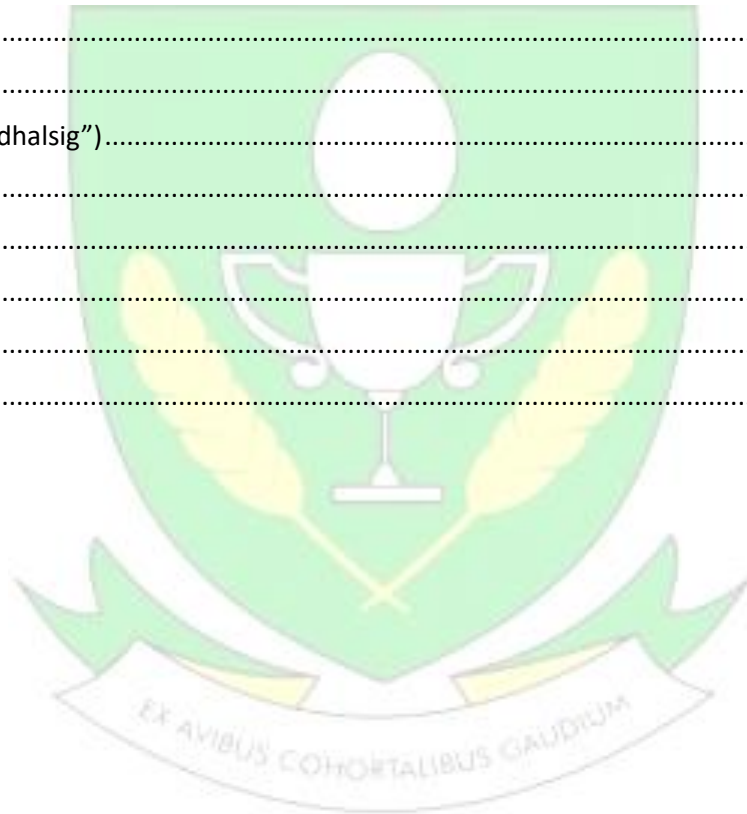

PHOENIX

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ORIGIN: Japanese, Chinese and German
CATEGORY: Light breed; Hard feather (sitters)
EGG COLOUR: Tinted

MASSES:

LARGE

Cock: 2.0 to 2.5 kg

Hen: 1.5 to 2.0 kg

BANTAMS

Cock: 700 g max

Hen: 630 g max

There are two strains of large Phoenix fowl, namely:

- a) The Onagadori, which literary means O = **tail**, naga = **long**, dori = **fowl (longtail fowl)**.
- b) The Phoenix.

The large Onagadori originated more than one thousand years ago and is the product of both Japanese and Chinese breeders. The Japanese Onagadori is a longtail breed which according to Japanese sources was first mentioned in the Heian period (794-1186 AD). The ancestors of the Onagadori are the long tailed Shokoku which originally came from China and the Totenko, another longcrower with long tail feathers. It is believed that the extreme growth of the tail feathers must have been caused by a sudden mutation. The tail feathers of the Onagadori never moult. After fifty years of breeding, Japanese breeders were able to extend the tail length of two meters to an incredible length of over ten meters. In 1923 the Onagadori breed was declared a Natural Monument and in 1959 the name Onagadori was officially changed to Tosa-Onagadori. The Onagadori is protected by very strict laws enforced by the Japanese Governments' Department for Nature Conservation and it is not allowed to be exported from Japan.

The large Phoenix however, is the strain of the large Onagadori seen on the show benches worldwide and is described in this Standard. The first Onagadori fowls were imported into

Germany in 1873. The so-called Phoenix longtail breed was created in Germany in about 1879 by N.D.Wichmann from Hamburg and Hugo du Roi from Braunschweig. They used two purebred longtail Onagadori birds and two hens with walnut combs which were all acquired by Mr.Wichmann in 1878 at a poultry exhibition in the city of Osaka. After crossing these birds with two Old English Game hens they managed to create the breed we know today as Phoenix. The first Bantam Phoenix was created in Germany onwards 1880 and the first birds were already exhibited on the 1898 German national

poultry exhibition. Later some specimens arrived in England where they incorrectly received the name of Yokohama. The Yokohama is only related to the Phoenix in as far as it also belongs to the so-called longtail class of poultry.

