



FIZO 7/2008

English

FEIF Rules for Icelandic Horse Breeding



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FIZO

FEIF Rules for Icelandic Horse Breeding

Official definitions, rules and approved information

1. Edition, September 2000
2. Edition, September 2001
3. Edition, September 2002
4. Edition, September 2004
5. Edition, September 2005
6. Edition, September 2006
7. Edition, February 2008

Im Falle von Abweichungen zwischen der englischen und der deutschen Version, soll der Englischen der Vorrang gegeben werden.

In case of any discrepancy between the English and the German version the English version prevails!

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Preface

This collection of official definitions, rules and approved information serves the breeding of Icelandic horses all over the world.

When the first people settled down in Iceland with their horses some 1000 years ago the horses were already selected. A breeding policy that emerged on the basis of need – only the best horses would be good enough - was utilised when the boats went off for Iceland. All through the years the living conditions for man and horse in Iceland have been greatly responsible for the further selection. During the last century man has interfered more and more. Today we know about assessments of breeding horses that are more than 50 years old. A unique assessment system was established in Iceland and has ever since been an example followed by breeders of other horse races. This assessment system has undergone a continuous development. The result of this development can be read about here – and seen wherever man is enjoying life together with the Icelandic horse.

FEIF was established in 1969. In 1986 the FEIF assessment system for Icelandic breeding horses was described in detail together with the breeding standard by Marit Jonsson (former President of FEIF) in co-operation with the Icelandic national horse breeding advisor of that time, Gunnar Bjarnason. A few years later Kristinn Hugason, former national horse breeding advisor in Iceland, initiated and, in 1992, finished the first book version of Icelandic breeding show rules and the scale of scoring for the different traits. Along with these two publications the interest of Icelandic horse breeding spread around the world faster than one could believe. To some extent, this increase in the breeding helped many FEIF member nation states to decide to support the goal of having only one breeding assessment system in use for Icelandic horse breeding.

In 1994 a joint declaration on the breeding of Icelandic horses was signed by FEIF and the State of Iceland, recognising Iceland as the country of origin of the Icelandic horse. This declaration ensures that the 18 FEIF member nation states outside Iceland will do their best to follow the lead of Iceland in all matters of breeding and the use of the horse. *This cooperation is based on Icelandic regulation nr. 948/2002 regarding the country of origin of the Icelandic horse. According to this regulation, a advisory committee of three members, the national breeding advisor of Iceland, the breeding leader of FEIF and chairman appointed by the agricultural minister of Iceland governs all rules concerning breeding of the Icelandic horse. This means that all changes on FIZO, accepted by the delegates assembly, have to be confirmed by this board. Finally the changes need to be confirmed by the agricultural minister of Iceland in a regulation on the country of origin of the Icelandic horse.*

During recent years Iceland has put great emphasis on quality in their national horse breeding. The timing of this work has fitted very well into FEIF wishes for further breeding policy developments in the international arena. A fruitful co-operation between FEIF and Víkingur Gunnarsson, former FEIF Breeding leader, and Ágúst Sigurðsson, the former national horse breeding advisor in Iceland has taken place during recent years. Members of FEIF Breeding working groups too, have, throughout the years made their time and skill freely available for work on the FIZO. Everybody with the silent hope that the present FIZO shall achieve the aim of all FEIF member nation states - one breeding assessment system for all individual Icelandic horses - the best in the world. Nothing less will do for the Icelandic horse.



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SECTION I

The rules of the FIZO and the behaviour of any person or corporate body involved with Icelandic horses are subject to the Code of Conduct of the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI). This code has been prepared for sport horses. It must cover all breeding events as well as the general handling of breeding horses.

Code of Conduct¹

1. In all equestrian sports the horse must be considered paramount.
2. The well being of the horse shall be above the demands of breeders, trainers, riders, owners, dealers, organisers, sponsors or officials.
3. All handling and veterinary treatment must ensure the health and welfare of the horse.
4. The highest standards of nutrition, health, sanitation and safety shall be encouraged and maintained at all times.
5. Adequate provision must be made for ventilation, feeding, watering and maintaining a healthy environment during transportation.
6. Emphasis should be placed on increasing education in training and equestrian practices and on promoting scientific studies in equine health.
7. In the interests of the horse, the fitness and competence of the rider shall be regarded as essential.
8. All riding and training methods must take account of the horse as a living entity and must not include any technique considered by the FEI to be abusive.
9. National Federations should establish adequate controls in order that all persons and bodies under their jurisdiction respect the welfare of the horse.
10. The national and international Rules and Regulations in equestrian sport regarding the health and welfare of the horse must be adhered to not only during national and international events, but also in training. Competition Rules and Regulations shall be continually reviewed to ensure such welfare.

¹ This code of conduct is based upon the Code of Conduct of the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI). The FEI is the international governing body of Equestrian sport recognised by the International Olympic Committee. It is the organisation, which establishes rules and regulations for the conduct of international equestrian events in the Jumping, Dressage, Eventing, Driving, Vaulting and Endurance Riding disciplines. This includes the supervision and maintenance of the health and welfare of the horses taking part as well as the respect of the principles of horsemanship.



SECTION II Official definitions

Breeding Standards

1.Edition 1980. 1.Revision 2000, 2.Revision 2002.

Description of the Icelandic horse breed

Origin

The Icelandic horse breed originates from Iceland where it has been bred, without any known introduction of foreign genetic material, since the island was settled around the year 900 AD. Its closest relatives today are assumed to be the native horse breeds of Scandinavia and horse breeds of the British Isles. The Icelandic horse is pure-bred with all ancestors traceable to Iceland.

Size

The height of the Icelandic horse generally ranges from 125 to 145 cm when measured with a stick at the highest point of the withers. The average for mares is 136 cm and for stallions 138 cm. The fully mature Icelandic horse weighs around 300 kg to 400 kg.

Colours

Most known horse colours and markings can be seen. The most dominant colours are chestnut, black and bay but grey and tobiano are also quite commonly found. More than one hundred colour varieties may be found in the Icelandic horse breed.

Conformation

Conformation may vary considerably but a typical Icelandic horse is rectangular and compact in shape. Typical of the breed is a sloping croup, a long, thick mane and tail, and a thick, protective coat in winter.

Performance

The Icelandic horse is a riding horse. The horse is unique in its gaits and virtually all Icelandic horses have tölt in addition to walk, trot, and canter/gallop. Many horses have the additional gait of very fast (flying) pace. As a riding horse it is extraordinarily versatile - a capable, willing horse for pleasure riding, and for sport competitions, suitable for adults and children. The horse is tough, independent, yet sociable and easy to get on with, is self-assured and has good staying power.

Longevity

The horse matures slowly and is generally not fully grown until the age of six or seven. It has a long active life span (25-30 years is not unusual).

Health

The overall health of the Icelandic horse is very good. Fertility is high and both sexes can be fit for reproduction up to the age of 25 to 27 years.



Breeding goals – The ideal horse

(translated from Icelandic as published by Bændasamtök Íslands year 2002)

General breeding goals

Health, Fertility, Longevity

The official breeding goal is to breed a healthy, fertile and durable horse – a robust Icelandic horse.

Colours

The official breeding goal is to preserve all possible varieties of coat colours within the breed.

Size

The official breeding goal gives room for substantial variation in size. A preferred range in height is 135 cm to 145 cm when measured with a stick.

Specific breeding goals

Conformation in general

The general aim is to breed light-bodied Icelandic horses with an emphasis on strength, flexibility and a muscular body. The conformation should facilitate exceptional gaits, a naturally good head carriage and also take into consideration other aspects that are generally accepted as aesthetically pleasing.

Conformation in detail:

Head

A very beautiful, fine head. Fine, thin ears, well set and not too open. A large, open and alert eye with good bone structure around it. Fine skin and hair. Light jaws with a good gap between them. The nose profile straight and nostrils flared. A proud head.

Neck, withers & shoulders

A long, high-set, very fine neck, well-flexed at the poll, the neck is clearly separated from the body, high, prominent and well-shaped withers, shoulders long and sloping.

Back and hindquarters

A superb back/top line. The back is supple and flexible, average length, broad and well muscled. Along the spine the back is supple all the way back to the hindquarters. The hindquarters are very well-made, long, adequately sloping, equally muscled on each side and only slightly narrowing towards the tail. The thighs are long and well muscled. The tail is extremely well set.



Proportions

The horse should be full of splendour and presence. The legs should be long and the body light and cylindrical in shape with front, middle and hind sections approximately equal. The highest point at the withers should be higher than the highest point of the croup.

Legs (quality)

Firm, very strong tendons and good separation between the tendons and the bone, solid joints and flexible, strong pasterns. Very good when viewed from the side.

Legs (joints)

Extremely correct: the front legs absolutely straight with adequate space between them and between the hind legs. Hind legs may turn out slightly.

Hooves

Very deep hooves with concave soles, well shaped, round and good looking, strong walls and soles, one colour and preferably dark. Large frog and strong heels.

Mane and tail

Extremely long and thick mane and tail with lots of forelock.

Ridden abilities in general:

The general aim is to breed a versatile, sure-footed and safe horse with good, clear gaits and an excellent temperament. A horse that is beautiful when ridden – a true Icelandic “gæðingur.”

Ridden abilities/gaits in detail:***Tölt***

Even 4-beat rhythm with long strides in front and behind, lots of lift and action of the front legs, movements extremely flexible and supple, excellent high speed.

Slow tölt

Even 4-beat tölt with long strides in front and behind, elegant action and movement of the front legs, movements extremely flexible and supple.

Trot

Confident 2-beat trot, movements high and supple, long strides and suspension. Excellent speed.

Pace

Confident, impressive pace, good 2-beat lateral gait with good suspension and excellent speed.

Canter & gallop

Good beat. An attractive gallop: the horse is well off the forehand yet stretches out in nice round, powerful movements with good suspension. Excellent speed.



