



# Northeast Icelandic Horse Club

NEIHC :: P.O. Box 153 :: Russell, MA 01071  
neicelandichorseclub@gmail.com

## NEIHC Open 2016

### FIPO/FEIF/USIHC Guidelines for Appearance, Shoeing, Tack & Equipment

The NEIHC Open 2016 will follow FIPO/FEIF/USIHC rules and guidelines for Icelandic horse shows. This summary of the rules and guidelines related to appearance, shoeing, tack, and equipment is intended to give you time to check everything you plan to use to make sure it is compliant. For more detailed information about FIPO/FEIF and USIHC rules and guidelines, please visit the FEIF website at [www.feif.org](http://www.feif.org) and the USIHC website at [www.icelandics.org](http://www.icelandics.org).

Please review this document carefully before you come to the show and check your horse's shoe, tack, and equipment to make sure you are ready to have a great show!

#### Rider Dress Code (S6.7.3.2 & USIHC):

- Riders should wear a riding jacket, riding breeches or jodhpurs, and riding boots or Jodhpur boots. In pace race and pace test a riding jacket can be replaced by another appropriate garment. In the event of high heat or humidity, riders may opt to not wear a coat. Regardless of conditions, riders are encouraged to dress professionally. The dress requirements in all non-FEIF classes shall be those allowed in Pace Race and Pace Tests.

#### Age of the Horse & Competition Starts (G7.3.2):

- The January of the year of birth is valid for the age of the horse.
- Purebred Icelandic horses aged five years and above are eligible. Proof is required in the form of the pedigree or a corresponding national certificate.
- The number of tests per horse per day is limited as follows:
  - a 5 year-old horse, may start twice per day, not including races or cross-country (however, pace test, speed pace and pace races are permitted),
  - a 6 year-old horse may start 3 times per day,
  - a 7 year and older horse, may start 4 times per day,
  - any preliminary round and final is considered to be a start,
  - for pace test, speed pace, pace race 250m and 150m, 2 runs on one day are counted as
  - 1 start.

#### Appearance of the Horse (G7.1):

- The natural appearance (e.g. natural growth and colour of hair) of the horse shall not be changed. Exceptions the mane and tail may be trimmed if too long and the horse may be clipped for health and welfare reasons. Hair on the muzzle, fetlocks, and inside the ears shall not be clipped.
- The use of *rubber bands* in manes: it is not allowed to change the natural shape of the horse with artefacts and specific techniques. However, it is allowed to use rubber bands only to divide the manes of a horse evenly when the (heavy) manes are otherwise unbalanced and would hinder the performance of the horse. (FIPO Section G8)

## **Saddles:**

- Any saddle or saddle pad that is suitable for the Icelandic horse is allowed. Permissible equipment also includes saddle cloths, front girths, cruppers and saddle supports. (FIPO G8.1)

## **Bits, Bridles & Reins:**

- The bridle and noseband should fit well, be properly adjusted and not harm the horse. (FIPO G8.2.1)
- The bit should fit the horse and should not hurt its mouth. (FIPO G8.2.1)
- Any bit may be used as part of a bridle provided it (FIPO G8.2.2):
  - is suitable for riding (i.e. not for driving horses, or any other use of horses);
  - is suitable for riding Icelandic horses
  - fits the horse and is used correctly
  - is not included in the list of prohibited bits as publish on the FEIF website
- Horses may be ridden in bit-less bridles provided they meet the general requirements described above. Horses may be ridden in bit-less bridles provided they meet the general requirements described above. (FIPO G8.2.2)
- Only snaffle bits are permitted in Beginning Rider and Novice Division classes. (USIHC)
- Nothing may be added to bits other than smooth bit guards and chain guards. Nothing else is allowed in the horse's mouth. (USIHC Section G8.2.3)
- Only reins that go directly from the rider's hands to the correct attachment point on the bit or bit-less bridle are allowed. (USIHC Section G8.2.3)
- The judges' decision about the use of any bit or bridle at a specific event is final for that specific event. (FIPO G8.2.2)

## **Boots & Other Protective Equipment (G8.5.2):**

- It is not allowed to put more weight to the limbs than required for protection.
- Protective equipment above the sole of the hoof, not exceeding 250 g per leg, is allowed. The protective equipment may not be changed between entering the oval track and finishing the test.
- If any part of the protective equipment falls off during the preliminary round, the rider must decide either to finish the test without this part or to retire.
- Equipment which breaks or falls off during the final round, or in the preliminary rounds of five gait classes with more than one horse in the track, may be replaced at the judges' discretion, during the interval when the marks are shown, or in the five gait classes, when the horses are waiting for the pace run.

