



# USIHC Board Conference Call Minutes

## January 12, 2021

### 8:00PM (Eastern)

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**Present:** Will Covert, Emily Potts, Virginia Lauridsen, Jeffrey Rose, Leslie Chambers, Janet Mulder, Lori Cretney, Lucy Nold, Martin Nielsen

**Auditing:** Carrie Brandt

Will Covert called the meeting to order at 8:04pm EST.

#### **1. SECRETARY'S REPORT (MARTIN NIELSEN)**

As of January 8, 2021 the USIHC has 797 Members in 601 Households. Both appear to be new highs.

#### **2. TREASURER'S REPORT (KARI PIETSCH-WANGARD)**

Reports are attached. The monthly financial statements now include a detailed breakdown of the cash owned by the Congress. The key figures from the breakdown are:

Combined bank account balances as of 12/31/20: \$132,732.04

Unrestricted membership funds as of 12/31/20: \$117,520.11

Net Change from 11/30/20: \$4,962.66

Net Change from 12/31/19: \$14,483.81

#### **3. AFFILIATED CLUB COMMITTEE REPORT (LESLIE CHAMBERS)**

Nothing to report.

#### **4. BREEDING COMMITTEE REPORT (VIRGINIA LAURIDSEN)**

The breeding manual is close to ready and is undergoing last rounds of review.

#### **5. EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT (WILL COVERT AND KARI PIETSCH-WANGARD)**

Nothing to report.

#### **6. LEISURE COMMITTEE REPORT (JANET MULDER)**

The 2020 Ride finished with 2 teams completing the 5000 mile ride, Ice Trekkers and Northcountry Tölter. Full standings in attached screen shots.

2021 Ride is off to a big start with 92 riders (12% of total membership) and 18 Teams signed up as of 1/7/20. Emily and I discussed putting a monthly update on the blog. Reaching out to my committee for volunteers to help with mailing patches/updating FB banners/Rider of the Month questionnaires.

#### **7. PROMOTIONS AND WEBSITE REPORT (EMILY POTTS)**

See attached report.

#### **8. QUARTERLY COMMITTEE REPORT (NANCY BROWN)**

See attached report.

Leslie Chambers made the motion to approve the budget request for \$4,293 for Issue 1. Virginia Lauridsen seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously in favor.

## **9. SPORT COMMITTEE REPORT (MARTIN NIELSEN)**

See attached report.

Leslie Chambers made the motion to take down virtual show videos one month after announcement of the results. Janet Mulder seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously in favor.

## **10. YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT (LUCY NOLD)**

Nothing to report.

## **11. Officer elections**

The officer elections were as follows:

President:	Will Covert
Vice-president:	Jeffrey Rose
Secretary:	Martin Nielsen
Treasurer:	Lori Cretney

Committee chairs:

Affiliated Club:	Leslie Chambers
Breeding:	Virginia Lauridsen
Education:	Will Covert/Jeffrey Rose
Leisure:	Janet Mulder
Promotions/website:	Emily Potts
Quarterly liaison:	Leslie Chambers
Sport:	Martin Nielsen
Youth:	Lucy Nold

Martin Nielsen made a motion to approve the elections. Virginia Lauridsen seconded and the board voted unanimously in favor.

## **12. Old Business**

### **a. Planning of the USIHC membership meeting.**

The FEIF delegates assembly will be on February 13, the week prior to the membership meeting. The board agreed to have Will Covert and Martin Nielsen participate as delegates on behalf of USIHC. They will then present a summary of the meeting at the USIHC membership meeting.

The program will consist of committee reports from each committee chair with a subsequent question and answers session. Deadline for submitting committee reports to Emily Potts is February 6. In addition, Lucy Nold will give a presentation of the new DNA registry setup. Carrie Brandt will give a presentation on her check-list for preparing for virtual shows.

Martin Nielsen and Emily Potts will put the program together, and Martin will set up the Zoom link. Emily and Martin will set the meeting up to stream live to Facebook, and Emily will advertise the meeting on Social Media.

### **b. USIHC policies for anti-discrimination.**

Emily Potts will add a new tab to the Google doc for 2021, and each board member will enter their completed anti-discrimination training before the end of the year.