Slow canter

Effortless, yet impressive, supple, 3-beat canter with good suspension; uphill, the horse is well off the forehand.

Spirit

The horse should be very willing, brave, happy, cheerful, confident and offer its best with very little encouragement. The horse tries to please the rider, is sensible, easy to ride and handle.

General impression (Form under rider)

The horse is very impressive and elegant to look at, with energetic, attractive movements and has a lot of charm: The horse carries itself well, is flexed at the poll, on the bit, and off the forehand. The leg movements are light, high and supple with good coordination and energy. The front legs are lifted high and the horse covers the ground well in great style, its tail carried high.

Walk

The horse is impressive and walks forward enthusiastically, with an even beat and a supple body. The head is carried at medium height and the horse moves with long, energetic strides, tracking up well.

Measuring points of the horse

(translated from Icelandic as published by Bændasamtök Íslands year 2002)

Stick measurements:

- Height at the highest point of the withers.
- Height at the lowest point of the back.
- Height at the highest point of the croup.

Large calliper measurements:

- The depth of the breast measured from the highest point of the withers to the breastbone behind the front leg.
- The length of the body from the point of shoulder to the end of the hindquarters
- The width of the chest between the points of the shoulders
- The width of the hips between the hip joints.
- The width of the hips between the points of pelvis

Tape measurements:

- The circumference of the knee at its widest.
- The circumference of the front leg below the front knee.

Small calliper measurements:

- The width of the leg and tendons below the front knee.
- The left front hoof from the top of the hoof to the toe.
- The left hind hoof from the top of the hoof to the toe.



Judging scale for individual breeding judgements

(translated from Icelandic as published by Bændasamtök Íslands year 2002)

Head

9.5-10:

- A very beautiful, fine head. Fine, thin ears, well set and not too open. A large, open and alert eye with good bone structure around it. Fine skin and hair. Light jaws with a good gap between them. The nose profile straight and nostrils flared. A proud head.

9.0:

- Beautiful and fine head without faults.

8.5:

- Very handsome, expressive and proud head.
- Beautiful, fine head.

8.0:

- Handsome, expressive head, can be a little coarse or large if it is faultless in other ways.
- An expressive head that looks nice, with minor faults.
- Very beautiful head, but with several faults.

7.5:

- Head more or less without faults, but no parts especially good.
- Good attributes can cancel out a few faults.

7.0:

- Ugly, unattractive head.
- Heavy (fleshy) head.
- Small eyes set deep in the head.
- Ill set ears.
- Coarse ears.
- The nose profile is not straight.
- Very short mouth.

The same rules apply to one fault or more as is described below (a mark of 6.5 or lower).

6.5 or lower:

- Very coarse and a relatively big head.
- Ill shaped ears badly set
- The nose profile is not at all straight.
- A very ugly head.

The mark 6.5 or lower is given when one of the above faults is very evident and very few other attributes improve the head. This mark might also be given if each of the faults is not so great, but there are more than one of them and there are very few good points, see also the description for the mark 7,0.



Neck, withers and shoulders

9.5-10:

- A long, high-set, very fine neck, very well-flexed at the poll, the neck is clearly separated from the body, high, prominent and well-shaped withers, shoulders long and sloping.

9.0:

- A long, high-set, rather fine neck, but a little too deep around the chest, very well-flexed at the poll, high, well-shaped withers and sloping shoulders.

8.5:

- A high-set, average length, but slightly thick neck with well-flexed at the poll, high and well-shaped withers and shoulders sloping.
- A long, well-set, fine neck, with high and well-shaped withers, shoulders a little too straight.
- A long, well-set, fine neck, average withers, but with sloping shoulders.
- A long, well-set, fine neck, but lacking flexibility at the poll, high and well shaped withers and sloping shoulders.

8.0:

- A well set, supple, fairly long, but deep and thick neck, high withers, shoulders sloping.
- A long, slim and well-set neck, with fairly good flexion of the poll, but the withers are too low, and the shoulder just sloping enough.
- A well-raised neck, but otherwise only average conformation of the forequarters.

7.5:

- Average conformation of the forequarters, but no part especially good.
- Average set of the neck, neck too short, thick and/or deep, withers well shaped (high and wide), shoulders sloping.
- Neck long and well-shaped, but set too low, withers low and shoulders straight.
- A well-raised neck, but ewe-necked and/or poorly muscled crest, otherwise conformation of the forequarters is average.

7.0:

- Ewe-neck.
- Fleshy throat.
- No muscle along the crest.

The three items above are in addition to the description of the mark 6,5 or lower. The rules apply to each mark as described below (6,5 or lower) i.e. the number and nature of the faults in the conformation of the forequarters shall be evaluated.

6.5 or lower:

- The neck is set very low.
- The neck is very deep.
- The neck is very short.
- The withers are low and flat.
- The shoulders are very straight.
- The shoulders are very tight.



The mark 6.5 or lower is given when some of the above faults are very evident and very few other attributes improve the forequarters. This mark might also be given if each of the faults is not so great, but there are many of them and there are very few good points, see also the description for the mark 7.0.

The requirements for how fine the neck type should be are not the same for stallions as they are for mares or geldings.

Before the mark for neck, withers and shoulders is finally decided the judges shall see how the horse uses its front when ridden, with regards to leg action, movement, head carriage and flexion of the poll.

Back and hindquarters

9.5-10:

- A superb back/top line. The back is supple and flexible, of average length, broad and well muscled. Along the spine the back is supple all the way back to the hindquarters. The hindquarters are very well-made, long, adequately sloping, equally muscled on each side and only slightly narrowing towards the tail. The thighs are long and well muscled. The tail is extremely well set

9.0:

- Especially good top line.
- Especially good back can cancel out minor faults in hindquarters and vice versa if the back and hindquarters meet well over the loins.

8.5:

- Good top line.
- Especially good back can cancel out faults in hindquarters and vice versa if the back and hindquarters meet well over the loins.

8.0:

- A quite good back/top line.
- Good back; supple, broad and well-muscled, back and hindquarters meet well over the loins. The hindquarters are of average shape, with no very good attributes.
- An average back; not sway backed, stiff or too rigid. Well shaped hindquarters; long, fairly sloping, strongly and equally muscled on both sides.

7.5:

- Average conformation of the back, loins and hindquarters, but no part very good (an average top line).
- Good conformation of the back and hindquarters can cancel out faults of the top line.

7.0:

See the description for the mark 6.5 and lower, but here the faults are not as serious.



6.5 or lower:

- Hump-backed.
- Very sway-backed/hollow backed.
- Very poor loins
- The back is either very short or very long.
- Very narrow back, lacking muscle.
- Hindquarters tapering very much to the rear.
- Very coarse hindquarters.
- Very short, shallow, flat hindquarters, or a pointed croup..
- Saddle dip much too far forward.

When giving the marks one must assess the number of faults and how serious they are, as before.

Proportions**9.5-10:**

- The horse should be full of splendour and presence. The legs should be long and the body light and cylindrical in shape with front, middle and hind sections approximately equal. The highest point at the withers should be higher than the highest point of the croup.

9.0:

- Generally very beautiful. The legs are long and the body light and cylindrical in shape with good height at the withers. Only minor faults in proportions.

8.5:

- A beautiful overall appearance. The legs are long and the body light and cylindrical in shape. Mares should not be croup high, and stallions should stand higher at the withers than at the croup. Only minor faults in proportions.

8.0:

- A nice looking horse.
- Good attributes can cancel out a few faults.

7.5:

- Average proportions and harmony.
- Good attributes can cancel out a few faults.

7.0:

See description for the mark 6.5 and lower, but here the faults are less serious.

6.5 and lower:

- The horse is low at the withers and therefore croup high.
- The horse is heavy-set; with a deep chest, a heavy body (very round or flat-sided).
- The legs are short.
- The horse is short and stocky and/or very disproportionate in length, front, middle and hind sections.
- The horse is disproportionate in the front and the back sections (width, depth) including the chest being too narrow (collapsed).



Legs (quality)

9.5-10:

- Firm, very strong tendons and good separation between the tendons and the bone, solid joints and flexible, strong pasterns. Very good when viewed from the side.

9.0:

- Firm, very strong tendons and good separation between the tendons and the bone, solid joints and fairly good pasterns.

8.5:

- Firm, strong tendons with good separation between the tendons and the bone, fairly good joints and pasterns.
- Reasonably good separation, but very nice looking

8.0:

- Fairly good quality legs.
- Very good aspects can cancel out a few faults.

7.5:

- Average quality legs.
- Good attributes can cancel out a few faults

7.0:

See the description for the mark 6,5 and lower, but here the faults are not as serious.

6.5 and lower:

- Very swollen tendons on either front and/or hind legs.
- Very little separation between the tendons and the bone on the front legs.
- Weak joints on hind- and/or front legs (the heel and knee are especially important).
- Legs are either too straight, or too crooked.
- Very over or under at the knee.

When giving the marks one must assess the number of faults and how serious they are.

Legs (joints)

9.5-10:

- Extremely correct: the front legs absolutely straight with adequate space between them and between the hind legs. Hind legs may turn out slightly.

9.0:

- Very correct. No serious faults.

8.5:

- Correct. Only small faults, but hocks are straight.

8.0:

- Fairly correct leg position. No major faults.



7.5:

- Average. The joints may be a little crooked provided the horse does not overreach and there are no signs of abnormal stress on the legs.

7.0:

See the description for the mark 6.5 and lower, but here the faults are not as serious.

6.5 and lower:

- Very crooked joints in front- and/or behind.
- Badly turned hocks.
- The horse moves very close in front and/or behind.
- Very bad front- and/or hind legs; turned-out, bow-legged, cow-hocked.

When giving the marks one must assess the number of faults and how serious they are. When judging the quality of the joints and the correctness of the legs one should check if there are any signs of overreaching or signs of unnatural stress.