## **Whip (G8.2.4):**

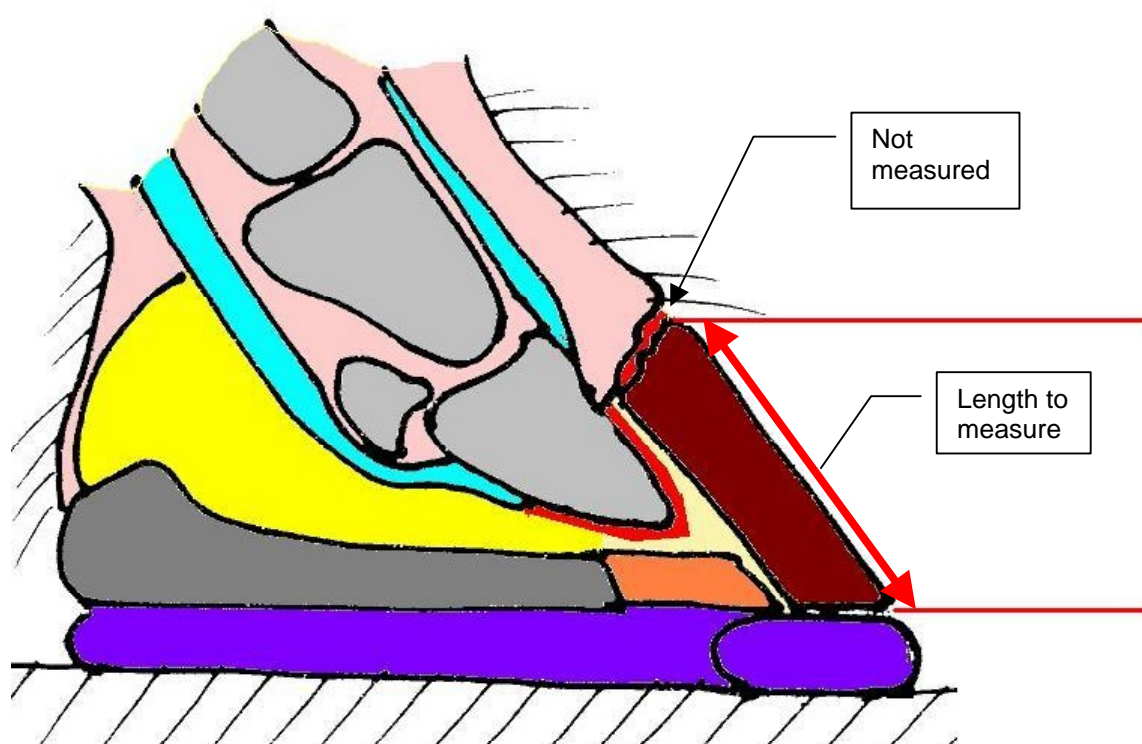
- The whip must not be longer than 120 cm including the tassel. In pace races whips are forbidden. The rider can use only one whip at the time. (FIPO G8.2.1)