### **c. Follow-up on the pathway for analyzing DNA from unregistered Icelandic horses.**

Lucy Nold has almost completed setting up the procedure for ordering DNA tests through the USIHC. Virginia Lauridsen volunteered to write up a brief notice for the Quarterly about the participation number status option for DNA-proven, but yet unregistered Icelandic Horses.

### **13. New Business**

#### **a. Approval of the forming of a sport judges' task force (see attached)**

Martin Nielsen made the motion to form a sport judges' task force. Leslie Chambers seconded, and the board voted unanimously in favor.

#### **b. Approval of new definition of beginning rider (see sport committee report)**

Leslie Chambers made the motion to define beginning riders as follows:

"Beginning Rider: Any non-professional rider is eligible for this division for two consecutive calendar years starting with their first participation in a live National Ranking show (or its equivalent). These riders would then graduate to Novice."

Martin Nielsen seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously in favor.

#### **c. Approval of spring virtual show dates and incorporation of World Championship try-outs (see sport committee report)**

Martin Nielsen made the motion to incorporate the World Championship try-outs in the spring virtual show and work with the following timelines:

Registration:	May 14.
Video upload:	May 21.
Judging completed:	June 5.
Team announcement:	June 10.

Leslie Chambers seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously in favor.

#### **d. Discussion of in-person USIHC events in 2021.**

The board discussed the outlook for organizing in-person events in 2021. While the first part of the year looks unpredictable, the board was hopeful that events would become more feasible in the second half of the year.

#### **e. Should members of the breeding committee be required to take a breeding seminar?**

Virginia Lauridsen made a motion to require completion of a breeding seminar for new breeding committee members. Lucy Nold seconded the motion. The board felt that if seminars were virtual, it would not be a very restrictive requirement. The board voted unanimously in favor.

#### **f. Should the USIHC host a "virtual" breeding seminar?**

Virginia Lauridsen will work out an outline and a budget for a virtual seminar and present at the next meeting.

#### **g. Further discussion of code of ethics statement (attached).**

Jeffrey Rose will review the draft code of ethics and provide his feedback by the next meeting.

### **14. Miscellaneous.**

Martin Nielsen made the motion to authorize Lori Cretney and Kari Pietsch-Wangard to sign bank documents on behalf of the USIHC. Lori Cretney seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously in favor.

Next meeting will be the budget meeting and was scheduled for February 9. Deadline for budget requests to Lori Cretney is February 2. Requests should be emailed to Lori with copy to Kari Pietsch-Wangard.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17pm EST

*Martin Nielsen, Secretary*

01/05/21

**United States Icelandic Horse Congress Inc.**  
**Balance Sheet Standard**  
 As of December 31, 2020

	Dec 31, '20
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
Associated Checking acct.	26,693.10
Associated Money Market Acct.	96,038.94
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	122,732.04
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
CD ownd by USIHC mature 4/7/22	2,000.00
CD ownd by USIHC mature 10/7/22	2,000.00
CDs for Judge Scholarship Fund	
CD-matures 4/14/21	3,000.00
CD-matures 10/11/21	3,000.00
<b>Total CDs for Judge Scholarship ...</b>	6,000.00
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	10,000.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	132,732.04
<b>Other Assets</b>	
Blood Profile Funding Refund	-5,000.00
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	-5,000.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>127,732.04</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
Unexpended Breeding Fund	123.07
Unexpended Judge Schlshp. Fund	4,000.00
Unexpended World Champshp F...	5,363.14
Unexpended Youth Funds	5,725.72
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	15,211.93
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	15,211.93
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	15,211.93
<b>Equity</b>	
Opening Bal Equity	96,926.56
Retained Earnings	1,109.74
Net Income	14,483.81
<b>Total Equity</b>	112,520.11
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>127,732.04</b>

## USIHC General Membership Funds

11/30/20		12/31/20
\$ 21,192.06	Checking	\$ 26,693.10
\$ 96,038.13	Money Market	\$ 96,038.94
\$ 10,000.00	CDs	\$ 10,000.00
\$ 127,230.19	subtotal	\$ 132,732.04
\$ -	Breeding Fund	\$ (123.07)
\$ (4,000.00)	Judge Scholarship Fund	\$ (4,000.00)
\$ (5,189.56)	World Champ. Team Fund	\$ (5,363.14)
\$ (5,483.18)	Youth Fund	\$ (5,725.72)
\$ 112,557.45	<b>USIHC Unrestricted Membership Funds</b>	\$ 117,520.11

