

# Sport matters

## How to guide ...

We'd like to offer a little bit of an insight in to some of the things that can help you prepare for your competition debut or indeed help you to fine tune your performance on the oval track.

## What is a FIPO class?

All classes at a British Championships are FIPO classes and run under FIPO rules, the international sports rules for Icelandic horse competitions governed by FEIF, the international body.

The following is a guide to the oval track FIPO classes, available at our tournaments. Other FIPO classes available at the British Championships are the pace classes, dressage and countryside riding / trail. Some local competitions also offer different tests on the oval track which are not FIPO classes – but fun none the less!

A simple break-down of FIPO classes:

- All classes in four gait start with the letter 'V'
- All classes in five gait start with the letter 'F'
- All classes in tölt only start with the letter 'T'
- All classes in pace only start with the letter 'P'



If you have any questions about the content of this leaflet, or would like to know more about other aspects of sport riding, email [sport@ihsgb.co.uk](mailto:sport@ihsgb.co.uk)

## Starter classes

The following classes will be run at the BC 2015. They used to be called “elementary” classes and are known in some other countries as Sport C

### V5 – 4 gait

Riders compete in small groups directed by the speaker, showing:

- any speed tölt
- slow to medium trot
- medium walk
- slow to medium canter

This class is performed on one rein, in this order at any tournament. (Riders should indicate on the entry form which rein they wish to ride on.)

#### **Why should I choose this class?**

For your 4 gaited horses, this is a good class to show your horse to the best of his abilities, if he is not quite ready to be balanced enough to be able to change the tempo of his tölt. You can use this to your advantage and choose to show ANY tempo in his tölt, perhaps your horse is best at medium at the moment, gives you the most consistent movements etc, then you are able to show this, without causing too much stress for both of you! Inexperienced horses may sometimes benefit from being on the oval track with other horses, giving them confidence.

As a rider, this class can give you confidence on the oval track too. Yes, you must know what you are doing, but you have the back-up of the speaker directing you also.



### T8 – Tölt

Riders compete in small groups directed by the speaker:

- showing any speed tölt
  - change the rein
  - showing any speed tölt

Riders should indicate on the entry form which rein they wish to start on.

#### **Why should I choose this class?**

As with the V5, choosing this class, gives you and your horse the confidence to be able to focus on the tempo of tölt that suits you both best, or that you are ready for!



## Youth classes

### YV5 & YT8

These classes are exactly the same as V5 and T8 – except they are only open to young riders under the age of 18 – hence the ‘Y’ in front for youth!

## Intermediate classes

These classes are known in some other countries as Sport B.

Most of the classes described below can be found at prestigious tournaments, including the Mid European Championships, Nordic Championships and almost all of the National tournaments in other countries.

### V4 – 4 gait

Riders compete in small groups directed by the speaker showing:

- medium walk
- any speed tölt
- Individually: riders are asked to show transition of walk/tölt and tölt to walk
- Riders change the rein as instructed by the speaker
- slow to medium speed trot
- Individually: riders are asked to show slow to medium speed canter - transition into canter and back down to walk

Riders should indicate on the entry form which rein they wish to start on.

#### **Why should I choose this class?**

These are again, group classes, which can give you and your horse the confidence when competing on the oval track with other riders.

This 4 gait class focuses on the transitions as well as the performance in each gait. There is no demand on the tempo of the tölt, therefore giving you the opportunity to focus on the tempo that best suits you and your horse. Canter is only shown individually, so if you are not confident about riding canter with others, then this class will suit you as a rider.

### V3 – 4 gait

Riders compete in small groups directed by the speaker showing:

- slow to medium speed tölt
- slow to medium speed trot
- medium walk
- slow to medium speed canter
- medium to fast tölt

This class is performed on one rein, in this order at any tournament. Riders should indicate on the entry form which rein they wish to ride on.

#### **Why should I choose this class?**

This class is only shown on one rein, which can give some riders confidence if their horse performs better on one than the other.

We start to see the introduction of showing different tempos in tölt; perhaps your horse is beginning to become better balanced in his training and ready to start to show these elements. If you or your horse does not have the confidence yet to be alone on the track, then this class is a good introduction for him before you move up to the individual V1 class.



