

The process of selecting a World Championships team must evolve to keep pace with the level of competition in the United States. When the US sent its first team to the then European Championships in 1989, the goal was to have a presence to demonstrate to FEIF that the United States was a full member organization and the competition should become the World Championships, which it then did in 1991. While the United States is not ready to select a team using the methods employed in Europe, there are steps which can be taken to advance the process to the next level.

### **Goal**

There needs to be a clear understanding of the goal of the tryout process. In the past, the goal has been to send riders to force the event to a global scope. That goal has been met. The next logical step is to send the best qualified horse/rider combinations to be competitive with the European horses and riders.

### **Tryout Prerequisites**

- 1 Riders must meet all current FEIF Sport Rule requirements including being US citizens or holders of Green Cards for at least one year before the tryout entry deadline.
- 2 Riders must be members in good standing of the United States Icelandic Horse Congress for at least one year before the tryout entry deadline.
- 3 Riders must be ranked in either the World Rankings or the US National Rankings in all their tests of choice for the World Championships tryouts.
- 4 Each horse may only be used by one rider in the tryouts.
- 5 The horse must be registered in the United States if the tryout (by video) takes place in the United States. If the horse is European, it must have a FEIF ID Number.
- 6 Riders must submit proof their horse is microchipped.
- 7 Riders must pay the appropriate fees.

The tryout process must enforce the rules presented in the Current FEIF Sport Rules.

### **Tryout Process**

In 2021, all riders wishing to try out for the WC, will have to **enter the USIHC Virtual Spring Show**.

- 1 The tryout entry deadline shall be set by the Sport Leader to be no later than the second Saturday of May in each World Championships year.
- 2 The team members and team leader shall be announced by the Sport Leader by the first Saturday in June.
- 3 Riders must qualify by achieving the scores used to compete at the "master" level in Iceland: T1: 6.5, V1: 6.2, T2: 6.2, and F1: 6.0.
- 4 Riders who make the team are allowed to compete in any event at the World Championships as long as the event was ridden in the tryouts. Riders who qualify in F1 may ride any pace event at the Championships.
- 5 Riders must qualify on the horse they will take to the World Championships.
- 6 The same FEIF International Judge(s) will evaluate all videos.
- 7 Tryout videos must be made no earlier than 60 days before the tryout submission deadline.

The minimum scores must be held at a high standard if we are to meet the goal of sending a team with hopes of making the finals in each test. The judging at the World Championships is, rightly, the strictest judging of any competition in the Icelandic Horse world.

The United States is not ready to rely on rankings alone to determine its team. The World Ranking process is designed to minimize human error by excluding high and low scores and taking the average of the three remaining judges. For the 2021 try-outs, all video entries will be judged by five international judges following this principle.

### **Team Selection**

Following the evaluation of all video submissions, the team shall be selected by first taking the highest qualifying combination from each test: T1, T2, V1, and F1. The remaining spaces on the team shall be filled additional qualifying combinations. The combinations are invited to join the team in descending order until a full team is formed or there are no more qualifying combinations.

There are some exceptions to the simple traversal of the ranking:

- The four- and five-gait combination events are not considered in the selection of the team.
- Per the rules of the Championships, each rider may only start on one horse. Therefore, only the highest scoring horse for each individual rider is invited to join the team. If a rider qualifies for the team with more than one horse, he/she may select any of these horses for the team regardless of ranking
- In the event that more than seven riders qualify for the US National World Championships team, four placements will be prioritized for US residents.
- In the event more than five young riders qualify for the US National World Championships team, three will be prioritized for US residents.
- Ties between combinations are broken as follows:
  - 1 Young riders defer to adults. This rule is applied first because we can send up to 5 additional young riders.
  - 2 The combination with a higher (possibly non-qualifying) score in another test is chosen first.
  - 3 Coin toss.