



## SOUTHERN AFRICAN SHOW POULTRY ORGANISATION BREED STANDARDS

### POLISH



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**ORIGIN:** Poland

**CLASSIFICATION:** Light breed: Soft feather

**EGG COLOUR:** White (Non-Sitters)

**MASSES:**

**LARGE FOWL:**

Cock	2.5 to 3.0kg
Hen	2.0 to 2.5kg

**BANTAMS:**

Cock	800g to 1000g
Hen	600g to 800g

That the Polish is a very old breed goes without saying, although its ancestry is none too clear. The crested Dutch or Polish was imported from Eastern Europe, probably Poland, and upon landing in England, they called these Poland Fowls. Many connect them with the breed Paduan or Patavinian Fowl, although the original example is illustrated without muff or beard. Polish (Gold or Silver Spangled, Black or White) had a classification at the first poultry show in London in 1845, and was standardised in the first book of standards in 1865, with White crested Black, Golden and Silver varieties included. The most striking characteristic of the Polish is the large protuberance or knob on top of the skull from which the crest of feathers grows, and the large cavernous nostrils which are found only on crested breeds. Darwin classified all fowls with top knots as Crested or Polish but did not give any data regarding their origin. The Dutch claim to have been the first to breed the White Crested varieties. (The white crested varieties are without muffling)

## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

### THE MALE

**Carriage:** Erect and sprightly.

**Type:** Body: full, round and fairly long. Breast: full and round. Back: flat, tapering to tail. Shoulders: wide, flanks deep. Wings: large, closely carried. Tail: full and neatly spread but carried rather low. Sickles and coverts: abundant and well spread.

**Head:** Large, with a decided and pronounced protuberance on top, from which springs the large, full crest, circular on top, free of any split or parting, compact centre and falling evenly all round with untwisted feathers, similar to the hackle feathers. The crest must be high and smooth in front. Beak: medium with large and very prominent cavernous nostrils rising above the curved line of the beak. Eyes: large, full. Comb (if any): horn type and very small. Preference is normally given to birds without combs. Face: smooth beardless, in white crested and other unbearded varieties; completely covered by muffling in bearded varieties. Muffling: full, plentiful and compact, fitting round and almost hiding the face. Earlobes: medium and oval, unseen in muffed varieties. Wattles of fair size in White crested and other unbearded varieties. No wattles (or very small) on bearded varieties.

**Neck:** Long with abundant hackle, covering the shoulders.

**Legs and feet:** Legs: fairly long and slender. Shanks: free of feathers. Toes: four, well spread and slender.

### THE FEMALE

The general characteristics are similar to those of the cock, allowing for the natural sexual differences, except that the crest must be globular.

## DISQUALIFICATIONS

Split or twisted crest. Comb, if any, other than horn type. Absence of muffling in muffed varieties. Legs other than blue or slate, except on whites and cuckoos where white legs (flesh colour) will be allowed. Any deformity. Feathers on shanks or toes. Absence of toenails. Extra toenails. Absence of cavernous nostrils. Crooked beak.

## NON-BEARDED VARIETIES

### COLOUR

It is popularly (but wrongly) supposed that white-crested colour varieties should have clear white crests. This is not so. In these varieties there should be bands of coloured feathers at base of crest above the beak, composed of feathers the same colour as body feathers. Birds without these bands should be passed. It means they have been plucked.

## WHITE CRESTED BLACK

**Plumage:** In both cock and hen: crest white with a group of black feathers at base of crest above the beak.

**Shanks and toes:** Dark slate.

**Under-colour:** In all sections, except crest, slate.

## WHITE CRESTED BLUE

**Plumage:** In both cock and hen: crest white with a group of blue feathers at base of crest in front. The rest of the bird is an even shade of blue, however fine lacing is preferable. The cock's hackle and tail may be of a darker shade.

**Shanks and toes:** Slaty blue.

**Note:** The White Crested Splashed is genetically related to the White Crested Blue, but can be shown in a different class.

## WHITE (WHITE CRESTED WHITE) (Code: 550)

**Plumage:** Pure white throughout.

**Shank and toes:** White to white slate.

**Beak:** Light horn to dark.

## WHITE CRESTED CUCKOO

**Plumage:** Crest white with cuckoo feathers at base of crest in front. Rest of plumage even and regular bars of dark slate or charcoal grey on a light (French) grey background.

**Legs:** Slaty blue to white (flesh colour).

**Beak:** White or light horn to dark.

## WHITE CRESTED MOTTLED

**Plumage:** Crest white with mottled feathers at the base of crest in front. Rest of plumage black with white spots spread as evenly as possible over the whole surface.

**Legs:** Light to dark slate. Spots permitted.

**Beak:** Dark horn.

## **BLACK CRESTED WHITE**

**Crest:** Rich metallic black, with white feathers at the base of crest in front.

**Plumage:** Rest of plumage pure white. Black spots on the breast and on the neck are however permitted.

**Legs:** Light slate.

**Beak:** Dark horn to light horn.

## **OTHER COLOURS (non-bearded)**

Golden Laced; Silver Laced; Chamois; Black Crested Black; Blue Crested Blue.

