



## SOUTHERN AFRICAN SHOW POULTRY ORGANISATION BREED STANDARDS

### AUSTRALORP



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#### COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN:

The Black -	Australia
The White -	South Africa
The Golden -	South Africa
The Wheaten Laced -	South Africa
The Blue -	South Africa

**CLASSIFICATION:** Heavy Breed: Soft Feather

**EGG COLOUR:** Tinted (Sitters)

#### MASSES:

##### LARGE

Cock	4.6 – 5.0 kg
Hen	3.7 – 4.2 kg
Cockerel	4.0 kg
Pullet	3.0 kg

##### BANTAMS

Cock	1.7 kg max
Hen	1.5 kg max

**The Australorp is a production-bred Australian Black Orpington.** The original Black Orpington was produced by William Cook of England and later specimens of this breed were exported to Australia where it was converted, by selective breeding, from a purely exhibition breed to a highly popular commercial one.

The Black Australorp in South Africa all originate from importations from Australia roundabout 1910. South Africa holds the distinction of having originated all the other colour varieties of Australorps.

The White Australorp originated from sports (mutations) from the Blacks. They were admitted to the South African standards in 1939 on applications from two breeders, the late Mr. N.H. Addison of Middelburg, Cape, and the late Mr. Dan Jacobs of Alberton.

The Golden Australorp was perfected by the late Prof. A.M. Gericke at the Pretoria University, and admitted to the South African standards in 1949.

The Wheaten Laced were produced from sports bred from pure Australorps by Mrs. Myrtle Phillips of Tarkastad and were admitted to the South African Standards in 1954.

The Blue was perfected by Mr. A.A. Luckhoff of Vereeniging after years of selection from Blue individuals originating from matings of Black and White Australorp.

## **GENERAL CHARASTERISTICS**

### **MALE AND FEMALES**

<b>Carriage:</b>	Graceful, alert and well balanced.
<b>Body:</b>	The ideal Australorp is a compact bird of fair size, standing on legs of medium length, the body giving the impression of depth, width and fair length, the whole being in proportion and symmetrical. Excessive fluff and loose feathering should be eliminated to show greater length of leg and less bulk of body owing to its closer feathering.
<b>Head:</b>	Finely modeled, medium in length, skull deep, broad and moderately flat.
<b>Comb:</b>	Bright red, neat, of fine texture, medium size, erect and blade carried horizontally and evenly serrated, with no indication of beefiness and no tendency to project over the beak. Even, wedge-shaped serrations.
<b>Beak:</b>	Short, stout, thick at base and well curved.
<b>Face:</b>	Bright red, of bold appearance, not shrunken, free from excessive feathering and wrinkles.
<b>Eyes:</b>	Large, full, bright, prominent and expressive, free from drooping lids, not sunken or beetle browed.
<b>Ear-lobes:</b>	Bright red, of medium size, oblong and smooth.
<b>Wattles:</b>	Bright red, of medium size, in proportion to comb and head, even and well rounded.
<b>Note:</b>	Slight black pigment allowed in comb, face, lobes, and wattles of pullets.
<b>Neck:</b>	Well arched, of medium length, with well-developed hackle.
<b>Back:</b>	As broad and flat as possible with no inclination to roundness, the breadth being carried well back towards the tail.

<b>Wings:</b>	Compact and carried closely in, the ends being covered by the saddle hackles.
<b>Saddle hackle:</b>	To be full in conformity with the tail in order to make a graceful and uniform sweep from the back.
<b>Tail:</b>	Moderately short, fairly full with main tail feathers well spread, to be carried at an angle of about 50 degrees (a compact tail). Sickles of males: medium length.
<b>Chest:</b>	Full, well rounded and carried well forward, thus eliminating the tendency to a straight line from the neck to the thighs.
<b>Depth of body:</b>	From the back to the base of the breast bone to be as great as possible.
<b>Ribs:</b>	Well sprung.
<b>Breast:</b>	The breast bone should be long and straight, the rear point being as near as possible in line with the pelvis, not curving upwards to the stern. Dented or slightly crooked breast to be penalised.
<b>Abdomen:</b>	In females pelvic bones straight and fine, well set apart and pliable, must be free from any indication of coarseness with good depth from pelvic bones to end of breastbone.
<b>Skin of abdomen:</b>	Skin soft and silky to the touch, pliant but not sagging.
<b>Legs and feet:</b>	Medium length and bone, set well apart. Toes: straight, four in number.
<b>Plumage:</b>	Feathers soft and silky to the touch, moderately tight, but not hard and tight as in Game breeds; fluff moderate.

## COLOUR

### THE BLACK

<b>Beak:</b>	Black or dark horn.
<b>Eyes:</b>	Black or black with brown iris.
<b>Plumage:</b>	Black throughout, with a beetle-green sheen. Slight indications of white tipping in the primary flight feathers of the wing of young birds of either sex is not to be considered a disqualification. Faint white ticking on the head of an old hen is permissible. Slight purple is permissible, but should be penalised by the deduction of points.
<b>Under-colour:</b>	From dark grey to black.
<b>Legs and feet:</b>	Black, shading to slate blue in old birds. Soles of feet: flesh white, any black to be penalised. Toenails white.
<b>Skin:</b>	White.

## DISQUALIFICATIONS

White in plumage except where allowed. Red and/or bronze in feather. Red, pearl or grey eyes. Permanent enamel white in lobes of pullets and all males, showing more than a ¼ white. Yellow or willow in feet and legs. Yellow skin.

