



FEIF INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ICELANDIC HORSE ASSOCIATIONS

Overview of Changes and Clarifications in the R&R 2025 and the Sport Judges Guidelines 2025

- Full documents are available on the FEIF website: <https://www.feif.org/feif/documents/>
- New texts/changed texts in red.
- The word „tack“ has been changed to „equipment“ in the entire R&R 2025
- Numbering has been adapted where relevant.

Statutes

Chapter 3: Membership

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- The Board of Directors can propose to the Delegates Assembly an exclusion of a member association from FEIF, if the association has not fulfilled its obligation according to the Purpose and Goals of FEIF or if the association has not applied to the rules and regulations of FEIF. Before such a proposal is brought to the Delegates' Assembly, the Board of Directors shall give fair notice to the member association to comply and give notice that the Board is considering this proposal to the Delegates Assembly. Such a proposal from the Board of Directors can be approved by majority at the Delegates Assembly.

General Rules and Regulations

G1.3.2 Fitness to compete

h. Artificial support

Horses that need any artificial support on hooves other than permitted equipment, may only compete if the chief judge accepts it. It is advisable to have the artificial support checked before the first start of the competition

G1.5 Play Clean

Drug misuse can be harmful to the health of riders and the use of doping substances or doping methods damages the integrity, image and value of the sport, whether or not the motivation to use drugs is to improve performance.

In its mission to preserve the integrity of competition, inspire true sport, and protect the rights of athletes, FEIF believes that every athlete has the right to compete on a clean and level playing field, free from the pressures and influences of performance-enhancing drugs.

G3.4 Official and international Database: WorldFengur FEIF/BÍ

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All data that is entered into or published in WorldFengur must be reliable and relevant to the breeding goals for the Icelandic horse breed. Information that is registered concerning phenotypes of horses is only relevant in WorldFengur when the identity of the horse has been verified with a microchip.

G3.5.3 BLUP

Breeding values for the Icelandic horse population are estimated with the BLUP method and is the responsibility of Bændasamtök Íslands (BÍ). The calculations are done every fall as soon as possible and not later than one month after the last breeding show of the year. It is also done before Landsmót in Iceland. The development of calculations is the responsibility of the FEIF breeding evaluation group. This group is appointed in cooperation between the breeding leader of FEIF and the breeding leader of Iceland.

G3.5.9 Registered origin

Origin of horses is registered in WorldFengur with a unique Farm ID number that is connected to the country of birth. The origin is divided into two categories, Farm names and Stud names. Changes of origin is not possible when the horse has been assessed at a breeding show, competition results have been registered for the horse, or a passport has been issued.

- Farm names are names of the farm where the breeder of the horse lives or where the horse is born, given that there is an approval from the owner of the farm that the name is used as the origin of the horse.
- Stud names are the name of the breeding from a certain breeder. New stud names must not be registered into WorldFengur if the same name is used by another breeder if it is a protected brand name or a name of a place or location.

G6.3. Finances

3. The organiser of the World Championships pays the amount of € 70.000.- (indexed) to FEIF indexed according to the rate of inflation as reported by the European Central Bank from the date the agreement is signed to the date of final payment. This payment shall be remitted by September 30 just after the World Championship at the latest.
4. The costs of travelling and lodging will be shared between the organiser and participating countries. The organiser contributes € 25,000 (indexed for inflation according to the same procedure as the basic FEIF fee), the rest will be contributed by the participating countries, based upon the number of members per team. The costs of travel and lodging for the required meeting of the judges are included in this expense.

G6.10 Team Registration

Procedure on the World Champion Grounds:

- 2 hours after the final Fit-to-Compete Check the national teams have to be confirmed
- There is no penalty if a declared horse drops out, because of failing the fit-to-competes-check, and is replaced by a reserve horse
- There will be a penalty if more than 1 test per combination is withdrawn (as it has been registered 2 weeks before)

G7.3.2 Participating horses in sport events

Purebred Icelandic horses aged five years and above are eligible. Proof is required in the form of the pedigree or a corresponding national certificate. Proof can be required in the form of a passport, or a corresponding certificate.

For World Championships and other international competitions, horses must be at least 6 years old.

The number of tests per horse per day is limited as follows:

- a. a 5-year-old horse, may start **once** per day,
- b. a 6-year-old horse may start **2 times** per day,
- c. a 7 year and older horse, may start **3 times** per day,
- d. any preliminary round or final is considered to be a start,
- e. for pace test, speed pace, pace race 250m and 150m, 2 rounds on one day are counted as 1 start. **Starting only one round for pace test, speed pace, pace race 250m and 150m, is also counted as 1 start.**
- f. horses are allowed to compete more than once in the same test if it is in a different age class.



