



**SHOW RULES**

**OF THE**

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN SHOW**

**POULTRY ORGANISATION**

**(SASPO)**

**November 2024**

# **SOUTHERN AFRICAN SHOW POULTRY ORGANISATION.**

## **SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

### **ARTICLE 1 - SASPO CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW**

1. Annually there shall be a show held that is called the SASPO Championship Show.
  - 1.1 This show shall be held at the venue decided upon by the majority vote at each Annual General Meeting of the Organisation, but can be altered by the SASPO committee when unforeseen circumstances occur.
  - 1.2 The SASPO Championship Show will be under the management of the SASPO Committee, in collaboration with a selected show committee from the local poultry club or clubs.
  - 1.3 The show committee of the club hosting the show shall appoint a show manager to ensure the smooth operation of all activities before and after the show. The name of this person should be mentioned in the letter of invitation to the show.
2. The date of the Championship Show shall be determined by the poultry club or clubs hosting the show and shall be approved and confirmed by the SASPO Committee. The date, when confirmed by the Committee, shall be made known to all affiliations and clubs by the SASPO secretary after the February committee meeting of the year in which the Championship show is to be held.
3. The Championship Show shall be held between the last week of June and first two weeks of July.
4. The closing date for entries at Championship Shows be so arranged that the final closing date would be the scheduled closing date plus 5 days to allow all entries posted anywhere in South Africa on the closing date to reach the Show Secretary in good time.
5. The following minimum conditions upon which a Championship Show is awarded to a club must include assurances in the application submitted to SASPO concerning the following:-
  - 5.1 The provision of sufficient floor-space for the exhibits, judging and viewing at the show.
  - 5.2 Efficient lighting and ventilation.
  - 5.3 Attractive exhibition facilities which will not exceed two-tiers above table height.
  - 5.4 Adequate control regarding administration and maintenance facilities (food, water, security, information and statistic office).
  - 5.5 Biosecurity and security measures must be in place.
6. No other shows held under the jurisdiction of the Organisation within the Republic of South Africa shall use the title "Championship Show". No Grand Champion awards shall be made other than at Championship Shows. Clubs may use the term "Club Champion or Breed Champion" at their shows.
7. At Championship Shows, Gold Medals of the Organisation may be awarded to the best bird in a breed and Silver Medals to the second best bird in a breed (only 1st prize winners). A Silver Medal may be awarded to a second prize entry only if the first prize has been

awarded a Gold Medal. Gold Medals may only be awarded to the best breeding pen and best team of pullets in the respective breeds.

The awarding of any Ribbon may take place providing that such exhibits are considered worthy of such distinction. The Committee is empowered to revise the awarding of any type of medals, to ensure that the high status of these awards is maintained at all times.

8. The classification for the Prize Schedule and the allocation of SASPO prize money for the SASPO Championship Show shall be revised annually by the Committee of the Organisation in collaboration with the club hosting the Show.
9. Newly appointed judges must do at least a three year judging internship at club level before they are eligible for judging at a championship show.
10. Judges who judge at Nationals will be selected by the Executive Committee, and not the show holding club. The appointment of judges to judge those breeds for which a specialist club exist, shall be done in conjunction with the relevant specialist clubs. To prevent favouritism or possible irregularities and a repetition of the same judge judging the same breed at consecutive Championship Shows, as well as their membership status, will be controlled by the Executive Committee. The hosting club must send out invites to confirm acceptance.
11. After confirmation of the judge's list, no changes to the list will be allowed without the knowledge and permission of the Executive Committee of SASPO.
12. The club staging the Championship Show shall control the membership status of exhibitors and the following points shall apply:-
  - 11.1 It is a serious offence to show poultry, or to act as a judge, at the Championship Show or any other SASPO Show if the relevant affiliation fees are not fully paid up. In other words, a judge must be in good standing with his club, SASPO and the Judge's Committee of SASPO in all respects.
  - 11.2 A member need not pay extra membership fees if he is a paid-up member of another club affiliated with SASPO.
  - 11.3 Potential exhibitors who are members of a club not affiliated to SASPO need to pay the full membership fees of the club staging the show as well as the applicable SASPO affiliation fees.
  - 11.4 To enable the secretary of the club staging the Championship Show to verify the membership of exhibitors, a complete membership list of all the clubs shall be provided to him by the SASPO Secretariat. For this purpose, the list must reach the Club Secretary by the closing date of the show entries.
13. The club staging the Championship Show shall control the entries and the following point(s) shall apply:-
  - 12.1 Each exhibitor shall only be allowed to enter 3 birds per breed per class per **variety**.  
Example: only three in a variety (colour), i.e. 3 Australorp pullets black, 3 Australorp pullets blue, 3 Australorp hens black, 3 Australorp hens blue, 3 Silkie cockerels white, 3 Silkie cocks white, etc.
  - 12.2 Ring numbers of all entries must be recorded. Birds with no ring numbers will not be allowed to enter.

