

ZEBRA FINCH JUDGES

TRAINING MANUAL



FEDERATION OF ZEBRA FINCH
SOCIETIES OF AUSTRALIA



JUDGES TRAINING MANUAL

It is recommended by the Federation of Zebra Finch Societies of Australia that Zebra Finch Clubs use this publication as their Judges Training Manual to maintain judging consistency throughout Australia.

It is recognised that clubs may elect to vary their training methods to suit club requirements however, all clubs must ensure that judges are trained and adhere to, the current Federation of Zebra Finch Societies of Australia approved Zebra Finch Show Standard.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document has been written to promote the Judging and general understanding of ZEBRA FINCHES in Australia. Some of the techniques referred to could also be applied to other Finch varieties. The Federation of Zebra Finch Societies of Australia approved Zebra Finch Show Standard is an integral part of this training manual and must be referred to for all type and colour descriptions.

The Federation of Zebra Finch Societies of Australia gratefully acknowledges the assistance given by the South East Queensland Zebra Finch Society, Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia, The Budgerigar Society of Australia, Zebra Finch Society of Australia Inc, Lake Macquarie Zebra Finch Society Inc, Various Finch Societies, Jim Corcoran and leading breeders for their advice and guidance in contributing to the original Judges Training course produced by the South East Queensland Zebra Finch Society upon which the majority of this document is based.

Thanks go to the Judges Organising Committee of the SEQZFS (Tim Hartung, Peter James, Terry Martin, Ellis Thornley & John Ward) who produced the original document.

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The ZFSWA Training Manual was subsequently revised by Geoff Stolberg [SEQZFS Inc] and reviewed/approved by members of the 2016/2017/2018/2019 Federation Judges Panels.

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GLOSSARY

SHOW STANDARD

Federation of Zebra Finch Societies of Australia approved Zebra Finch Show Standard.

FEDERATION MEMBER-BODY

Recognised and affiliated Zebra Finch Societies of Australia as below;

FZFSA	Federation of Zebra Finch Societies of Australia
LMZFS	Lake Macquarie Zebra Finch Society Inc
NZFS	Northern Zebra Finch Society
SEQZFS	South East Queensland Zebra Finch Society Inc
VZFI	Victorian Zebra Finch Inc
ZFSA	Zebra Finch Society of Australia Inc
ZFSWA	Zebra Finch Society WA Inc
FLO/FLOs	Federation Liaison Officer/Officers

INTRODUCTION:

SO YOU WANT TO BE A JUDGE!!!!

What is a JUDGE?

A Judge is a person who is qualified to decide on the merit of a thing in question; to form an opinion based on his/her knowledge and experience.

The first and foremost requirement is to be confident. No matter what your decision, someone will disagree with you. You must stick by your judgment and be positive. Remember on the day and at the time, you selected the best bird in your opinion.

The Zebra Finch Show Standard is the publication that you must understand and is your primary reference. You must study this Standard if you wish to be a Judge. You must be capable of quoting from the Standard and be able to field questions from breeders when asked. For practice, compare your birds to the Standard every time you look at them. See where they fail to meet the set criteria.

During this time, it is preferable that you participate in Stewarding for an accredited judge at as many shows as possible, to gain exposure to Judging.

The Standard has been written to depict the perfect bird. In reality, there is rarely a bird that reaches this perfection. Should the Standard be reached, it may become necessary to upgrade it to produce a better bird.

It will be necessary for you to visualise the perfect bird, as described in the Zebra Finch Show Standard.

Do not lower the Standard to suit the bird.

Once you have been breeding and selecting birds using this process for several years, you will have completed the first training step towards judging.

Once you feel confident and other breeders respect your point of view, the next step is to do the Judges Course.

During this time, you will be learning all the aspects of Showing, including the administration and how to act as a judge.

Judging includes a code of ethics for Judges and exhibitors.

To begin your Judging career, you need to notify your Club of your wish to become a Judge and to commence in the Club's Judges Training program.

As a Judge, you need to be able to listen to what is said about your effort.

Judging is a continual learning process. It will take a while before you become skilful in selecting birds by the criteria set by the Show Standard.

Do not take offence if someone suggests you may have made an error. Remember we all make mistakes, so do not let anything deter you. JUST learn and move on.

All the rules that apply to judging Zebras can basically be applied to judging other Finch sections.

