

Sport matters

How to... - guide

Organising a small competition

So you want to organise a small Icelandic horse sport competition? The following might help you in making some of the decisions, finding information and as a checklist. It is not that difficult, and you do not even need an oval track.



Pulling it all together

The Venue

In the absence of a purpose built oval track you can use a large indoor, or outdoor arena. The surface should be as „hard“ and flat as possible. Showing a nice tölt gets more and more difficult, the softer and deeper the surface is.

Depending on the size of the arena, it might be useful to set out an inner track of an oval using dressage boards or poles. Place these about 4-5 metres in from the edge. But beware: for group classes this may become a bit tight, especially for canter.

Costs

The costs and thus the fees asked of the riders depend largely on the cost of the venue, and the cost of inviting a judge. So it will vary greatly from venue to venue. But as a guide over the last few years, IHSGB has been charging £15-20 per class (plus a camping or venue fee, if appropriate).

Notes

- Riders' should always wear a well-fitting riding helmet when mounted
- Appropriate foot wear must be worn when riding
- Out of respect for the judge/s and organiser – riders should try to wear appropriate attire and look smart!
- Coloured armbands (minimum 6 colours) are a useful way to identify riders. Make sure that the colour given to the rider agrees with the colour stated on the judges' sheets.



If in doubt, do not hesitate to ask for help from the IHSGB Sport Group, sport@ihsgb.co.uk and GOOD LUCK!

The Programme

You want to think about which (and how many) classes to offer. Do not make it too complicated. Even at big tournaments, horses are usually only allowed to enter one tölt class and one gaited class (plus a pace class, if appropriate).

This document might help you to decide which classes are most appropriate for your event: <http://ihsgb.co.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/FIPO-classes.pdf> and a detailed description of classes and general rules are found in the FEIF Rule Book: https://www.feif.org/files/documents/FEIF_Rules_Regulations2016_1.pdf



The Invitation

The following information should be included in the invitation.

- Date, time and venue
- Classes offered: description of each class, ask which rein riders want to perform on, draw attention to the oval track etiquette <http://ihsgb.co.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/oval-treck-etiquette.pdf>
- Is there a requirement regarding passport checks, vaccination, FEIF shoeing rules?
- Ground rules of the venue (particularly biosecurity for resident horses).
- Don't forget to add the event to the IHSGB calendar.
- Disclaimer!!! Along the lines of riders participating on their own risk and the organiser will not be held responsible for any first, or third party accidents involving rider or horse.

The Judge(s)

In the Icelandic horse world there are national judges and international FEIF judges. All international judges are trained according to the same criteria and standards, and all are judging is done according to the same international FEIF Judging Guidelines.

https://www.feif.org/files/documents/sj_guidelines2015.pdf.

It is worthwhile to draw the attention of riders to this. They might want to read these guidelines, too. If you cannot find a suitable judge, do not hesitate to get in touch with the IHSGB Sport Group, sport@ihsgb.co.uk

For a small competition one judge will be enough. For bigger and more important competitions, this number will increase to up to 5 judges in World Ranking events and the World Championships.



Part I – People

Even for a small competition you will need at least one judge, a speaker, 2-3 committed helpers, and a certain amount of basic equipment.



Judge writer(s)

Judge writer(s) are there to generally assist the judge(s), and to note down comments and marks. Often judge writers have local knowledge. i.e. they might know the names of riders and horses. This is particularly important in the absence of colour bands, which identify riders in a group class. Usually, there is one judge writer per judge.

The Speaker

The speaker is an essential part of the competition, making sure the competition runs on time, riders and spectators are informed of what is going in, and (possibly) also collating the marks and final placings. A speaker has to be quick thinking, polite, and know the FEIF Rules. – In all classes when more than one rider is on the track (group classes and finals), riders will show the gaits by instruction of the speaker. For this the FIPO timer app is an essential timekeeping tool.