The difference with the Onagadori is that the feathers of the Phoenix moult every three years.

The tail of the Phoenix reaches lengths of between 1.5 and two meters in older cocks. It is believed that there is a direct connection between the tail growth and the sexual hormones. In order to obtain the maximum length of tail, cocks should be confined in rather small cages and should never be exposed to hens.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

THE MALE

- Carriage:** Stylish and pheasant-like.
- Body:** Long flowing pheasant-like body which should give ample evidence to the name Phoenix (Phoenix – rising from the ashes and reaching towards the rising morning sun). The tail, which should be as long as possible (both main and side sickles) should form an integral part of the long flowing lines from head to tail and should not be carried either higher or lower than the rest of the body. The saddle feathers should form a unity with the rest of the carriage and in older cocks they should also reach to the ground.
- Head:** Small and rather long. Beak: strong and curved. Eyes: bright red and very full of life. Comb: single, upright and finely serrated. A drooping comb is very objectionable. Ear-lobes: enamel white, small, almond shaped and fitting closely. The wattles should be round and small.
- Neck:** Long and furnished with flowing hackle.
- Legs and Feet:** Of medium length, preferably olive green or slate grey in colour, however, any other leg colour is also acceptable. Shanks: fine and free of feathers. Four, well-spread toes.

THE FEMALE

The general characteristics are similar to those of the male, allowing for natural sexual differences. It should, however, be noted that breeders must strive to produce hens with very long main tail sickles.

DEFECTS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

Any deformity. Short, broad feathers especially saddle and hackle. Short round back. Tail carried either too low or too high. Drooping comb. Red ear-lobe. Yellow legs.

COLOUR

SILVER DUCKWING

This is the most popular colour in the Phoenix breed.

THE MALE

Plumage: Hackle, back, saddle, shoulder-coverts and wingbows silver white. Secondaries pure white on the outer edge and black on the inner, with tips of bay, the white alone showing when the wing is closed. Remainder lustrous blue-black. White specks on the breast of the male should not be a disqualification, because this is a distinct hallmark of the German breed of Phoenix.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Hackle, silver-white, finely striped with black. Breast: pale salmon, diminishing to pale ash-grey on thighs. Tail: black, except top feathers, which should match the body colour. Remainder light grey with some white striping. French grey with almost invisible black pencilling is also permissible.

BLACK RED **(German – “Goldhalsig”)**

THE MALE

Plumage: Cap: orange-red. Neck hackle: light orange, free from black stripes. Back and saddle: rich crimson. Wings: bow orange, bar green-black. Secondaries: rich bay on the outer edge, black on the inner and tips, the rich bay alone showing when the wing is closed. Primaries: black. Remainder green-black.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Hackle gold, slightly striped with black, running to clear gold on the cap. Breast: rich salmon, running to ash on thighs. Tail: black, except the top feathers, which should match the body colour. Remainder light partridge-brown ground, very finely pencilled, and a slight golden tinge pervading the whole, which should be even throughout, free from any ruddiness whatever, and with no trace of pencilling on the flight feathers.

WHITE

Except for the fact that both male and female should be white (slight creamy white is not objectionable) all the other characteristics should be the same as in the Silver Duckwing and Black Red varieties. On the whole breeders have not yet succeeded in producing pure white Phoenix birds with the same tail quality as in the other colours.

OTHER COLOURS

Any other recognized colour in both the “Deutsche Zwerghühner” class and Old English Game fowl.

Special note on colour breeding in the Phoenix:

Authorities all agree that colour breeding in the Phoenix is only of secondary importance, the emphasis being placed on achieving long flowing tails in the correct proportion to the rest of the carriage.

BANTAM

In bantamising the large Phoenix, German breeders freely made use of the German Bantam ("Deutsche Zwerghühner") and some Old English Game Bantam blood was also used. It is believed (but no concrete evidence could so far be found) that blood of the so-called Shamo Game Fowl went into the making of the bantamised Phoenix. The Phoenix Bantam is a purely German breed product. Unlike the large Phoenix, the Phoenix Bantam moults completely every year. Phoenix Bantams however are miniatures of their large counterparts and the Standard for those should be followed.

SCALE OF POINTS	
Quality & length of tail	25
Quality of neck & saddle hackles	20
Type & condition	25
Head	10
Colour	10
Legs	5
Size	5
Total	100