## Length of Hoof & Shoeing (G8.3.2):

- **Length of Hoof:** The angle of the hoof must be in line with the pastern. The hoof length must be natural and not exceed 9.0 cm. Exceptions to the 9.0 cm rule can be made when a written proof (e.g. from a breeding show or a veterinarian) is shown that the horse has a stick measurement of 145.0 cm or more, in which case a length up to 9.5 cm is allowed. Any artificial lengthening is forbidden. Soles/pads/rings are permitted and not included in the measurement.. (FIPO G8.3.2.1)
- **Shoes:** If horses are shod all four feet should be shod. The only shoes allowed are those that are made for the purpose of serving as a shoe on a horse. Any shoe should have an opening at the hind side. All four shoes have to be made of the same material. The material used must not exceed the specific weight of standard iron. The shoe may have a maximum thickness of 10.0 mm and width of 23.0 mm (wear and tear included), and must be of an even shape. (FIPO G8.3.2.2)
- **Position of the Shoe:** The shoe must not extend past the lengthened natural slant of the toe wall, and at the back past the perpendicular dropped from the bulbs of the heel. (FIPO G8.3.2.2)
- **Studs:** Two ordinary studs per shoe, riveted, welded or screwed, one on each side of the heel of the shoe, are allowed. A stud must not exceed the measurements 15mm x 15mm x 12 mm (l x w x h) and may only have a maximum of 4 welding spots. For studs with a core, the core must not protrude more than 3 mm beyond the outer case.
- **Clips:** Three clips of a maximum thickness of 2 mm are allowed per shoe. Clips that have been welded are not allowed.
- **Reinforcement Welds:** Reinforcement welds are forbidden.
- **Leather and Plastic Rings and Soles:** Leather and synthetic rings or soles of a thickness of max. 5.0 mm and following the shape of the shoe are allowed between hoof and shoe. When filling material and/or a sole is used, a shoe of max. 8.0 mm thickness is allowed, otherwise a shoe of max.10.0 mm is allowed. Apart from the filling material only one ring or sole per foot is allowed. Reinforcements in order to support the specific function of the sole/ring are allowed.
- **Wedged Soles:** Wedged soles are allowed, with a maximum thickness of 8.0 mm at the heels and a maximum thickness of 2.0 mm at the toe, provided the hoof is in a correct angle to the pastern and with a correct length of the toe.
- **Rings:** A ring may have one single bridge not wider than 23.0 mm joining one side to the other. A ring is deemed to be a sole if there is any other form of connection from one side to the other. This is also valid when the connection consists of a woven construction. Reinforcements to keep the ring in place on the shoe are allowed.
- **Filling Material:** If the hoof has any filling material with or without a sole only shoes up to a maximum of 8.0 mm thick are allowed. As soon as any material is inside the hoof (including the shoe) the rules for soles apply, even if no sole is used.
- **Re-Shoeing:** A horse may not be re-shod once it has started its first test.
- The judges' decision about the acceptance of any ring or sole at a specific event is final for that specific event.

### How to measure the length of a hoof (FIPO 2.3.1)

The length of the toe is determined by measuring the front of the hoof, in the center, from the skin line on the lower side of the coronary band to the ground (shoe). The skin line on the lower side of the coronary band is to be defined by palpation. The thumb should be used to press on the horny hoof wall proceeding from the ground toward the hairline. The first compressible soft tissue palpated is the lower side of the coronary band. The hairline does not necessarily coincide with the lower side of the coronary band.



- Pink: skin and soft tissues
- Brown: walls
- Light gray: bones (navicular bone and coffin bone)
- Red: walls and sole living chorium (coronary band area)
- Dark gray: frog
- Orange: toe sole
- Yellow: digital cushion
- Blue: tendons (extensor, front; deep palmar flexor, back)

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## Shoeing and Equipment Checks

The equipment check is an important aspect of establishing a fair-play environment for our sport. Making sure our horses are properly shod is also part of our duty as horsemen to protect the welfare of horses in competition.

The Sport Committee has received reports of improper shoeing making it past the equipment checks last season. It is essential to catch these problems early in the season in the interests of horse welfare and out of respect for the riders.

All Sport Judges have been reminded it is their duty to demand a horse be reshod and/or disqualified according to the published rules in all cases of inappropriate shoeing. This applies equally to all riders from children and beginning riders through professional riders in the top sport tests at championship events. Of course, it can be a difficult challenge to diplomatically deliver the bad news of a disqualification for incorrect shoeing or equipment but this is a part of the job.

The following examples are cases where the horse must be reshod before being allowed to compete or disqualified if the rider competes with this shoeing in this condition.

