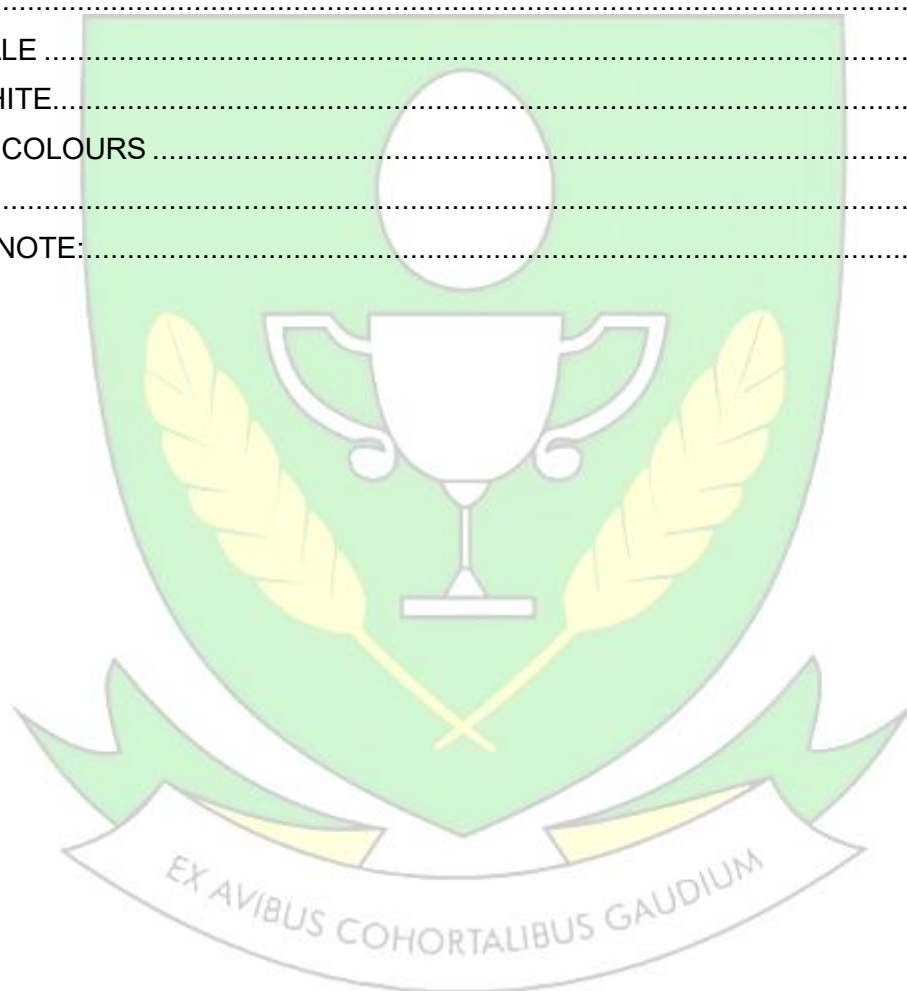

LEGHORN

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COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Livorno/Lombardy, Italy.

CATEGORY: Light breed, soft feather

EGG COLOUR: White (Non-Sitters).

MASSES:

LARGE

Cock 3.5kg

Hen 3.0kg

Cockerel 3.0kg

Pullet 2.5kg

BANTAMS

Cockerel 800 - 1000g

Hen 700 - 900g

It is generally assumed that this breed took its name from a seaport in North West Italy. It is a light breed specially developed for egg-laying purposes. Over the years it was developed and bred to suit South African conditions and requirements. The Leghorn in South Africa has evolved out of importations principally from England, Denmark, Australia and New Zealand and in later years from the United States of America and Germany (Italian).

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

THE MALE

Carriage: Very sprightly and alert, but without any suggestion of stiltedness or in-kneed appearance. Well balanced.

Body: Wedge-shaped, wide at the shoulders and narrowing slightly to root of tail; round and prominent breast; long back sloping slightly to the tail, large wings tightly carried and well tucked up; moderately full tail, carried at an angle of approximately 45 degrees from the line of the back. (The tail's height usually differs according to the country of importation). Full sweeping sickle feathers well covered with welldeveloped secondaries. Sickle feathers to be long and well curved.

