

## ECAAC PROGRAMS

# Breeding Awards Program

Celebrating dedication, advancing the hobby and preserving aquatic life. The Eastern Cape Aquarium & Aquascaping Club's Breeder Awards Program (BAP) recognises members who contribute to the advancement of the hobby, the preservation of aquatic species, and the growth of our community's collective expertise.

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## I. PURPOSE

### What the program is here to do

*Our Breeder Awards Program is designed to:*

- Encourage members of ECAAC to breed aquatic species and share knowledge concerning their spawning and rearing.
- Recognise the achievements of ECAAC members concerning the breeding of aquatic species.
- Promote an interest in, and make available, a wider variety of aquatic species.
- Encourage more members to be active participants in the society.
- Reduce the environmental strain of collecting endangered and wild-caught species.
- Share knowledge of breeding techniques.

*For the purposes of this program, "aquatic species" includes fish as well as invertebrates (such as shrimp and snails) and aquatic amphibians (such as Axolotl) listed in the species classifications.*

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## II. ELIGIBILITY

### Who and what qualifies

- Participation is open to ECAAC members in good standing. Points accrue only for spawns occurring while the breeder is a member.
  - The spawn must occur in tanks or facilities owned and maintained by the member. Spawns from jointly maintained tanks are credited to one nominated member only.
  - Hybrids, man-made crosses, and genetically modified fish (e.g. GloFish-type strains) do not qualify. Established trade-recognised colour and fin varieties of a true species (e.g. Angelfish varieties) do qualify, but points are awarded only once per species regardless of variety.
  - Hormone-induced spawning does not qualify. All spawns must result from husbandry and environmental conditioning.
  - The program applies to spawns occurring on or after the program launch date. Spawns predating the program are not eligible for points.
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### III. WHAT COUNTS AS A QUALIFIED SPAWN

## Five conditions, all required

*A spawning qualifies for points only when all of the following are met:*

1. A minimum of 10 fry (5 for Class D and E species, and for marine species) are raised by the member.
2. The fry survive for at least 60 days past the free-swimming stage (30 days for marine species and Class E species, at the committee's discretion).
3. The parents are owned by the member and identified to species level. If identification cannot be confirmed, the committee may assign a code number for recording purposes until identification is made.
4. The spawn is logged with the committee within 30 days of reaching the free-swimming stage, with the survival period verified thereafter.
5. Each species earns Lifetime Achievement points once only, regardless of how many times it is spawned or in how many varieties. (Repeat spawns may still count toward Breeder-of-the-Year — see Special Awards.)

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### IV. SUBMIT A SPAWNING

## Log a qualified spawn

*Every submission is reviewed by the committee and verified before points or certificates are awarded at the next general meeting. Have your details ready before you start.*

6. Fill in the species, class, and spawn details in the online form. Use the species classification list below to find the right class.
7. Attach 2–3 photos or a short video of the fry/offspring as evidence — email these separately to [president@ecaac.co.za](mailto:president@ecaac.co.za), referencing your name and species.
8. Submit the form. This opens a pre-filled email to the committee — just hit send from your email app.
9. The committee verifies your submission and announces awards at the next general meeting.

*Submission fields collected online: full name, email address, species (common and scientific name), species class, date of spawn, award program(s) the entry applies to, number of offspring raised to free-swimming, and rearing notes.*

### Verification

- Verification is by donation of a minimum of 5 fry from the submitted spawn to the monthly meeting auction, once the survival period in Section III has been met. Where donation is impractical (e.g. very large or delicate species), a committee member or appointed witness may instead inspect the fry in person or by live video.
  - A committee member submitting their own spawn must have it verified by another committee member and may not vote on their own submission.
  - Points and awards are recorded by the committee and announced at the next general meeting after verification.
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## V. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### Six levels, built on accumulated points

*The Lifetime Achievement Award honours ongoing dedication to breeding. Members progress through six levels based on points earned from verified, qualified spawnings — points are set by each species' classification (see Species Classes below), so harder-to-breed species move you up faster.*

- Points are earned per verified qualified spawning, based on the point value of the species classification, once per species.
- First club spawn bonus: a species never before submitted to the ECAAC BAP earns an additional 5 points.
- Species not listed in the classifications will be assigned a class by the committee at the time of submission.
- Certificates and/or plaques will be awarded to breeders in each category.
- Attainment of any level will be recognised at the next general meeting after official verification.
- Master Breeder requires, in addition to 400 points, qualified spawns from at least three different classes, including at least one from Class C or higher.
- Grand Master Breeder requires, in addition to 500 points, qualified spawns from at least four different classes, including at least one from Class D or E, and at least one written breeding account submitted for the club newsletter or website.
- Participants reaching Grand Master will be awarded a Lifetime membership in the ECAAC.
- Uncommonly spawned species may be considered by the ECAAC for special recognition.

