



**Guidelines**  
**Breeders Award Program**  
**Greater Austin Aquarium Society**  
Effective January 1, 2020

# GAAS BAP GUIDELINES

## Purpose

- To encourage members of the Greater Austin Aquarium Society (GAAS) to breed and share knowledge concerning the spawning and rearing of fish (refers to fish and other aquatic species appropriate for the aquarium) • To recognize the achievements of society members concerning the breeding of fish • To promote an interest in and make available a wide variety of fish • To make more members active participants in the society

## 1) Committee Responsibilities

The Breeders Award Program (BAP) Committee will consist of a chairperson, co-chairperson and additional members appointed by the chairs. Duties of the committee will be to maintain records, report standings for the website, help verify spawns at meetings and act as a guide for the placement of the species into the BAP point schedule. It is the duty of the chairperson to obtain and present all awards. Funds will be tracked by the GAAS accounting board.

## 2) Rules and Program Definitions

- *Participant Eligibility:* Breeder must be a member of the Greater Austin Aquarium Society. Spawning must be done by the breeder's own fish and the spawning must occur under the care of the breeder.
- *Species Identification:* The name of the fish is recognized as Genus-species. All fish MUST be registered by scientific name. Any previous synonyms known to the breeder should be included in the BAP Report to increase accuracy in awarding of points.
- *Participant Disqualification:* Any member abusing the rules and regulations of the BAP will be stripped of all points awarded and will be ineligible for participation in the program for a minimum of one year.
- *Filing of Disputes:* All complaints must be in writing to the BAP chairperson. On any disputed matter, the committee will meet, and a vote will be taken with majority rule. If at any time there is a tie, the chairperson will have the deciding vote.
- *Program Changes:* The committee will have the final word on any changes that may occur after the program is initiated.

## 3) Point Classification

The BAP committee will be responsible for the point classification of each fish registered. When BAP points are reclassified, the point classification will not adversely affect the points of any spawning previously awarded. The change will only affect an upwards point change and then only with a written request from the breeder, submitted to either the Chair or Co-chair. Fish are divided into four classes which denotes a point value.

- *Class A* (5 points): species that breed over a wide range of conditions without interference from the breeder. Examples: guppy and platy.
- *Class B* (10 points): species that breed easily, given specific conditions, which are not too exacting. Examples: barbs which breed easily when conditioned properly, zebra danios when conditioned and given low water level and a marble bottomed tank or African mbuna which breed easily given alkaline water, good food and some measure of protection against aggression.
- *Class C* (15 points): species which may present moderate problems in one or more of the following areas: aggressive behavior, water chemistry, specific diet requirements, mate selection or sexing, poor physical stamina or disease resistance, special tank setup requirements, special care for fry. Example: angelfish- may present a sexing problem, have an aggressive nature, and can present a problem providing proper brood care.
- *Class D* (20 points): species that have not been bred, bred only very rarely, or are very difficult to breed based on the severity of the problems mentioned above. Examples: black ghost fish, neon tetras, and all marine species.

#### 4) Awarding of Points

Each spawn must be registered by completing a BAP form that is signed by the participant and a committee member and turned into the BAP Chairperson at the time of the monthly meeting. Participating members are responsible for obtaining, completing, and submitting all forms required for participation. Any participant in the BAP program is eligible to withhold one spawn yearly from auction at the monthly meeting or annual GAAS auction and still receive points. If more than one person from a family is a member, points will be awarded to the family, or not more than one individual per household will be allowed to participate in the program. The exception will be Junior Breeder, which can be awarded to each junior member.

- *Saltwater Spawns*: Marine fish/invertebrates will be class D if the fry are free swimming for 30 days and brought to a monthly meeting for verification and auction. • Corals must show reasonable growth within 60 days of original viewing and be brought to a monthly meeting for verification and auction.
- *Freshwater Spawns*: Five fry 45 days old or older must be brought to a monthly meeting for verification and auction.
- *Additional Points*:
  - Spawns recorded for the first time will be awarded an additional 5 points. Points for first-time spawns will be awarded based on species only, not color morph, locale, or finnage.
  - Spawns of IUCN Red List or CARES species will be awarded an additional 5 points.
  - Original articles pertaining to the spawn submitted, with references, will be awarded an additional 5 points. The time frame for the article will be three months from the date of the spawn. Articles may be published in a GAAS newsletter and/or submitted to FOTAS Fish Tales for consideration of publication.

## 5) Titles and Requirements

- *Junior Breeder*: 30 points from any class
- *Senior Breeder*: 60 points from any class
- *Advanced Breeder*: 120 points-Senior Breeder plus 60 points from any class and with at least 15 points from class C or D fish.
- *Expert Breeder*: 180 points-Advanced Breeder plus 60 points from any class and with at least 15 points from class C or D fish.
- *Master Breeder*: 240 points-Expert Breeder plus 60 points from any class and with at least 30 points from class C or D fish.
- *Grand Master Breeder I*: 360 points-Master Breeder plus 120 points from any class and with at least 60 points from class C or D fish.
- *Grand Master Breeder II*: 500 points-Grand Master Breeder 1 plus 140 points from any class and at least 60 points from class C or D fish.
- *Grand Master Breeder III*: 750 points-Grand Master Breeder 2 plus 250 points from any class and at least 60 points from class C or D fish.
- *Grand Master Breeder IV*: 1000 points-Grand Master Breeder 3 plus 250 points from any class and at least 60 points from class C or D fish but must include a spawn from two different class D fish throughout the program.
- *Ultimate Grand Master Breeder*: The Ultimate Grand Master Breeder category is designed with the intention of expanding participants' knowledge of fish keeping by requiring a variety of fish to be spawned. This level requires *Grand Master Breeder IV* plus 500 additional points with 120 points from class C or D fish, but must include at least one spawn from each class

## 6) Awards

- *Junior, Senior, Advanced and Expert Breeders*: Certificate of Accomplishment
- *Master Breeders*: Plaque plus plaque updates for previous certificates.
- *Grand Master Breeders*: Plaque updates
- *Ultimate Grand Master Breeders*: Plaque updates and standing trophy

All awards will be presented at the Annual Fall auction or FOTAS event depending on hosting city