- 12.3** Breeds that are on project status for three years will only be permitted to receive BV and RBV. They will not be permitted to compete for BB or RBB.

## **ARTICLE 2 - GENERAL SHOW RULES**

1. Every club shall hold its show according to these Rules. At least two (2) copies of the full set of Show Rules shall be placed in prominent positions by the Club Secretary at every show.
2. No club affiliated with SASPO is allowed to present a show for any other club not affiliated to SASPO.
3. At all SASPO Shows, the show committee of the club presenting the show shall appoint a show manager to ensure the smooth operation of all activities before and after the show.

### **4. Additional Rules**

- 4.1 Every club may set additional rules for the conduct of its show, provided they are not in conflict with the SASPO Show Rules, and such additional rules shall be deemed to be supplementary to the SASPO Show Rules and be binding on exhibitors.
- 4.2 No show held under the Rules of the Organisation shall be allowed to make use of the word "Championship" (except the official Championship Show of the Organisation).
- 4.3 A specialist club shall hold its annual show in conjunction with a regional club or agricultural show, except where the club has declared itself as a show holding club.
- 4.4 Clause 5 of Article 1 is relevant to all poultry shows and no poultry club shall accept entries for classes or individual birds unless proper show space and pens are available for such entries.

### **5. Show Dates**

The Organisation shall fix the dates in consultation with the club secretaries concerned. Every club desiring to hold a show or shows during the year must make an application to the Organisation before 15 January of each year prior to the year in which the shows are to be held. This will enable the Organisation to arrange, as far as possible, that the shows of different clubs do not fall on the same dates. Notice of the allocations will be made to clubs on or before 31 January each year by the SASPO secretary. This will allow enough time to process any possible changes in order to finalise the list at the February Committee meeting.

### **6. Class Descriptions**

Clubs may provide at their shows, classes of the following description –

#### **6.1 Open classes.**

For adult or young birds, i.e. cock, hen, cockerel, pullet. No young bird (cockerels and pullets) will be allowed to be entered in the adult classes. Any bird entered in the wrong class shall be disqualified from participation.

6.2 Such other classes as may be, from time to time, approved by the Organisation.

## 7. Poultry Rings

**A very important point to remember: Rings are only put on show poultry for IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES. That said, it does NOT pertain to QUALITY, nor does it identify the bird as a winner or a champion or a pure breed.**

- 7.1 From 2005 all exhibits shall bear official sealed rings of the Organisation. All ring numbers of exhibits on any SASPO approved show must be recorded and entered on the show entry form, else no show penning list will be issued.
- 7.2 From 2005 no other type of ring or leg band of whatever nature shall be allowed at any type of show (except Agricultural Shows) and any bird wearing such a ring will be disqualified. Toe punching is permitted.
- 7.3 Because of public participation in Agricultural Shows, the bearing of sealed rings is not compulsory at these shows. However, no other removable type of ring, cable tie or leg band of whatever nature shall be allowed and must be removed before birds are penned.
- 7.4 Exhibits bearing rings of organisations recognised by SASPO up until 2004 shall not be discriminated against, provided the ring is sealed.
- 7.5 An imported bird wearing a ring of the country of origin shall not be discriminated against, provided the ring is sealed.
- 7.6 Club members can only order rings through their club's Ringmaster and clubs can only place their orders with the SASPO Ringmaster, provided the club is affiliated with SASPO. Members are not allowed to place ring orders directly with, or alter ring orders from the SASPO Ringmaster or the supplier.
- 7.7 The first ring order of every year shall be issued at the championship show and only to club secretaries or their designates.
- 7.8 Rings shall only be issued by the SASPO Ringmaster to the clubs affiliated to the organisation.
- 7.9 The Ringmaster shall not be allowed to process any late ring orders or ring orders that are not accompanied by proof of payment.
- 7.10 Rings shall only be issued in multiples of 10.
- 7.11 Rings shall only be issued by a club's Ringmaster to members affiliated to the organisation.
- 7.12 The club's Ringmaster shall keep complete records of rings issued to members.
- 7.13 The price, at which rings are issued to clubs, shall be determined annually by the Ringmaster, subject to approval by the SASPO Executive Committee.
- 7.14 The price at which clubs issue rings to their members, shall be determined and approved annually by the SASPO Committee at the SASPO Committee meeting held in February.

