
BELGIAN GAME (Bruges Type)

Table of Contents

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS	3
THE MALE	3
THE FEMALE	3
DISQUALIFICATIONS	3
COLOUR	4
THE BLUE	4
THE BLUE LACED	4
THE BLACK-RED	4
MALE	4
FEMALE.....	4
THE BLACK	5
MALE AND FEMALE	5
THE WHITE	5
MALE AND FEMALE	5
THE BLUE-RED	5
MALE AND FEMALE	5
THE BLUE YELLOW BIRCHEN.....	5
MALE AND FEMALE	5
Other recognized varieties are:.....	5
BANTAMS	6





ORIGIN: Belgium
CLASSIFICATION: Heavy breed: Hard feather
EGG COLOUR: Cream

MASSES:
LARGE FOWL

Cock:	5.0 kg
Hen:	4.0 kg
Cockerel:	4.0 kg
Pullet:	3.5 kg

BANTAMS

Male:	1.5 kg maximum
Female:	1.2 kg maximum

For centuries game fowl were bred in the West-Flanders region and the North of France for cock fighting. Only in 1858 the name 'Bruges game' or 'Northern game' were mentioned. The first breed standard dates back to 1908. There are three Belgian game fowl breeds – Bruges, Liege and the Flemish Game.

At the end of the nineteenth century cockers in the Liege Region probably crossed the Liegeois with a Malay or Asian heavy breed to make an even better fighter and thus created the Bruges Blues Game. (Ref CA Finsterbush – "Cock fighting all over the world" page 324). Their colour is Andalusian blue, slate or any other shade of grey. They are preferably bred blue, very heavy and large and though profusely feathered are fairly Oriental in features.

Compared to other game fowl, the hens of the Bruges game are very good layers. They produce about 150 cream-shelled eggs per year. In older hens the eggs may even weigh as much as 70 grams. Brooding occurs rarely. Besides an impressive number of eggs, the Bruges also produces a large quantity of fine and tasty meat. One must remember that some bloodlines still tend to be aggressive so both sexes are best raised separately. Once the order is settled in a group, Bruges game are docile birds which can become very tame if they are paid enough attention to.

Only at the end of the seventies serious attempts were made to breed bantam versions of the large Belgian Game Fowl Breeds. Bantams grow a lot quicker and start laying at much younger age than that of the large fowl. The hens brood very easily and they are good mothers.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

THE MALE

Carriage:	A big, powerful bird showing courage and aggressiveness, with very broad shoulders and a horizontal backline.
Body:	Of medium length, deep and broad, carried horizontally.
Neck:	Long, powerful. Neck hackles well developed but not excessive, just covering the shoulders and top of back.
Back:	Carried horizontal and of medium-length, very broad and flat. Width carried well back to base of tail. Saddle feathers of medium length, and not abundant.
Breast:	Deep and broad with a long straight breastbone extending to behind the line of the legs. Not carried too far forward and should be well fleshed and very muscular.
Wings:	Short, carried horizontal and tight to the body. Wings carried below the horizontal should be penalised by the deduction of points.
Tail:	Of medium size, carried just above the horizontal and medium spread with well-developed sickle feathers with short coverts.
Shoulders:	Very broad.
Belly:	Small and tight.
Head:	Skull: long, strong, broad and flat on top with well-developed overhanging eyebrows. Short skulls should be penalised by the deduction of points. Beak: strong and well curved. Face: smooth, without wrinkles. Comb: pea-comb, narrow at the base. Wattles: the smaller the better. Ear-lobes: small and smooth. Eyes: deep-set, placed high in the skull, with a challenging expression. Note: It was customary to dub Belgian Game males. In hens dubbing was not allowed, although trimming of lobes was permitted.
Legs:	Thighs: set well apart and almost parallel to each other, strong, muscular, of medium length. Legs: strong-boned, thick and of medium length. Spurs: well developed, pointing slightly upwards. Toes: four toes, long, straight, well spreading, the fourth and hind toe straight out and flat on the ground.
Plumage:	Hard, tight, firm and glossy with limited fluff.