G8.1 Saddles

In principle any sort of saddle or saddle pad, which is suitable for the Icelandic horse, is allowed. Permissible equipment also includes **girth, stirrups, saddle cloths/pads, front girths, cruppers, saddle supports, snap links for holding up the stirrups and front handle.**

The saddle should be placed on the horse so that a major part of the girth is placed on the sternum.

G8.2.2 Sport

Permitted bits published on the FEIF website may be used as part of a bridle provided it fits the horse and is used correctly.

Nothing may be added on to bits other than smooth bit guards and chain guards, and nothing else is allowed in the horse's mouth. **Bridles includes noseband, browband, throat latch, reins.**

The Chief Judge's decision about the use of any bit or bridle at a specific event is final for that specific event.

G8.4 Additional Equipment

Sport:

- Only equipment listed is allowed
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- While warming up the use of a horse blanket is allowed
- Lunging equipment is allowed as listed in S15 Appendix 8

G8.4.1 The whip

The whip used in breeding and sport must not be longer than 120 cm including the tassel. In pace races whips are forbidden. **The use of a whip while warming up for pace races is allowed.** The rider can use only one whip at the time. ~~The rule concerning whips is valid for the whole competition area, and for the entire duration of the competition.~~

G8.5.2 Sport competitions

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~~These rules are valid for the whole competition area and for the entire duration of the competition.~~

Breeding

B4.5 Ring master

Ring masters at breeding shows need to be certified by FEIF. Certification can be attained by attending a seminar for ring masters which is organized by the breeding committee of FEIF. A ringmaster test may also be implemented. To keep the license, a ringmaster needs to ~~work at breeding shows with a minimum of 50 horses in a period of two years~~ **measure (or judge) a minimum of 50 horses in a period of two years (registered in WorldFengur).** It is also **necessary** to attend a ringmaster seminar every 4 years. ...

B8.4.2 Riding horse qualities

Tölt

Tölt is assessed in the speed range the horse possesses, that is slow, medium and fast tempo. In order to achieve scores of 9.0 or higher **the horse needs to show that beat, balance and suppleness is maintained through speed difference (that is a clear acceleration and/or slowing down). Good self-carriage on a loose rein in tölt can have positive influence on the score of the gait.** ~~the horse needs to show speed changes (that is a clear acceleration and/or slowing down) and that the horse maintains good balance for the first seconds when the rider clearly loosens the reins. These tasks, when well performed by the horse, can also raise the scores at lower levels.~~

Slow tölt

Slow tölt shall be shown in the 100 meters section in the middle of the track. The score for slow tölt is not calculated into the total score but is intended to increase the informational value of the assessment.



The speed in slow tölt is generally around 3-4 m/sec, slightly higher speed is allowed for the four- and five-years old horses. For the higher scores (9.0 or higher) **slow tölt must be shown from walk**. ~~the horse needs to be able to go into clear beat and well-balanced slow tölt from walk without much preparation. The gait transitions walk-slow tölt and slow tölt-walk can also raise scores at lower levels in the scale.~~

Canter

The canter should be shown in the 100-meter section in the middle of the track. ~~The speed in canter is around 7 m/sec. For higher marks in canter (9.0 or higher) the horse must be able to change to a well-balanced canter from walk or a medium tempo tölt/trot. Tasks that increase the information about the gait and confirm the quality can help raise the score if they are well performed by the horse. Such tasks are showing the canter to both hands as well as loosening the rein to show balance and carrying ability.~~

B10.2 Young Horse Judge

A Young Horse Judge is authorized to evaluate young horses, according to B11.1.8 Foal and young horse evaluation.

Prerequisites to become a Young Horse Judge (evaluated at a national level):

- Documented education/experience in the field of horse training and breeding
- Certified FEIF Ringmaster
- At least 26 years old

Seminars for candidates are arranged by each country in cooperation with a FEIF Breeding Judge. Teachers at the seminars should have documented knowledge within the topic they are teaching. Breeding leader of FEIF must approve the schedule, teachers and examiners in advance.

The seminars must include at least the following topics:

- a) Basics in Animal Breeding
 - Quantitative genetics
 - Estimation of breeding value
 - Horse colours
- b) Basics in anatomy of horses and biomechanics
- c) Breeding goal for the Icelandic horse
 - Assessment of conformation
 - Assessment of ridden abilities
- d) Ideology and theory behind linear assessments
- e) Practical training in evaluating young horses according to B11.1.8

The programme should end with a theoretical test (a, b, c and d) and a practical test (e) where the candidate must pass both tests to become a Young Horse Judge.

