



Procedure Sport Judges' Examination

FEIF organises, at least once every two years, a test for national sport judges who want to become international sport judges. In addition, FEIF provides a service for member associations to test judges to become national sport judges.

1. Meaning and Purpose

The examination for international sport judge means to provide an equal standard among the international sport judges. For national judges FEIF provides a chance for those countries, which cannot organise such an examination on a good level, to have their judges approved on a high standard.

Once passed the test for international judge, the examinee will receive a license as FEIF International Sport Judge for the period of three years. The license can be renewed in two ways:

- pass the examination again, or
- take part in at least one International Sport Judges' seminar organised by FEIF and be a full judge for at least 15 days of WorldRanking events in this three years' period.¹

At World Championships, only licensed judges are allowed to judge.

The license as international sport judge has a high value and should be aimed at.

For candidates passing the test for national judge FEIF advises the member association to issue a license as a national judge.

2. Requirements

The examination must be accepted in contents and meaning on a broad base. This means that certain procedures have to be followed:

- The candidates must be sent by a FEIF member association, to show that they are ready for the examination (which means enough experience as an active national judge for at least two years (international judges) or as a judge at a lower level (national judges))
- The Board of Examiners must be internationally accepted

3. Contents of the examination

The examination is based on experience and good standards.

It is divided into a theoretical, a practical and an oral part.

The *oral part* is conducted in English. Candidates for the International license must be able to function in English well enough to discuss judging matters with their colleagues. For purposed of the examination, the panel of examiners acts as the judging colleagues.

Candidates are not required to be fluent in English but must be able to make themselves understood in English during the oral portion of the examination. A candidate who is unable

¹ The International Sport Judge license renewal demands are subject to change by the Board of FEIF.

to do so cannot pass the oral portion of the examination because the examiners cannot conclude the judge will be able to discuss judging matters with colleagues on a tournament.

Candidates for a national level license may use their own language. In such case the Board of Examiners may require an interpreter if the panel does not have sufficient experience in the candidate's language.

The following topics are part of the examination:

- Training methods, riding
- Rules: FIRO, FIPO
- Sport Judges' Guidelines
- Comment on a video

The *practical* part should contain the following tests: T1, T2, V1, F1, PP1

Correct circumstances are required: proper competition tracks; and horses and riders on high, medium and low level of performance.

For candidates for the international test all parts are mandatory, for candidates for the national test it is up to the member association to decide if the theoretical and oral parts are required as the member association might handle that as well.

4. Board of Examiners

The Board of Examiners consists of three to five internationally qualified and well-known sport judges, who also have experience in this kind of examination. Good language-knowledge is desirable. The Director of Sport appoints the board with the assistance of the Sport Judges Committee. All decisions are made by majority vote.

An observer of FEIF (Appointed by the Director of Sport) has to be present.

The Board of Examiners has the following tasks:

- preparation and questioning for the oral and theoretical parts
- examination of the oral part
- deciding upon the results of the practical part with explanation
- recommendation of the candidates for appointment as FEIF Licensed Sport Judge by the Director of Sport or recommendation for appointment as a national judge.

The examinee has the right to object to the result. This is possible within one week to the Board of FEIF, who will pass the complaint to the responsible committee.

5. Realisation

The examination is officially announced in due time to all FEIF member-countries.

Candidates for the international test has to have attended a national judge education program, must be at least 21 years old and be a member of a member association of FEIF. He/she must also have a proven riding capacity (license, trainer exam, national judge exam if this contains riding, competition results, etc.)



For candidates for the national test it is up to the member association to decide who may take part in the test.

For the practical part the aim is to have 8 - 15 horses per test, a minimum of 5 is required. Candidates give marks accompanied by comments for each section of the FIPO tests (no need to calculate final marks except for pace in F1). Generally, any appeal of the outcome from the practical part of the examination must be based on the comments written with the marks. Marks given without comment cannot be appealed.

After the Board of Examiners has set the appropriate mark for all combinations in all required sections of all tests, the marks of the examinees are checked and marked the following way:

- slight deviation = 1 point
- medium deviation = 3 points
- strong deviation = 5 points
- extreme fault = 10 points

The examinee in the international test should reach an average of not more than 4.0 on 10 marks in order to pass the practical exam. For the national test an average of not more than 6.0 on 10 marks is acceptable.

Two or more extreme faults can lead to failure, even if the overall average is within the limit.

Any decision cannot be taken on mathematical considerations only. It is the responsibility of the Board of Examiners to evaluate the comments and the circumstances. The considerations what mark and which deviation is acceptable must be fixed for every single figure. For example: when the board considers a horse that is extremely difficult to judge, it can decide to treat the notes in a more generous way.

For the theoretical and oral parts, about 6 questions should be answered, referring equally to the different fields. The valuation is made by passed / not passed. At least 60% must be answered correctly, 2 or more evidently false answers can also lead to failure.

The examinee in the international test has to pass all parts of the exam to be recommended as a FEIF Licensed International Sport Judge. It is possible to arrange a re-examination if the candidate does not pass the oral or theoretical part of the exam but does pass the practical part. Such a re-examination will be arranged by the Director of Sport at additional cost to the candidate and at a time and place convenient for both FEIF and the candidate(s). The re-examination must take place within one year of the original license examination.

Candidates who failed the oral portion but passed the practical portion of the examination before April 1, 2014 must re-take both portions of the examination.



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(December 2014)