THE FEMALE

The general characteristics are similar to those of the male, allowing for natural sexual differences. The growth of spurs is preferable.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Lack in size, width and mass. Breast carried too far forward. Severely crooked breast bone. Comb other than a pea comb. Pearl or yellow-coloured eyes – undertone to dark pigmentation acceptable but to be penalised accordingly. Enamel white in ear-lobes, blush allowed. Any sign of yellow

pigmentation in beak, shanks or skin. Soft, rotten or broken plumage. Cock without spurs or with dud spurs. Too short, weak or thin legs.

COLOUR

In all colours the following apply:

Comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes: Heavily pigmented and reddish purple to almost black in colour.

Eyebrows: Dark reddish brown to black, black preferred.

Eyes: Dark reddish brown to black.

Beak: Dark horn to black.

Legs: Slate-blue to black.

Toenails: Horn to black.

Soles of feet: Flesh white preferred.

Skin: White

THE BLUE

Plumage in both sexes: Hackles, back and tail an even shade of rich blue (pigeon blue is preferred), free from rusty, sandy, black, straw or bronze stains or spots.

Serious defects for which a bird should be disqualified: Entirely other coloured feathers. Entirely deviating colour. Distinctly visible lacing. Hackle feathers too dark.

THE BLUE LACED

Plumage in both sexes: **Head:** Slate blue.

Body: The entire body an even shade of rich, dark bluish slate, each feather distinctly laced with glossy bluish-black.

Under-colour: Slate blue.

Serious defects for which a bird should be disqualified: Entirely or partly white, black or any other coloured feathers. Rusty, sandy or bronze markings. Ground colour too dark. Lacing not well or clearly defined.

THE BLACK-RED

MALE

Plumage: Breast, thighs, belly, tail and closed secondaries black, usually with a purple sheen. Hackle saddle, shoulders and back orange red. No distinct wing bay.

FEMALE

Plumage: The neck hackle of the hen is more reddish in colour than that of the male. The remainder of the plumage black.

Serious defects for which a bird should be disqualified: White in any section. Black stains or spots on the back. Any indication of lacing in the breast and back feathers. Male bird showing any sign of a triangle or wing bay. The female showing any sign of marking or lacing except in the neck hackle.

THE BLACK

MALE AND FEMALE

Plumage: **Body:** Lustrous black throughout with a beetle-green sheen.

Under-colour: Dull black.

Serious defects for which a bird should be disqualified: Lack of gloss. Red in feather. Clear indication of purple sheen. White in under-colour.

THE WHITE

MALE AND FEMALE

Plumage: **Body:** Pure snow-white throughout, free from any yellow or straw tinge or any black splashes

Serious defects for which a bird should be disqualified: Any yellow or straw tinge or any black splashes, ticking or peppering. White or yellow legs.

THE BLUE-RED

MALE AND FEMALE

Plumage: The colour pattern to follow that of the Black-Red with the black being replaced by blue.

Serious defects for which a bird should be disqualified: Any feather entirely white, black or any other coloured feather. Any mismarked feathers in the tail and flight feathers. Rusty, sandy or bronze markings. Ground colour too dark. Male bird showing any sign of a triangle or wing bay. The female showing any sign of marking or lacing except in the neck hackle.

THE BLUE YELLOW BIRCHEN

MALE AND FEMALE

Plumage: Resembles the Blue-Red in his blue markings but due to the silver factor a lighter shade. Neck and saddle hackle a light straw yellow, free from stripes or ticks. Back and shoulders orange coloured. Neck hackle of hen silvery white.

Serious defects for which a bird should be disqualified: The colour of the bird entirely as that of the red-shouldered blue. Any red or dark orange colour in the neck hackle of the male. The female showing any yellow in the neck hackle.

NOTE: In judging Belgian Game special attention should be paid to type, carriage and size which are of more importance than colour and markings.

Other recognized varieties are:

Silver Duckwing, Golden Duckwing, Blue golden Duckwing and Blue Birchen.

BANTAMS

Belgian Game bantams should be miniatures of their large fowl counterparts and the same standard, colours and defects are applicable.

SCALE OF POINTS	
Type and carriage	40
Colour and markings	20
Head points	20
Legs and feet	10
Condition	10
TOTAL	100