Give Judging a go — **GOOD LUCK.**

SPECIALIST ZEBRA FINCH JUDGES

ACCREDITATION LEVELS

Two levels of Zebra Finch Judge Accreditation are recognised by Federation;

Specialist Zebra Finch Judge:

Qualifications are in accordance with this manual [p 11 'Registration as a Judge']. Accreditation of this level of Judge is authorised by the individual's Federation member-body.

National Zebra Finch Judge:

Qualifications for this level are set by Federation [refer to this manual p 26, 'Accreditation of National Judges']. Accreditation of this level of Judge is authorised by the individual's Federation Member-body. National Zebra Finch Judge accreditations are ratified by Federation and administered by the Federation Judges Panel.

Trainee Specialist Zebra Finch Judge:

As a Trainee Specialist Zebra Finch Judge, you will judge in accordance with the Zebra Finch Judges Training Manual and the Zebra Finch Show Standard. Your training will commence with supervised judging of club table shows and/or training sessions, progressing to small sections of open shows e.g. novice. As your experience and ability improves you will judge whole sections e.g. Open/Young Bird with a qualified Judge. Finally, you will judge an entire show under the direct supervision of at least one qualified judge.

Specialist Zebra Finch Judge:

After meeting the club's requirements [e.g. serving as a Trainee Club Judge for a period determined by the Trainee's club and demonstrating the required knowledge and skill levels], the Trainee's club can approve the accreditation of the Trainee as a Specialist Zebra Finch Judge.

A Specialist Zebra Finch Judge is eligible to judge Young Bird/Open Shows in his/her club. A Specialist Zebra Finch Judge may also judge Young Bird/Open Shows at other clubs if requested by that club. Specialist Zebra Finch Judges may also judge at general bird shows where a Federation Member-body has been asked to provide a specialist Judge for the Zebra Finch section.

Trainee National Zebra Finch Judge:

This is an option available to Specialist Zebra Finch Judges who wish to progress to National Zebra Finch Judge status. A Trainee National Judge may participate in the judging process at Federation Show level in strict accordance with the Rules for Host Clubs and Trainee National Judges, p29 of this manual.

Trainees will be able to closely view the judging process with various National Zebra Finch Judges and gain valuable experience at the Federation level.

National Zebra Finch Judge:

National Zebra Finch Judge is the highest level of recognition. This accreditation allows the Judge to officiate at all levels up to, and including, National Competitions.

To become a National Zebra Finch Judge, you must meet the Federation approved criteria specified in the 'Accreditation of National Judges' on page 26 of this manual.

TRAINING COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Registration as a Judge

A person wishing to be registered with any of the affiliated Zebra Finch Societies as a Judge must have been a Steward to an accredited Club or National judge at a minimum of three (3) Zebra Finch Young Bird or Open shows.

They then take on the term 'Trainee Judge'.

Registration as a Judge may only be granted to an applicant who, having completed the requirements of the Judges Training Manual, also meets the following criteria;

1. Be a current financial member of an affiliated Zebra Finch Society as defined under Federation Members, page 1 of the Zebra Finch Show Standard.
2. Been breeding and showing Zebra Finches for the preceding 3 years.
3. Obtained a perfect score of 100% in an "Open Book" written examination on the Zebra Finch Judges Training Manual and the Zebra Finch Show Standard.
4. Successfully completed a practical test involving the placing in order of merit a minimum of ten (10) birds to the satisfaction of an accredited Zebra Finch Judge.
5. Attended a Judges training seminar under the direction of at least one National Zebra Finch Judge on the Classification of Mutations (at the discretion of the Club Judges Panel).
6. Officiated as a trainee Judge at a minimum of 2 recognized Zebra Finch Society shows under the direct supervision of a Specialist/National Zebra Finch Judge.
7. Completed the course within two (2) years of application.

A register containing a record of the performance of each applicant in each part of the course must be maintained by the applicant's club.

Inter Club Judging

Federation Member-body Zebra Finch clubs should only use a Federation or Club accredited Specialist Zebra Finch Judge i.e. National or Club level, to judge their respective shows. A Trainee or Trainees may assist if approved by the host club.