Head:

Skull: A longish head not too narrow but of sufficient size to form a harmonious basis for the relatively large comb.

Beak: Strong, short and well curved, broad at the base.

Eyes: Bright round and prominent, free from drooping eyelids (a common fault in male birds).

(a)Single Comb:

Cock:	Well developed single comb of fine texture, straight and erect, moderately large but not overgrown, coarse or beefy, deeply serrated with five (5) evenly spaced spikes. The comb should be broad at the base not to influence eyesight. The front base of the comb not to extend over the point of the beak. The blade extending well beyond the back of the head and to follow without touching the line of the head. Free from thumb marks and side sprigs.
Hen:	Comb should have a firm base with front of comb erect falling gracefully over either side of face without obstructing the eye sight. An erect comb is also permissible but not preferable.
(b)Rose Comb:	
Both sexes:	Moderately large, firm (not overgrown so as to obstruct the sight), the leader extending straight out behind and not following the line of the head, the top covered with small coral-like points of even height, and free from hollows.
Face:	Clean and free from wrinkles, folds and feathers, not sunken. The white from ear-lobes is not to extend to the face.
Ear-lobes:	Well developed and rather pendent, equally matched in size and shape. Smooth, open, and free from folds, giving the idea of fine leather. Colour: light cream to cream.
Wattles:	Moderately long and fine in texture, equal in size and length.
Neck:	Cock: to be of moderate length, profusely covered with hackle feathers and carried upright. Hen: similar to cock but not so profusely covered with hackle feathers and more silky like.
Legs and feet:	Thigh bones: ample width between legs. Thigh bones to be well develop and of moderate length. Toes: four toes, long, straight and well spread. The back toe straight out to the rear. Toe nails: well developed, following the line of toe.
Shanks:	Cock: to be of moderate length, fine, round and free of feathers. Welldeveloped spurs. Scales: to be fine, small and close fitting. Legs and feet: yellow or orange, yellow preferred. Hen: of moderate length, round and free of feathers. Spurs are found in exceptional cases on one or both legs. Scales: to be small, fine and close fitting.
Plumage:	Feathers to be of a fine and silky structure and not too fluffy. Colour of skin should be yellow (because of high egg production the yellow colour fades to light cream in female birds).
Handling:	Firm, with abundance of muscle and well balanced.

THE FEMALE

With the exception of the comb (in the single-combed varieties falling gracefully over either side of the face without obstructing the eyesight) and the tail (carried closely and not at such a high angle) the general characteristics are similar to those of the male, allowing for the natural sexual differences. The female also to have a more brick shaped body (viewed from the side), than the cock, due to the abdomen of the hen that shows more prominently. Pelvic bones are fine, straight, flexible and set well apart.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Ticking in whites. White showing on surface in blacks except 12,5mm or less in saddle of males. White in feathers in Black and Buff. White feather in the plumage of the Black Tailed Red. Two or more solid white or solid black feathers in the primaries, secondaries, or main tail feathers of the Crele. Any red, brown or buff coloured feathers in any part of the plumage of the Columbian. Long straight beak and coarse head. Beefy or lobbed comb in males. Narrow across the shoulders and saddle. Lacking width between thighs. Exceptionally long legs. Wry or drooping tail. Badly drooping wings in female. Lack of abdominal development, lack of condition as evidenced in paleness of face, looseness in feather, over-fat etc. Eye other than colour specified. Cow hocks. White in face. Red ear-lobes. Shanks not yellow or orange.

COLOURS

In all the colours:

Beak:	Yellow or horn.
Eyes:	Red or orange (red preferred).
Comb, Face and Wattles:	Bright red.
Ear-lobes:	Light cream to cream.
Legs and Feet:	Yellow or orange (yellow preferred).
Toenails:	White or horn.
Skin:	Yellow.