When the horse moves very close it is customary to judge straightness when led in walk and in trot. If the hind legs are so wide apart they spoil the look of the horse, this can affect the mark for legs/correctness.

Hooves**9.5-10:**

- Very deep hooves with concave soles, well shaped, round and good looking, strong walls and soles, one colour and preferably dark. Large frog and strong heels.

9:0:

- Deep, well shaped and round hooves, strong and of good material, good frog and sturdy heels.

8.5:

- Deep, well-shaped and strong hooves with only minor faults.

8.0:

- Fairly deep hooves, without any major faults.
- Medium deep hooves, but very well shaped and of strong material.

7.5:

- Medium deep hooves, but faults and good points can cancel each other out.

7.0:

See the description for the mark 6,5 and lower, but here the faults are not as serious.

6.5 and lower:

- Very shallow hooves, flat or wide with sunken soles.
- Very narrow, boxy hooves.
- Bad quality horn material in the hoof (including damaged walls).
- Very thin horn, hardly any frog or heel.

When giving the marks one must assess the number of faults and how serious they are.



Mane and tail

9.5-10:

- Extremely long and thick mane and tail with lots of forelock.

9.0:

- Very good mane and tail, thick and long.

8.0-8.5:

- Fairly thick mane, which can easily be separated in the middle, good forelock. Fairly good tail.

7.5:

- Medium thickness and length of mane and tail.

7.0:

See the description for the mark 6.5 and lower, but here the faults are not as serious.

6.5 and lower:

- Very little mane and tail.

It should be taken into consideration that mares usually have finer manes and tails than stallions.

Tölt

9.5-10:

- Even 4-beat rhythm with long strides in front and behind, lots of lift and action of the front legs, movements extremely flexible and supple, excellent speed.

9.0:

- Even 4-beat tölt with long strides in front and behind, high action, movements flexible and supple. Very good speed variation.
- Even 4-beat tölt with long strides in front and behind, high action, supple, good speed variation.

8.5:

- Even 4-beat tölt with long strides in front and behind, medium action, but great speed.
- Even 4-beat tölt with long strides in front and behind, good action, but only medium speed.
- Good speed variation, with lots of action and long strides, but some irregularities in beat.
- Short strides behind, but the action of the front legs is very high and impressive, fairly good beat at a slow tölt, great speed.
- The maximum mark if slow tölt only is ridden.



8.0:

- Even 4-beat tölt with good strides in front and behind, more than average action, fairly good speed.
- Even 4-beat tölt with good strides in front and behind, good action, but only medium speed.
- Good speed variation in tölt with high action and movements, but a few irregularities in beat at faster speeds.
- Rather short strides of the hind legs, but the action and movement of the front legs is great, no irregularities in beat, good speed.
- The maximum mark if no slow tölt is ridden.

7.5:

- Good even 4-beat tölt, but lacking length of stride and elegance.
- Good even 4-beat tölt, with good length of stride but little leg action.
- Good speed variation in tölt, with good action and movements, but considerable irregularities in beat at the slow and medium tempo tölt.
- Tölt with short strides behind, but good action and movement of the front legs, fairly good speed.

7.0:

- Average tölt in parts, but uneven.
- Short strides, particularly behind.
- Trotty, but fairly good speed.
- Pacey, but fairly good speed and action.
- Uneven beat (rolling) at regular speeds.
- Even 4-beat tölt, up to medium tempo speed, but the gait is not impressive (little action, short strides).

6.5 and lower:

- Does not tölt (5.0).
- Very trotty.
- Very pacey.
- Very little speed in tölt.
- Very irregular tölt, changes gait.
- Extremely short strides or uneven beat, rolling.

It is very important to show slow tölt and clear speed changes if the higher marks on the scale are to be reached. A mark is given specifically for slow tölt and showing slow tölt is necessary in order to gain high marks (8,5 and higher) for tölt. The mark for slow tölt is not calculated into the overall score, but is intended for further information on the assessment.



Slow tölt

9.5-10:

- Even 4-beat rhythm with long strides in front and behind, lots of lift and action of the front legs, movements extremely flexible and supple.

9.0:

- Even 4-beat rhythm with long strides in front and behind, good lift and action of the front legs, movements extremely flexible and supple.

8.5:

- Even 4-beat rhythm with long strides in front and behind, good lift and action of the front legs.
- Even 4-beat tölt, the action of the front legs is very good and impressive but with short strides behind.

8.0:

- Even 4-beat tölt with long strides in front and behind, action and movement above average.
- Short hind leg strides, but action and movement of front legs is great. No clear faults in beat/rhythm.

7.5:

- Good beat, but not very impressive.

7.0:

- Even 4-beat, but the gait is not impressive (not much action, short strides).

6.5 and lower:

- Very trotty.
- Very pacey.
- Very irregular tölt, changing gait.
- Extremely short strides or uneven beat, rolling.
- Does not show slow tölt (5.0).

Trot

9.5-10:

- Secure 2-beat trot, movements high and supple, long strides and suspension. Excellent speed

9.0:

- Secure 2-beat trot, movements high and supple, long strides and suspension, good speed.
- Racing trot, elegance not required.

8.5:

- Elegant trot with good suspension, but not entirely secure.
- Secure, light and supple, good speed and fairly impressive.
- Secure trot with high movements and action, good speed, but inelegant.



8.0:

- Good suspension and long strides, good looking trot, but not always secure.
- Confident, light and supple trot, fairly good speed, but lacking elegance.
- Confident, speedy, but very inelegant trot.

7.5:

- Good length of stride, but insecure.
- Loose trot with little suspension, but fairly good speed.
- Confident and clear trot, but heavy movements and little speed.

7.0:

- Generally very insecure trot, with occasional sections of good trot
- Secure trot, but loose and slow.

6.5:

- Very loose and insecure trot, unbalanced and irregular.
- Clear trot, but very short strides.

5.5-6.0:

- Only a few steps of unimpressive trot.

5.0:

- No trot shown.

When judging trot one should always look for a clear, confident beat if the higher marks are to be considered, although a perfect 2-beat is not necessarily required.

Pace**9.5-10:**

- Secure, impressive pace, good 2-beat lateral gait with good suspension and great speed.

9.0:

- Secure, impressive pace, good 2-beat lateral gait with good suspension and good speed.
- Racing speed in pace, elegance not required.

8.5:

- Secure and elegant pace, good beat, very good speed.
- Secure and fast pace, but not elegant.
- Impressive and fast pace, but not full length - 90-100 meters.
- Impressive flying pace, minor beat faults, full length - 150 to 180 m.

8.0:

- Secure and elegant pace, good, clear beat, but only medium speed.
- Secure pace with good length of stride, but not elegant.
- Impressive, fast pace, but the sprints are not long - 70 – 80 m.
- Elegant pace with long strides, slightly 4-beat at times.

7.5:

- Secure, reasonably good looking pace, good beat, but lacking in speed.
- Secure but unattractive pace, good speed.
- Elegant pace, long strides, but short sprints –40-60 m.
- Elegant pace, long strides, but 4-beat at times.

7.0:

- Powerful pace sprints at times, but lacking in confidence and beat.
- Pace with serious beat faults.
- Secure pace lacking speed and elegance.

6.5 or lower:

- No pace (5,0).
- Short powerless sprints.
- Pace with little power even if the horse paces the full length of the track.
- Major beat faults, losing gait, 4-beat or irregular beat.

Canter/Gallop**9.5-10:**

- Good beat. An attractive gallop: the horse is well off the forehand yet stretches out in nice round, powerful movements with good suspension. Excellent speed.

9.0:

- Good beat. An attractive gallop: the horse is well off the forehand yet stretches out in nice round, powerful movements with good suspension, fairly fast speed.

8.5:

- Nice looking gallop, fairly good speed.
- Very fast gallop, looks OK.
- Racing speed in gallop, elegance not required.
- Maximum score possible, if no slow canter is shown.

8.0:

- Nice looking gallop, medium speed.
- Fast gallop, looks OK.
- Maximum score possible, if only slow canter is shown.

7.5:

- Average gallop, fairly good-looking, medium speed.
- Speed and elegance can cancel out faults.

7.0:

- Irregular beat, changing gait, but intermittent good gallop.
- Beat faults.
- Heavy gallop; little suspension or speed.
- Looks OK, but slow.

6.5 or lower:

- Disunited canter, loses gait.
- Movements seem very uncoordinated, very heavy on the forehand.
- Very heavy gallop with little or no suspension.
- Only disunited canter shown (5,0).



When showing gallop/canter at a breeding show the horse shall be started in slow canter (slow canter shown), the speed then increased and the fastest possible gallop the horse can do is shown. A separate mark is given for the slow canter and in order to reach the higher marks (9,0 or higher) it must be shown. The mark for slow canter is not calculated into the overall score, but is intended to further the information available through the judgement.

Slow canter

9.5-10:

- Supple 3-beat canter with good suspension; the horse is well off the forehand, moves effortlessly, but impressively.

9.0:

- Clear beat and very attractive canter; the horse is well off the forehand and has good suspension.

8.5:

- Good-looking canter.

8.0:

- Average looking canter.

7.5:

- Fair canter, average overall appearance.
- Good beat, suspension and suppleness can cancel out faults.

7.0:

- Good canter interspersed with some major beat faults.
- Beat faults.
- Heavy canter; little suspension and speed.

6.5 or lower:

- Disunited canter, loses gait
- Movements seem very uncoordinated, very heavy on the forehand.
- Very heavy gallop with little or no suspension.
- Only disunited canter shown (5.0).



Spirit (temperament & willingness)

9.5-10:

- The horse should be very willing, brave, happy, cheerful, confident and offering its best with very little encouragement. The horse tries to please the rider and is sensible and easy to handle.