### THE WHITE

<b>Beak:</b>	White or horn.
<b>Eyes:</b>	Black or black with brown iris. Red to be a disqualification.
<b>Plumage:</b>	Colour white throughout. Slight black and solid black ticking to be penalised. One or more feathers in wing or tail tipped or striped with black to be a disqualification.
<b>Legs and feet:</b>	Slate. Black, white, yellow or willow to be a disqualification. Soles of feet flesh white. Yellow a disqualification. Toenails white or horn, slate to be penalised.
<b>Skin:</b>	White. Yellow a disqualification.

### THE GOLDEN

<b>Beak:</b>	White or horn coloured.
<b>Eyes:</b>	Bay or reddish bay.
<b>Plumage of the male:</b>	Rich golden ground colour, wing-bow and back, chestnut red. Primaries and secondaries: black edged with golden.
<b>Plumage of the female:</b>	In the hen body plumage should be buff to light buff and in the pullets golden. In both black ticking may be allowed in the lower neck feathers and the black colour in the wing and tail to be less prominent than the male.
<b>In Both Sexes Under-colour:</b>	Buff or cream in preference to slate.
<b>Legs and feet:</b>	Grey in preference to slate. Soles of feet flesh white. Toenails white or reddish horn.

## DISQUALIFICATIONS

Solid black feathers in wing and tail of both sexes. More than 1.30 cm of positive white in any part of body plumage, or two or more flight feathers tipped, or edged, with more than 1.30 cm of positive white.

**Remarks:** The male must have a richer ground colour than the female otherwise the latter will be too light or nearly silver in the second year. The phenomenon known as sex dichromatic is well expressed in the Golden Australorp producing in hens a lighter colour than in males. The depigmentation in the feathers of the hen is caused by the hormones secreted by the female ovary and which are capable of diluting the golden colour of her feathers. Hence the colour differentiation is proposed between hens and pullets to prevent high producing hens from being penalised on shows.

## THE SPLASH (BLACK/BLUE)

### MALE AND FEMALE

**Comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes:**

Bright red.

**Beak:**

Light to dark horn.

**Eyes:**

Black or very dark brown.

**Shanks and toes:**

Light to dark slate. Toenails, soles of feet and skin: pinkish white.

**Plumage:**

Slaty black or blue and white that has a faint blackish grey tinge. Black or blue in feathers in the form of large, irregular blobs or splashes. Main tail and primary wing feathers with a lesser amount of black or blue than the rest of the plumage.

**Under-colour:**

Slate dark and sooty white.

## THE WHEATEN LACED

### MALE AND FEMALE

**Beak:**

Black or dark horn.

**Eyes:**

Red or reddish brown with black iris. Red eye preferred.

**Legs and feet:**

Slate blue. Soles of feet flesh white. Toenails: white or horn.

**Plumage of male:**

Colour, hackle rust gold and black. The back, wingbow, wing coverts and tail coverts and sickles: beetle-green black.

**Primaries:**

Flat black.

**Secondaries::**

Flat black with rust fringe on lower edge, showing a rust triangle when the wing is closed.

<b>Breast and all underbody parts:</b>	Black, with light grey under-colour showing through towards thighs.
<b>Under-colour:</b>	Light grey throughout.
<b>Saddle hackle:</b>	Rich rust gold.
<b>Plumage of female:</b>	Hackle, yellow, gold and black. Shoulders, back, saddle and wings, when closed, light red wheaten with black lacing. Lacing more pronounced on back.
<b>Primaries:</b>	Dark with a touch of wheaten.
<b>Secondaries:</b>	Upper half dark, lower half red wheaten.
<b>Tail:</b>	Flat black fringed with wheaten.
<b>Under body and rest:</b>	Light red wheaten.
<b>Under-colour:</b>	Rich cream to light grey.

## **THE BLUE**

### **MALE AND FEMALE**

<b>Beak:</b>	Blue.
<b>Eyes:</b>	Black or black with a brown iris.
<b>Comb, wattles and ear-lobes:</b>	Bright red.
<b>Legs and feet:</b>	Black or blue. Toenails white. Soles of feet: pinkish-white.
<b>Skin:</b>	White. Yellow a disqualification.
<b>Plumage of male:</b>	Head, hackle, shoulders, back, saddle and tail, very dark slate-blue, each feather laced with lustrous blue. Excessive dark blue extending beyond shoulders and back into the body plumage is undesirable.
<b>Breast and body:</b>	Medium shade of slate-blue. Each feather laced with dark blue.
<b>Wing:</b>	Primaries: dark blue, with a wide lacing of very dark blue at the top of each feather. Secondaries: medium slate blue, laced with dark blue.
<b>Plumage of female:</b>	Medium slate blue laced with darker shade all through, except head and neck which is a dark slate blue.

## DISQUALIFICATIONS

More than 1.3 cm of positive white in any part of the body plumage or more flight feathers tipped with more than 1.3 cm of positive white.

## BANTAMS

Australorp bantams are to be exact miniatures of their large fowl counterparts and so standard, colour and scale of points apply.

SCALE OF POINTS	
THE BLACK AND WHITE	
Symmetry and type	25
Colour of plumage	10
Comb, wattles, lobes, face, beak, legs and toes	15
Condition	10
Shape of head and beak 3, neck 2	5
Eye, colour and shape of iris and pupil	5
Breast 7, back and shoulders 10, abdomen 8	25
Tail	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

SCALE OF POINTS	
THE GOLDEN, BLUE, SPLASH AND WHEATEN LACED	
Type	25
Colour and marking	25
Size	20
Condition	10
Head	10
Legs and feet	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

	LARGE	BANTAM
ENTRY CODE	132	524
RING SIZE COCK	F	C
RING SIZE HEN	E	C
<b>Colour code</b>		
Black	120	
Blue	148	
Golden	330	
Splash (Black)	522	
Splash (Blue)	524	
Wheaten Laced	540	
White	542	