

INTRODUCTION

A sanctioned show is one in which the rider's scores are recorded in a national database which enables riders to compare their performances with other riders around the country and, more importantly perhaps, to compare their own performances over time. For such comparisons to have validity, certain aspects of the show must be consistent. These aspects are contained in the Rules & Procedures for Sanctioned Shows. The reasons for some of the requirements, which may not be obvious to those unfamiliar with Icelandic Competition, are as follows:

1. The classes must be judged by at least one (1) FEIF International Sports Judge or one (1) USIHC Sport Judge A. In Icelandic competition, the horse and rider combination receives a numerical score for various aspects of the competition. For example, in a four-gait class the horse/rider combination will receive a score for walk, trot, canter, slow tölt, and fast tölt. The average of these five scores averaged together is the score for the class. The scoring system, from zero to ten, has been agreed upon by all the member countries of FEIF and is available for review on the FEIF website under "Judges' Guidelines". Each point on the scale takes into consideration a number of factors, such as beat, tempo, movement, etc. These factors and their importance to each point on the scale are also available at the FEIF website.

Sports judges receive lengthy training in the scoring system. They attend seminars; pass rigorous examinations and apprentice under experienced Judges for many years at shows of increasing size. FEIF International Sports Judges are persons of substantial experience who have come up through the ranks of their country's sports judge training programs and have then passed the rigorous examination which certifies them for this title. The purpose of this extraordinarily demanding program is to achieve consistency in judging so that a horse/rider combination with a score of 6.5 in slow tölt would earn that same score for the same performance in whatever country it is judged.

In most FEIF countries, a minimum of three judges judge together in order to obtain the most appropriate score (which is an average of what the individual judges give). We are not yet at a point where this is affordable. Therefore, to achieve the maximum in accurate scoring with at least one judge, we require at least one FEIF International Sports Judge or one (1) USIHC Sport Judge A. USIHC Sanctioned shows with multiple judges must have at least one (1) FEIF International Judges or one (1) USIHC Sport Judge A; the other judges may be USIHC Sport Judge B.

2. The show must be conducted pursuant to USIHC Competition Rules. All FEIF countries are bound to follow FEIF Sport Rules, the competition rules as well as FEIF General Rules & Regulations, the general rules, which have been accepted by all of the member countries. FEIF General Rules & Regulations cover many areas of competition, from fair treatment of the horse, allowed tack, allowed shoeing, sportsmanlike behavior (towards the horse as well as towards other riders), prohibited substances, to the physical requirements of official competition tracks, and a description of the requirements of each FEIF class, to name a few of the areas. FEIF General Rules & Regulations may be reviewed in their entirety at the FEIF website.

Because each country needs to have competitions for various levels of riding skills below World Championship competition, each country develops its own set of classes for beginning riders through advanced riders. In addition, each country usually adopts all or most other sections of FEIF Sport Rules related to the protection and welfare of the horse. Our competition rules do this for the U.S. In order to have comparisons of riders competing in specific classes at different shows, the classes must all have the same requirements. Other aspects, such as ring size, must also be comparable. In addition, of course, the protection of the horse must always be paramount and guaranteed. For all of these reasons, our show rules must be used.

There are 15 required classes and 4 strongly recommended classes:

**Open Level: T1 (Individual) and T3 (Group),
T2 (Individual) and T4 (Group),
V1 (Individual) and V2 (Group)
F1 (Individual)**

Intermediate Level: T5, V3, T6 and F2 (Group)

Novice Level: T7 and V5

Youth Level: T8 and V6

Beginning Rider Level: TBR and VBR [Optional]

Green Horse Level: TGH and VGH [Optional]

This requirement assures that a range of classes will be offered. Note that it is not necessary for all classes to have entries. The only requirement is that they be offered. Other classes even those purely for fun, may be added with the exception of halter classes, which are specifically prohibited. This prohibition is to prevent any in-roads of the philosophy that the physical appearance of the horse, divorced from its functionality, is worthy of note.

All required classes are recommended to have preliminaries and finals to be scheduled on different days of the competition. If a class is large enough to require both "A" and "B" finals, both finals may be held on the same day. The results of the preliminaries for the required classes are used to compute the National Ranking.

The area in which the horse must perform must be an oval with an approximate circumference of 200-250 meters. An area of somewhat less size may be satisfactory but there must be long sides of sufficient length for pace and for tempo differences (slowing down and speeding up) in tölt.

The beginning and end of the long side of the oval 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 oval 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 at FEIF World Ranking events if the circumference of the oval track is 250 meters. A non-World Ranking show may be sanctioned with or without including F1 or F2 in the list of offered classes if the track does not meet the FEIF standards for racing pace.

The most recently released version of the IceTest Software must be used and is available on the FEIF website (www.feif.org/software) for free download. This software provides forms for the recording of the scores in a manner that the Judge(s) is used to using and which are necessary for the database. **The results of sanctioned shows (including a copy of the IceTest "MDB" file)**

must be returned to the Chairperson of the Competition Committee within 15 days of the show. If they are not sent in on time the scores may not be posted to the website or added to the National Ranking Database.

Moreover, we want to emphasize that a sanctioned show is at the top of the pinnacle of possible competitions here in the US. There are schooling shows, fun shows, farm shows, shows limited to a certain geographical area, etc. that can be starting points growing towards a sanctioned show. We encourage all of these kinds of competitions and suggest the use of our Intern Judges for these events. See the *USIHC Schooling Show Handbook* (<http://www.icelandics.org/download/schoolingshowhandbook.pdf>) for more details on organizing a schooling show.

