

The USIHC adopts all provisions of the current FEIF General and Sport Rules effective for the current competition season which begins April 1st each year. The following sections of the FEIF Sport Rules are modified as set forth below to achieve the maximum measure of USIHC compliance as is presently possible in the United States.

**Section G8.2.3.– Permitted bits and bridles:**

Prohibited bits and/or bridles are bits and/or bridles that are clearly designed for another purpose (such as bits for driving horses) or are part of tack designed for a different riding style/culture, or are used in way other than designed for. Only reins that go directly from the rider's hands to the correct attachment point on the bit or bit-less bridle are allowed.

**Only snaffle bits are permitted in the Beginning Rider and Novice Division classes.**

Nothing may be added on to bits other than smooth bit guards and chain guards, and nothing else is allowed in the horse's mouth.

Horses may be ridden in bit-less bridles provided they fit the general requirements described above.

The judges' decision about the acceptance of any bit or bridle at a specific event is final for that specific event.

**Section G9.2. Sport – Tracks**

The definition of regulation tracks is as defined in FEIF Section G9.1. In the event a regulation track is not available tests may be conducted on a track or in an arena with a minimum circumference of 200 meters [650 feet] with long sides a minimum of 60 meters [200 feet].

The beginning and end of the long side of the track shall be marked in such a way as to be clearly visible to the riders, judges, and spectators without interfering with the horses on the track. The transition point at the middle of the short side may also be marked. Options include but are not limited to flat tape on the railing or a different colored post.

Racing pace events may only be included in **World Ranking events in the US** if there is a 250 meter oval track. Non-World Ranking shows may continue to offer F1 and F2 on 200 meter tracks.

**Sections S1.2 – Judges:**

All FEIF classes must be judged by at least one International FEIF Sport Judge or a US Sport A Judge.

Shows using two judges are discouraged but allowed. Both judges must be either an International FEIF Sport Judge or US Sport A Judge.

Shows using three or more judges must use a majority of FEIF International Sport Judges and/or US Sport A Judges. The remaining judges may be US Sport B Judges.

In cases where more than one judge is giving marks, they will judge individually, separately and openly.

**Section S1.4 – Demonstration Rider:**

The show organizer has the sole discretion to utilize demonstration riders. If demonstration riders are used they shall follow FEIF Section 4.8.

**Section S2.4 – Left rein and right rein groups:**

In classes, which are conducted in groups, starting groups of no more than four riders are formed by the show organizer, judge or gatekeeper. Choice of rein shall be by majority vote of the riders in the group. In the event of a tie, left rein is to be assumed to be the preference.

In finals, the majority of the riders determine the rein on which the first section is begun. In the event of a tie vote, the vote of the preliminary round's winner is doubled.

## **RULES OF GENERAL APPLICATION**

### **Eligibility.**

**Open:** Any rider 14 years and over.

**Pace Disciplines:** Any rider 14 years and over.

**Professional:** A professional rider is one who has accepted remuneration of any kind within a two-year period prior to the show in question for training or riding Icelandic Horses.

**Intermediate:** Any non-professional rider who has not achieved a final score of 6.0 or higher three times, riding the same or different horses, in a specific discipline at USIHC sanctioned competitions.

**Novice:** Any non-professional rider who has not achieved a score of 5.0 or higher three times, riding the same or different horses, in a specific discipline at USIHC sanctioned competition. In other words, a rider who has achieved a score of 5.0 or higher three times in Novice Tölt is ineligible to enter that class again and must advance to the Intermediate level in Tölt. This rider may continue to compete as a Novice in the other discipline until he/she achieves a score of 5.0 three times in those remaining Novice classes.

Thereafter he/she must advance to Intermediate Division.

**Beginning Rider:** Any non-professional rider who has not achieved a score of 5.0 or higher three times on any horse **in any discipline** in USIHC sanctioned competition.

**Green Horse:** Any horse which has not achieved a score of 5.0 or higher three times under any rider **in any discipline** in USIHC sanctioned competition.

**Youth:** Youth classes may be split into classes with the following age groups:

1. Eleven years and under.
2. Twelve through sixteen years.

A rider may enter any class or level unless specifically prohibited by the definition of that class or level. In other words, a rider may enter at the same show, Intermediate and Novice classes if he/she is a **non-professional** rider and has not achieved a score of 5.0 or above three times at USIHC sanctioned competitions in that discipline.