Net Change from 11/30/2020

**\$4,962.66**

12/31/19 Balance

\$ 103,036.30

Net Change from 12/31/19

**\$14,483.81**

**United States Icelandic Horse Congress Inc.  
Income & Expense Report  
December 2020**

Income		Expense	
Interest Income	0.81	<b>Competition/Sport Expense</b>	
		2020 Virtual Sport Show exp.	185.21
<b>Membership Related Income</b>			
Farm Listing	534.05		
<b>Membership Dues</b>			
Family Memberships	1,321.20		
Individual Memberships	3,273.57	<b>Membership Related Expenses</b>	
Total Membership Dues	4,594.77	Toll Free line	15.55
Quarterly Inc.		<b>Promotional Exp.</b>	
Quarterly Adv. Inc.	411.77	Promotional Banners (Club)	142.13
<b>Total Membership Related Income</b>	5,540.59		
<b>Registry Income</b>		<b>Registry Expenses</b>	
Duplicate Registration fees	48.25	Clerical for registry	393.00
Registration fees	395.07	Printing & reproduction-Regist.	209.74
Transfer fees	91.30	Registry Postage	92.00
Total Registry Income	534.62	Total Registry Expenses	694.74
USIHC Non-Member fees	49.27	Youth Committee Exp.	125.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,125.29</b>	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,162.63</b>

**Net Income : 4,962.66**

**United States Icelandic Horse Congress Inc.**  
**Income & Expense Report**  
**January through December 2020**  
**Page 1**

Income		Expense	
		<b>Breeding Committee Exp.</b>	
		Breeding Comm. Equipment Exp.	828.23
		Cantella YH Evaluation Award	44.72
		Elwell Breeding Award	44.73
		<b>Total Breeding Committee Exp.</b>	917.68
<b>Competition/Sport Inc.</b>		<b>Competition/Sport Expense</b>	
Ice Test fee income	-32.40	2020 Virtual Sport Show exp.	1,950.03
Sanction Competition fee	672.52	IceTest annual fee	1,029.68
Virtual Competition entry fee	7,097.81	National Ranking Award Expense	635.70
Virtual Competiton Sponsorship	746.94	<b>Total Competition/Sport Expense</b>	3,615.41
<b>Total Competition/Sport Inc.</b>	<b>8,484.87</b>		
<b>Education-Riding Badge</b>		<b>Education Comm. Exp.</b>	
Riding Badge Inc.	518.54	Riding Badge Exp.	73.60
		<b>FEIF Conference exp.</b>	
		FEIF 2020 Conf. Exp.	419.88
		FEIF Conf. Airfare exp.	1,120.39
		<b>Total FEIF Conference exp.</b>	1,540.27
<b>Interest Income</b>	68.44	<b>Leisure Committee Expense</b>	
		S2SS 2020 Program exp.	276.83
<b>Membership Related Income</b>		<b>Membership Related Expenses</b>	
Farm Listing	3,123.89	<b>Administration</b>	
		Mbshp. Postage	11.00
		Office/Supplies Exp.	48.46
		Tax. Prep. Services	408.00
		<b>Total Administration</b>	467.46
<b>Membership Dues</b>		<b>Annual Meeting Exp.</b>	
Family Memberships	7,516.32	2020 Annual Meeting Portland Ex	1,891.50
Foreign Friend mbshp	333.10		
Individual Memberships	19,532.89		
Youth membership	639.92		
<b>Total Membership Dues</b>	<b>28,022.23</b>	<b>FEIF related expenses</b>	
		FEIF Mbshp fees	2,139.35

