

American Goldfish Association By-Laws

I. Purpose and Mission

The American Goldfish Association (AGA) mission is to act as a national association and governing body to goldfish keepers, Clubs, Goldfish breeders and dealers. Members may be affiliated with local koi or goldfish clubs or may be organized independently of these clubs. The AGA is organized to provide members with information concerning goldfish care, breeding, display, and educational activities relating to the goldfish hobby. The AGA will provide the following resources to the membership (these resources are not intended to be all-inclusive, and may change from time to time as the national board so chooses or amends):

- a. Nationally recognized goldfish standards which will be used to judge goldfish shows at the local and national level.
- b. Certified goldfish judges who have completed a training program, and who continue to maintain certain written standards to maintain their eligibility as judges. The training program will be maintained by the national office, and will be revised from time to time as provided by this document. In addition, the national office will provide for a candidate judging program which will be administered by the Judging committee, as authorized by this document. Candidate judges will be subject to the same rules of conduct that certified judges are held-to.
- c. Educational programs which are developed for the express purpose of enabling members to develop their skills in raising, breeding and showing their goldfish. These programs will be furnished to each club and can be modified to fit local club preferences. In most cases, these educational materials will be furnished free of charge to local clubs. Where a cost is involved in developing these programs in a formal manner and or mailing charges, the local club will be charged on a cost basis for the educational material furnished by the national organization.

- d. Sponsorship of local goldfish shows. This sponsorship is expected to include (but is not limited to) the following items: show publicity on the national newsletter and website; participation at the show event by a certified goldfish judge, and where possible, a candidate judge; a plaque or trophy recognizing a "judge's award" at the local show.
- e. Publication of a national newsletter via email, and maintenance of a national website devoted to the care, raising, breeding, and showing of goldfish in the U.S. If requested, local clubs will have unique web pages appended to the national site, which will cover local club information, events, etc.

II. Organization and Officers

The AGA will be established as a non-profit organization under the IRS code section 501(c). As such, the AGA must be administered and run by non-professional officers and officials. Dealers and professional goldfish breeders (i.e. breeders who raise fish with the intent of making a profit on their sales) will not be eligible to run as directors, officers or judges of the AGA.

The following officers and directors will be filled at the national level: President; Treasurer; Secretary; Vice Presidents. All of these officers shall be elected for three year terms with no limit on the number of terms for which a person can be elected.

Any member will be eligible to nominate officers for national office, and each member is eligible to cast a vote for each person standing for office in any given year. A simple majority will be required to elect a person to office at the national level. The time and date of an election will be determined by the Executive Board for elections, and will be announced in the Newsletter.

The Board shall be composed of the National officers and one delegate from each recognized club. To be a recognized club, the club must contain at least five (5) listed members on their roster that are paid as individuals. Board representatives will

each have one vote when it comes to any Board matter along with one vote for each officer.

No person may hold more than one office at any given time, except in cases where the second office is of a temporary nature (for purposes of this section, temporary is defined as a period not to exceed three [3] months, or until such time as a replacement can be named).

In the event that the Board believes that a National officer is not fulfilling the duties of his/her office, the Board shall reserve the right to remove that person from office with a vote of two-thirds of voting members required for such action. In the event that a person is removed from office, a special election will be held to fill the vacant position.

In the case of a tied vote, the President shall cast the deciding vote. The National Board may amend the positions as required from time to time, provided that the number of officers and/or directors will always be an odd number. The national board will be empowered to establish various non-director positions as required. These positions may consist of newsletter editor, show coordinators, etc. as required.

III. Local club organization

Local clubs shall be welcome within the national organization, and will be subject to the rules and conditions of these by-laws. As stated, the club must have its own By-laws and include on its membership roster at least 5 individual members of the Association. The Clubs are considered separate from the National Association and have their own officers. For insurance and any local matters the club is considered a separate entity and the National Association assumes no liability. The Clubs purpose is the organization of groups of Individual Members for education, shows and friendship in Goldfish. It also gives that local group a vote then in matters and National Policy that comes before the Board.

In order to have an AGA sanctioned show, the local club must use AGA certified judges and AGA show standards, although use of AGA show guidelines, while encouraged, is not

mandatory (see attached file for a copy of the show guidelines).

Membership in the AGA is on an individual basis, and is set at \$15 per year. Dues may be changed annually by a 2/3 majority of the AGA Board. A separate category of membership will be made available for professional breeder/dealers and a second category for amateur breeders. At their option, breeder/dealers and amateur breeders may join a local chapter, or may join the National Association directly.

IV. Categories of members

The following categories will be maintained for members of the Association:

- A. Individual member
- B. Professional Breeder/Dealer member
- C. Amateur breeder member

The following Two categories will be established for shows at the local and National level: Hobbyist and Amateur Breeders; and Professional Breeders/Dealers. Each category will be judged separately, and awards for Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion will be provided for each category, provided that there are enough entrants benched in each category. If there is not an interest by Dealers or Professional Breeders, or if a local club does not wish to have an entry for this category, then that category may be eliminated.

V. Learning and Education

The National Association will develop the following categories of learning/development for the membership.

- A. Goldfish judging and workshops. These will be developed by the National organization, and will be provided under separate cover.
- B. Guidelines and Standards. Guidelines will be developed and revised on a regular basis, and guideline setting will be the responsibility of the

Vice President at Large, along with a selected standing committee of goldfish experts.

- C. National and local Goldfish Education will be provided in the form of seminars and programs which will be designed to address common goldfish topics. These educational materials will be prepared so as to be adapted to local clubs, and will be provided on a free or cost basis to the local clubs.
- D. Annual show and seminar. It is anticipated that the Society will provide an annual National Show, which will be held in conjunction with one of the local clubs. In addition to the local show, a series of seminars will be presented which will provide further training for club members.

VI. Standing Committees

The following standing committees will be formed.

- A. Judging committee. This committee will be composed of three members (including the Vice President) and the administration of this committee will be the responsibility of the Vice President of Judging.
- B. Guidelines/Standards. This committee will be composed of three members (including the Vice President) and the administration of this committee will be the responsibility of the Vice President at Large.
- C. Education/Seminars. This committee will be composed of three members (including the Vice President) and the administration of this committee will be the responsibility of the Vice President of Education.
- D. Liaison/Local Club Management. This committee will be composed of three members (including the Vice President) and the administration of this committee will be the responsibility of the Vice

President of Liaison. In addition, the Vice President of Liaison will be responsible for communicating with the local clubs and for informing the Board about local club issues/concerns.

VII. Meetings of the Board

The Board will meet monthly, either in person, by phone, or by email to discuss issues relating to the management of the National and local societies. Each standing committee will report on their activities for the month, as well as new issues that have developed.

The Secretary will be responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, as well as providing prompt distribution of the Board minutes for that month. Excerpts of the minutes, where appropriate, will be forwarded to the local clubs.