RULES and PROCEDURES for USIHC SANCTIONED SHOWS

1. USIHC Sanctioned Sport Shows are those that are entitled to have all scores for USIHC sanctioned classes entered into the USIHC National Ranking database. The USIHC Competition Committee Chairperson must approve all sanctioned USIHC shows. Approved sanctioned shows may be either an Icelandic Breed Show, or an Icelandic Show within a larger show, which may include other breeds or disciplines.
2. Requirements for a sanctioned show are:
 - (a) The classes must be judged by at least one (1) International FEIF Sports Judge or one (1) USIHC Sport Judge A.
 - (b) The show must be open to any horse registered with a FEIF recognized registry.
 - (c) The organizer must be a current USIHC member.
 - (d) The show must be of two (2) days duration. Finals must not be held on the same day as their qualifying preliminary. A single-day show is permissible if it is part of a multi-day World Ranking series.
 - (e) A scribe must be provided for the Judge(s). First choice for a scribe would be an Intern Judge(s) or if one is not available someone who has attended the USIHC Sport Judge's Seminar and then the third choice is a member of the Competition Committee. A suitable replacement for any of these options may be approved by the competition committee chairperson.
 - (f) The most recent version of the IceTest Software must be used. It is available for free download at www.feif.org/software
 - (g) The show must be held on an oval track or in an arena with an approximate circumference of 200-250 meters. Racing pace events may only be included at FEIF World Ranking events if the circumference of the oval track is 250 meters. A non-World Ranking show may be sanctioned with or without including F1 or F2 in the list of offered classes if the track does not meet the FEIF standards for racing pace.
 - (h) The entry form must state the following:
 1. That the USIHC Competition Rules will apply at the show.
 2. That all Icelandic horse entries must be accompanied by a copy of a registration certificate issued by a FEIF recognized registry.
 3. That all riders will automatically be entered into the USIHC National Ranking Program.
 4. That riders may choose to start in more than one tölt or gait test using the same horse. Only the scores in the most advanced (lowest number) test in each group will be included in the National and, if appropriate, World Ranking.
 - (i) Petition for Sanction must be filed by certified mail to the Competition Committee Chairperson a minimum of thirty (30) days in advance of the proposed show date. Late applications will be subject to a \$5.00 per day fine and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Any changes to the previously approved application must be approved by the chairperson of the competition committee prior to the start of the show. It shall include:
 1. The name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the show organizer;

2. The name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the proposed judge(s);
 3. A list of proposed classes with the mandatory classes included;
 4. A copy of the entry form;
 5. The dates of the show;
 6. The name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the scribe(s);
 7. The name, address, telephone number of the facility and the dimensions of the arena;
 8. List of fees for classes and stalls
- (j) If the show is to be a World Ranking event, the USIHC will pay the FEIF World Ranking fee. If the Sanctioned Show application is approved after the FEIF World Ranking application deadline, the organizer must pay the FEIF late fee to the USIHC **before** the World Ranking application will be filed with FEIF. If a World Ranking show is canceled without prior approval of the Competition Committee Chairperson, the organizer shall reimburse the USIHC the full amount of the FEIF World Ranking fee.
- (k) **Within 15 days of the conclusion of the show**, the organizer must file a Show Report with the Competitions Committee Chairperson including:
1. All of the score sheets (Be sure to indicate the judge on each if there was more than one judge at the tournament.)
 2. A check (or PayPal receipt) for \$75.00 to contribute to the cost of the national awards.
 3. A copy of the IceTest “MDB” database file which may be sent by email to sport@icelandics.org.

Late reports will be subject to a \$5.00 per day fine and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

For World Ranking shows, this deadline is reduced to 48 hours.

- (l) **Within 15 days of receipt of the Show Report**, the Competition Committee Chairperson shall review the required elements of the report and notify the organizer in writing of any errors or omissions.

For World Ranking shows this deadline is reduced to 24 hours.

- (m) **Within 15 days of receiving written notification of Show Report errors**, the organizer shall submit a revised Show Report correcting said errors.
Late corrections will be subject to a \$5.00 per day fine and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

For World Ranking shows this deadline is reduced to 24 hours.

3. Responsibilities of the organizer include:

- (a) Making all transportation arrangements (including payment) for the Judge(s) from his/her point of departure and back, including to and from the show grounds on each judging day.

- (b) Making all arrangements (including payment) for the Judge(s)'s hotel (if applicable) from the night of arrival through the night of the last Icelandic class.
- (c) Selection of a scribe(s) to assist the Judge(s). The scribe(s) must be familiar with the different classes and how to score correctly using the scoring sheets from the Ice Test Software. A scribe(s) must be an Intern Judge(s), a person who has attended the USIHC Judges Seminar or a member of the Competition Committee and if one is not available then approval from the Competition Committee Chairperson is needed for a suitable replacement.
- (d) A rider's delegate must be elected prior to the show beginning. This is in case arbitration becomes necessary.
- (e) Forwarding to the Competition Chairperson a Show Report. For World Ranking shows, the IceTest file supplied with the show report must include FEIF ID numbers for all horses and extra care must be taken with the spelling of horse and rider names. (Note: Horses imported to the United States will have a FEIF ID and a US Registration ID. The FEIF ID from the horse's country of birth is the number which must be used in IceTest.)

4. The Competition Committee Chairperson will be responsible for the following:

Approval of the proposed Judge(s) and Scribe(s). In the event that either this Judge(s) and/or Scribe(s) are not approved for any reason, the Competition Committee Chairperson will be responsible for the selection of a Judge(s) and/or Scribe(s) and will provide the organizer with the name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of the selected Judge(s) and/or Scribe(s) within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the petition.

Review of the completed Show Report within 15 days of receipt (24 hours in the case of World Ranking).