JUDGING CODE OF ETHICS

1. When invited to Judge at a show, a person should consider it an honour.
2. When asked to Judge, make a commitment. If 'Yes', be sure to attend. If unable to attend, notify the requesting Club or Society as soon as possible so that they may source another Judge.
3. Remember, you are only there to Judge the birds, not to tell the Club/Society how to run their show.
4. Be precise with your communications with the Stewards/Show Manager.
5. Endeavour to finish Judging in a reasonable time but do not rush.
6. The Judges decision is final, but be available to answer any questions [technical or general] at the completion of Judging.
7. Be prepared to give a short talk on your opinion of the general standard of the birds at the trophy presentation.
8. Thank the Club/Society for inviting you.
9. Judges should never knowingly put themselves in a position where their honesty, integrity or ethics can be questioned e.g. Judges when officiating, must not transport exhibitors' birds to any show, nor travel in company with an exhibitor to an event on the day of judging, nor stay in an exhibitors' house, nor view the exhibits before arriving at the show. Where travel and lodging arrangements prevent the Judge meeting these criteria they must make every effort NOT to preview the exhibits.
- 10. Prior to the commencement of judging, a Judge must not view, or be in the immediate vicinity of, the exhibits. Exhibits are judged on the judging bench only.**
- 11. Current Federation National Teams Show Rules prohibit a Judge from exhibiting in any class that he/she is judging.** This rule may be waived for Club Shows, provided that the waiver is approved by the Club's General Meeting.
- 12. No Judge shall denigrate the judging performance of another Judge.** They may however, raise issues with the Judge in private.
- 13. Judges must, regardless of their own personal preference, judge to the Show Standard at all times.**
- 14. The integrity of a Judge is paramount. Treat yours with respect and honour the position.**

JUDGING PREPARATION

You should always try to arrive at the show venue early. A minimum of 15 minutes before the advertised starting time of judging is recommended. This allows you time to meet the Show Manager/Secretary and the attending stewards to discuss any questions that you might have regarding the running of that particular show.

You should be in possession of a relevant show schedule. If not, ensure you obtain one from the Show Secretary prior to commencing judging.

The stewards' job is to place the birds entered in each class on the judging stand and remove them following judging as directed by the Judge/Show Manager. The stewards will also obtain from the show benches any birds that you require to come back for the judging of specific awards e.g. Best in Classes 1 – 4, Champion Cock/Hen.

Generally, the judging stand will be in place and the Show Manager or Secretary will simply advise you which stand is for your use. If the stand height is adjustable, ask the Show Manager to assist you in setting it to your best height [usually eye height or just below]. Judging in a crouched or compromised position for three to four hours is not recommended.

The positioning of the judging stand will depend on the venue. Ideally, the host club Show Manager will have placed the stand with consideration for the following; making the best use of natural light, freedom of flow for the stewards, allowing room for judging spectators, providing the Judge with an uninterrupted view of the stand/exhibits and eliminating any disturbances for the birds. Your early arrival allows time for the judging stand to be moved, if required.

Make sure that you or your Steward have the judge's slips (provided by the host Society/Club) to enable the awards you make to be recorded. These are usually made available at the commencement of judging.

JUDGING TECHNIQUE

Judging technique is based on a comparison of the birds using our Show Standard to differentiate their positions. The points are to be used to break a deadlock between birds if that is required.

Some Judges use a judging stick, others use a pen, chopstick or simple hand movements to move the bird to be judged into position. This is entirely up to you. Practice at home with your birds and use whatever suits you personally. Remember you are the Judge and your style is of no concern to anyone else. However, you should ensure that your style gives all birds the best chance to be viewed in a calm state.

Judge the birds in front of you. Try to be unaware of the people around you and keep calm. If onlookers are annoying you, ask the Show Manager to control them.

As you approach the Judges stand, check that the number of birds entered, according to the Judges slip, are indeed all on the stand in front of you. If you find all are not there, clarify with the Show Secretary/Manager for any scratchings or birds left on the bench.

At this stage you may need to check that the birds have the correct ring for the specific competition entered e.g. Young Bird Show or Federation.

This is also an appropriate time to ascertain that the birds are all in the correct class e.g. Fawn/Beige, Black face/Black Body. You will need to be fully conversant with the Show Standard. If you are unsure, check it or seek guidance from your mentor.

The birds also need to be closely inspected for 'being complete' i.e. check for missing toes, toenails, etc. as described in the Show Standard.

Having been satisfied with the number and the class of birds on the stand, it is time to look over the entire class. At this point it is beneficial, not only for the birds but also yourself, to take several steps back away from the stand. This allows the birds to settle, as well as giving yourself a better appreciation of the merits of each bird from a distance.

Here, judges are generally looking for the 'stand out' birds. Those birds that project themselves because of type, stance and general presence.

After a few minutes, slowly come in closer to the birds and continue your assessment.

If a bird is in obviously bad condition or visibly stressed, place it at the lower end of the class or have the stewards remove the bird and alert the owner/exhibitor.

