it if it has 0-6 spots.

**Team of six birds of any color or team of four of any one color.
Points: General color & variety 50; uniformity 50.**

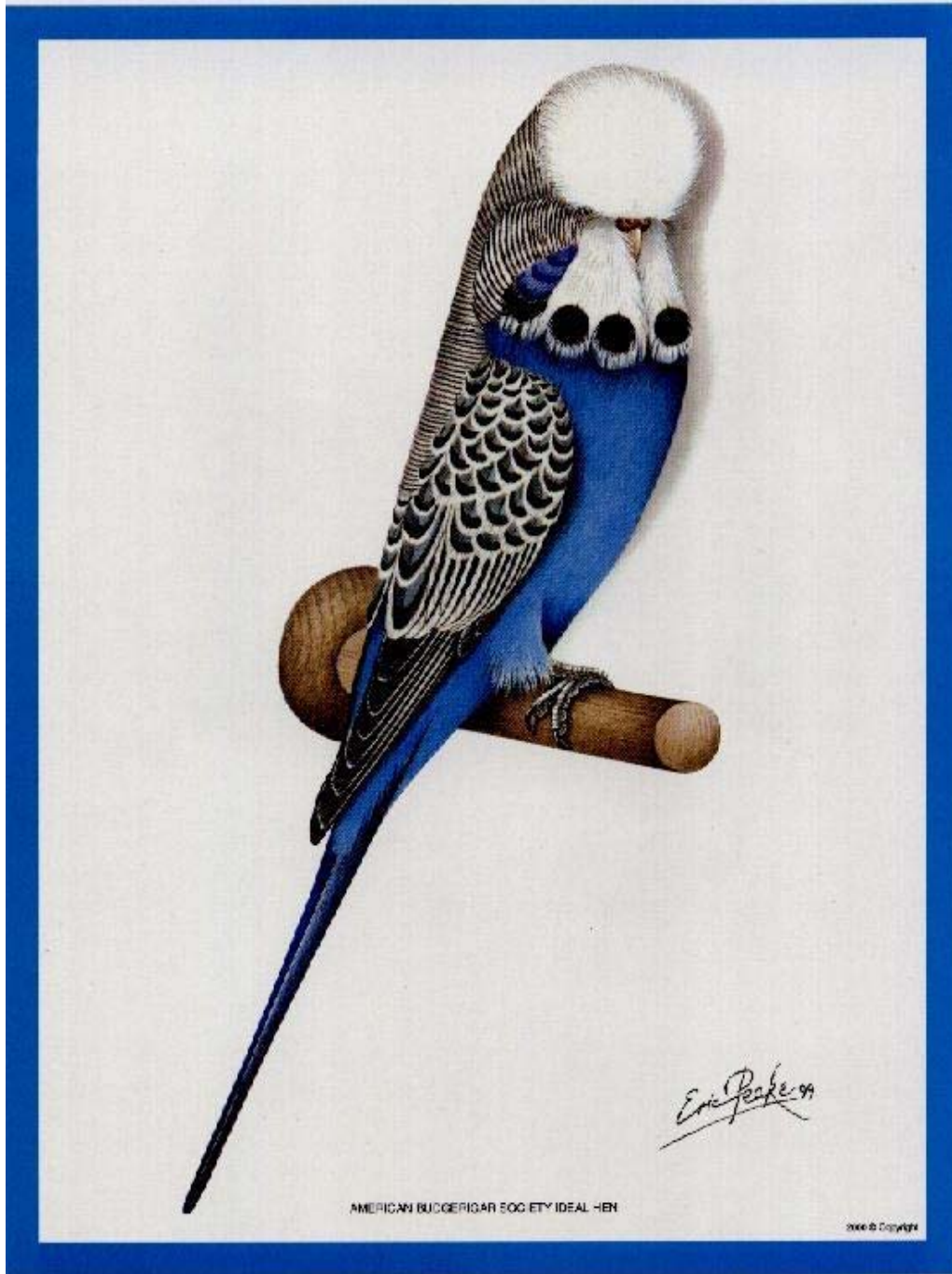
A.B.S. Ideal Cock

8 1/2 inches in length or more



A.B.S Ideal Hen

8 1/2 inches in length or more



**Appendix “G”
Write-In Changes to the Handbook**

<u>PAGE #</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		