**United States Icelandic Horse Congress Inc.  
Income & Expense Report  
January through December 2020  
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Income		Expense	
		Insurance	715.00
		Quarterly Expenses	
		Graphics	4,000.00
		Postage for Quarterly	2,058.96
Quarterly Adv. Inc.	6,136.47	Quarterly Printing	10,592.80
		Total Quarterly Expenses	16,651.76
		Toll Free line	182.60
		Website	3,625.87
		WorldFengur Exp.	1,522.98
Total Membership Related Income	37,282.59	Total Membership Related Expenses	27,196.52
		Promotional Exp.	
		Promotional Banners (Club)	395.57
		Promotion Material Printing exp	1,149.41
		Promotional Advertising	867.00
		Promotional postage expenses	183.67
		RC Co-op promo exp.	150.00
		Promotional Exp. - Other	45.00
		Total Promotional Exp.	2,790.65
		Regional Club Clinic exp	250.00
Registry Income		Registry Expenses	
Duplicate Registration fees	638.66	Clerical for registry	3,660.00
Late Stallion Report fees	893.90	Printing & reproduction-Regist.	540.39
Registration fees	5,084.60	Reg. WorldFengur Sbscrptn exp.	200.32
Transfer fees	2,904.65	Registry Office supplies	283.89
Total Registry Income	9,521.81	Registry Postage	515.65
		Total Registry Expenses	5,200.25
		Youth Committee Exp.	
		Spaeri Award	50.00
USIHC Non-Member fees	536.27	FEIF Youth Cup Exp.	
		2020 FEIF Youth Cup exp.	132.50
Youth Committee Inc.		Youth Committee Exp. - Other	125.00
Youth Cup Tryout Fees	240.00	Total Youth Committee Exp.	307.50
Total Income	56,652.52	Total Expense	42,168.71
	<b>Net Income :</b>	<b>14,483.81</b>	



Name	Shore to Shore Riding Trail, MI - 2000	Zumbro Bottoms Horseback Riding, MN - 2250	Wildcat Mountain State Park, WI - 2500 HALFWAY	Shenendoah National Park, VA - 2750	Great Smokey Mountains National Park, TN - 3000	Bussy Point Recreation Area, GA - 3250
<b>Ice Trekkers</b>	4/20/20	4/20/20	5/9/20	5/9/20	5/28/20	5/28/20
<b>Northcountry Tolters</b>	5/28/20	7/7/20	7/7/20	8/4/20	8/4/20	9/2/20
<b>Gyetorp II</b>	8/4/20	9/2/20	10/7/20	11/2/20	12/4/20	1/7/20
<b>Wyoming Toltsetters</b>	11/2/20					
<b>AIHA</b>	7/7/20	7/7/20	8/4/20	8/4/20	9/2/20	9/2/20
<b>Hestafolk</b>	8/4/20	9/2/20	9/2/20	10/7/20	11/2/20	12/4/20
<b>Merrimack Valley Icelandic</b>	9/2/20	10/7/20	10/7/20	11/2/20	12/4/20	12/4/20
<b>Sirius Trail Tölter</b>	1/7/20					
<b>Heaven's Icies</b>						

Name	Big Bend Ranch State Park, TX - 3500	Princess Place Preserve, FL - 3750 3/4 complete	Mount Toby, MA - 4000	Sprague Land Preserve, CT - 4250	Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, VT - 4500	Otter Creek Horse Trails, NY - 4750	Acadia National Park, ME - 5000 Finish Line
Ice Trekkers	5/28/20	5/28/20	6/9/20	6/9/20	7/7/20	7/7/20	7/7/20
Northcountry Tolters	10/7/20	10/7/20	10/7/20	10/7/20	11/2/20	12/4/2020	12/4/20
Gyetorp II							
Wyoming Toltsetters							
AIHA	10/7/20	10/7/20	12/4/20	1/7/20			
Hestafolk	12/4/20	1/7/20	1/7/20				
Merrimack Valley Icelandics	1/7/20	1/7/20					
Sirius Trail Tölters							
Heaven's Icies							

Name	Chugach Mountain State Park, AK - 250	Yosemite National Park, CA - 500	Rocky Mountain National Park, CO - 750	Yellowstone National Park, WY - 1000
<b>Individual Riders</b>				
Carrie Matson				
Chris Feldner				
Deborah Kenny	8/4/20	12/4/20		
Donna Smith	8/4/20	1/7/20		
Frances Rospotynski				
Jane Coleman	5/9/20	8/4/20	10/7/20	
Jill Carroll	5/9/20	7/7/20	10/7/20	12/4/20
Josette Brault				
Kim Taylor				
Lisa Blumhagen	7/7/20	12/4/20		
Lin Campbell	12/4/20			
Rachel Miller	4/2/20	5/28/20		

**Promotion:**

Klettafjalla's banner has been ordered and delivered.