The cut-off score in those classes will follow the rider only. It will not follow the horse or the horse and rider combination with the exception of the determination of a "green horse".

A rider may enter the same class with more than one horse. Where the Open Class is conducted as individual programs, no limit shall apply. In classes conducted in groups the rider shall be allowed as many entries as there are groups for the class.

### **G7.3.2. Participating horses in sport events**

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

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

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

- a) a 5 year-old horse, may start twice per day, not including races or cross-country (however, pace test, speed pace and pace races are permitted),
- b) a 6 year-old horse may start 3 times per day,

- c) a 7 year and older horse, may start 4 times per day,
- any preliminary round and final is considered to be a start,
- for pace test, speed pace, pace race 250m and 150m, 2 runs on one day are counted as 1 start.

It is up to the organizers to check the age of the horse. If a rider disregards this rule, and finishes an additional test, the rider should be disqualified from the test.

**Compliance.** The individual responsible for enforcing compliance with all the USIHC Sport Rules at sanctioned shows shall be an Intern Judge. If an Intern Judge is not available then the official Scribe shall enforce the rules. In the absence of either an Intern Judge or Scribe then a designated member of the Sport Committee will enforce compliance by all show participants with the rules. In all cases the individual must have a solid working knowledge of the USIHC Sport Rules. All the materials and information needed to ensure proper compliance shall be provided by the show organizer. If a dispute arises as a result of a decision made by this individual an appeal may be made in a timely fashion to the Judge who shall have the final decision.

**Jurisdiction.** The USIHC Competition Rules are National Rules, to be utilized in any USIHC Sanctioned Show. In the event an International FEIF Show shall be conducted in the United States it must be conducted pursuant to the entire FEIF Rules and Regulations then in effect, including the provisions excluded or amended in these National Rules.

**Revisions to FEIF Rules & Regulations and the USIHC Competition Rules.** As revisions to FEIF Rules are approved by FEIF, the USIHC will determine if the USIHC Competition Rules should be revised in accordance with the FEIF Rules revisions. Other revisions to the USIHC Competition Rules may occur as circumstances demand.

**Arbitration.** For the duration of a competition an Arbitration Committee must be formed consisting of the following:

1. The competition manager or a representative previously appointed by him/her.
2. The head judge
3. A rider's spokesman, elected before the start of the competition by those actively competing. If the riders' spokesman has to be substituted, then the rider with the second highest votes will become the spokesman's representative.
4. The sport chairperson or delegate previously appointed by him/her

All decisions made by the Arbitration Committee are final. No one may be involved in any arbitral decisions, who is either directly concerned or has interests therein or is any other way prejudiced. Arbitration proceedings are conducted verbally. Minutes are to be taken, which should at least include the following information:

1. Members of the arbitration committee
2. Place and time of the proceedings
3. Parties present
4. Issues and decisions of the committee.

Arbitration proceedings 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 will have the casting vote. The decision then must be immediately given in writing to the party concerned.

**Dress Code.** All provisions in FEIF Rules Section S6.7.3.2 Riders' dress/equipment shall apply. The dress requirements in all FEIF classes at USIHC sanctioned shows shall be those required at international sport competitions. In the event of high heat or humidity, riders may opt to not wear a coat and tie.

Regardless of the conditions, riders are encouraged to dress professionally. The dress requirements in all non-FEIF classes shall be those allowed in Pace Race and Pace Tests.

## **CLASS DESCRIPTIONS**

The class descriptions listed below are taken directly from FEIF Rules and will be the USIHC required classes. The scores from these classes will be recorded in the USIHC National Ranking database. In the event of a discrepancy between these descriptions and those in the current version of FEIF Rules and Regulations, FEIF Rules shall prevail unless the difference is expressly noted.

### **OPEN DIVISION**

These classes may be entered by any rider 14 years and older. Organizers shall offer both preliminary and finals for all Open Division classes.

#### **Tölt 1 Open Individual (FEIF T1)**

##### Preliminary Round:

Riders compete individually. Sections:

1. Begin at the middle of the short side and ride one round in slow tölt on either rein. Return to walk at the middle of the short side and change rein.
2. From the middle of the short side ride one round in slow tölt, lengthen stride distinctly on the long sides.
3. From the middle of the short side ride one round in fast tölt.