## Intermediate classes contd

### F2 – 5 gait

Riders compete in small groups directed by the speaker showing:

- slow to medium speed tölt
- slow to medium speed trot
- medium walk
- slow to medium speed canter
- 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, the speaker will draw lots to decide.
- The marks for tölt and pace will be doubled.

This class is performed on one rein, in this order at any tournament. Riders should indicate on the entry form which rein they wish to ride on.

#### Why should I choose this class?

This class is only shown on one rein, which can give some riders confidence if their horse performs better on one than the other.

In this class, you are given 3 opportunities to show pace. This can be a good starting point before you demand more of your horse, giving him every opportunity to be able to perform.

If you or your horse does not have the confidence yet to be alone on the track, then this class is a good introduction for him before you move up to the individual F1 class.

### T6 – Loose rein tölt

Riders compete in small groups directed by the speaker:

- slow to medium speed tölt
- change rein
- 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.

(Riders should indicate on the entry form which rein they wish to start on.)

#### Why should I choose this class?

Not quite ready for a solo performance or not quite mastered the balance in loose rein tölt yet? Then this class gives your inexperienced horse the opportunity to 'give it a go', whilst not pushing him too far. You are able to assist your horse on the corners of the track to maintain his balance, which is not allowed in T2, so a positive step to trying but not pushing!



### T7 – Tölt

Riders compete in small groups directed by the speaker:

- slow tölt
- change the rein
- any speed tölt

(Riders should indicate on the entry form which rein they wish to start on.)

#### Why should I choose this class?

Now we start to make more demands on our horses, asking him to perform in slow tempo and then if we want, we can make our second side a different tempo, asking more of him. If you or your horse does not have the confidence yet to be alone on the track, then this class is a good introduction for him before you move up to the individual T1 class.

## Sport A

These classes are widely available at most Icelandic horse tournaments. At the World Championships for Icelandic horses, these are the only oval track classes available to compete in.

### V1 – Four gait

Riders compete individually and show:

- half a round of walk
- one round of slow to medium trot
- one round of slow tölt
- one round of fast tölt
- one round of slow to medium canter

The rider must choose which rein to ride the test on and in which order to show the programme.

#### **Why should I choose this class?**

Now, you are on your own! The judges see only you and your horse on the track, so every little move is scrutinised! No longer do you have to follow a set programme – of course you must show all the gaits precisely for the length of time asked (i.e. half a round or whole round), you must show your transitions cleanly and clearly – but you can decide in which order your horse best performs his gaits. This can be to your advantage. Performing on a single rein, you can choose which rein it is that your horse performs best. But don't forget – if you make a final, then you must ride it on the majority vote rein!



### F1 –Five gait

Riders compete individually and show:

- half a round of walk
- one round of slow to medium trot
- one round of tölt
- one round of canter
- Two long sides of flying pace

The rider must choose which rein to ride the test on and in which order to show the programme.

#### **Why should I choose this class?**

Now, you are on your own! The judges see only you and your horse on the track, so every little move is scrutinised! No longer do you have to follow a set programme – of course you must show all the gaits precisely for the length of time asked (i.e. half a round or whole round), you must show your transitions cleanly and clearly – but you can decide in which order your horse best performs his gaits. This can be to your advantage. Performing on a single rein, you can choose which rein it is that your horse performs best. But don't forget – if you make a final, then you must ride it on the majority vote rein!

## Sport A

### T1 – Tölt

Riders compete individually and show:

- one round of slow tölt
- change the rein
- one round of slow tölt with fast tölt on the long sides
- one round of fast tölt

#### **Why should I choose this class?**

Technically, this can be quite a challenge for your horse. He must be balanced, well trained and ready to perform! Here you must show 3 different variations of your tölt; slow, speed changes and faster tempo and performing on both reins. Maintaining a steady and seamless performance is key!

### T2 – Loose rein tölt

Riders compete individually and show:

- one round of any speed tölt
- one round of slow tölt
- change the rein
- one round of slow to medium tölt with both reins held in one hand clearly showing no contact with the horse's mouth during the whole round.

#### **Why should I choose this class?**

As with the T1, this is more of a challenging class, but if your horse has a really freedom of movement and happy to maintain his rhythm and balance in tölt without contact on the rein – then no better way to show it off than in T2!



Hopefully that has given you a little insight in to the various levels of FIPO classes. The people around you and those organising tournaments want to help – so if in doubt – ask! We are all in this together and all here to help each other.  
KC, April 2015