9.0:

- Very willing, but sensible, not too fiery.
- Very willing, but only fairly sensible and easy to manage.
- Very eager to please and cooperate, but is not too fiery.

8.5:

- Very sensible, but not extremely forward going.
- Eager and forward going, but only fairly sensible.

8.0:

- Pleasantly willing when ridden.
- Very willing and eager, but not easy.

7.5:

- Sensible, but not forward going.
- Willing but stressed.
- Pleasantly willing when ridden but sensitive or unfocused.

7.0:

- Not willing or forward going.
- Shows disobedience.
- Nervous.

6.5-5.0:

- Disobedient.
- Lazy and dull.
- Uncontrollable (bolting).



General impression (form under rider)

9.5-10:

- The horse is very impressive and elegant to look at, with energetic, attractive movements and a lot of charm:
- The horse carries itself well, is flexed at the poll, on the bit, and off the forehand. The leg movements are light, high and supple with good coordination and energy. The front legs are lifted high and the horse covers the ground well in great style, its tail carried high.

9.0:

The horse is very beautiful when ridden:

- The horse is well off the forehand and on the bit. The movements are light, high, supple and well coordinated, covering the ground well, the horse is elegant and carries its tail nicely. Good and bad points can cancel each other out when judging this part, but the requirements for good head carriage are always high.

8.5:

The horse is beautiful when ridden:

- Head carriage is good and the horse is on the bit, moving lightly but energetically. Good and bad points can cancel each other out when judging this part.

8.0:

The horse looks nice when ridden:

- The horse carries its front end and generally has no major faults e.g. poking its nose.
- Average head carriage, but excellent energetic movements.
- Head carriage good, but movements are of average quality.

7.5:

No major faults to mar the general impression when ridden:

- Average head carriage and goes reasonably well.

7.0:

See the description for the mark 6,5 and lower, but here the faults are not so serious.

6.5 and lower:

- Very low leg action.
- Stiff and heavy movements.
- Low head carriage.
- Head much too high, problems with the bit and mouth.
- Very unsteady head, tries to evade the bit.
- Tail swishing.

The mark 6.5 or lower can be given if one of the above faults is so great that it seriously affects the overall look of the horse when ridden. It is, however, more common for several faults to spoil the whole general impression. The mark for "General Impression (form under rider)" is, as is the mark for spirit, applied to the whole ridden performance.

Walk



95-10:

- The horse is impressive and walks forward enthusiastically, with an even beat and a supple body. The head is carried at medium height and the horse moves with long, energetic strides, tracking up well.

8,5-9,0:

- The gait has a clear beat and is energetic, but the movements are not so impressive as to reach the mark of 9.5-10.

7,5-8,0:

- The walk has a clear beat, but lacks energy and forward going movement.

6,5-7,0:

- Uneven beat or little energy, not tracking up.

5,5-6,0:

- Very short choppy strides, a lot of lateral movement.

5,0:

- The horse does not show any walk.



Weighting proportion of each single trait

(translated from Icelandic as published by Bændasamtök Íslands year 2002)

For calculation of the scores of each single trait and the total score

Conformation		Ridden abilities/gaits	
Head	3%	Tölt	15%
Neck, withers & shoulders	10%	Trot	7,5%
Back and hindquarters	3%	Pace	9%
Proportions	7,5%	Canter/gallop	4,5%
Legs (quality)	6%	Spirit	12,5%
Legs (joints)	3%	General impression	10%
Hooves	6%	Walk	1,5%
Mane and tail	1,5%		
Total:	40%		60%

The FEIF / Icelandic breeding horse assessment system

1.Edition 1996, 1.Revision 2002, 2 . Revision 2005

1. Definition

1.1. The assessment system is for judging individual horses only.

1.2. The assessment system is made up of:

- Breeding goals in Icelandic horse breeding: FIZO, section II
- Icelandic core rules for Breeding shows: FIZO, section III
- Additional rules for international Breeding shows: FIZO, section III
- Additional rules for Breeding shows during World Championships: FIZO, section III
- Measuring the horse (FIZO, section II)
- Judging scale for individual breeding judgements (FIZO, section II)
- Method for calculation of scores for each single trait and for the total scores (FIZO, section II)

1.3. A Breeding show organised in accordance with the FIZO” means a Breeding show using the FEIF / Icelandic breeding horse assessment system and applies to shows in Iceland, and international breeding shows or breeding shows during a World Championship.

1.4. The FEIF Delegates Assembly must approve any changes made to this assessment system before they are accepted into the FIZO. The final acceptance is made by the advisory committee which is based on Icelandic regulation 948/2002 about the country of origin of the Icelandic horse.



SECTION III - Rules

Registration and Identification

1.Edition 1997, 1.Revision 1999, 2.Revision 2000, 3.Revision 2002, 4. Revision 2004. Revision 2006

Registration

General

- It is the responsibility of each FEIF member association to validate the pedigree of all registered Icelandic horses in its nation state and ensure that only pure-bred Icelandic horses are entered into WorldFengur. A FEIF member association should co-operate with all Icelandic horse studbooks recognised by the statutory bodies in its nation state. FEIF member associations must also co-operate with horse studbooks recognised by all other FEIF member associations and those studbooks recognised by its statutory bodies, through international directives and agreements.
- A pure-bred Icelandic horse is defined as one whose pedigree can be traced back only to Icelandic born horses. The FEIF Registration Group together with FEIF director of breeding shall be the final arbiter of being pure-bred in cases where the pedigree is open to question
- A national studbook restricted to Icelandic horses should only allow the entry of horses when these are holding recognised studbook registration papers issued in Iceland, in another FEIF member nation state or are able to present documentation (blood-type or DNA analysis) which proves the lineage back to horses registered in a recognised Icelandic horse studbook of a FEIF member nation state or in World Fengur.

Foals

- A foal born outside Iceland can be registered in a recognised Icelandic horse studbook in the nation state of its birth when:
- The foal is by a stallion and out of a mare, which are both registered in a recognised Icelandic horse studbook in a FEIF member nation state,
- The holder of the stallion has reported the covering to a recognised studbook office. This report must be in the recognised studbook office before December 31st of the year of service, and
- If the stallion is born in the year 2000 or later, the stallion must have proof of parentage. For stallions born 2000-2005 this may be by DNA analysis or blood type. For stallions born in 2006 and later this must only be by DNA analysis.

Imported horses

- A FEIF member nation state can register a horse imported from another FEIF member nation state in its recognised Icelandic horse studbook when the original Certificate of Origin or Horse Passport issued by a studbook in the nation state of birth is presented to the studbook office.
- All other imported horses can only be registered in a recognised Icelandic horse studbook of a FEIF member nation state when proof of the lineage has



been given by blood type or DNA-analysis back to horses registered in a recognised Icelandic horse studbook of a FEIF member nation state or in World Fengur.

Identification

1. FEIF International Identification Number

- All horses registered in a recognised Icelandic horse studbook must have an identification number for the life of the horse, preferably according to the FEIF International Identification Number System. This number has international validity and is a unique identification of the horse in the population of all Icelandic horses in the world with the purpose to identify and register the horse in the global database: WorldFengur. The FEIF international identification number can only be allocated by the FEIF member association in that nation state. The FEIF Registration Group together with FEIF Director of breeding shall be the final arbiter of nation of birth and thus the Country Code component of the FEIF International Identification Number.
- The formula for the FEIF International Identification Number System is:
CC YYYYS RRRRR
- The components of the formula are:
CC = Country Code (country of origin) comprising of two letters.

The codes are as follows

AT = Austria	BE = Belgium	CA = Canada
DK = Denmark	IE = Eire	FO = Faeroes Islands
FI = Finland	FR = France	DE = Germany
GB = Great Britain	IS = Iceland	IT = Italy
LU =Luxembourg	NL = Netherlands	NO = Norway
SI = Slovenia	SE = Sweden	CH = Switzerland
US = United States		

YYYY = Century and year of birth comprising of four figures.

S = Sex comprising of one figure. The codes are as follows:

1 = Male horse (colt, stallion or gelding)

2 = Female horse (filly or mare)

RRRRR = Unique serial registration number comprising of five figures identifying each specific horse within the nation state of birth. The system for allocating this number is at the discretion of the FEIF member association in each nation state

The FEIF Registration Group together with FEIF Director of breeding shall be the final arbiter in any question of the Naming of the horse or the farm.



The following rules apply to the FEIF International Identification Number System:

- a) A FEIF International Identification Number is compulsory for horses (including their lineage back to horses registered in WorldFengur) participating in all international Breeding shows.
- b) The FEIF International Identification Number should be used on all official certificates relating to that horse.
- c) Other local/national numbers can be used on certificates, in addition to the FEIF International Identification Number, provided it does not create confusion. The FEIF International Identification Number should be clearly shown as such.
- d) Questions or problems regarding the FEIF International Identification Number should be referred to the Breeding leader of the appropriate FEIF member association. If the Breeding Leader is unable to resolve the matter, it shall be raised to the FEIF Registration Group.
- e) FEIF-ID number must be registered into WorldFengur within a week of being issued on an official certificate relating to the horse. The FEIF-ID number is not valid until it has been registered into WorldFengur.

2. Certificate of Origin / Horse Passport

- Recognised studbook offices in the nation state of birth should issue a printed Certificate of Origin / Horse Passport with at least the following information:
 - 1) Name and origin of the horse (in accordance with Icelandic naming traditions),
 - 2) FEIF International Identification number,
 - 3) Year of birth,
 - 4) Identification markings,
 - 5) Colour and markings,
 - 6) Pedigree certificate - 4 generations or until Icelandic born horses which have no further pedigree information,
 - 7) Name and address of breeder,
 - 8) Date and signature of issuing studbook officer,
 - 9) Official stamp, name and address of the studbook office,

FEIF member associations fulfilling the above demands are allowed to have the FEIF logo printed on the Certificate or the Passport.

