

**Purpose**

The schooling show handbook is a product of the Education and Sports Committees of the United States Icelandic Horse Congress. Its purpose is to introduce Icelandic Horse riders to the fun and fulfilling sport of riding competitions according to the rules of the International Association of Icelandic Horse Federations (FEIF). Please refer to the USIHC Competition Rules and the FEIF “FIPO” Rules (available at [www.icelandics.org/rules.php](http://www.icelandics.org/rules.php)) to guide you in areas unanswered by this document.

**Goal**

Increased participation in sport competition is the goal of this handbook. The goal can be reached by offering education in a non-threatening and supportive environment. The schooling show exposes the public to the Icelandic Horse; it gives experience to new riders and experienced riders unfamiliar with show protocol. It is easy to get involved because the events are done locally with fewer restrictions on the facility and less formality, hence lower costs. A FEIF judge is not necessary.

**Personnel**

Schooling shows work best if there is a division of labor. No individual person can do it all. The following list of jobs is a **recommended** list. Depending upon local experience some jobs can be combined. If necessary, a fine show can be conducted with just 2 or 3 people working along with a judge/clinician.

**Organizer** – The Organizer is the person overall in charge of the event. This person is aware of the all the jobs necessary to run the show. The Organizer is responsible for determining the place and time of the event, explaining the jobs to the others, and following up on their commitment to participate. The Organizer is also in charge of making sure that a reasonably safe environment is provided for all participants.

**Announcer** – The Announcer keeps the program running by letting everyone know what is happening. This is the person who controls the music and the pace of the program. Strong public speaking ability, quick thinking and a pleasant personality are good qualities for this person.

**Gate Keeper** – The Gate Keeper must be a reliable person who opens and closes the gate to allow riders in and out of the track or arena. This person must follow the directions of the Announcer.

**Track Crew** – This group of two or three persons takes care of the equipment. If the event is in an arena instead on a track, markers need to be put up to define the riding area. When games are included the barrels, flags, tables, or whatever become the responsibility of the Track Crew. In cooperation with the Announcer, the public address system and radios can be their responsibility too.

For small groups one person can take all of the above positions. It is possible for a motivated person with the help of the judge to do a small schooling show.

**Scribe** – The Scribe is the secretary for the Judge. The Scribe writes down the scores awarded by the Judge and tallies those scores as needed. This person should have good handwriting, have at least some basic knowledge of how the scoring system works and be able to follow the Judge’s instructions. Official score sheets are available at [www.icelandics.org/competition/download.php](http://www.icelandics.org/competition/download.php). The Judge will show their proper use. The scribe needs to have a calculator and extra pens. For small groups the judge may not require a scribe.

**Judge/Clinician** – The Judge is responsible for the formal education and should be a FEIF International Judge, a FEIF National Judge, or a USIHC Intern Judge. This person explains the rules for sport competition and facilitates demonstrations of how the tests are to be ridden. He/She is familiar with all the rules, gaits and equitation issues. The Judge determines the score for each rider's performance and gives appropriate comments based on the current FEIF Sport Judge's Guidelines, so the riders will understand their scores. This is the person who ensures safe conduct and correct, sportsman like behavior, and has the power to make immediate changes in the program as necessary to insure a good time for everyone.

### **Facility**

The size of the riding area for schooling shows is not as important as for Sanctioned Shows. Getting down the routine and learning the process is more important than top horse performance. Enough room to safely canter around the arena is enough room for a schooling show. An area 60 X 120 feet is a good size. Smaller space may be used if it is safe enough to show the required gaits without endangering the horses or riders. A fence, wall or tape around the outside that discourages running off the arena or track is necessary. An inside barrier or mark is recommended. Cones at the end of the long sides or chalk (white powder) marks will work. The recommended width of the marked area is 13 feet. Please refer to the FIPO for guidance on setting up an arena/track so the spirit of the ideal situation can be represented to the best of your ability. The footing should be safe, even and appropriate to an equine event. A firmer surface is preferred over deep footing. A warm up area is nice but not necessary. Everything can be outside or inside. A water source is important and shade in hot weather will be appreciated.

### **Equipment**

The equipment need not be elaborate but some basic items make for a better time for everybody involved.