Candidates that have prior to 2024 finished education and tests, comparable to what is listed above, can with approval from FEIF be licensed as FEIF Young Horse Judges without further education or tests. This must be applied for to FEIF by the breeding leader of each country.

The License is valid for a period of four years. In order to get renewal of license, the judge must have judged a minimum of 200 horses (0-3 years old) during the license period.

B11.1.4 Testicle check

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- Testicles checked for torsion – are the testicles correctly turned? - the epididymis should be at the back of the testicle. If one **or both** testicles are rotated, this is noted in WorldFengur. ~~Both testicles rotated results in a red T in WorldFengur.~~

B11.1.6 FEIF working rules for breeding shows

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4. Second assessment

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~~For horses 6 years and older that receive 5,0 for pace in the first assessment, they need to perform to receive a minimum score of 6,5 in the second assessment~~



B11.1.8.1 General rules for young horse and foal evaluationsJudges

- Judges must have a FEIF breeding judge or **Young Horse Judge** license.

B11.1.8.2 Guidelines for the description of foals and young horses

The scale for all traits has been changed to 1-7.

Range from poor [1] to well [7]

Sport

S1.6.3.1 Incorrect shoeing

If a horse/combination is found to break the rules regarding shoeing when selected for an equipment check, it will be **eliminated** from **that test and all previous ridden tests** at the current tournament. **Reshoeing is possible with the permission of the chief judge and the rider is allowed to start in the following tests.**

S1.6.3.2 Loss of a shoe

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Pace track tests:

If this occurs during a run in a pace track test no marks and/or times are given for this run.

When the loss of a shoe is noticed in the equipment check, it will result in elimination from the actual run.

All other tests:

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S1.7 Withdrawals

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In competitions without teams, riders and horses are expected to be fit for the finals unless stated differently one hour before the first final for that relevant test begins. **If the rider/horse combination is preregistered for preliminaries that are scheduled after this first final, and the rider has only one horse in this final, the rider is allowed to withdraw from it until 30 minutes after the end of the last preregistered preliminary of the horse/rider combination.** Withdrawal after this time limit will only be accepted if the horse (by a veterinary surgeon who has examined the horse on site) or the rider (by a doctor) is declared unfit or, **in exceptional circumstances**, by decision of the Chief Judge; otherwise the rider is disqualified from the event including forfeiture of marks and prizes already given.

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If a rider has two or more horses in either the **A-, B-, or C-final**, they have to decide with which horse they will start in each final at least one hour before the start of each final.

S2.3.1 Preliminary rounds with one rider on the track

- Exit **via the gate** of the oval track. The rider may circle the horse at the gate after the test is completed.

S2.3.2 Finals and preliminary rounds with more than one horse on the track

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During the intervals when the marks are being shown, the horses **shall** only be ridden at walk. In order to spread out, the riders can circle at the request of the speaker ~~under supervision of the chief judge.~~

S8 Appendix 1: WorldRanking

12. Equipment checks on all horses in finals. **Identification check (microchip reading) and equipment check for a minimum of at least 25% of the horses in preliminary rounds of each WorldRanking test are mandatory.** If the identification check is already done for all the horses before entering the competition ground, the identification check at the equipment check is not mandatory. Organisers must provide a sufficient number of Ringmasters to ensure that there is time to do the checks properly. Extra Ringmasters will be needed for the pace events and for the finals.

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26. **Electronic time keeping is mandatory.**

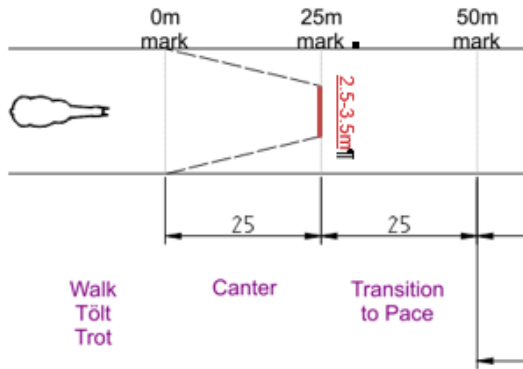


S10.6 Special agreements

At Landsmót, all judges shall receive 4 days credit for their judging activities assuming they are active at the entire competition.

S17.8 Pace Test track configuration

A width of 2.5m to 3.5m has been set for the end opening of the PP1 funnel (red bar in the drawing).