Re-arrange the cages from left to right [most commonly used] in descending order of type [40 points]. It is up to the judge/s which direction is chosen but, the viewing public should be informed accordingly.

You must now assess the birds on the remaining points, markings 25, colour 15, condition 15 and size 5 points, totalling 100 points.

If, after being given a reasonable time to settle, a bird continues to exhibit erratic behaviour [lack of training/preparation], no further attempt should be made to Judge the bird. Place it at the lower end of the class.

As your judging progresses, you may swap cages around a number of times until you are satisfied with their correct order of merit.

On completion of selecting the place getters, mark the cage stickers with their appropriate placing [usually 1st, 2nd and 3rd unless the Show Manager/Secretary advises otherwise] and ensure that the Recording Steward has noted the same.

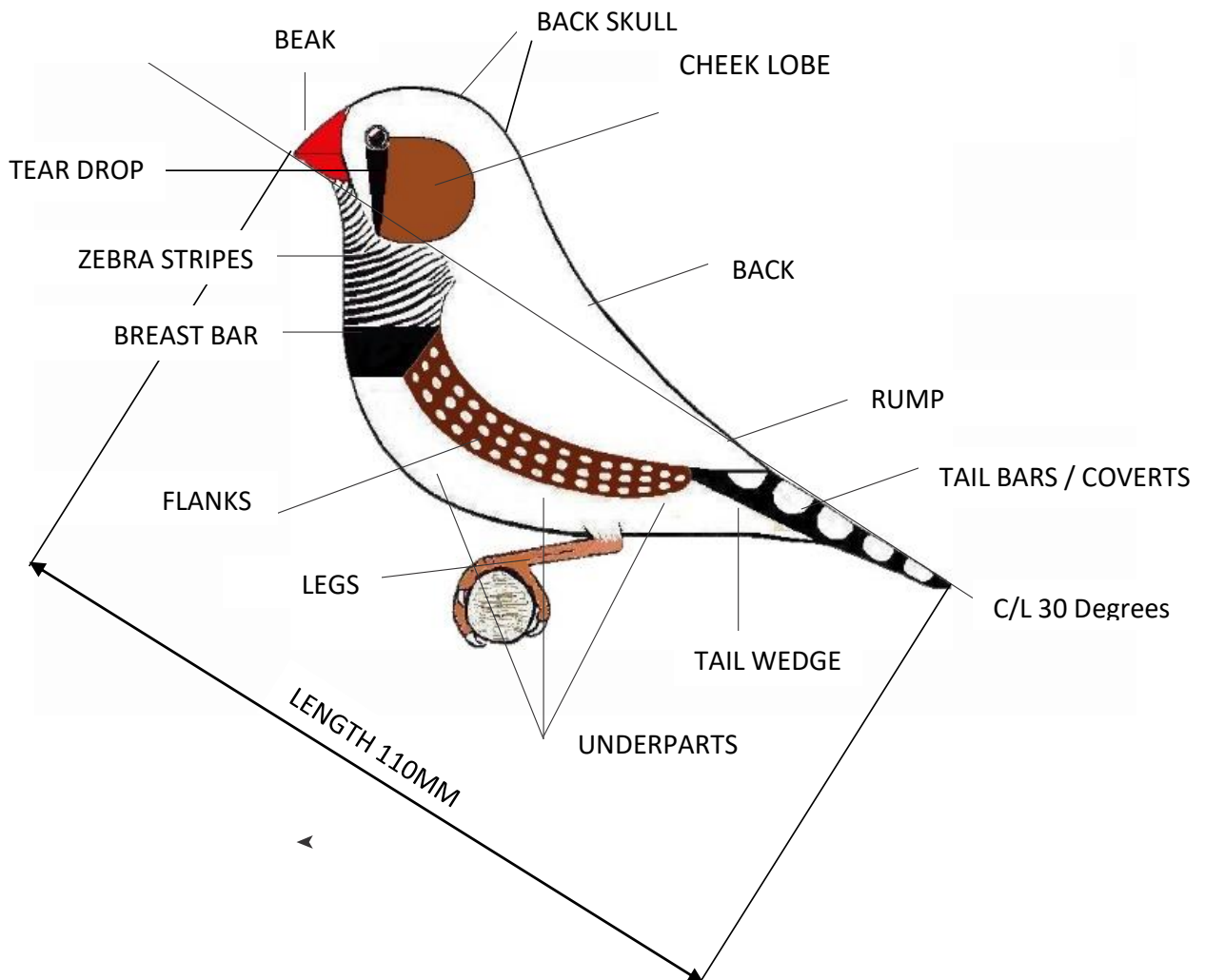
The Stewards will then remove those birds and place the next Class into position.