- Shelter – The Announcer, Judge and Scribe need some cover against the sun and rain. A table and chairs will make their jobs much more efficient and comfortable.
- Communication systems – If people don't know what's happening they feel left out. A good public address system gets everyone involved in the event. Music can also be useful to entertain people during slow periods as well as providing a good beat for the horse's performance. Two-way radios may be necessary between the judge and announcer.
- CD's or Tapes – Have plenty on hand or make your own CD to run several hours with lively music.
- Refreshments – Drinks and snacks are appreciated by everybody but especially the Announcer, Judge and Scribe who can't leave their positions to get something for themselves.
- Game supplies –
  - Flag Race – Barrels, buckets, sand, flags and stopwatch
  - Beer Tolt – Mugs or clear plastic cups, dark beverage
  - Tolt Race – Cones and stopwatch
  - Pole Race – Cones or poles, standards, and stopwatch
  - Catalog Race – Table or barrel, old catalog, and stopwatch
  - Key Hole Race – Lime (any white powder) or poles for marking key hole, and stopwatch
  - Trail Course – Gate, bridge, poles, rope and drag, teeter totter, mailbox, etc
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- Rider supplies –
  - Program or outline of event
  - Copy of FIPO/USIHC rules for competitions (FEIF rules for sport competitions)
- Judge/Scribe supplies -
  - Score sheets both individual and group classes
  - Extra pens
  - Calculator
  - Numbers or colored ribbons for riders to make it easier for the judge to identify the riders. This is not necessary if the Scribe knows all the riders by sight.
  - Ribbons, metals, and/or other small awards
- Insurance – The Organizer must secure insurance for the event if he/she wishes to have it. No insurance will be provided by the USIHC. The Organizer may also request that the riders sign liability waivers.

### **Educational Program**

The daily program begins with a meeting of the Organizer and Crew. Everybody's job is reviewed including the equipment under their care. Any deficiencies are noted and adjustments are made. Next is a meeting between the Judge and the riders. The Judge goes over the program for the day and generally explains the rules for classes, tack and shoeing rules. The explanation of these rules is for educational purposes. Common sense should be used in whether or not to require immediate compliance with these rules as the purpose of this event is a learning experience. Riders/horses should not be disqualified unless it is an issue of health and safety. A classroom setting or picnic tables would be appropriate for this section. Riders will want their own copy of the competition rules so notes can be made. Instructions for downloading the rules should be sent to the riders before the event. You may want to have additional copies for purchase (to cover printing costs) on hand.

Depending upon the number of participants the Judge may divide the classes into small groups or allow for individual programs. A list of who rides after whom should be compiled and posted in a visible location. This list will also become part of the material for the Announcer and Scribe.

Unlike Sanctioned Shows, the Announcer, at the direction of the Judge, can interrupt the program to give advice or corrections to the riders. It should be very difficult to get disqualified as the emphasis is on learning. About the only reasons to discontinue participation in a schooling show is for an unsafe situation or extremely poor sportsmanship. The Judge is charged with making this decision. A rider can ask questions of the judge anytime there is an appropriate moment. The scoring for horse performance is the same as at Sanctioned Shows according to the FEIF Sport Judge's Guidelines.

The order of classes should emphasize the basic FEIF classes first. Tölt and Four Gait classes are basic to learning to show. Five Gait and Pace classes can be done in a limited way if there are qualified persons available and only if there is sufficient space in the form of either a 250 meter track or a straight pace track. Five Gait and Pace events shall not be held in smaller spaces for the welfare of the horses and safety of the riders. Youth and adult classes need not be separated but can be if there are enough participants. The games should be last on the program because they can be adjusted according to the time remaining in the day.

Having a fun and safe time is the primary goal of encouraging participation in sport competition. The Judge has the authority to limit the number of riders on the track to avoid an unsafe situation. It is strongly suggested that canter and pace be shown one rider at a time. Other riders on the track should walk their horses at the edge of the track or wait in a group to leave sufficient room for the canter or pace.

The Judge and Scribe must provide individual score sheets with comments following the standards in the FEIF Sport Judge's Guidelines. Any announcements about scores should be given with caution. Announcing scores aloud may result in embarrassment and lack of future participation which is contrary to the main goal of the schooling show. The scores will be on the Judge's score sheet and will be discussed individually between each rider and the Judge. After the scores are tallied for each class the Judge will award the placements.

At the conclusion of the day the Organizer, Announcer and Judge should be available for questions from the riders. A social event or BBQ at the end of the day can make for additional fun.

The Organizer may submit the results of a schooling show for publication on the USIHC's website. The results will not include any scores unless the show has been judged by a FEIF licensed Judge (not a USIHC Intern Judge) and the Organizer requests the scores be published.

### **USIHC AND SCHOOLING SHOWS**

The USIHC promotes the organization of schooling shows for the development of correct riding of the Icelandic Horse in the United States. The USIHC Sport Leader ([sport@icelandics.org](mailto:sport@icelandics.org)) can provide names of qualified persons willing to teach and judge the events. The *Quarterly*, website ([www.icelandics.org](http://www.icelandics.org)) and Regional Club newsletters are resources to learn about events in your area. All costs related to the organization of the show are the responsibility of the show organizers. The USIHC will not provide any financial assistance.

### **Future Show Development**

For those that would like to expand their event to USIHC Sanctioned Show status contacting the USIHC Sport Leader ([sport@icelandics.org](mailto:sport@icelandics.org)) is recommended.