Download the app from: <https://appsto.re/de/U5Zy3.i>

For the speaker's checklist see here (note this list was put together with big competitions in mind, and not all tasks will necessarily come up):

<https://www.feif.org/files/documents/Speakers%20Checklist.pdf>

The

speaker should be assisted by one or two helpers with a computer who enter and calculate marks.

Other helpers

Gate keeper: it is important to have one person who will open and shut the gate / door and promptly call in the next group from the warming up area - the smooth keeping of the overall timing is often due to a good gate keeper. Note: if facilities allow, this job could be done by the judge writer, but it is better to have a different person.

The gate keeper must know the format of the competition and be able to re-assure people when they enter the track at smaller competitions.

If there is a separate warm-up / collecting ring, you might need a second steward who telling the next rider(s) to prepare to be called forward for their test, so that they are ready to enter and not still chatting / fixing their girth etc.!

Prize giving: it is useful if one helper is responsible for sorting rosettes and prizes and having everything ready for the prize giving ceremonies, be they after the final of a given class, or all at the end of the competition.

Optional – the following is being done at bigger and more formal competitions. If the following checks are carried out, remember to add this to the invitation.

On arrival: Helpers are needed to check passports and vaccination records of all horses arriving at the competition grounds. This may then be followed by a vet check of all horses.

Equipment check: bigger competitions will run equipment checks in accordance with FEIF Rules. This may be done for all riders, or a random selection. Judges may also be asked to conduct a mouth and general injury check of horses after certain classes.

Part II – Equipment and Paperwork

Stationary box (with the Speaker)

- Pins
- Scissors
- Cellotape
- Stapler
- Emergency numbers (doctor, vet, farrier) – a copy should also be on the pin board
- First Aid box (and contact number of First Aider in attendance)

In a central place:

Pinboard with times, and groups (showing chosen rein), results and any other announcements.

Speaker – Equipment

- Programme: timing and order of riders; which rein?
- Description of ridden classes (from FEIF Rules)
- Spreadsheet with formulas to enter and check marks (on paper and / or on the computer)
- Sound system (music, microphone)
- Really helpful: FIPO timer (free app) and cable (!) to connect to sound system. Note: The FIPO timer app is currently only available for iOS (Apple products)
- Music CDs
- Prepared judging sheets (for preliminary and finals) – paper and extra for judge and an extra

For each judge and judge writer to have in the middle of the track:

- Small table
- 2 chairs (1 swivel chair if possible)
- clip board
- judging sheets (with names and colours of riders)
- pens
- calculator with big screen (make sure the display is readable in sunlight). Alternatively, you can use the Score Dividing chart, available here:
https://www.feif.org/files/documents/sj_guidelines2015.pdf

A set of (laminated) A5 cards with large number 0-9, for showing the marks.
Note – minimum requirements: a judge writer is quite important, particularly for group classes, and as gofer between the judge and the speaker's box.

Rosettes and trophies

IHSGB rosettes may be available.
Contact
communications@ihsgb.co.uk

Be prepared for some joint placements, i.e. two riders landing in 1st place

Other documents

- Speaker's Checklist (FEIF) [https://www.feif.org/files/documents/Speakers Checklist.pdf](https://www.feif.org/files/documents/Speakers%20Checklist.pdf)
- List of emergency numbers
- Oval track etiquette <http://ihsgb.co.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/oval-treck-etiquette.pdf>
- Tölt in Harmony classes – for a description of classes and judging criteria visit <https://tolthinharmony.wordpress.com/tihinternational/>
- Times for group test and finals (appended), from FEIF Rule Book S11 (p. 172)
- If you are running competitions on a regular basis, you might want to use Ictest, a software package directly designed for higher level competitions with Icelandic horses. For more info see here: <https://www.feif.org/Service/Software/IceTest.aspx>

Results – do not forget to send the competition results to communications@ihsgb.co.uk