If required, you may have to give a short general/technical appraisal of the class to the exhibitors. Be confident and justify your decisions briefly and clearly.

ZEBRA FINCH

SHOW STANDARD

Exhibition Points of the ZEBRA FINCH COCK BIRD



SHOW STANDARD

These will be covered under the headings;

- A. **Description of Perfection.** (Per Page 2 of the approved Show Standard)
- B. **Scale of points** as per the approved Zebra Finch Show Standard. Show scale of points applies to all varieties. In the case of the White variety the Colour and Markings are for purity of colour.

Characteristic	Type	Markings	Colour	Condition	Size
Points	40	25	15	15	5

ASSESSING FEATURES of TYPE

N.B. Type is three-dimensional. Refer to the Zebra Finch Show Standard on outline and frontal view.

Type is the "OUTLINE" of the bird and on the points scale is worth **40** points.

The external lines of the bird should flow smoothly and evenly from beak to tail, both over the back and down the front and under the belly, as per the Standard drawing.

Any disruptions to these lines should be considered a fault and penalised accordingly.

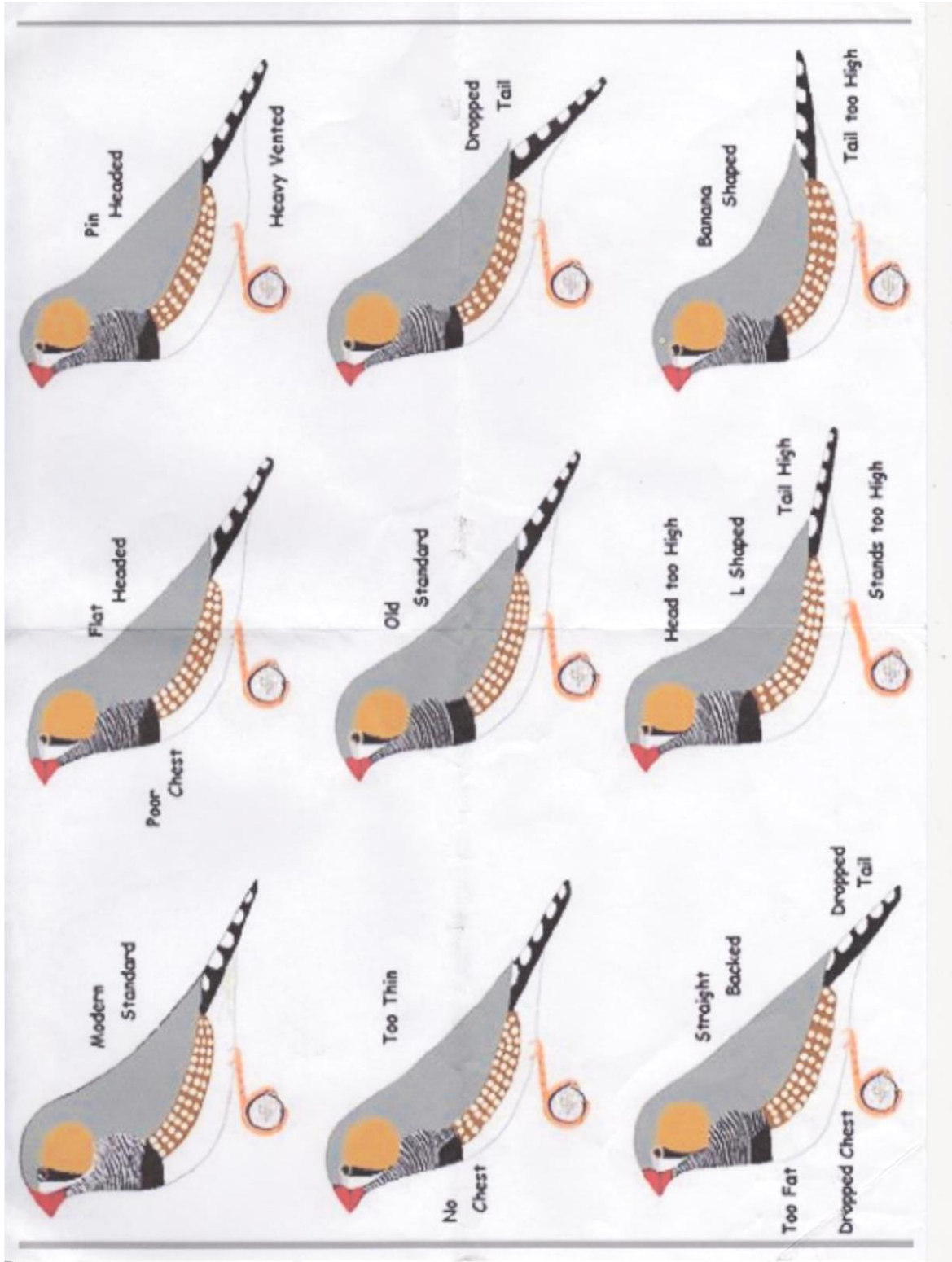
The bird must project a balanced stance as this will affect the 'OUTLINE' of the bird.