- A Certificate of Origin from the issuing authority in the nation state of birth should not be withdrawn or replaced by a studbook office of the new nation state of residence, after exportation. On registering an imported horse the studbook officer should record that the imported horse has been registered in the Icelandic horse studbook on the basis of an original certificate issued by a recognised studbook in the nation state of birth. Any replaced original Certificates of Origin shall be clearly marked with date, stamp and signature that the certificate is only valid when being accompanied by another (referred to by name of issuing authority) official Certificate of Origin.



3. Alterations

- In the case of the need to make major alterations to a pedigree, a name or the FEIF international identification number - the national studbook office and World Fengur Office shall observe the following rules:
 - 1) Any alteration has to be authorised by the officer in charge of the national studbook office.
 - 2) A record shall be kept explaining the reason for the alterations and evidence that it is correct.
 - 3) A record shall be kept of previous valid information.
 - 4) Information about such alterations and the reason behind them must be registered in WorldFengur. The new information must be notified to the WorldFengur registrars in the Country of Location and the nation state of birth and be sent out to all FEIF member association breeding leaders.

Breeding shows

1.Edition 1986, 1.Revision 1996, 2.Revision 1998, 3.Revision 1999, 4.Revision 2000, 5. Revision 2001, 6.Revision 2002, 7. Revision 2004. 8. Revision 2005, Revision 2006

Introduction

This chapter describes the rules that FEIF member associations of the nation states should observe when organising a Breeding show in accordance with the FIZO.

The chapter consists of 4 parts. Each part is linked together with the preceding part.

All breeding shows must be carried through in full accordance with the FEIF / Icelandic breeding horse assessment system (FIZO, section II). Icelandic breeding shows are carried through in full accordance with the Icelandic core rules (Icelandic regulation nr. 948/2002). Additional rules for international breeding shows are described in part 2 and for WC in part 3.

Area of application

- The rules serve international Breeding shows for Icelandic horses, Breeding shows at World Championships and must be approved by the FEIF Breeding leader.
- International Breeding shows should be run under FIZO rules and are the responsibility of the FEIF member association of the nation state.
- Breeding shows run in accordance with the FIZO are official events, and consequently, the results must be open to the public and must be registered, in the global Icelandic horse database: World Fengur



Core rules for organisers of Breeding shows

(translated from the official Icelandic rules for Breeding shows of 2002)

Staff and jobs

- International breeding judges are governed by FEIF rules;
Breeding judges in Iceland must have a college degree in livestock science and have passed a special judges' test held by the Farmers Association of Iceland.
- Normally three judges work together at a breeding show and they reach an agreement on each mark given. Each judges' panel has a chairman and it is his/her duty to make sure the judging goes smoothly and that results are achieved.
- At shows with 10 horses or more it is necessary to appoint a Show Manager. In addition someone should be appointed to control the taking of measurements, and a person with WorldFengur registrar access to input data into WorldFengur

General rules

A breeding show shall be conducted in the following manner:

- First the horses are measured. All stallions shall be measured with a measuring tape, a measuring stick and callipers at all measuring points described (see: Section II, part 4). Mares and geldings shall be measured at least at the following points: A tape measurement of the circumference of the front knee and front leg, a stick measurement of the highest point at the withers, croup, depth of breast and length. Hoof length shall be measured on all horses.
- Secondly the horse are judged for conformation and then for gaits and ridden abilities. When all horses have been shown there is a 2nd assessment (an overview show) where all horses can be shown again if their owners/riders so choose. If a breeding show goes on for more than a week it is allowed to split the overview shows and hold them over a period of a few days.
- When the gaits/ridden abilities are judged the rider can go a maximum of five times in each direction up and down the track, to display the ridden qualities of the horse.
- During the 2nd assessment there are 2-4 horses on the track at a time, depending on the facilities and the number of horses. At these shows the judges can raise (but not lower) individual marks of the horse, if the horse improves its performance from the previous one.
- The qualities judged during the showing of the horses shall be processed by the judges using the current official Icelandic "Judging scale for individual breeding judgements". The scores for individual traits shall be calculated using the current official Icelandic "Weighting proportions of each single trait". When calculating the total score of a horse 40% shall come from conformation and 60% from ridden ability scores. The total score must be given to two decimal points.



Tracks and facilities

For conformation judgements

- Where possible, all measurements and judgements of conformation shall take place indoors (riding arena/hall). A marked track, 20-30m long and 2-3m wide, with a level surface and a fence around it, is required for the conformation judgements.

For judgement of gaits/ridden abilities:

- The gaits shall be shown on a straight, level track, 250-300m long and 4-6m wide, well fenced, but open at both ends.
- The surface of the track should be identical to the surface of competition tracks, such as good oval tracks; the surface needs to be level and well compressed. It is also necessary that the track's condition be maintained throughout the whole show. Care must be taken so that traffic outside the track does not bother those showing horses on the track.
- The track should be marked out prior to the start of the show and all facilities checked by the show organisers and a representative of the judges' panel.
- Judges need good working facilities and a clear view of the track, about 25-40m away from the track.

About the horse

- All horses presented at breeding shows should be well prepared, sound and fit, well fed and well turned out. Artificial methods to alter the natural expression of the horse are not allowed. **If the horse is judged for riding abilities it must be at least 4 year old in the calendar year.**
- All horses presented at breeding shows need to be registered in the World Fengur database and individually marked (micro-chipped or freeze-marked). The show staff is responsible for reading the marking and comparing it to the registration information on the horse.
- All stallions presented for judgement must have proof of parentage either by blood type or DNA analysis. All Stallions presented for judgement and are born from the year 2006 must have a proof of parentage by DNA analysis on both the father and the mother.

Shoeing

- All horses shown ridden must be shod with a full set (4) of shoes. The shoeing shall be as well done as possible and the angle of the hoof must be in line with the pastern.
- The hoof length must be natural and not exceed 9.0cm. Exceptions to the 9.0cm rule can be made when stick measurements at the withers are 137-144 cm. These horses are allowed a hoof length of 9.5cm. Horses that have a stick measurement of 145 cm or more are allowed a hoof length of 10.0 cm. Maximum difference in hoof length between front feet and back feet is 2.0cm.



- The material of all four shoes shall be identical and must not exceed the specific weight of iron. The maximum thickness of the shoes is 8.0 mm and the maximum width is 23.0 mm. All 4 shoes must be identical regarding material and with. A difference in the thickness between front and back shoes of up to 2.0 mms is allowed.
- The shoe must fit the hoof. The shoe must not extend past the lengthened natural slant of the toe wall, and at the back past the perpendicular dropped from the bulbs of the heel. The use of sole, ring or any kind of artificial material to protect or repair the hoof is not allowed.
- If studs are used, 2 ordinary studs or stud nails must be used per shoe at the heel. The studs must suit the size of shoe.
- Max. size of studs allowed is (length x width x height) 15mm x 15mm x 12mm.
- Reinforcement welds are not allowed.

Tack and other equipment

Saddles

- All saddles and riding pads that fit the Icelandic horse and do not hurt the horse or cause discomfort are allowed.

Bridles and nosebands

- The bridle and noseband should fit well, be properly adjusted and not harm the horse.

Bits

The bit should fit the horse and not hurt its mouth.

- The judges can allow bitless bridles if there is good reason for it.

Whips

- A riding whip is allowed, maximum length 120cm including the tassel.

Boots

- The total permitted weight of protective boots is 120 grams (total weight per leg of overreach boots or tendon boots) and they shall be of a dark colour, black or brown. If boots are used during the judgement of the riding abilities the same equipment should be used throughout the presentation. If a boot falls off it should be put back on before the rider resumes the presentation.

About riders and handlers:

- The same rider should present the same horse during the entire assessment. However, a new rider may present the horse in the 2nd assessment. Riders should be sober and show courteous riding and they, as well as the owners/handlers of the horse shall be fair and courteous towards the show and its staff. If not, the jury can reprimand the person in question or dismiss them from the show.



- If a horse is tested positive for illegal drugs, according to the regulation on drug use (nr. 635/1996) its rider will be charged and judged under Icelandic law and relative international regulations. If a rider has broken the regulation on drug use, set by the National Association of Riding Clubs (LH) or FEIF, any judgement he/she has received shall also apply to breeding shows.
- The use of riding hats/helmets approved by an official body is mandatory.

Additional rules for organisers of international Breeding shows

These rules are additional to the Introduction of the rules for Breeding shows and the Icelandic core rules for Breeding shows.

Staff and jobs

The judges' panel

- The **judges' panel** normally consists of three FEIF licensed international Breeding judges. Whenever the number of ridden horses in a show is 25 or less the organisers can choose to have only two FEIF licensed international Breeding judges as the committee.
- Three judges work together at a breeding show and they reach an agreement on each mark given. One member of the judges' panel shall be appointed by the organisers as the chief judge. If a riding judge is used, one of the judges from the judges' panel with a FEIF licence as Riding judge is appointed.
- **The chief judge's** tasks are as follows:
 - a) To ensure the current FIZO is followed correctly.
 - b) To lead the judges' briefing before and after the show.
 - c) To ensure communications between the judges and show leader work.
 - d) To approve the tracks and other facilities together with the show leader.
 - e) To decide together with the show leader on which part of the track the horses shall be shown.
 - f) To undertake the duties of the show leader, where no show leader has been elected.
 - g) To submit a report of the Breeding show to the Breeding leader of FEIF.

- **Work schedule for judges**

The maximum number of horses to be judged per day should not exceed 40-45. Three judges work together at a breeding show and they reach an agreement on each mark given.

The judges working as a group shall need one secretary between them.

The organisers are also free to decide whether the judges shall show their marks and the time when they do so or if the marking shall be closed and unpublished and for what length of time.