- 7.15 There shall be three (3) ring orders annually. Should there be an additional order due to large demand, this order will be subject to approval by the SASPO Chairman and subject to penalties.
- 7.16 Any bird wearing a ring larger than the size specified shall be disqualified from participation.
- 7.17 Judges should first consult with the show committee before disqualifying an exhibit bearing a wrong size ring.
- 7.18 Any change in the ring size of a breed shall be approved by the SASPO Committee and published on the SASPO web site.
- 7.19 Ring sizes applicable to all birds will be updated and/or revised on an annual basis and the details of the sizes will be furnished on the back of the ring order forms. It can also be found on the SASPO web site.
- 7.20 All waterfowl must be rung from 2014 onwards.
- 7.21 A bird rung with a ring of a certain breeding season (year) is allowed to be shown as a young bird till the end of the following calendar year.  
Example: A bird rung with a 2015 ring is allowed to be shown as a young bird from August 2015 till December 2016.
- 7.22 Only rung birds are eligible for the point system.

## 8. Breeding Pens

Breeding pens shall consist of (1) one cock and (2) two hens, or (1) one cockerel and (2) two pullets of the same variety in the case of poultry and, in the case of waterfowl and turkey, one (1) male and one (1) female of the same variety. These birds shall be judged as pens mated for breeding and not according to the merits of the individual birds.

## 9. Team of Pullets

A team of pullets shall consist of four (4) pullets of the same variety and shall be judged as pens of selected breeders and not according to the merits of the individual birds.

## 10. Declaration by each exhibitor.

Every exhibitor at a show shall sign the following declaration, which shall be printed on all entry forms, and no club shall accept any entry form from any person unless the declaration has been duly signed:-

***"By completing and submitting this entry form I hereby declare that, for the purpose of this Show, I agree to be bound by the Rules of the S.A. Show Poultry Organisation and that the above exhibits are my bona fide property."***

## ARTICLE 3 – THE SHOW COMMITTEE

**The following are the duties and powers of the show committee at all SASPO shows:**

- 1. May refuse or return any entry at its discretion with proper reason.

2. Shall cause any bird found to be suffering from disease or to be in an unhealthy condition at the penning stage of the birds, to be examined and removed from the show premises.
3. Shall disinfect all benching material before use with a safe disinfectant.
4. Shall provide a safe and suitable disinfectant for the use by judges and stewards to disinfect their hands after the handling of any bird or diseased bird.
5. Shall cause all eggs laid by exhibits during the show to be immediately removed and the shell punctured (cracked).
6. Shall enquire into any failure to comply with these Rules together with the Organisation's representative (if present) and submit a report to the Organisation.
7. Shall see that the Club Secretary forward the following to the Organisation within seven days after the close of the show:
  - 7.1 The official show report in which is reflected the names of judges who officiated at each breed or class at the show (yellow form).
  - 7.2 A report furnishing details of the show results, such as the breed winners and number of birds entered to be used for updating the points system of the Organisation (blue form).
8. After the show dates have been fixed, the Club Secretary of the each show shall forward copies of the show notification and prize schedule to the Organisation and secretaries of all clubs, as soon as possible. Each SASPO member should, as far as possible, receive a copy of the show notification and prize schedule.
9. Clubs shall provide suitable digital scales for the use by judges. The scales should be calibrated by the SABS or any other accredited organisation and the calibration certificates should accompany the scales.

