

# Icelandic Horse Society of Great Britain

## IHSGB Statement regarding 'Rollkur' in Icelandic Horses

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Since the welfare of the Icelandic horse is one of the IHSGB's and its governing body, FEIF's, most important concerns, hyperflexion (or 'Rollkur') has been discussed within FEIF with recommendations from veterinarians, physiotherapists, and other experts. Rollkur of the horse's neck is an illegal practice in equestrianism defined as "flexion of the horse's neck achieved through aggressive force" and is banned by the world governing body, the International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI).

FEIF states: Horses must only undergo training that matches their physical capabilities and level of maturity for their respective disciplines. They must not be subjected to methods which are abusive or cause fear.

Thus, hyperflexion is not an acceptable method in training, presenting, or showing Icelandic horses. Judges and Ring Masters are required to act upon all manner of violent behavior towards the horse. FEIF encourages instructors to promote an understanding of the anatomical, physiological, and mental aspects of hyperflexion. This understanding should include the use of bending, flexing, and extension in ways that advance the training of the horse, improve riding skills, and promote the welfare of the horse.

As part of FEIF, the IHSGB follows this recommendation alongside the FEI as a governing body. You can find the FEIF Code of Conduct at (page 9) [https://www.feiffengur.com/documents/Rules\\_Regulations2019\\_complete\(1\).pdf](https://www.feiffengur.com/documents/Rules_Regulations2019_complete(1).pdf) which is based upon the FEI Codes of Conduct.

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