The new USIHC Zazzle store has 38 products available for purchase. There will be more added as some of the customizable options are back in stock after various suppliers were closed due to Covid. 34 items have been sold so far.

**Website:**

2021 S2SS Ride started and the website has been updated with the new route. 92 participants have been signed up including 16 teams. The Individual leaderboard was updated to include the team name next to each rider to help track results.

The results and videos for the Virtual Fall Show were posted to the USIHC blog and the competition results page.

Lucy and I are in the process of updating the registry page with the new DNA information and prices.

The Wild Apricot/Paypal payment update will take place prior to 2/1/21. An email will go out to all subscription members notifying them of the process. For the next year all renewal email reminders to subscription members will remind them that they will need to renew manually for one cycle before the recurring payments are activated again.

2020 website statistics were encouraging for the first year of operating on the new website. There were 16K visitors, 26k sessions, 75k pageviews. 50% of traffic was direct, 30.5% was organic search, 13.2% was from social, and 6.2% was referral. Top 5 pages visited were Registered Horse Search, Sea 2 Shining Sea Ride, Farm List, Registry, and Quarterly Magazine.

- *Emily Potts*



**The Icelandic Horse Club of the  
Rocky Mountain Region**

[www.klettajalla.com](http://www.klettajalla.com)



Quarterly Committee report  
January 6, 2021  
submitted by Nancy Brown

The Quarterly Committee is now hard at work on Issue One 2021. Since January 1 is a difficult deadline for most people to meet, we are continuing to accept submissions until the issue is full. Board members and committee chairs, please send us ASAP any text, photos, or advertisements you want us to print in this issue. (Remember that ads for USIHC-sanctioned events are free, space permitting.)

At the same time as submissions continue to come in, the content is going through the editing and committee review stages; we enter the design and proofreading stages on January 15; our press date remains February 1. The e-Quarterly should be ready to be released on February 15, with printed copies mailed on March 1. We will be printing 600 copies of this issue, as in December. Extras will be made available for promotional purposes; please contact [quarterly@icelandics.org](mailto:quarterly@icelandics.org).

Because the 2021 USIHC budget has not yet been approved, we'll need the board's approval for the following costs:  
design=\$1,000 (no increase since 2008)  
printing of 600 copies=\$2,818 (per the printer's 2021 quote, an increase of about \$8 since last year)  
mailing of copies to members & contributors=\$475 (estimate based on the December 2020 mailing)

Total budget request for Issue One 2021=\$4293

An official estimate for postage will come from the mailing house once we submit our mailing list on about Feb. 15; the USIHC treasurer will need to send them a check for the postage before the magazines will be mailed. The designer's and printer's invoices will need to be paid in late February or early March, upon receipt.

Deadline for submissions for the June 2020 issue is April 1.

## **USIHC Sport Committee meeting**

**Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

**Present:** Ásta Covert, Lori Cretney, Carrie Brandt, Alex Pregitzer, Lucy Nold, Leslie Chambers, Martin Nielsen.

**Absent:** Kristina Behringer, Will Covert, Deborah Cook, NikkiSue Flanigan.

Martin called the meeting to order at 8:05pm EST. The committee first discussed eligibility criteria for serving on the sport committee and agreed to continue the discussion in coming meetings.

### **1. Virtual show wrap-up.**

The fall virtual show was a great success! Emily Potts, Ásta, Will, and Leslie made tremendous efforts to get this off the ground and their efforts are highly appreciated. The judges have yet to submit their invoices, however the expectation is that the budget will balance. The committee agreed that having five judges was a success and definitely worth the money, so this will be continued for future virtual shows.

The committee discussed the planning of the spring virtual show and whether to combine it with the World Championship try-outs. The committee agreed to propose the following to the USIHC board: Incorporate the try-outs into the spring show. Deadline for registration: May 21<sup>st</sup>. Deadline for submitting videos: May 28<sup>th</sup>. Deadline for judges to complete their judging: June 3<sup>rd</sup>. This would give the board time to announce the team by June 10<sup>th</sup>. Martin will add this to the board meeting agenda.