#### **ARTICLE 4 – JUDGES OFFICIATING AT SASPO SHOWS**

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

1. Judges shall make their awards according to the Southern African Standards. Where no S.A. Standards exist, the Standards of the country of origin apply. In case of any dispute the Organisation will decide which Standards are to be used.
2. The judge should always have a SASPO Book of Standards with him when he judges.
3. No person shall be allowed to judge his own exhibit or those belonging to a near relative or from an establishment under his management or control.
4. No person shall act as a steward to a judge, judging a breed under which this person has entered birds or those belonging to a near relative or from an establishment under his management or control.
5. A Club Secretary or show manager is not allowed to act as a judge at any SASPO show of that club, but may act as a judge at any other SASPO show.

This rule is not applicable to the secretaries of specialist clubs.

6. No person shall judge in any class at a show (except for poultry feeds and appliances) unless his name appears in the Organisation's Annual Judges List as competent to judge such a class.
7. If a Committee has been disappointed in the services of any duly appointed judge, owing to unavoidable circumstances, and time does not permit for reference to the Organisation, such a Committee may appoint a judge or judges qualified to judge the class or classes in question and report the action forthwith to the Organisation.
8. When forced by circumstances, the SASPO executive committee may grant permission to certified judges to judge breeds or classes for which they do not hold a Judge's Certificate.
9. A judge shall disqualify any bird found to be diseased or in an unhealthy condition and will arrange with the SASPO representative for the immediate removal of the bird. If the bird was handled by the judge or steward, they should disinfect their hands with a suitable disinfectant provided by the Show Committee before proceeding to judge or handle any other bird.
10. A judge shall not alter his awards after the award cards have been placed on the pens, except where the consent of the Show Committee and the Organisation's representative has been obtained.
11. Breeds that are on project status for two or three years will only be permitted to receive Reserve Best of Variety and Best of Variety. They will not be permitted to compete for Reserve Best of Breed or Best of Breed.

#### **B. Guidelines for the Panel of Judges for the top categories**

1. A panel of judges will be selected by the executive committee, not the show holding club, to determine the Reserve Best and Best in Breed in the 9 top categories, as well as the Best Bird on Show. The hosting club must send out invites to confirm acceptance.
2. The function of these judges are also to insure that all the birds that have been selected by them, conform to the SASPO Standard of Perfection prior to being judged by the Best on Show Judge.
3. Because of time constraint, a team of stewards could be employed to bring the winning Best of Breed birds to a central point to be examined.

### **ARTICLE 5 – THE SASPO REPRESENTATIVE**

An accredited representative or representatives of the Organisation shall be appointed to act in the interest of SASPO and the exhibitors at every show. Accreditation of the representative entails that the person appointed for this task should at least have passed the examination on Show Rules and By-Laws.

1. The Organisation's representative shall be admitted free entrance to the show. Where possible the representative shall not be an exhibitor.
2. The Organisation's representative, while acting in that capacity, shall wear a distinctive badge and shall have free access to the precincts of the show at all reasonable hours from the time exhibits begin to arrive until their dispatch.