Additional staff

- **The organisers** must appoint:
 - 1) A show leader (if more than 10 participants).
 - 2) Someone to register the horses, to prepare the computer- and paperwork (previous results, assessment forms, breeding certificates and result lists).
 - 3) A speaker for giving information to the audience.
 - 4) Secretary / secretaries to the judges.
 - 5) Members of an Arbitration Committee.
 - 6) An official veterinary surgeon.

- **The show leader** shall:
 - a) supervise the running of the Breeding show.
 - b) ensure that the communications between judges and riders work.
 - c) ensure that the judges can work undisturbed.
 - d) together with the chief judge, ensure that the current FIZO is upheld.

- **Official veterinary surgeon and health status**

At international Breeding shows an official veterinarian is responsible for the good health and well-being of the Icelandic horses taking part. The horses taking part must be free from any infectious or contagious disease and must not come from infected stock. Proof that the vaccination requirements stipulated in the schedule have been adhered to must be provided on request.

If a horse appears to the majority of the judges or to the veterinarian to be unfit to be shown (lameness, lack of fitness, doping etc.), the chief judge or the official veterinarian can order a veterinary examination to be carried out. The decision on whether the horse is fit for the showing rests with the official veterinarian.

There is no right of appeal.

- **Health control**

Every breeding horse that enters an International breeding show at the World Championships must have passed a veterinary examination before its presentation. The aim of the veterinary control is to encourage that only healthy horses are presented at breeding shows and consequently used for breeding. The purpose is also to collect statistics about the health status of the Icelandic horse.

The veterinary examination should be performed by a veterinarian with specific knowledge about the Icelandic horse and the FIZO rules.

- **General health control**

General health examination according to a special protocol should be used. The result of the examination will be recorded in a data base and used by the Veterinary committee for statistical analysis.

The health control includes: The feeding standard, teeth and oral status, auscultation of heart and lungs, examination of the skin, lameness evaluation and palpation of the distal limbs.



For stallions, the testicles are palpated and measured. The size of the testicles (scrotal width) is measured and in the case of visible difference in the size of the testicles, they are measured separately. Torsion of the testicles is noted as well as abnormalities in the consistency of the testicles.

- **Special rules for control of hereditary conditions**

Bone spavin

Radiographic examination of the distal tarsus is required for stallions before entering the first breeding show from the age of 5 years.

A complete radiographic examination is requested including four different projections of each hock. The radiographs are sent for central interpretation (by the same radiologist) in each country.

Information about the radiographic diagnosis will be recorded in WorldFengur for information for the breeders.

Defects of the testicles

The presence of cryptorchidism (abdominal retention or inguinal retention), scrotal with less than 8 cm and difference in the testicle size (mm³) which is equal or more than 50 % is regarded as unsound.

Information about these abnormalities will be recorded in World Fengur for information for the breeders.

Official FEIF recognition

- The Breeding leader of FEIF has to approve in advance the organisation of an international Breeding show and the organisers' choice of members of the judges' panel, the riding judge and the chief judge.
- The organisers must forward an application to the Breeding leader of FEIF at least one month in advance of the show for approval of the organisation of an international Breeding show. The application can be downloaded from the FEIF website (www.FEIF.org). The application is only valid with the signature of the national Breeding leader.

The results will be published in the FEIF Breeding Horse Register of WorldFengur.

- A fee per horse judged, as agreed annually by the National Breeding leaders, has to be paid to FEIF.



Documents and other information related to international Breeding shows

- **FEIF Breeding Assessment Forms**

The Breeding judges shall use a FEIF Breeding Assessment Form when judging. Official assessment forms, standard except for the language used, shall be used at all international Breeding shows organised under FIZO. The layout and printing of the assessment form shall be the responsibility of the Breeding leader of FEIF. Photocopying is permitted.

Any changes in the content of the forms shall first be approved by the Breeding Judges Committee and finally be approved by the Breeding leader of FEIF.

FEIF Breeding Assessment Forms can be requested from the FEIF Breeding leader or downloaded from WorldFengur (by official Registrars).

- **FEIF Breeding Assessment Certificates**

A FEIF Breeding Assessment Certificate shall certify the results from all international Breeding shows. The certificate shall be in a standard form, the paper and the layout of which is the responsibility of the FEIF Breeding Leader.

The layout must have sufficient space to incorporate the logo of the show organiser. Costs related to the printing of the logo of the organisers shall not be the responsibility of FEIF.

The special paper for the FEIF certificate to be used for the printing is obtainable from the FEIF Breeding leader.

Subscribers to WorldFengur can utilise the Breeding show facilities in WorldFengur for calculating and publishing of FEIF Assessment certificates from the Breeding show.

- **Release of official documentation of results from international Breeding shows**

It is the responsibility of the organisers *at the end* of international Breeding shows to produce the FEIF Breeding Assessment Certificate and to hand it over to the person responsible for presenting the horse for assessment.

The official documents of the result shall include a FEIF Breeding Assessment Form with comments and the FEIF Breeding Assessment Certificate.

All official documents require original signatures from the chief judge and from the national breeding leader or from a person appointed by him in writing to act on his behalf.

Anytime a FEIF Breeding Assessment Certificate is produced or presented officially to somebody, the certificate must have attached to it a FEIF Breeding Assessment Form with comments.

Any claim of mistakes in the published official documents must be referred to the national organisation responsible for the Breeding show, which must approve the claim before it can be put forward to the Breeding leader of FEIF for a decision. The decision shall be the responsibility of the Breeding leader of FEIF.



Eligible horses

Generally, these shows should be completely open for horses registered by a recognised studbook in a FEIF member nation state with no limitation on entries other than that of the sex and age of the horses applying to the relevant classes of the show.

The Breeding leader of FEIF must approve any other limitations set by the organisers, such as the maximum number from each nation state or some quality control of the horses.

- **Classes**

Stallions and mares will be shown in separate classes in the following age groups:

- a) 4 years old
- b) 5 years old
- c) 6 years old
- d) 7 years and older

Geldings will be shown in one age group.

- **Starting number**

Each horse is registered in the show program with a starting number. This number shall be clearly visible on the person presenting the horse for conformation assessment and on the rider during assessment of ridden abilities.

- **Bits and nosebands**

The bit should fit the horse and not hurt its mouth.

The judges can allow bitless bridles if there is good reason for it.

- **Bridles and nosebands**

The bridle and noseband should fit well, be properly adjusted and not harm the horse.

Running of international Breeding shows

- **Inspections**

Inspections of shoes, protective equipment and other equipment of the horse and rider lies with the judges. A primary check of horse's equipment is mandatory for all horses in the show and shall take place ahead of the assessments. On behalf of the judges the chief judge can delegate the responsibility of a secondary check of the equipment to one or two experienced persons after the 1st and 2nd assessment of riding abilities.

Any judge in doubt as to whether there has been a breach of the equipment rules may order an inspection to be carried out. One or more judges will carry out the inspection. The rider and the judges may call on the assistance of the official farrier or veterinary surgeon. The judges decide whether the equipment complies with the regulations. They can demand that the shoes be removed and replaced. The rider concerned has no right to claim compensation. If the rider refuses to follow the judges' instruction, the horse will be eliminated from the entire show.



- **Starting order**

The starting order is drawn separately for each class.

- **The assessments**

Breeding shows consist of measuring the horse and the assessment of its conformation and ridden abilities.

Entries

During the veterinary inspection, measuring and assessment of conformation the holder is allowed one helper to assist showing the horse. Helpers on the track are not allowed during the assessment of ridden abilities.

Measuring

Any horse which can prove, by the presentation of an original certificate or a certified copy, that it has been measured the same year in full accordance with the FEIF / Icelandic breeding horse assessment system, may be exempt from a repeat measurement at the show - except for the measuring of the length of the hoofs. All other horses shall be measured in full accordance with the FIZO. Horses can only be presented for further assessments when the result of the measuring is ready.

Conformation

The conformation is assessed when the horse is presented in hand and during the two assessments of ridden abilities. After the preliminary assessment of conformation, the rider must have enough time to prepare the horse for the assessment of its ridden abilities.

Ridden abilities

The horses will be judged twice for ridden abilities in two separate assessments. During the first demonstration each horse is ridden alone. The horse may be ridden on the track a maximum of 8-10 times, i.e. 4-5 times in each direction. For the second assessment of ridden abilities, the horses are shown in groups of 2-4 horses, starting each class with the horses which have received the lowest preliminary scores. During this second assessment the riders are free to show their horses 6 times, i.e. 3 times in each direction. Additional showing of the horse during this second assessment may only happen upon request from the judges.

Testing by a riding judge

The organisers are free to decide if they want a riding judge. A riding judge will only test the spirit of the horse. For this purpose the horse shall be ridden on the track two times in each direction. The testing is done shortly after the first riding demonstration of the horse.

- **Results**

All marks must be made known to the riders not later than before the second assessment of ridden abilities.

During the second assessment marks can only be increased during the rest of the show. The judges' decision on the marks is final.



- **International recognition of results**

The results from international Breeding shows organised in accordance with the FIZO are valid in all FEIF member nation states and must be registered in WorldFengur. The Registration has to be confirmed by the head judge never later than 1 week after the show.

- **Guidelines for conflicts of interest**

Nothing in these guidelines affects the validity of the result.

Whenever any of the following circumstances occurs the judge is recommended to leave the committee during the assessment of that horse. The remaining committee is allowed to perform the assessment.

- a) If the judge is the breeder, owner or ex-owner of the horse.
- b) If the judge is the owner/ex-owner of the father or the mother of the horse.
- c) If the breeder, rider or owner is a close relative of the judge (wife/husband or living together in the equivalent relationship, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, sister/brother or their children).
- d) Whenever the judge feels there is a conflict of interest that could influence his ability to perform the assessment.

- **Punctuality**

A horse will be eliminated if it fails to appear for its assessment after three calls within three minutes, providing the timetable has been kept to.

If an entry is withdrawn, the rider must inform the secretariat of this without delay.