The committee also briefly discussed publication of show videos. The consensus was that a time-limited duration would be preferred (for example 3 months) and that the videos should be posted on a members-only section on the website. Martin will discuss technical options with Emily Potts.

### **2. Eligibility criteria for beginning rider classes.**

The committee agreed to propose using the same verbiage as for the green horse classes. A beginning rider is a rider competing in their first two show seasons. This will also be added to the agenda for the next board meeting.

### **3. Document edits.**

Several minor errors and needed changes were identified, and Leslie will make these.

### **4. Judges education matrix.**

Martin met with Þorgeir Guðlaugsson and discussed an educational matrix for judges and people interested in learning about the sport. This resulted in a working document summarizing the ideas, which had been circulated to the committee prior to the meeting. The main elements were 1) A two-tiered approach with a set of preparatory classes developed for people either interested in becoming judges or just wanting to learn more about the sport and a curriculum

consisting of online lectures/seminars and in-person seminars for those preparing for taking the exam. 2) Forming a judges' committee/task force to develop this structure and create a forum for discussion and continued education.

The committee was very positive about these ideas, and Alex declared herself willing to lead the judges' task force. Martin will bring this initiative to the board for approval at the next board meeting.

#### **5. Miscellaneous.**

Carrie proposed discussing eligibility criteria for competing at USIHC shows – both virtual and in-person. For virtual shows, it could be discussed whether foreign friends could be allowed to compete. And for in-person shows, there are questions about international interns who are not permanent residents and often stay less than 6 months in the country. The committee agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm EST.



## **USIHC preparation and education of judges**

### **Current setup**

The current USIHC judging seminars are offered to people aspiring to become judges and others seeking a deeper understanding of the sport.

Challenges with the current setup:

- Many attendees lack sufficient background to fundamentally benefit from the seminars, and this, in turn, hurts the learning outcome for the better qualified attendees.
- The seminars are self-supported, which means that they are dependent on sufficient participation. This accentuates the problem above with attendees lacking sufficient background.
- The education consists of a 3-day onsite seminar which is too short to cover all subjects profoundly and has for many participants proven to be too much to take in at once.
- Organized and coordinated continuing education of already certified USIHC sport judges is limited. Most of those judges also struggle with maintaining their skillset due to the limited number of shows organized in the US and the limited number of judges used at many shows.

### **Future vision**

A hierarchical educational matrix could be developed along the following lines:

#### **Basic sport judging education:**

- Online or onsite educational offering to people interested in knowing more about Icelandic horse sport and in particular the judging aspects of it. This education should consist of theoretical lectures and practical judging (from videos or in real life). The theoretical part should at least cover the following subjects: 1. Introduction to the gaits of the Icelandic horse with emphasis on tölt and pace. 2. General introduction to the Icelandic horse sport. 3. Explanation of the judging system and the basic principles of the judging guidelines. 4. Brief introduction to competition rules with emphasis on modified US sport rules and competition system. The practical judging exercises should as a minimum seek to demonstrate the differences between good, average and poor performances.
- The aim of this education will be to inform (and hopefully enthuse) more people about the sport, to enable participants to decide if they aspire to become sport judges and to scout talented candidates for further judging education.
- Entry level and profile of target participants: Basic general equine knowledge and experience in riding Icelandic horses or advanced equine knowledge but little experience with riding or training Icelandic horses.
- Tuition: This education should be provided by certified USIHC sport judges or Icelandic horse sport judges with comparable training.

- In due time it could be made mandatory for people to complete this education before they sign up for the advanced judging education (outlined below). In that case the curriculum of such seminars needs to meet prefixed requirements set by the USIHC.