3. If the representative is also an exhibitor, he shall not be allowed to be present during the judging unless such privilege is allowed to other exhibitors.
4. **The duties of the Organisation's representative at all shows shall be:-**
  - 4.1 To see that these Rules are properly observed and to receive complaints in connection therewith.
  - 4.2 To take notice of any rough handling of exhibits by judges, visitors to the show and others, and in the event of such occurrence to take appropriate action.
  - 4.3 To see that exhibits are properly staged, substantially partitioned and penned.
  - 4.4 To see that exhibits are protected from damp and draughts.
  - 4.5 To ensure that food and water are provided for birds as soon as they are penned, up until the end of the show. This rule applies to one-day or more-day shows.
  - 4.6 To ensure that every entry will receive the same type of food and water, up until the end of the show. Only food provided by the Show Committee shall be allowed in the show hall. Feeding and watering of birds is the sole responsibility of the Show Committee and a special person or persons shall be appointed to fulfil this task. No exhibitor shall be allowed to feed his own or any other exhibitor's birds. The SASPO Representative shall notify the Show Committee of any transgressions in this regard.
  - 4.7 To bring under the attention of the Club Secretary any interference by exhibitors, or others, with judges while judging.
  - 4.8 To bring under the attention of the Club Secretary or Show Manager all complaints and/or objections raised by exhibitors and all cases of irregularity or neglect whether specified in these Rules or not.
  - 4.9 To report to the show committee and the Organisation any fraudulent practice or ground for disciplinary action that comes to their attention.
  - 4.10 To see that no food or liquor of whatever nature are brought into a show hall by whoever, during the full duration of the show, including the period of benching and de-benching of birds. In cases where the refreshment area and the show hall are located in the same hall, the refreshment area should be clearly demarcated.
  - 4.11 To remind the Club Secretary of the provision of Article 3 (Clause 7) of the Show Rules and Regulations.
  - 4.12 To prepare and forward to the Organisation as soon as possible after the close of the show, a report thereon in such a format as can be published on the web site and to supply the Club Secretary with a copy thereof.
  - 4.13 To see that Clauses 2 and 6 of Article 6 are strictly adhered to.
  - 4.14 To see that the biosecurity and security measures are in place and are followed at every show.
5. No exhibit is allowed to be removed from its cage after judging, without the Organisation's representative being present, up and until the show has been officially ended.

6. The Organisation's representative shall have the power to disqualify any exhibit which is diseased or in an unhealthy condition prior to judging, and the bird shall be removed from the show hall.
7. The Organisation's representative of a show shall not act as a judge or steward to a judge at that show.

## **ARTICLE 6 – SHOW ADMINISTRATION**

1. Prize cards to indicate the places (such as 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th) shall be issued by the club as well as special award cards such as Breed Champion or Reserve Breed Champion.
2. The display of cards upon pens bearing the exhibitor's name shall not be permitted until all prizes, including special awards, for a particular breed have been awarded. Each pen should be supplied with a prize card and comment card or scale of point card, even in cases where exhibits did not receive any awards.
3. On the date of the show being fixed the Club Secretary shall, as soon as possible, forward copies of the show notification/prize schedule to the Organisation and secretaries of all clubs. Each SASPO member should also receive a copy of the show notification/prize schedule.
4. The Club Secretary shall also forward to the Organisation, immediately after every show, a marked catalogue with summary, containing the awards of the judges, duly certified by him.
5. **Removal of a wrong bird.**
  - 5.1 Any member of a club who may have accidentally taken a wrong bird from any show shall, within twenty four hours of notice thereof, return the bird to its rightful owner or communicate with the secretary of the club from which it was received. Any failure to comply with this Rule shall, unless good reason is given for the delay, render such member liable to serious disciplinary action.
  - 5.2 Any case of a bird being missed during the de-benching of birds at the end of a show period, or after leaving the show hall, should be reported to the particular Club Secretary within 24 (twenty four) hours after the show by the exhibitor. Any knowledge of losses after a period of 24 (twenty four) hours should be deemed the responsibility of the owner of the bird.
6. Clubs shall provide a proper set of scales for the use by the judges. (Also see Clause 9 of Article 3).
7. **Sale of Exhibits at Shows.**

**(These are important guidelines and clubs may apply additional rules in this regard.)**

  - 7.1 A show secretary shall immediately advise the exhibitor concerned of any bird sold at a show.
  - 7.2 In the event of an exhibit being claimed by more than one person, such exhibit shall be sold by auction and any surplus obtained above catalogue price shall be divided equally between the exhibitor and the club.

- 7.3 Purchasers shall provide carriers for birds bought at a show and not the sellers.
- 7.4 The insertion of selling prices in show catalogues shall be an option for the clubs concerned.

#### **ARTICLE 7 - INTERPRETATION OF THE SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS**

In the case of any doubt or dispute, the English version of the Show Rules and Regulations shall be regarded as the official document.

#### **ARTICLE 8 - AMENDMENT OF SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Amendments to the Show Rules and Regulations may be proposed after proper notification to the SASPO Secretary and may be amended by a majority vote at a SASPO Committee Meeting.