- **Liability**

Participation in all presentations is at the risk of the rider, holder or owner. Neither FEIF nor the organiser accepts any liability whatsoever.

- **Disciplinary measures, objections and the Arbitration committee**

Dismissal of the horse

A horse being presented for judgement showing dangerous behaviour shall be dismissed from the show.

Only the judges' panel can dismiss such a horse.
There is no right of appeal.

Disciplinary measures against the rider or owner

Breaches of the FIZO, or the Code of Conduct and unfair behaviour and discipline as a rider or owner can be penalised by disciplinary measures.



Breaching rules

Any person is guilty of a breach of the rules, who:

- a) brings the name of the association and/or Icelandic horse into disrepute,
- b) treats a horse unfairly, makes excessive demands on it or hits it,
- c) violates established principles of the prevention of cruelty to animals act,
- d) presents the horse, although the horse is suffering from an obvious infectious or contagious disease,
- e) makes use of any substance, which is suitable for artificially influencing the performance of a horse during its presentation, or any person attempting this use, on entering, or participating in such an event is guilty of deception or attempted deception,
- f) as an organiser does not fulfil those obligations imposed on him by the FIZO,
- g) does not heed an arbitral ruling.

Types of Disciplinary Measures

- a) Warning
- b) Disqualification from further participation in a show
- c) Public reprimand (FEIF register of warnings)
- d) Suspension

Implementation of Disciplinary Measures

- a) A warning should be given in minor cases, when the offence was not committed deliberately, there were no serious consequences and no disciplinary action has previously been taken against the guilty party for the same or a similar offence.
- b) Disqualification should follow when the seriousness of the offence exceeds a warning, the matter is ended through the disqualification or the offence has occurred on more than one occasion or was of a serious or fundamental nature.
- c) A public reprimand should follow if the guilty party has already previously been disqualified several times for the same offence or the offence was of such a serious nature, that only a reprimand can be considered. A reprimand automatically means disqualification from the show.
- d) Suspension is to be imposed when the guilty party has already been reprimanded twice or when the offence is of such a serious nature that only suspension is an adequate punishment. The duration of suspension must be in relation to the seriousness of the offence.

Procedures

- a) A warning can be given by any judge.
- b) Disqualification must be called for by the committee of judges and decided by the Arbitration Committee.
- c) A public reprimand can only be given by the Arbitration Committee.
- d) A decision on suspension is the responsibility of the Arbitration Committee. The duration is determined by the Arbitration Council. The Arbitration Committee may make a recommendation as to the duration.

The decision of implementing disciplinary measures shall be announced to the rider or a representative immediately the decision has been taken. Whenever the judges need time to clear up a case the rider or a representative must be informed at once that the judges are considering disciplinary measures.



- **Consequences of a disciplinary measure on the assessment result**

Whenever a person who is taking part in the presentation of a horse breaches the rules that carry a warning, or more, the scores awarded to the horse shall only become valid when the judges have considered the impact of the offence of the rider on their ability to judge the horse according to the rules. The judges' panel may decide to set up conditions for a second presentation and assessment of the horse before the end of the show.

- **Objections**

Anyone being put at a disadvantage due to a violation of the conditions of the schedule or the FIZO has the right to object; the same applies furthermore to all judges, the organiser and the show leader. At World Championships each team leader has his own particular right of objections.

Objections to judges' decisions can only be based on the violation of rules or the abuse of the power of discretion.

Objections must be made in writing to the organising committee up to half an hour after the occurrence, accompanied by a deposit of € 50,- or the equivalent in foreign currency.

Objections to Schedules and showing procedures are to be lodged before the start of an event, or the relevant class. The deposit will be refunded if it is decided that there are reasonable grounds for the objection.

- **Arbitration committee**

For the duration of all international Breeding shows an Arbitration committee must be formed consisting of the following:

- 1) The show leader or one delegate previously appointed by him.
- 2) A member of the organising committee.
- 3) The National Breeding leader or a person appointed to act on his/her behalf
- 4) The chief judge or one member of the committee of judges previously appointed by him.
- 5) A spokesman for the breeders who are presenting horses for the Breeding assessment, elected before the start of the Breeding show. If he/she has to be substituted the breeders have to be represented by a deputy member.

Arbitration proceedings are conducted verbally. Minutes are to be taken, which should include at least the following information: Members of the Arbitration Committee. Place and time of the proceedings, parties present, issues and decisions of the committee

Arbitration Committee sittings are public. Conferring is done in private.

Decisions by the Arbitration Committee are taken on a simple majority. In the event of votes being equal, the chief judge or the Breeding leader of FEIF or his representative will have the casting vote.

The decision must then immediately be given in writing to the party concerned.

The minutes of the committee meeting must be presented to the Breeding leader of FEIF.



It is possible for the party concerned to appeal against decisions of the Arbitration Committee to the Arbitration Council of FEIF within a period of 2 weeks.

Additional rules, exclusively for Breeding shows during World Championships

These rules are additional to the Introduction to the rules for Breeding shows, to the Icelandic core rules for Breeding shows, and the additional rules for international Breeding shows.

Organisers of World Championships are obliged to arrange a Breeding show at the World Championships.

- **Eligible horses**

FEIF member nation states may enter a maximum of 2 horses per age group.

Horses may take part in both the Breeding and sports classes, but the shoeing may not be changed at all during the World Championships.

No reserve horses are possible. A horse may only represent the nation state in which it was born.

Classes

Stallions and mares will be shown in separate classes in the following age groups:

- a) 5 years old
- b) 6 years old
- c) 7 years old or over

- **The judges' panel**

The Breeding leader of FEIF and the Breeding Judges Committee shall be responsible for the selection of the judges' panel and shall inform the organisers on their decision at least 3 months ahead of the show.

Three judges work together at the breeding show and they reach an agreement on each mark given.

The preliminary marks awarded to a horse are ready for public announcement directly after the first complete assessment is finished.

- **Team leader**

Each participating country must name a team leader who will represent the team. The team leader will receive all the information about the show and will be the contact person between the team, the show's organisers and FEIF.

Each Team leader has his own particular right of objections.

- **The Arbitration Committee**

The Arbitration committee can never have more than 2 representatives of the same nationality in the committee.



- **Prizes**

The horse achieving the first place in its class shall receive a special prize.

If more than one horse ties for 1st place in a class the horse with the highest score calculated to three decimal places shall be awarded 1st place.

- **International recognition of results**

The results of the Breeding shows during World Championships organised in accordance with the FIZO are valid in all FEIF member nation states.

International Breeding & Riding Judges

1. Edition 2000, 1. Revision 2001. Revision 2005

Definitions

- **International Breeding judge**

A highly experienced Breeding judge, who is approved by a FEIF member association of the nation state and has passed the qualifying FEIF test for international Breeding judges. He possesses a licence issued by the Breeding leader of FEIF to judge Icelandic Breeding horses at international Breeding shows.

- **International Breeding & Riding judge**

An international Breeding judge with thorough experience of training horses and riding in shows/competitions at the highest level. Riding skills and knowledge of training/riding is suitable to evaluate the spirit of horses at international Breeding shows. The licence to act as a riding judge is issued by the Breeding leader of FEIF upon nomination from the Breeding judges committee.

Qualities and Prerequisites

- **General**

- a) Respects and appreciates with love the horse as an individual.
- b) Sets a good example when handling the Icelandic horse.
- c) Appreciates the correct and considerate handling of the horse by the riders.
- d) Will always observe FEIF judges' guidelines of conflicts of interests whenever he acts at official Breeding shows.
- e) Will always judge with care and conscientiousness.



- **Specific**

- a) Knowledge of the horse's anatomy and natural movements.
- b) Experience of training and riding several Icelandic horses of different types.
- c) Experience from continuous official work at national or international Breeding shows judging conformation and riding abilities of at least 50 horses each year and at least 2 years of steady work as an approved national Breeding judge.
- d) Knowledge in detail of the FIZO
- e) Basic knowledge of the hereditary ability of the traits, hereditary diseases and most common horse diseases.
- f) Basic knowledge of the method for Breeding evaluations.
- g) Attendance at FEIF Breeding judge seminars.

International Breeding judge seminars

Seminar for active FEIF international breeding judges

FEIF breeding judges group organises a seminar every second year for active FEIF international breeding judges. The aim is to discuss and develop the way of judging and the judging system.

Seminar and Test to become licensed FEIF international Breeding judge

- FEIF breeding judges group organises a seminar every second year for experienced national breeding judges. This seminar includes a test which the judge must pass if they wish to become a licensed international breeding judge.

Two instructors are needed at these seminars. The instructors must be among the most experienced judges who judge by the FEIF / Icelandic breeding horse assessment system and are chosen by the Breeding judges' committee. The Breeding leader of FEIF must approve the programme and the instructors.

The seminars are only open for judges approved by the FEIF member association of their nation state. The aim is to train experienced Breeding judges to a professional standard and to make them able to judge at the highest level. The work-speed at the seminar, the way of teaching and the strict test is designed only for experienced participants.

The number of participants at these seminars should ideally not exceed 12 persons. The duration of the seminar will be 4 days.

Definition of the test

- a) Factor 1/3. Written examination: Individual judging of four horses for conformation
- b) Factor 1/3. Written examination: Individual judging of four horses for riding abilities
- c) Factor 1/6. Oral examination: Conformation
- d) Factor 1/6. Oral examination: Riding abilities



The examiners decide the correct marks for each horse and mark the result from the students on the scale 0-10. They decide what an acceptable mark by the student is and what minor or major faults are.

Score of minimum 75 % on average (part a-d) is required to receive the FEIF licence to judge as an international Breeding judge.

The duration of a test will be 1 (2) day(s). The instructors/teachers of the seminar together with an external examiner forms the examination committee for the test. The external examiner is among the most experienced judges of judging by the FEIF/ Icelandic breeding horse assessment system and is chosen by the Breeding judges committee and the Breeding leader of FEIF.

