



Changes in Sport Rules, valid as of April 1, 2016

APPROVED BY THE FEIF DELEGATES' ASSEMBLY 2016 (HAARLEM, THE NETHERLANDS)

The reorganization of all the FEIF Rules and Regulations is the most significant change to the Sport Rules this year. From this year forward there is no longer a distinct FIRO, FIPO, and FIZO. All three are now combined into a single FEIF Rules and Regulations with various sections.

The applicable sections for sport competition are the General and Sport sections.

Everyone involved in sport competition on Icelandic horses should take some additional time before the start of the season to download a copy of the new rule book and become familiar with the new structure.

The information contained in the new book is the same as the previous three books with the exception, for Sport, of the following changes approved by the Delegates' Assembly in February 2016.

1. Length of Hoof [G8.3.2.1]

Horses may have at most 9.0cm long toes unless they can be proven to be taller than 145cm in which case the toe length may be 9.5cm.

2. Late Withdrawals [S1.7 – Withdrawals]

In the interests of fair play and good sportsmanship, the following changes are made to the new general rules on withdrawals from Sport tests:

- The Chief Judge of a tournament is added to the list of authorities who may approve a late withdrawal without penalty. This list is now: a veterinarian, a medical doctor, or the Chief Judge.
- Unexcused late withdrawals from preliminary rounds now lead to the rider being disqualified from the event on all horses entered and including forfeiture of prizes already given out.
- Unexcused late withdrawals from finals have the same consequences as the preliminaries. Additionally the rider receives an automatic 2-week ban from all competition to begin the Monday after the tournament ends.

3. Skip of Equipment Check [S1.6 – Disqualifications]

In the interests of sportsmanship, a rider who skips the equipment check is now disqualified from the entire tournament including forfeiture of prizes already given. This unsportsmanlike practice has developed as a way to hide the marks from a poor performance by taking a disqualification in the unsuccessful test.

A rider is still free to resign at any time during a test by various means. When a rider resigns he receives no marks for the test and is not disqualified.

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4. Unable to Check Horse [S1.6 – Disqualifications]

If a horse is selected for an equipment check and is not able to be checked after receiving every opportunity to calm down and be checked must be disqualified from the current test.

5. Rings & Soles [G8.3.2.2 – Shoes]

The text from the *Prohibited Equipment* page on the FEIF website has been moved into the appropriate place in the rules. The text is unchanged just relocated.

6. Rein Changes in Finals [Various in S2.8]

In the interests of clarity the rules now clearly state finalists show the required sections of test including the rein changes as described in the handling of the preliminary rounds.

7. Time Keeping [S3.2]

The current procedures for time keeping are not clear in regard to how to handle timekeeping failures of a significant nature. The following text is added to the rules to make clear the handling when electronic timekeeping cannot be repaired.

Manual time keeping (as described below) can be performed as a backup to an electronic system. If the electronic system breaks down organizers must change to another system – manual or electronic. Times gained before the breakdown are still valid. A rider should never be allowed to make more than one extra sprint to gain valid times.

This change means organizers with generally reliable electronic timekeeping systems do not need to have a team of manual timekeepers working at the same time in case of a remote chance of equipment failure.

8. World Championships Tracks [G9.2.3]

The oval track at the World Championships must now be a 6m wide 250m track as specified in the track diagrams.

The responsibility for the initial inspection of a World Championships track now falls to the Director of Sport not the Chief Judge of the World Championships.

9. Break Between Sections in T1 Final [S2.8.1.3 – T1 Final Round]

In the interest of horse welfare two mandatory rest periods are added to the T1 final at the rein changes in the second and third sections:

*The speaker shall instruct the riders to walk their horses in a **relaxed** manner for a period of 60 seconds at the rein change during the second section (tempo differences) of the final. The speaker shall instruct the riders to walk their horses for 120 seconds at the rein change during the third section (fast tölt) of the final.*

10. Eligible Horses on the Oval Track [S2.8.*.1 – Eligible Horses]

All descriptions of eligible horses on oval track tests are updated to indicate limitations on placed on horse and rider combinations not on the horses. Therefore, it is possible for riders to share a horse at a tournament without breaching the eligibility rules.

Riders must consider the demands of all the tests and fitness of their horses to compete in all tests. Further, the number of times a horse may start per day is still limited as before.