#### **Advanced sport judging education:**

- The aim of this education will be to educate, examine and certify USIHC sport judges on B/C level and to increase the knowledge of sport judging among the members of the professional Icelandic horse community.
- The education is based on the current setup of the USIHC judging seminar and should be offered to people aspiring to qualify as sport judges and competition riders, trainers and instructors seeking a deeper understanding of the sport. The education will consist of theoretical lectures and practical judging. The theoretical part covers at least the following subjects: 1. General introduction to judges' education. 2. Introduction to mental aspects of subjective assessments. 3. Judging ethics. 4. In-depth coverage of the sport rules with emphasis on their implementation. 5. Detailed coverage of the judging guidelines, highlighting judging elements riding skills, beat, balance, suppleness, biomechanics, locomotion and execution. The practical judging exercise will aim to bring the theoretical knowledge into practice by judging horses, both on video and in real life (schooling show setup). In addition, training sessions in performing equipment and health checks will take place.
- In difference to the current 3-day onsite seminar setup, the education will also include a number of online lectures. Those online sessions will be scheduled leading up to the onsite seminar and cover subjects suitable for the online platform (e.g. overview of judging education, competition rules, judging ethics). This arrangement will allow more time during the onsite seminar for the implementation of the judging guidelines and practical judging.
- Entry level and profile of target participants: Advanced general equine knowledge and some experience in riding, training and/or competing with Icelandic horses or completion of a basic sport judging education together with instructor's recommendation for admission (see above).
- Tuition: This education should be provided by a certified FEIF international sport judge with ample experience in judging education.
- Exam: after the completion of the 3-day onsite seminar participants have the opportunity to take an exam to become USIHC certified sport judges on B/C level. The exam includes theory and practical tests.

#### **Continuing education of certified USIHC sport judges:**

- Certified USIHC sport judges have the obligation to maintain and update their knowledge. This can mainly be obtained in two ways; by informal self-development and by attending formal judging seminars.

- Self-development: An important form of sport judges' self-development is the opportunity to operate as a judge – learn by practicing. The judging opportunities are currently limited and need to be increased in order to provide USIHC sport judges more opportunities for practical experience. This could be done by the following: a) Encourage realization of more schooling shows. Such low-threshold events will not only give USIHC sport judges more judging opportunities but also encourage and motivate more people to compete and get infected with the competition bug. The USIHC needs to gain knowledge on how it can support and/or facilitate such development. b) Encourage show organizers to engage more than one judge (ideally three) for National Ranking Shows. This will give current and future USIHC sport judges more experience in judging and also create opportunity for adding pace disciplines to the show programs. Furthermore, having more than one judge will reduce possible bias affecting the national rankings. The USIHC needs to investigate how it can encourage this, e.g., by an incentive structure making use of show fee discounts, temporary subsidy to meet extra cost of more judges and over time make multiple judging panels a requirement for National Ranking Show status.
- Formal judging seminars for certified sport judges: To maintain their license, certified B/C level USIHC sport judges are required to participate in a national sport judging seminar. Until now the only opportunity to attend such national seminar has been the regular USIHC sport judging seminar. Those seminars, however, are set up to educate new judges, which does not always suit the needs of those, who are already certified as a sport judges. Therefore, the establishment of a special judging seminar for already certified USIHC sport judges should be considered. This could be an online annual seminar, where at least the following is offered: 1. Information on changes to competition rules. 2. Changes to the judging guidelines and new developments in judging. 3. Theoretical lecture where issues concerning judging are handled in-depth. 4. Discussions and conclusions of video judging that participants have completed in advance of the online session. It would also be possible to set up specific training sessions, e.g. as instrument in preparation for more advanced sport judging examination.
- USIHC sport judging group: It should be considered to give the group of already certified USIHC sport judges a formal structure. Almost all other FEIF members countries have such organized sport judge squads/committees, being tasked with organizing formal continuing education for judges, guard communal interest of sport judges and advise the national board and/or sport committees in matters of judging. Such a group could organize regular online video sessions for its members and set up meetings where individual judges would benefit from each other's knowledge and specialties through dialogues. In that way, a formal judges group/committee could alleviate the dangers of isolation and address the fading motivation among sport judges.

## Code of Ethics (Alex and Jana)

- Sets forth ethical principles for trainers certified through the USIHC & FEIF and acknowledged by the USIHC & FEIF.
- Is a guideline for promoting and maintaining the highest ethical standards
- Recognition and practice of these principles is vital to creating and maintaining a happy, healthy and pleasurable environment for all involved
- We should all ask ourselves to be aware of these principles, which can be difficult to live up to.
- Create a culture that aims to uphold these principles and support each other in the actualization of these principles in daily activities and interactions.