Achievement	Points Required	Award
Novice Breeder	<b>25 pts</b>	Certificate
Intermediate Breeder	<b>50 pts</b>	Certificate
Advanced Breeder	<b>100 pts</b>	Certificate
Senior Breeder	<b>200 pts</b>	Certificate
Master Breeder	<b>400 pts + 3 classes</b>	Certificate & Plaque
Grand Master Breeder	<b>500 pts + 4 classes</b>	Certificate, Plaque & Lifetime Membership

*Raising cultures (Class F, worth 5 pts each) count toward a separate Culture Award at 25 pts, recognising members who keep the club supplied with live food. Culture points do not count toward Lifetime Achievement levels.*

## VI. SPECIAL (NON-POINT) AWARDS

### Additional achievements and specialisations

*These awards celebrate achievements beyond the core point system.*

- No fish may be entered for a special award that has not also been entered in the Lifetime Achievement program. A species may be used in more than one Special BAP Program; each program must be submitted separately, although they may be submitted at the same meeting.
- Breeder-of-the-Year — awarded to the BAP participant with the highest BAP point total earned in a given calendar year (1 January to 31 December), announced at the first general meeting of the following year. Species previously used for Lifetime Achievement may be respawnd and entered for Breeder-of-the-Year once each calendar year, though they earn Lifetime Achievement points only once. In the case of a tie, the award goes to the breeder whose qualifying spawns include the most recent first-time species for the club; if still tied, the committee decides by vote.
- Specialization Award Program (SAP) — an aquarist must spawn 6 different members of one family of fish (e.g. Cichlidae, Anabantidae, Callichthyidae), or 6 different and distinct trade-recognised colours and/or fin types (e.g. Angelfish — Koi, Gold, Black, Blushing, Silver, Clown), or 6 fish that spawn similarly (e.g. bubble-nesters, mouth-brooders, cave-spawners).
- A member pursuing a Specialization Award must declare the intended specialization to the ECAAC chair, or their appointee, for approval. The declaration may be made at any point before the sixth qualifying spawn is submitted; spawns already logged in the Lifetime Achievement program may count retrospectively toward the declared specialization.
- When obtaining a Specialization Award for a similar spawning method, at least two families must be represented.
- The participant is responsible for maintaining records to show the six species spawned for a Specialization Award.

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## VII. DISPUTES & APPEALS

### If you disagree with a decision

- A member may appeal a committee decision (classification, verification, or point award) in writing within 30 days of the decision being announced.
  - Appeals are heard at the next committee meeting; the member may present evidence in person. The committee's decision on appeal is final.
  - The committee reviews the rules, classifications, and point values annually and may amend them. Amendments apply to future submissions only and never remove points already awarded.
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## SPECIES CLASSIFICATIONS & POINT VALUES

### Find your species' class

*Point values scale with how challenging a species is generally considered to breed and raise. Species not listed will be assigned a class by the committee at the time of submission.*

#### **Class A — 5 pts**

Livebearers, Tanichthys (White Clouds), Danio (formerly Brachydanio), Convict Cichlids, Tilapia (mouthbrooding).

#### **Class B — 10 pts**

American Flag fish (Jordanella), Shrimp, Badis badis, large Gouramis, Bettas, Paradise fish, Tilapia (non-mouthbrooding), Copeina sp., Angels, mouthbrooding Cichlids, Pelvicachromis, Apistogramma cacatuoides, Aequidens, Geophagus, Julidochromis, Neolamprologus, Rainbow fish.

#### **Class C — 15 pts**

Small Gouramis, Barbs, Killifish, Corydoras, Crenicara, Oscars, Chocolate Cichlid, Chromides, Pencil fish, Microgeophagus, Apistogramma (other than A. cacatuoides), Uaru, Headstanders, Goldfish, Koi, Nanochromis, Gobies, Cichlasoma, Anomalochromis, Chromidotilapia, South American cichlids not otherwise listed, Gudgeons.

#### **Class D — 20 pts**

Synodontis, Discus, Neon Tetras, Anableps, Hatchetfish, Cardinal Tetras, Silver Dollars, Pantodon, Marine Damsel fish, Glass fish, Archer fish, Ctenopoma, Chocolate Gouramis, Axolotl, Bumblebee Goby, Monos, Scatophagus, Leporinus, sucker-mouth Cats, Pike Cichlids, Otocinclus.

#### **Class E — 25 pts**

Arowana, Eels, Knife fish, Loaches, Elephant Nose, Piranha, Sharks, Seahorses.

#### **Class F — 5 pts · Culture Award**

Reserved for cultivable organisms that provide food to aquatic inhabitants, bred and raised to adulthood — snails, brine shrimp, worms, and similar cultures. Class F points count toward the Culture Award (25 pts) only.

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*Ready to log your first spawn? Whether it's your first batch of livebearer fry or your hundredth qualified spawning, the committee wants to hear about it — submit through the Breeding Awards Program page at [ecaac.co.za](http://ecaac.co.za).*