FEIF licence to judge at international Breeding shows

The primary licence

The Breeding leader of FEIF can issue the primary licence to judge for a period of 2 years:

- 1: Once the judge has passed the test at the international Breeding judge seminar.
- 2: To those teachers/examiners at the international Breeding judge seminar who have assessed a minimum of 200 horses during the past two calendar years.

Extension of licence

The Breeding leader of FEIF can extend a licence to judge for a total period of 4 years when:

- 1: The licensed judge has judged at least 200 horses at international Breeding shows according to the FEIF / Icelandic breeding horse assessment system during the immediate preceding 2 calendar years period.

Renewal of licence

The Breeding leader of FEIF can renew a licence to judge for a period of 2 years when:

- A judge who has not judged the required number of 200 horses at international Breeding shows according to the FEIF / Icelandic breeding horse assessment system but has judged more than 50 horses each calendar year during his licence period and has participated in the international Breeding judge seminar of the year.
- A judge who has judged the required number of 200 horses at international Breeding shows according to the FEIF / Icelandic breeding horse assessment system and has received an extension of his licence for a total period of 4 years and has participated in the international Breeding judge seminar at the end of the 4 year period.



Special rules for riding judges

The conditions for riding judges are also covered under points 1-3 with the addition that the Breeding judges committee has to recommend the extension/renewal of the licence to the Breeding leader of FEIF.

Reports

As a prerequisite for the renewal/extension of a licence, an international Breeding judge is obliged to present to the Breeding leader of FEIF a report on the time and place of Breeding shows and the number of horses he/she has been judging at national or international Breeding shows according to the FEIF / Icelandic breeding horse assessment system during the licence period.

Horses judged only for conformation

Two Horses judged only for conformation will be calculated as one fully assessed horse.

Official international databases

FEIF/BÍ WorldFengur

FEIF WorldFengur Rules, 1.Edition 2000, 1.Revision 2001, 2.Revision 2002.

Nature and Purpose of WorldFengur Rules

The WorldFengur Rules are formal rules of FEIF and are enacted by the Delegates assembly of FEIF and can only be amended or revoked with the approval of the FEIF Delegates Assembly.

Introduction

The WorldFengur project of co-operation has been established between FEIF and BÍ. The terms of the co-operation are recorded in a Co-operation Agreement and copies are available from the WorldFengur Board of Co-operation. FEIF member associations may subscribe to WorldFengur by entering into a Subscriber Agreement with BÍ.

The WorldFengur project of co-operation will be managed by the WorldFengur Board of Co-operation made up of the FEIF Breeding Leader, the Chairman of the FEIF Breeding Registration Group, the National Horse Breeding Advisor of Iceland, and the Head of the Computer Department of BÍ (or alternative appointments by FEIF or BÍ in terms of the Co-operation Agreement between FEIF and BÍ). WorldFengur Board of Co-operation is the responsibility of and accountable to BÍ and FEIF.

The chairman of the WorldFengur Board of Co-operation shall prepare a written annual report including a yearly financial statement describing the incomes and expenses of the Project. The report and financial statement is presented first to BÍ for comments and secondly to the annual FEIF meeting of national Breeding leaders for final approval.



Official Status of WorldFengur

WorldFengur is the official global register of Icelandic horses.

International co-operation

For exported horses without a FEIF ID-number the nation state of birth shall be requested by the nation state of residence to allocate the FEIF ID-number and to register the horse in WorldFengur as promptly as possible.

To ensure an easy and prompt international co-operation all FEIF member associations shall name a WorldFengur contact person to be responsible of meeting the above request.

Basic registration in WorldFengur of exported horses officially registered in the nation state of birth is performed free of any charges to any other FEIF member association by the authorised office of the nation state of birth.

If the nation state of birth isn't a subscriber to WorldFengur the official Registrar or any other office authorised as such by the national FEIF member association in the nation state of birth shall allocate the FEIF ID-number upon request from another FEIF member association.

Bændasamtök Íslands shall be the only official office authorised to perform Basic registration of a horse born in a non-subscribing country. Such a registration in WorldFengur is only possible upon a request from a subscriber. The Data Registration fee to be paid by the FEIF member association of the nation state of birth.

Entries in the Register

A pedigree registration in the register means that

- The horse is identified by the FEIF International Identification number;
- The horse's pedigree meets the requirements of the FEIF Rules for Registration and Identification of Icelandic Horses and

Entries of any Breeding assessment results means that they are:

- *either* - achieved at a breeding show organised in accordance with the Icelandic assessment system or the FEIF rules for Breeding shows (FIZO) (1997 to 2002 (included)) –
- *or* achieved at a show organised in accordance with national Breeding assessment rules in which case the result shall be registered in a separate archive where data shall be marked as national results. Both types of assessment results shall be accessible from any access level.

From the start of year 2003 only Breeding assessment results achieved in accordance with the current FEIF rules for Breeding shows (FIZO) can be registered - with the possibility of the WorldFengur board to postpone this start to year 2004 if necessary.



Responsibility

Only the Subscriber has the authority to add or change any Data relating to that Subscriber's Section of the database during the period of its subscription. For this purpose Section means that part of the database relating to horses registered by the Subscriber as being located in the Subscriber's country.

Use of Information

WorldFengur information is for the private use of FEIF, BÍ, FEIF Member Associations and their members. Applications for research, educational or commercial use must be referred by the Subscriber to the WorldFengur Board of Co-operation for a decision.

Exit of Data

If a Subscriber leaves WorldFengur then BÍ will provide the outgoing Subscriber with a copy of the Extractable Data of all horses born in or registered as living in relation to that nation state up to the level of the first Icelandic born ancestor in every branch of the pedigree so as to assist it to re-establish and continue its studbook keeping on its own account.

Dispute Resolution

Any disputes or complaints by individual horse breeders or owners shall be referred to the Subscriber in the first instance. If the Subscriber is unable to resolve the matter, the Subscriber shall first refer the matter to BÍ and then, if unresolved, to the WorldFengur Board of Co-operation for resolution or a decision.

Any disputes or complaints by the Subscriber shall be referred to the WorldFengur Board of Co-operation. If a Subscriber is dissatisfied with the outcome the matter may be referred to the annual FEIF meeting of national Breeding leaders



The FEIF Registration Group

1.Edition 2000, 1.Revision 2002. Revision 2006

Terms of reference

The Registration Group together with FEIF director of breeding will consider all matters concerning the pedigree and certification of pure-bred Icelandic horses

Specific Duties

The FEIF Registration Group together with FEIF director of breeding shall, in cases where the pedigree is open to question, be the final arbiter on a horse being pure-bred or not.

The FEIF Registration Group together with FEIF director of breeding shall be the final arbiter of nation of birth and thus the Country Code component of the FEIF International Identification Number.

The FEIF Registration Group together with FEIF director of breeding shall be the final arbiter in any question of the Naming of the horse or the farm.

The FEIF Registration Group will, in the pursuit of consistency and high standards, provide guidance and assistance in the appropriateness, format and spelling of horse and farm names.

The FEIF Registration Group will, in the pursuit of consistency and high standards, propose registration protocols to be adopted by FEIF member associations that take due account of international and nation legislation

Approved information

Guidelines - Breeding judges' education programme

As approved by the annual FEIF meeting of national Breeding leaders, Reykjavík, Iceland, November 1999

General

The responsibility for the education and further training of *national* Breeding judges remains with the member nation states. It is emphasised that new member nation states or nation states with a small number of horses will have to send their potential Breeding judges to join national seminars for Breeding judges in other nation states.

FEIF does not provide any means of qualification for *national* judges. This is only in the power of each nation state.

Literature for basic information about equine anatomy in general etc. will be available in any national library and is not intended to be listed in these guidelines. The literature more specific for this education will be the Icelandic Assessment System (Kynbótadómar og Sýningar, BÍ), the FIZO and relevant parts of the FIPO (rules for Icelandic Horse Events).



Education of Breeding judges

It is recommended by FEIF that before a person starts to judge individual Breeding horses he/she must fulfil the following requirements (A and B):

A. Training period

1. *Knowledge of horse's structure and movements in general.*

This can be achieved through basic courses in anatomy and physiology in agricultural college or other comparable study (approx. 30-50 hours seminar).

2. *Knowledge of general training methods and theories of riding and training e.g.:*

- a) Starting a young horse
- b) Principles of dressage
- c) Training of the five gaits
- d) Training of horses for Breeding shows and competitions

Part 1+2 needs approx. 3-4 weekend seminars for training.

3. *Considerable riding skills on Icelandic horses.*

Experience of training/riding several horses of different types over the previous few years. Riding skills should be sufficient to ride at least the majority of horses that enter a Breeding show and to evaluate their character and willingness.

4. *Knowledge of the FIZO.*

- a) Necessary to know the FIZO.
- b) Also how to organise and to run a Breeding show according to the FIZO.
- c) The FEIF / Icelandic breeding horse assessment system its structure, purposes and use
- d) The definition of each trait. Pros and cons within each trait. Relationship of the traits.

5. *Practical judging.*

- a) The Breeding Assessment Form.
- b) Measuring of horses.
- c) Checking of equipment (horses and riders).
- d) Basic training in judging horses (pictures, videos and live horses).

Part 4+5 needs approx. 2-3 weekend seminars for the training. The number of trainee's at a seminar should not exceed 20 persons. Teachers must be 1 or 2 international Breeding judges.

Candidate period

The teachers recommend trainees for further training.

Training in judging at an international Breeding show.

Working as an assistant to an international Breeding judge who will be giving a continuous assessment of the candidate. Important that this happens shortly before independent judging work starts.

Examples:

- a) Work with an international Breeding judge through 50 horses within 1 month.
- b) Work with an international Breeding judge a few times during a period of 1-2 years judging a total of 200 horses.