COMMON FAULTS ON TYPE:

Refer next page.

COMMON TYPE FAULTS in ZEBRA FINCHES

The drawings below depict some of the more common TYPE faults encountered when Judging Zebra Finches.



TECHNIQUE FOR ASSESSING TYPE:

The Zebra Finch Show Standard Type diagram must be committed to memory as this is the governing factor in assessing type.

1. Assess the birds overall outline to select major faults, remembering that **type** is **three (3) dimensional**.
2. Close scrutiny should start at the beak and flow down both upper and lower outlines to the tail to identify less obvious faults.
3. The bird's faults are then compared against the previously judged birds and ranked accordingly.

ASSESSING FEATURES of MARKINGS

The Markings for cocks are different from hens when considered for judging: -

COCK

Tear Drop
Cheek Lobe
Zebra Lines
Breast Bar
Side Flankings
Tail Bars

HEN

Tear Drop
Tail Bars

After Type, Markings are the next most important feature of the bird and are allocated 25 points.

The points allocation remains the same for cocks and hens.

The quality of markings can either add to, or detract from, the appearance of the bird.

They should conform to the shape and placement as indicated in the Standard drawing (for each colour/variety).

They should also conform to the colour required by the standard for the appropriate colour mutation.

Close examination of the bird's markings will often reveal many variations from perfection.

Markings on hens are confined to tear drops and tail bars (except where the Standard dictates otherwise).

Cock markings, either faint or 'ghost markings/ghosting', are regarded as a fault and should be penalised accordingly, i.e. 5 to 15 points per cock marking.

Ghost markings or ghosting is the Zebra Finch judging terminology for the faint outline of, or image of, cock markings on hens. These can be caused by subtle colour variations or feather orientation.

In the "PIED" variety the white pied areas of the markings are assessed as Marking Features whilst the white pied areas of the body are assessed as Colour Features. Absent or unbroken Markings on Pies should be considered as marking faults.

COMMON FAULTS IN MARKINGS:

Refer to the Zebra Finch Show Standard – Description of Perfection.

Any variation from the description is deemed to be a fault and should be penalised accordingly.

TECHNIQUE FOR ASSESSING MARKINGS

Each marking area should be examined individually noting faults in shape and colour. These assessments are taken into account along with previously assessed Type, to further grade the birds within the class.

ASSESSING FEATURES of COLOUR

After markings, colour is the next most important feature of the bird and is allocated **15 points**.

The bird should be judged for both evenness of colour and colour correctness, according to the appropriate Pantone colours described in the Federation of Zebra Finch Societies Approved Show Standard for the relevant variety.

Be aware of the colour faults for the variety being judged. Colour faults are clearly defined in the Federation of Zebra Finch Societies of Australia Show Standard. Shade variations of the specified pantone colour given for the class standard are permissible, but should incur an appropriate penalty as a colour fault.

COMMON FAULTS IN COLOUR:

Refer to the Colour Standard section of the Zebra Finch Show Standard.

TECHNIQUE FOR ASSESSING COLOUR:

1. Each bird should be assessed for correctness and evenness of colour.
2. These assessments should be considered along with previously assessed type and markings to further grade the birds within the class.

ASSESSING FEATURES of CONDITION

The next feature of the bird to be assessed is condition, which is also allocated **15 points**.

Condition is comprised of the bird's health, feather quality, cleanliness and completeness, e.g.; all toenails etc.

It is also essential that the bird exhibits movements appropriate for a Zebra Finch i.e. neither inactive or overactive behaviour.

COMMON FAULTS IN CONDITION:

1. Pin Feathers.
2. Missing and/or Damaged Feathers.
3. Soiled Feathers.
4. Scale on Beak and/or Legs.
5. Pale Beak Colour.
6. Inactivity

If any signs of illness or injury are detected, the judges/s should remove the bird from the judging stand and refer it to the Show Manager.