The colour description of these non-bearded varieties are identical with the corresponding bearded varieties, except for the beard.

<b>SCALE OF POINTS</b>	
<b>WHITE CRESTED / NON-BEARDED</b>	
Crest	30
Head	15
Colour	25
Type	10
Size	10
Condition	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

## BEARDED VARIETIES, ALSO KNOWN AS "PADUANER"



### COLOUR

**In both sexes and all colours:**

**Face:** Covered by muffs.

**Comb:** Bright red.

**Beak:** Bluish black.

**Eyes:** Reddish bay.

**Ear-lobes:** White or turquoise covered by muffs.

**Wattles:** Preferably none, or as small as possible - bright red if present.

### BLACK (BLACK CRESTED BLACK)

**Plumage:** In cock and hen: rich metallic black throughout.

**Shanks and toes:** Dark slate.

### CHAMOIS OR BUFF LACED WHITE

#### MALE

**Plumage:** An even shade of buff ground colour throughout, with white lacing round edges.

**Crest:** In cockerels and pullets, creamy white laced with rich golden buff, which should, after the first moult, be rich golden buff, laced with creamy white, or tipped with white. The roots could be white as well but the crest should be as free as possible from all white feathers.

<b>Beard:</b>	To be mottled or laced, not solid buff colour.
<b>Neck, breast, body:</b>	Rich golden buff, each feather laced with creamy white. Fluff light buff.
<b>Hackle:</b>	Tipped with white.
<b>Back and saddle:</b>	Lustrous, rich golden buff, each feather laced with creamy white.
<b>Wings:</b>	Fronts: lustrous, rich golden buff, laced with creamy white. Bows: lustrous golden buff with a tendency toward lacing. Coverts: rich golden buff, each feather laced with creamy white, lacing widest at ends, forming two well-defined wing bars. Primaries: golden buff, the outer end having an edging of creamy white, or tipped with white. Secondaries: rich golden buff with a well defined lacing of creamy white.
<b>Tail:</b>	Main tail: golden buff. Sickles and coverts: golden buff, each feather laced with creamy white.
<b>Legs and thighs:</b>	Lower thighs: golden buff laced with creamy white.
<b>Under-colour:</b>	In all sections creamy white.
<b>Shanks and toes:</b>	Slate.

#### **FEMALE**

<b>Plumage:</b>	Same as cock except that the rich golden buff is replaced by golden buff. The main tail is golden buff, each feather laced with creamy white, being wider at outer edge of feather. The primaries are golden buff.
<b>Shanks and toes:</b>	Slate.

#### **SILVER LACED**

<b>Plumage in both sexes:</b>	
<b>Crest:</b>	In cockerels and pullets black, laced with white, which should, after the first moult, be white, laced with lustrous black or tipped with black.
<b>Beard:</b>	White, laced with lustrous black, or tipped with black, not solid black or white.
<b>Neck:</b>	Silvery white, each feather laced with lustrous black. Front of neck same as breast.
<b>Hackle:</b>	Tipped or laced with black.
<b>Back and saddle:</b>	Silvery white, each feather laced with lustrous black.
<b>Tail:</b>	Main tail sickles and coverts white, each feather laced with lustrous black.

**Wings:** Fronts: white, each feather laced with lustrous black. Bows: silvery white with a tendency towards lacing. Coverts: white, each feather laced with lustrous black, forming two defined wing bars. Primaries: white, each feather ending with a lustrous black tip. The black tapering to a point on the lower edges. Secondaries: white, with well-defined black lacing.

**Breast:** White, each feather laced with lustrous black, the lacing being proportionate to size of feather.

**Body and fluff:** Body white, each feather laced with lustrous black. Fluff white, tinged with black.

**Legs and thighs:** White, each feather laced with lustrous black.

**Under-colour:** In all sections, slate.

**Shanks and toes:** Slate.

## **GOLDEN LACED**

**Plumage in both sexes:** The plumage and feather pattern is identical to the Silver Laced with the exception that the white in the Silver Laced becomes golden bay in the Golden Laced. Black markings are the same. Crest black at roots and tips and as free as possible of all white feathers. **(N.B. White feathers are however permitted).**

## **CUCKOO**

**Plumage in both sexes:** A clear even cuckoo colour throughout, including the crest. Beak, shanks and toes: white to slate.

## **BLUE**

**Plumage in both sexes:** A clear blue, with or without lacing, including the crest. Shanks and toes: slate. Beak: dark horn.

## **WHITE (WHITE CRESTED WHITE)**

**Plumage in both sexes:** Pure white throughout. Shanks and toes: white to light slate. Beak: light horn to dark.

SCALE OF POINTS	
BEARDED VARIETIES	
Crest	30
Head and muffling	15
Colour and markings	25
Type	10
Size	10
Condition	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

## BANTAMS

Polish Bantams are to be exact miniatures of their large fowl counterparts and therefore the same standard, colour and scale of points apply.  
 Polish Frizzle bantams are also seen on the show benches.