### 1. Respect & equality

- a) Horses: welfare, dignity, safety and health of horses are paramount, respect each horse regardless of gender, age, race, ability, talent, health condition, it's use in sports, breeding or as a pleasure horse
- b) Humans: respect each individual regardless of gender, age, race, nationality, religion, ethnicity, health condition, disability, ability and knowledge
- c) Environment: The conservation of the environment is important to the USIHC. Aim to act in ways that do not harm the environment.
- d) Act courteous to show respect to horses and humans alike e) Respect the rules and guidelines of the USIHC and FEIF as well as animal welfare protection laws.

### 2. Honesty

- a) Be open, honest and fair to the best of your knowledge
- b) Conduct business affairs with integrity and sincerity

### 3. Responsibility

- a) Take responsibility for the exercise of sound judgement and professional competence
- b) Take responsibility for humans and horse in your care

### 4. Education

- a) Continuously seek to expand your knowledge and stay updated with new guidelines regarding our sport as well as best practices regarding teaching, training and the wellbeing of horses
- b) Stay up to date regarding your knowledge of applicable rules and guidelines
- c) Promote the knowledge of the Icelandic Horse at its correct use as a riding and competition horse in accordance with the policies of FEIF and the USIHC

### 5. Fairness

- a) Commit to responsible training techniques
- b) Keep age, ability and the well-being of the horse in mind when training and teaching
- c) The fitness level and competence of the rider has to be regarded for the health of the horse and the safety of the rider
- d) Commitment to seeking a true partnership with each horse as a unique individual through kindness and respect.

### 6. Stewardship

- a) Protect humans and horses in your care from unethical, incompetent or illegal practices

## 7. Role model

- b) Any trainer and riding instructor plays a critical role as a role model in promoting all of the mentioned principles and should therefore act in ways that show best practices guiding students and clients towards the same goal
- c) USIHC certified trainers and instructors should aim to adhere to these principles and be aware of their influence
- d) Proactively discourage others under your supervision from disrespecting the rules

## 8. Welfare of the horse

- a) The welfare of the horse has to be placed above all other interests
- b) The wellbeing of horses includes physical and mental wellbeing and both are paramount to the horses ultimate welfare.
- c) The keeping and care taking of horses should aim to be of the highest standard possible and take into consideration the natural needs of the horses as herd and flight animals
- d) When training horses and using them for equine activities in leisure or competition, we should aim to consider their talent, abilities and psychological well-being
- e) No horse deemed unfit to ride or be worked should be ridden or worked. Veterinary advice must be sought whenever there is any doubt
- f) Abuse of a horse using natural riding aids or artificial aids (e.g. whips, spurs, etc.) will not be tolerated
- g) Horses must be transported in a manner that minimizes the potential for illness, injury, fear, stress or undue suffering and be allowed suitable rest periods following travelling
- h) Horses must be provided food, water, proper handling, health care and an environment appropriate to their use with thoughtful consideration for their species-typical biology and behavior
- i) Horses should be cared for in ways that minimize fear, pain, stress and suffering
- j) Horses should be provided with protection from injurious heat or cold and harmful weather conditions.
- k) Horses used in competition, spectator events, shows, exhibitions, motion pictures and television should not be subjected to the fraudulent use of drugs, non-nutritive agents, equipment or procedures intended to alter performance, conformation or appearance.<sup>2</sup>
- l) Horses shall be treated with respect and dignity throughout their lives and, when necessary and at the appropriate time, be provided a humane death.

**Remarks:** We suggest presenting this Code of Ethics to the USIHC board for their consideration as a draft that may be helpful to create a final Code of Ethics for the USIHC.

### Exam questions:

1. Why is a code of ethics important in your role as a horse trainer and riding instructor?
2. Name 3 important principles of ethical behavior for a trainer/riding instructor
3. Explain the principle of respect and equality in our code of ethics
4. Give 2 examples of how these ethics principles apply or could apply in your daily work
5. Why is it important to be a good role model?

Examinees sign code of ethics / code of conduct.

### Remarks:

Our committee suggests to present this Code of Ethics to the USIHC Board for their consideration as a draft that may be helpful to create a final Code of Ethics for the USIHC.