Sport Judges Guidelines

Preface – General guidance. A new sentence is added to the end of this paragraph:

General guidance

The prime judging criterion, as formulated above, forms the general guidance regarding the assessment of the riding quality. Furthermore, riding skills should be determined in accordance with the rider’s technique, balance and timing. The riding style should be characterized by lightness and delicacy but not by force and excessive pressure. The entire performance should reflect skilful training of horse and rider as well as thorough and fair preparation. **Entrance onto the oval track and transitions between sections of the test play a role in the judges’ assessment of “connection”.**

In all oval track tests (except V4), and in PP1, PP2, PP3, FS1, & FS2 a new firewall has been introduced to the “riding skills/connection key element between 4.5 and 5.0. The text in the boxes between 2.5-4.5 and 5.0-6.0 has been amended:

	Poor performance		Low average performance			High average performance		Good performance		Excellent performance		
	0	0,5 1 1,5 2	2,5 3	3,5 4 4,5	5	5,5 6	6,5 7 7,5 8	8	8,5 9 9,5 10			
Riding skills / Connection		Rough riding (warning by yellow card) Very poor riding skills, serious lack of cooperation, very poor connection	Some clear faults in riding, problems with the connection. Frequent signs of discomfort relating to riding style	Minor faults in riding, some problems with connection, occasional signs of discomfort relating to riding style		Generally good riding style Horse generally submitting to the riding aids		Harmony Very good connection Excellent riding				



The firewall in the “outline/movements” key element between 5.0 & 5.5 has been moved back to between 4.5 and 5.0:

Outline / Movements	Very poor outline, very short and frequent steps, very little energy, little engagement	Frequent steps, flat movements, clear faults in outline, lack of energy	Some faults in outline, average movements and roominess	Outline without considerable faults, roomy and high movements, energetic, good impulsion, good back bearing, good engagement

TROT & CANTER

The wording has been amended to remove reference to suspension in box 1 (0-3.0) and to change the wording ~~visible suspension~~ to **little suspension** in box 2 (3.5-5.0)

Beat / Balance	Very poor beat, frequently losing the gait, very uneven strides.	Beat or balance problems, little suspension	Acceptable beat, occasional balance problems	Good beat, balance and rhythm even strides, good suspension, gait consistency
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F3

In accordance with S2.8.17.2 and to add clarity it is made clear in Guidelines p.13 (F3) that if only ½ long side of pace is shown the rider will still get a mark (1-3). Riders must show the “required distance” to get a higher mark than 3.0

PP1, PP2, PP3

The width of the funnel at the 25m line has been set to 2.5-3.5m (see above 4 S17.8)

VET FORMS 1 & 2

- An extra category ‘reopened old’ was added (counting 1 point)
- The rider is allowed to view and photograph the form.

Youth

Rewording of Y1.1.5 Young committee members (18-26 years old)

Y1.1.5 Young committee member (18-26 years old)

Every year, the FEIF Youthwork Committee will invite applications of young people to join one of the or the other technical departments within FEIF. In agreement with the Board of FEIF, the Youth committee selects candidates for available seats, who will then be invited to join a department at the FEIF committee meetings held annually in autumn, and the FEIF Conference which takes place at the beginning of each year.

The position gives the young people the same voting rights and responsibilities as those of other committee members. The only difference is that this place on the committee is fixed term and reserved for a young person. Once appointed, the young committee member (YCM) may serve a maximum of 2 years, regardless of age, after which time YCM they will have to stand down (but are free to put offer themselves for re-election).

Normally, for the October meeting, new appointees will introduce themselves briefly to the relevant committee online, and from then be included in all correspondence and invited to participate in any online meetings.

The first in-person attendance will in February. Over the two years, every candidate is invited to four consecutive in-person FEIF meetings.



This position will be advertised as a news item, on social media and via national associations. Candidates apply directly to FEIF, and it is not necessary that the individual is endorsed by the national association.

Application must be in English and submitted in writing, by submission of sending

- a CV (curriculum vitae), and
- a motivational letter, and
- contact details of 2 referees

Candidates might be interviewed online. Positions are available in the following committees:

- Breeding
- Education
- Leisure
- Sport
- YouthWork

Ideally, the applicant is already familiar with the work of FEIF, having been at one or more a FEIF events either as a participant, or a volunteer. The applicant commits to attend all online committee meetings and both person-to person meetings during the year. Young committee members are expected to take on a measure of responsibility and an active role in the work of the department. The applications should be sent to office@feif.org no later than 30th September in any given year.