##### Final round:

The finalists ride together and are instructed by the speaker. They ride the same sections as in the preliminary round on both reins as described in S2.3.2. All three sections of the test must be shown on both hands. The riders are instructed to walk and change reins by the speaker. The horses are given a 60 second break where at the rein change of the second section. The horses are given a 120 second break at the rein change of the third section. During these breaks the horses should be allowed to walk in a relaxed manner.

#### **Tölt 2 Open Loose Rein (FEIF T2)**

##### Preliminary Round:

Riders compete individually. Sections:

1. Begin at the middle of the short side and ride one round in any speed tölt
2. From the middle of the short side ride one round in slow, steady and calm speed tölt. Return to walk and change rein
3. Ride one round in a slow to medium speed tölt, holding both reins in one hand clearly showing no rein contact with the horse's mouth. The marks for section 3 are doubled.

##### Final round:

The finalists ride together and are instructed by the speaker. They ride the same sections as in the preliminary round as described in S2.3.2.

#### **Tölt 3 Open Group (FEIF T3)**

##### Preliminary Round:

The test is ridden with up to three riders on the oval track. The horses show the three sections as instructed by the speaker as described in S2.3.2. They start on the rein as set in the starting list.

Sections (called by the speaker):

1. Slow tölt. Return to walk change rein.
2. Slow tölt on the short sides, fast tölt on the long sides.
3. Fast tölt.

Final round:

The finalists ride together. The horses show the gaits in the order instructed by the speaker as described in S2.3.2. The rein is determined pursuant to FEIF Section S2.4.

#### **Tölt 4 Open Group Loose Rein (FEIF T4)**

Preliminary Round:

This class is ridden with up to three riders on the track at once. The horses show the three sections as instructed by the speaker as described in FEIF Section S2.3.2. They start on the rein chosen by the riders in each group pursuant to FEIF Section S2.4

Sections (called by the speaker):

1. Any speed tölt
2. Slow, steady and calm speed tölt. Return to walk and change rein
3. Slow to medium speed tölt, holding both reins in one hand clearly showing no rein contact with the horse's mouth. The marks for section 3 are doubled.

Final round:

The finalists ride together and are instructed by the speaker. They ride the same sections as in the preliminary round as described in S2.3.2.

#### **Four-gait Open Individual (FEIF V1)**

Preliminary round:

Riders compete individually. The test may be ridden on either rein. The rider begins each segment of the test in the middle of the short side of the track. The rider has four and a half rounds to show the following gaits in any order:

1. Slow tölt
2. Slow to medium speed trot
3. Medium walk (shown for a half round only)
4. Slow to medium speed canter
5. Fast tölt

Each gait may be shown only once, walk for a half round and the other gaits for one full round.

Final round:

The finalists ride together. The horses show the gaits in the order instructed by the speaker as described in S.2.3.2. The rein is determined pursuant to FEIF Section S2.4.

## **Four-gait Open Group (FEIF V2)**

### Preliminary round:

The test is ridden with up to three riders on the oval track. The horses show the four gaits as instructed by the speaker as described in S2.3.2. They ride on the rein as set in the starting list.

Sections (called by the speaker):

1. Slow tölt
2. Slow to medium speed trot
3. Medium walk
4. Slow to medium speed canter
5. Fast tölt

### Final round:

The finalists ride together. The horses show the gaits in the order instructed by the speaker as described in S2.3.2. The rein is determined pursuant to FEIF Section S2.4.

## **Five-gait Open (FEIF F1)**

### Preliminary round:

Riders compete individually. The test may be ridden on either rein. The rider begins each segment of the test in the middle of the short side of the track. The rider has four and a half rounds to show the following gaits in any order:

1. Slow to medium speed tölt
2. Slow to medium speed trot
3. Medium walk (shown for a half round only)
4. Slow to medium speed canter
5. Racing pace

Each gait may be shown only once, walk for a half round and the other gaits for a full round. The racing pace is shown on the long sides only. The marks for tölt and pace will be doubled.

### Final round:

The finalists ride together and show the five gaits in the order instructed by the speaker as described in FEIF Section S2.3.2. The rein is determined pursuant to FEIF Section S2.4. The horses may show racing pace 3 times on one long side. The riders choose the long side by majority vote. In the event of a tie, the vote of the preliminary round winner is doubled. The marks for tölt and pace will be doubled.

## **INTERMEDIATE DIVISION**

Intermediate classes are open to all non-professional riders who have not achieved a score of 6.0 three times, riding the same or different horses, in a specific discipline at USIHC sanctioned competitions. Once a rider has achieved a score of 6.0 or higher three times in a specific discipline, he/she must compete in Open Level classes thereafter in that discipline.