THE BARRED

Plumage: All feathers barred, dull white and dark grey, the latter to have a lustre of blue and purple. Barring of feathers to be uniform. The barring shading into the under-colour not cleanly cut but enough to keep the two colours distinct. The hackle and tail coverts of the cock to be more distinctly or finely barred.

THE BLACK

Plumage: Rich green-black perfectly free of any foreign colour. Under-colour to be black. Moderate white in the under-colour to be regarded as a defect for which points should be deducted.

THE BLUE

Plumage: Colour to be either light blue or dark blue with an even medium shade of blue from head to tail, free from lacing. A dark tint of blue allowed in the hackles of the cock, but not black. The more even the colour the better.

THE BROWN

MALE

Plumage: Rich orange-red striped with black (or lead grey). Shading to decrease in colour from head to shoulders. Crimson-red at the front of hackles below the wattles.

Back, shoulder coverts and wing bow:	Deep crimson-red or maroon.
Wing-coverts:	Steel-blue with green reflections forming a broad bar across. Primaries: brown, secondaries: deep bay on the outer web (all that appears when the wing is closed) and black on the inner web.
Saddle:	Rich orange-red with or without a few black stripes.
Breast:	Pure black and very glossy, free from brown splashes.
Tail:	Black with glossy green. Tail-coverts black, edged with brown. Any white in tail is very objectionable.

FEMALE

Plumage:	Rich golden-yellow, broadly striped with black.
Hackle:	Salmon-red, running into maroon around the head and wattles, and ash-grey at the thighs.
Breast:	Rich brown, very evenly and finely stippled with black.
Body:	Free from any red tinge.
Wings:	Grey black, outer feathers pencilled with brown.
Tail:	

THE BUFF

Plumage:	Even coloured from lustrous light buff to orange buff. Avoid straw buff and buff with a red tinge. The colour to be perfectly uniform allowing for greater lustre on the hackle feathers and wing bow of the male. The under-colour to be of a lighter shade.
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THE COLUMBIAN

Plumage:	Pearl white with black markings.
Head and neck hackle:	White with dense black stripe down middle of each feather, free from black edging or black tips.
Back:	Silver white.
Saddle:	Pearl white.
Tail:	Main tail feathers and tail coverts glossy green black, the coverts either laced or not with white.
Wings:	Primaries: black, or black edged with white. Secondaries: black on inner edge, white on outer. Remainder of plumage entirely white, free from ticking.
Under-colour:	Slaty blue in all sections, but it must not be visible on the surface of the plumage.

THE CRELE

MALE

Plumage:	
Head:	Pale golden, finely barred with orange red.

Neck: Hackle pale straw, finely barred with orange red. Front of neck, dark grey and white barred.

Back: Pale straw with orange red barring. Saddle, pale straw, finely barred with orange red.

Tail: Main tail wide, alternate bars of dark grey and white. Sickles and lesser sickles: same as main tail. Coverts: grey and white barring, the white barring gradually turning to orange red approaching the saddle.

Wings: Shoulders and fronts, barred with dark grey and white. Bows: pale straw, with orange red barring. Coverts: dark grey with white barring, forming two distinct bars across wings. Primaries: barred with dark grey and white, intermixed with bay. Secondaries: barred with dark grey and white, exposed portion of outer web forming wing bay, rich bay.

Breast: Evenly barred with dark grey and white.

Body and stern: Body: barred with dark grey and white. Stern: irregular and indistinct barring of grey and white.

Legs: Lower thighs: indistinctly barred with grey and white.

Under-colour of all sections: Light slate.

FEMALE

Plumage:

Head: Pale golden, with a slight barring of greyish brown.

Neck: Hackle: pale golden with irregular mottling of greyish brown. Front of neck: salmon.

Back: Dark slaty greyish brown, with indistinct lighter greyish barring.

Tail: Main tail: dark greyish black with a slight indication of lighter broad barring, the two top feathers evenly stippled with bay. Coverts: same as back.

Wings: Shoulders and fronts: pale straw with orange red barring. Bows: same as shoulders and fronts. Coverts: same as shoulders, feathering forming two distinct bars across wings. Primaries: barred with dark grey and white with an intermixture of bay. Secondaries: same as primaries.