TECHNIQUE FOR ASSESSING CONDITION:

1. Each bird should be assessed for vitality and good health.
2. These assessments should be considered along with all previous assessed type, markings and colour to further grade the birds within the class.

ASSESSING FEATURES of SIZE

The last feature to be considered is Size and it is allocated **5 points**.

Size is the length of the bird from the tip of the Beak to the tip of the Tail. This should be 110mm.

It is important to realise that a bird can be either too large or too small.

Poor type can visually affect the size of the bird.

TECHNIQUE FOR ASSESSING SIZE

The size of the bird only becomes important when all other assessed features are judged equal.

Make a visual assessment of each bird's length in relation to the Standard Drawing.

PRACTICAL TRAINING

To aid in your training, workshops will be conducted on the following topics: -

1. Training in the art of Judging classes of different sizes.
2. Method of assessment by visual application.
3. Practical experience from the Table Shows of the day.

PAIRS

A Pair shall consist of one cock and hen of the same colour and variety.

A pair should:

1. Conform to the Standard for colour and markings, for the colour and variety being judged
2. Be of similar size, shape and shade of colour
3. Be of good type compared to the Standard.

For example, a poor pairing would be a large bird with a small bird, a tight feathered bird with a loose feathered bird or a light shade of Dark Cream with a darker shade of Dark Cream. Emphasis should be on the birds being similar to each other.

TEAMS

A Team shall consist of 3 birds of the same colour, variety and sex. Points are deducted for not conforming to the Standard and for not matching each other in Type, Markings, Colour, Condition and Size.

COLLECTIONS

A Collection shall consist of 3 birds of different colour and variety but be of the same sex.

Points are deducted for not conforming to the Standard and for not matching each other in Type, Condition and Size.

CONCLUDING NOTES:

This course is not restricted to persons who are seeking appointment as a Specialist Zebra Finch Judge, but is open to all.

A person wishing to be recognised as a Specialist Zebra Finch Judge must meet their club's accreditation requirements. This may include, on completion of the course, applying in writing to their club's Judges Panel for registration.

To become a National Zebra Finch Judge, refer to 'Accreditation of National Judges', page 26 of this manual.

INFORMATION TO REMEMBER:

RE-CLASSING:

If a bird is to be re-classed, notify the Show Manager who may exercise his/her discretion to re-class.

WRONG CLASSING:

A bird is wrong classed and therefore receives no award when:

1. A bird is of the incorrect colour variety for the class in which it is entered. Refer to the Zebra Finch Standard for the correct varietal colour.
2. A bird that carries one or more white feathers and is not entered in a Pied or Grizzle class is visually a very bad Pied or Grizzle and is therefore wrong classed.
3. A Cock bird is shown in a Hen class or vice-versa.

NON-STANDARD MUTATION:

Non-Standard Mutation shall mean; a colour with unique features, distinctly different to an established Standard.

If a feature is considered a show fault, it cannot be classified as a Non-Standard mutation.

NO AWARDS

Refer to Condition faults and disqualifications in the Zebra Finch Show Standard.

Refer also to the individual Show Standards for 'no award' e.g. Blackfront; Charcoal

No award is also made when:

1. A Pair cage contains two birds of the same sex, or two birds of different colours.
2. A Team or Collection that contains birds of both sexes.
3. A Team or Collection that contains two birds of one Standard Colour and a third bird of a different Standard Colour.
4. A show cage does not conform to Show Rules.
5. A bird in a Young Bird Class or Federation Show rung with a closed ring that does not conform to show rules.

ACCREDITATION OF NATIONAL JUDGES

The accreditation of National Judges will be undertaken by the Federation of Zebra Finch

Societies of Australia Judges Panel.

The process for the accreditation of National Judges will be:

1. The member-body's FLO will submit the name/names of judges they wish to have accredited as a National Judge to the Judges Panel at any time of the year.
2. The Judges Panel will receive the submission and, providing that it is appropriately submitted in accordance with the Accreditation Criteria, approve the appointment.
3. The Judges Panel will maintain a list of accredited judges.
4. The Judges Panel will notify all FLOs of any changes to the list of accredited National Judges promptly after each change.
5. The Judges Panel will provide FLOs with a copy of the list of accredited National Judges at Fed meetings.