The conducting of a final round in Intermediate Classes is in the discretion of the show organizer. In the event a final round is conducted it shall be pursuant to FEIF Section S2.3.2.

### **Intermediate Tölt (FEIF T5):**

The class is ridden with no more than four horses on the track at once. The rein is selected pursuant to FEIF Section S2.4. The horses show the sections as instructed by the speaker pursuant to FEIF Section S2.3.2.

Sections:

1. Slow tölt. Return to walk and change rein
2. Slow tölt on the short sides, fast tölt on the long sides

### **Intermediate Loose-Rein Tölt (FEIF T6):**

This class is ridden by no more than four riders on the track at the same time. The rein is selected pursuant to FEIF Section S2.4. The horses show the sections as instructed by the speaker pursuant to FEIF Section S2.3.2.

Sections:

1. Any speed tölt. Return to walk and change rein
2. Slow to medium speed tölt, on the long sides holding both reins in one hand clearly showing no rein contact with the horse's mouth.

### **Intermediate Four-gait (FEIF V3):**

This class is ridden with no more than four riders on the track at once. The rein is chosen pursuant to FEIF Section S2.4. The sections are ridden as instructed by the speaker pursuant to FEIF Section S2.3.2.

Sections:

1. Slow to medium speed tölt
2. Slow to medium speed trot
3. Medium walk
4. Slow to medium speed canter
5. Medium to fast tölt

### **Five-gait Intermediate (FEIF F2):**

The test is ridden with up to three riders on the oval track. The horses show the five gaits as instructed by the speaker as described in S2.3.2. They ride on the rein as set in the starting list.

Sections (called by the speaker):

1. Slow to medium speed tölt
2. Slow to medium speed trot
3. Medium walk
4. Slow to medium speed canter
5. Racing pace.

The horses may show racing pace 3 times on one long side. The riders choose the long side by majority vote. In the event of a draw a draw the judge will decide. The marks for tölt and pace will be doubled.

### Final round:

The finalists ride together and show the five gaits in the order instructed by the speaker as described in FEIF Section S2.3.2. The rein is determined pursuant to FEIF Section S2.4. The horses may show racing pace 3 times on one long side. The riders choose the long side by majority vote. In the event of a tie, the vote of the preliminary round winner is doubled. The marks for tölt and pace will be doubled.

### **NOVICE DIVISION**

Novice classes are open to all non-professional riders who have not scored 5.0 three times, riding the same or different horses, in the Novice classes in USIHC sanctioned competitions. In other words, once a rider has scored 5.0 or above three times in a Novice Tölt class, he/she may not compete further in that class and must compete thereafter in the Intermediate Tölt class. He/she may continue to compete in the other Novice classes until he/she has achieved a score of 5.0 three times in the other Novice classes. Thereafter he/she must compete in the Intermediate Division.

The conducting of a final round in the Novice Classes is in the discretion of the show organizer. In the event a final round is conducted, it shall be pursuant to FEIF Section S2.3.2.

#### **Novice Tölt (FEIF T7):**

This class is ridden with no more than four riders on the track at once. The rein is chosen pursuant to FEIF Section S2.4. The sections are ridden as instructed by the speaker pursuant to FEIF S2.3.2.

Sections:

1. Slow tölt.
2. Return to walk and change rein.
3. Any speed tölt

#### **Novice Four-Gait (FEIF V5):**

This class is ridden with no more than four riders on the track at once. The rein is chosen pursuant to FEIF Section S2.4. The sections will be ridden as instructed by the speaker pursuant to FEIF Section S2.3.2.

Sections:

1. Any speed tölt
2. Slow to medium speed trot
3. Medium walk
4. Slow to medium speed canter

### **YOUTH DIVISION**

These classes are open to riders 16 years and younger as described below. The conducting of a final round in Youth Classes is in the discretion of the show organizer. In the event a final round is conducted it shall be pursuant to FEIF Section S2.3.2. The results of the preliminaries shall be used to compute the National Ranking.

#### **Youth Tölt (FEIF T8):**

This class is ridden with no more than four horses on the track. Rein is chosen pursuant to FEIF Section S2.4. The sections shall be ridden as instructed by the speaker pursuant to FEIF Section S2.3.2.