Breast: Salmon, shading into a pale grey as it blends into body colouring.

Body and stern: Body: pale grey, with surface colour gradually blending into that of back and wings. Stern: barred with irregular and indistinct grey and white.

Legs: Lower thighs: indistinctly barred with pale grey.

Under-colour of all sections: Light slate.

NOTE: This colour is similar to the Legbar and is also known as Cuckoo Partridge.

THE DARK BROWN

MALE

Plumage:

Head: Dark red.

Neck: Rich brilliant red with a lustrous greenish black stripe running nearly parallel with edges and extending through the middle of each feather, tapering to a point near its lower extremity. Front of neck a lustrous greenish black.

Back and saddle:	Rich brilliant red with a lustrous greenish black stripe running through the middle of each feather, same as in the hackle.
Tail:	The main tail black.
Wings:	The fronts: black, bows rich brilliant red, coverts lustrous greenish black, forming well defined wing-bars when wings are folded. Primaries: black, lower webs edged with brown. Secondaries: black edges of lower webs a rich brown of sufficient width to form wing-bay of same colour.
Breast:	Lustrous black.
Body and fluff:	Black
Under-colour of all sections:	Slate.

FEMALE

Plumage:	
Head:	Reddish bay.
Neck:	Reddish bay with a black stripe running nearly parallel with edges and extending through the middle of each feather, tapering to a point near its lower extremity. Front of neck the same as the breast.
Back:	Web of feathers on surface, black moderately fine stippling with rich reddish brown, the brown to predominate, free from shafting, purple and regular pencilling. The exposed part of feather to carry a lustrous green sheen with the unexposed portion of feather dull slaty black.
Tail:	The main tail greenish black with the two top feathers stippled with rich reddish brown. Coverts: same as back.
Wings:	Fronts, bows and coverts: the same colour as described for the back. Primaries: slaty black with the outer web slightly edged with brown. Secondaries: slaty black with the outer web stippled with rich reddish brown.
Back and shoulders:	Bright red of a scarlet shade, free from maroon or purple tint.
Breast:	Same colour as described for back except that the breast carries a slightly lighter shade, due to the greater predominance of the reddish brown stippling, free from shafting.
Body and fluff:	The body is slaty black tinged with brown and free from shafting. The fluff slaty black tinged with brown.
Under-colour of all sections:	Dull slaty black.

THE PARTRIDGE

MALE

Plumage:	
Head:	Dark orange-red.
Hackle:	Bright orange-yellow, shading to bright lemon-yellow, free from washiness, each feather having a clearly-defined glossy black stripe down the middle, not running out at the tip and free from light shaft.

Wings:	Wing bar: solid glossy black. Primaries: solid black, free from white. Secondaries: rich bay outer web and black inner and end of feather, the rich bay alone, showing when the wing is closed.
Breast and fluff:	Metallic black, free from red or grey ticking.
Tail:	Tail, sickles and tail coverts: metallic black, free from white at roots.
Under-colour:	Black or dark grey, free from white.

FEMALE

Plumage:

Head:	Hackle: rich golden yellow, the larger feathers finely and clearly pencilled.
Breast, back cushion and wings:	Soft light partridge-brown, quite even and free from red or yellow tinge, each feather plentifully and distinctly pencilled with black, the pencilling to follow the form of the feather, and to be even and uniform throughout. Fine, sharply defined pencilling with three or more distinct lines of black is preferred to coarse, broad marking, especially in hens, in which the pencilling is generally better defined than in pullets. Pencilling that runs into the brown, peppery markings, and uneven, broken or barred pencilling constitute defects. Light shafts to feathers on the breast must be penalised. Fluff brown (same shade as body), as clearly pencilled as possible. Primaries (wing) black, secondaries brown (same shade as body) pencilled with black on outer web, black on inner web, showing pencilling when the wing is closed.
Tail:	Black, with or without brown markings, with clearly pencilled feathers up to the point of the tail.
NOTE:	The description of this colour is similar to the Partridge Wyandotte Bantam.