The process for removal of accreditation of National Judges will be:

1. A member-body wishing to have the accreditation of a National Judge removed because either the judge wishes to resign or he/she no longer meets the Maintenance Criteria, will notify the Judges Panel that they wish the accreditation removed.
2. The Judges panel will remove the person's name from the list of accredited National Judges.
3. At that time, the Panel will amend the list of National Judges and notify all FLOs of the change.

MAINTENANCE CRITERIA of NATIONAL JUDGES

Accreditation is to be renewed every two years.

To maintain National status a National Judge MUST:

1. Be a financial member of a club that is a member of the Federation of Zebra Finch Societies.
2. Have judged at least 2 specialist Zebra Finch shows within the preceding 3 years. This would include Federation, Club, State and Young Bird Shows as well as other shows where a Specialist Zebra Finch Judge is requested, but not table shows.
3. Have been showing Zebra Finches in Young Bird classes in the preceding 2 years.
4. Have attended, or organised a judges training seminar at least once in the preceding 2 years. These include the Federation run events and individual club run events.
5. Demonstrate annually a detailed knowledge of the current classification features of every standardised variety. This can be done by open book and is simply to show that they have kept up to speed with these features. Clubs will be responsible for confirming that this has been completed annually.
6. The Judge's club Liaison Officer will attest that the nominee has met the required criteria during the preceding two years.

The National status will lapse if this criterion is not met. If the cause of the lapse relates to the non-attendance of a seminar under 4 above, the National status can be reinstated after attending an appropriate seminar within 12 months of the lapse.

FEDERATION NATIONAL TEAMS SHOW RULES

1. The classes for each show are to be in accordance with the rotation approved by a Federation Meeting.
2. The host club shall advise all Member Bodies one year before the show if they may enter 2 or 3 birds in each class.
3. The show is to take place on the Saturday unless otherwise approved by the Federation.
4. Birds eligible to be entered shall wear the current year ring or either of the two preceding years.
5. Birds must have been bred by the exhibitor.
6. The winning club shall be the club that gains the most place points over the show.
7. Points shall be allocated from first to last place in each class in descending order. Each class shall have the same points for each respective award regardless of whether the class is full or not. I.e. the points for birds not sent, no award or wrong class will be deemed to be those for the relevant lower positions and will not be awarded.
8. Judges to be selected, by the host club, from a list nominated by the Member Bodies. To be available for selection the nominee must be a judge on a current list of accredited judges circulated by the Chairman of the Judges Panel.
9. Judging is to be conducted in pairs.
10. There shall be a minimum of 2 judging pairs officiating.
11. No judges from the same club shall constitute a pair at any time.
12. No judge may be an exhibitor in any class where that judge officiates.
13. Pairs may be appointed for the duration of the show or may be rotated with various selected judges to judge different classes, at the discretion of the host club.
14. The Show Manager shall be authorized to remove any bird from the bench for valid reason and must remove birds in obvious distress or with significant blood loss.
15. **Judges responsibilities and ethics:**
 - a. **A judge shall not:**
 - i. Play any part in the preparation of birds nor participate in or be present when his/her club team is selected, for any class that the judge is appointed to judge.
 - ii. Have any knowledge of the team selected to compete in such classes.
 - iii. Be associated with the transport or staging of any show team unless it is not possible for the judge to see the birds at any time before judging.

- b. **Judges shall:**
- i. Act impartially and honourably at all times and ensure that no act is done or not done which could be perceived as inappropriate or potentially dishonourable.
 - ii. As a judging team, brief the audience regarding the reasons for the award selection after each class is judged.
 - iii. Be responsible to ensure that only birds with eligible closed rings [as approved by Fed from time to time] are given awards.
 - iv. Announce whether they are judging from left to right or vice versa.

GUIDELINES for HOST CLUBS and TRAINEE NATIONAL JUDGES

1. The host club has sole control over whether or not Trainee National Judges can participate in the Federation Judging process.
2. All Trainee National Judge applications must be forwarded from the applicant's FLO to the host club's FLO.
3. The ratio of National Judges/Trainee National Judges can be no more than 2/1.
4. A Trainee National Judge should be paired with all pairs of officiating National Judges to maximize training and experience.
5. Trainee National Judges and their respective clubs should keep records of classes judged at Federation with the aim of judging all classes over 2 – 3 years.
6. Trainee National Judges may contribute opinions and participate in discussions during Judging **when requested by the officiating judges**. They **must not** have any bearing on the class final placings.
7. Trainee National Judges will, at all times, adhere to the Federation Judging Code of Ethics [p12 of this manual].