Sections:

1. Any speed tölt.
2. Return to walk and change rein.
3. Any speed tölt

#### **Youth Four Gait (FEIF V6):**

This class is ridden with no more than four horses on the track. The rein is chosen pursuant to FEIF Section S2.4. The sections will be ridden as instructed by the speaker pursuant to FEIF Section S2.3.2.

Sections:

1. Any Speed tölt
2. Slow to medium speed trot
3. Medium walk
4. Slow to medium speed canter. The start into canter and the stop after canter into walk is shown separately by each rider as instructed by the speaker

#### **BEGINNING RIDER DIVISION**

This division intended to provide riders new to competition on the Icelandic Horse a place to receive feedback on their riding with the most opportunity to succeed.

Beginning Rider classes are open to all non-professional riders who have not scored 5.0 three times, riding the same or different horses, in **any disciplines** in USIHC sanctioned competitions.

The conducting of a final round in Beginning Rider Class is highly encouraged as it provides riders with a second opportunity to receive feedback from the judge(s). However, offering Beginning Rider Class finals is in the discretion of the show organizer. In the event a final round is conducted, it shall be pursuant to FEIF Section S2.3.2.

#### **Beginning Rider Tölt (TBR)**

This class is ridden with no more than three horses on the track. The sections shall be ridden as instructed by the speaker pursuant to FEIF Section S2.3.2. **Only the performance on the long sides of the track is judged.** Riders may use the corners and short side to prepare their horses without being judged. If a final is offered, the sections are the same as the preliminary round.

Sections:

1. Any speed tölt.
2. Return to walk and change rein.
3. Any speed tölt

#### **Beginning Rider Four-Gait (VBR)**

This class is ridden with no more than three horses on the track. Rein is chosen pursuant to FEIF Section S2.4. The sections shall be ridden as instructed by the speaker pursuant to FEIF Section S2.3.2.

**Only the performance on the long sides of the track is judged.** Riders may use the corners and short side to prepare their horses without being judged. If a final is offered, the sections are the same as the preliminary round.

Sections:

1. Any speed tölt.
2. Any speed trot.
3. Medium walk.
4. Medium canter (shown one rider at a time).
5. Any speed trot or tölt. (The mark in this section shall replace the mark for the earlier section allowing the rider a chance to improve the tölt or trot score.)

### **GREEN HORSE DIVISION**

This division provides trainers a place to introduce young horses to competition with the most opportunity to succeed.

Green Horse classes are open to all levels of riders on **horses** that have not scored 5.0 three times, in **any disciplines** in USIHC sanctioned competitions.

The conducting of a final round in a Green Horse Class is highly encouraged as it provides riders with a second opportunity to receive feedback from the judge(s). However, offering Green Horse Class finals is in the discretion of the show organizer. In the event a final round is conducted, it shall be pursuant to FEIF Section S2.3.2.

#### **Green Horse Tölt (TGH)**

This class is ridden with no more than three horses on the track. The sections shall be ridden as instructed by the speaker pursuant to FEIF Section S2.3.2. **Only the performance on the long sides of the track is judged.** Riders may use the corners and short side to prepare their horses without being judged. If a final is offered, the sections are the same as the preliminary round.

Sections:

1. Any speed tölt.
2. Return to walk and change rein.
3. Any speed tölt

#### **Green Horse Four-Gait (VGH)**

This class is ridden with no more than three horses on the track. Rein is chosen pursuant to FEIF Section . The sections shall be ridden as instructed by the speaker pursuant to FEIF Section S2.3.2.

**Only the performance on the long sides of the track is judged.** Riders may use the corners and short side to prepare their horses without being judged. If a final is offered, the sections are the same as the preliminary round.

Sections:

1. Any speed tölt.
2. Any speed trot.
3. Medium walk.
4. Medium canter (shown one rider at a time).
5. Any speed trot or tölt. (The mark in this section shall replace the mark for the earlier section allowing the rider a chance to improve the tölt or trot score.)

RANKED CLASS CHART

	<b>TÖLT</b>	<b>LOOSE REIN TÖLT</b>	<b>FOUR-GAIT</b>	<b>FIVE-GAIT</b>
<b>OPEN</b>	T1 or T3	T2 or T4	V1 or V2	F1
<b>INTERMEDIATE</b>	T5	T6	V3	F2
<b>NOVICE</b>	T7		V5	
<b>YOUTH</b>	T8		V6	