THE GOLDEN DUCKWING

MALE

Plumage

Neck:	Hackle rather light yellow or straw -yellow, a few shades deeper at the front below the wattles. The longer feathers striped with black.
Back:	Deep rich gold.
Saddle and Saddle-hackle:	Deep gold, shading in hackle to pale gold.
Shoulder-coverts:	Bright gold or orange, solid colour (an admixture of rust-brown or red feathers is very objectionable).
Wing-bows:	The same as the shoulder-coverts, coverts metallic blue forming an even bar across the wing, which should be sharp, cleanly cut and not too broad. Primaries black, with white edging on the outer web, secondaries white outer web (all that appears when the wing is closed), black inner and end of feather.
Breast:	Black with green lustre.
Tail:	Black, richly glossed with green-grey fluff at the base.
Under-colour:	Black.

FEMALE

Plumage:

Head:

Hackle:

Breast and under-colour:

Back, wings, sides and saddle:

Tail:

Grey (a brown cap is very objectionable).

White, each feather sharply striped with black or dark grey.

Bright salmon-red (this point is very important), darker on throat, and shaded off to ash-grey or fawn on the under parts.

Dark slate-grey, finely stippled with darker grey or black.

Grey, slightly darker than the body colour, inside feathers dull black or dark grey.

THE SILVER DUCKWING

MALE

Plumage:

Neck:

Back, saddle and saddle-hackle:

Shoulders and wing-bow:

Wing-coverts:

Hackle silver-white, the long feathers striped with black.

Silver-white.

Silver-white, as solid as possible (any admixture of red or rusty feathers very objectionable).

Metallic blue (blue-violet), forming an even bar across the wing, which should be sharp, cleanly cut, and not too broad. Primaries black with white edging on outer parts. Secondaries white outer edge (all that appears when the wing is closed), black inner and end of feathers.

Black.

Thighs and underparts:

Tail:

Under-colour:

Black, richly glossed with green, grey fluff at the base.

Black

FEMALE

Plumage:

Head:

Hackle:

Breast and underparts: Light salmon or fawn, darker on throat and shaded off to ash-grey on the underparts. Breast to be free of shafting.

Back, wings, sides and saddle: Clear delicate silver-grey, or French grey, without any shade of red or brown, finely stippled with dark grey or black (purity of colour very important).

Tail: Grey, slightly darker than the body colour, with the inside feathers a dull black or dark grey.

THE RED

Plumage:

Plumage of the Red Mottled:

Surface, an even shade of rich, brilliant red in all sections.

An even distribution of brown-red and white mottling, neither colour predominating, and with an entire absence of lacing.

Plumage of the Black Mottled: An even distribution of black and white mottling, neither colour predominating, a beetle-green sheen on the black, and without lacing.

THE PILE

MALE

Plumage:
Neck: Hackle bright orange.
Back and saddle: Rich maroon.
Shoulders and wing-bows: Dark red. Secondaries dark chestnut outer web (all that appears when the wing is closed) and white inner.
Remainder: White. No black feathers or black ticking allowed.

FEMALE

Plumage:
Neck: White tinged with gold.
Breast: Deep salmon-red shading into white thighs. Remainder white. No black feathers or black ticking allowed.

THE BLACK TAILED RED

MALE

Plumage: The whole of the plumage is a glossy intense deep red but with the following exceptions:
Tail: Main tail black. Sickles and lesser sickles: glossy greenish black. Coverts: glossy greenish black, becoming intense deep red as they join the saddle.
Wings: Shoulders, fronts, bows and coverts: intense deep red. Primaries upper webs: intense deep red, lower web black fringed with intense deep red. Primary coverts: black edged with red. Secondaries: upper web black fringed with intense deep red, the deep red, growing wider in shorter secondaries to form wing bay of glossy deep red when wing is folded, lower web intense deep red.

THE MOTTLED

Plumage: Intense deep red as in the cock but, with the following exceptions:
Neck: Hackle: glossy, intense deep red with slight black ticking confined to the lower neck feathers. Front of neck intense deep red.
Tail: Main tail black, the two top feathers may be edged with deep red. Coverts: glossy, intense deep red.

NOTE: This colour is similar to the Rhode Island Red.

THE BLUE-SILVER DUCKWING

Plumage: As in the Silver Duckwing, but the black is substituted by blue.

THE EXCHEQUER

Plumage: Black and white evenly distributed, with some white in under-colour, the white (of the surface colour) as in the form of a large blob, distinct from V-shaped ticking.

THE BLUE-RED

MALE

Plumage:
Head: Light orange.
Neck: Hackle: golden orange, striped with slate-blue, crimson-red at the front of the hackle below the wattles.
Breast and underparts: Slate-blue, free from splashes.
Back and shoulder coverts: Deep crimson-red.
Saddle: Rich golden orange striped slate-blue.
Wings: Bow: crimson-red, coverts primaries and secondaries: slate-blue, outer web of secondaries: rich bay.
Tail: Slate-blue. Any white in tail is objectionable.
Under-colour: Ash grey.

FEMALE

Plumage:
Head: Golden.
Hackle: Rich golden yellow broadly striped with slate blue.
Breast: Salmon running into rich brown around the head and wattles.
Back: Blue, laced or stippled with golden brown in a manner to present an overall effect of brownish blue.
Wings, shoulders, bows, coverts and secondaries: Blue laced or stippled with golden brown, in a manner to present an overall effect of brownish blue.
Tail: Light blue-grey, except the two top feathers of the coverts, which should be laced or stippled with golden brown.
Underparts and thighs: Brown-grey
Under-colour: Ash-grey.

THE MILLEFLEUR

MALE

Plumage:
Head: Light-red with white points.
Neck: Hackle: black with golden shafts, and broadly bordered with orange-red, each feather having a black end tipped with a white point. The abundance of neck hackle makes the main colour appear wholly deep-red, the black parts being scarcely visible.
Back: Red, shading to light red towards saddle hackle.

Wings: Mahogany red, each feather tipped with white. Wing bars russet red with lustrous green-black pea-shaped spots at ends, finishing with silvery-white triangular tips, the whole forming regular bars across the wings. Primaries black with a thin edging of red, upper two-thirds black. Remainder of wing a uniform red, each feather having at end a large pea-shaped white spot on a black triangle, the tips spaced evenly to conform with shape and outline of wing. (Note: The reversal of these pattern-markings from the normal arrangement).

Breast: Plumage throughout of a reddish ground colour, each feather having a light red shaft and finished with a black pea-shaped spot tipped with a white triangle.

Tail: Feathers black with a metallic green lustre, having a fine edging or lacing of dark red, and terminating with a white triangle.

FEMALE

Plumage: Ground colour uniformed, each feather terminating with a black pea-shaped spot tipped with a white triangle. Tail feathers black, finely laced with red and with white tips. Wing markings and other plumage as described for male, allowing for the natural sexual differences.

Defects to be avoided: Ground colour too light or washed out. White markings excessively gay or unevenly distributed.

NOTE: This colour is similar to the Speckled Sussex.

THE WHITE

Plumage: Pure lustrous white. Dull white or straw colour not acceptable. Under colour to be creamy white.

OTHER COLOURS

Germany: Blue Mottled, Lavender Golden Duckwing, Golden Laced, Silver Laced, White Laced Red, Blue Laced Red.

Holland: Silver Spangled, Golden Spangled, White Barred Buff (Buff Cuckoo).

BANTAMS

Leghorn bantams are exhibited in all the colours of their larger counterparts and should follow the large fowl standard in all respects.

JUDGE'S NOTE:

It must be taken in consideration that the Leghorn slightly differs in type in different parts of the world. For example, the German Leghorn (Italian) has a large tail that is carried at a low angle of approximately 30°. The English Leghorn also has a tail which is carried low, but has a large comb, etc. Sometimes birds from these countries are imported to South Africa and judges must not penalize these birds too severely for differences in type, size, etc.

SCALE OF POINTS	
Type	25
Comb	10
Ear-lobes and wattles	10
Eyes	5
Legs and feet	10
Breast	5
Size	5
Colour	20
Condition	10
Total	100