*These are only selected examples and not a complete list of the possible issues with unacceptable shoeing.*

### FIPO 1.1.1.3 Farriery and tack

*Foot care and shoeing must be of a high standard.*

This horse clearly was presented with shoeing that was much too old and no longer met the “high” standard or shape and length demands.



As shown by the arrow, this shoe was clearly too small for the hoof and the heels did not have proper support.

This example, clearly, does not fit the demands of FIPO 1.1.1.3 as an example of a high standard for shoeing. This horse should have been reshod before competing or disqualified if the shoeing was first seen during equipment check.



This was another example demonstrating old shoeing with the hoof wall from the quarters to the heels improperly supported.

FIPO calls for the horse to be reshod or disqualified.

## FEIF DIRECTOR OF SPORT

Doug Smith  
1575 Elkhorn Road, CA 95076 Royal Oaks, United States

E [sport@feif.org](mailto:sport@feif.org)  
M +1 831238 3254



#### **FIPO 2.3.4 Studs**

*Two ordinary studs per shoe, riveted, welded or screwed, one on each side of the heel of the shoe, are allowed.*

This horse was presented with only one stud in the shoe. This is not allowed under FIPO 2.3.4. If studs are present there must be exactly two of them.



#### **FIPO 2.3.2 Shoes**

*... [shoes] must be of an even shape.*

The heel on this shoe was clearly not fitting to the demands of an even shape to the shoe.



#### **FIPO 2.3.2 Shoes**

*... [shoes] must be of an even shape.*

The heels on this shoe were another example of shoeing that did not fit to the demands of an even shape.

I encourage all riders who have even a remote concern about issues related to shoeing or tack to consult with the Chief Judge before competing to avoid any disappointment if problems are detected after the horse has been on the track.

I wish everyone a very successful competition season.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Smith'.

Doug Smith

FEIF Director of Sport



## Prohibited Equipment Sport

[Back](#) 

Prohibited bits and/or bridles are bits and/or bridles that are clearly designed for another purpose, such as bits for cart horses, or are part of tack designed for a different riding style/culture, or are used in another way than what they are designed for. Only reins that go directly from the rider's hands to the correct attachment point on the bit or bit less bridle are allowed.

Prohibited shoes, rings or soles are shoes, rings or soles that are clearly designed for another purpose other than riding horses.

These rules apply to sport and gæðingakeppni events (including YouthCup). For breeding shows other rules apply. In addition to this general rule the Sport Committee maintains the following list of equipment that is not allowed for specific reasons:

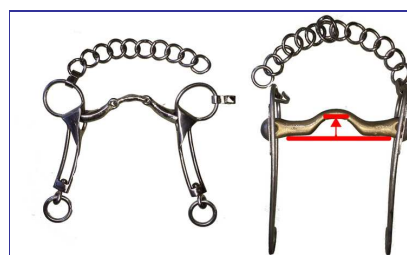
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### Bits

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- **Icelandic bits with ported mouths greater than 0,5cm in height (see arrow) including Icelandic Mullen bits.**

These bits have been shown to cause bar injuries by studies conducted in Iceland.



- **Myler combination bits with short or long shanks (and similar bits from other producers)**

This type of bit combines bitless techniques (hackamore) with a bit and is designed as a training bit.



- **Peruvian bit (and other bits typically designed for specific other horse cultures)**

This kind of bits is not fitting to the Icelandic Horse riding style and/or culture.



- **Sliding gag bits (bits that can move up and down along the cheek pieces of a bridle).**

These bits are mainly correction bits and not suitable for showing horses.




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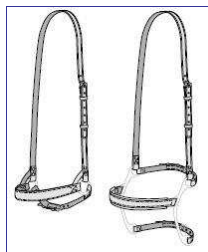
### Bridles and nosebands

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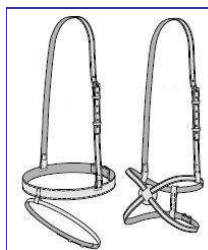
- **The drop (German/Hanoverian) noseband or lever noseband in combination with all bits used with a curb chain.**

This type of bit should be used with another noseband as it does not fit very well together. It leads to an ugly picture. The upper part of the curb could easily get stuck in the drop noseband. The functioning of the chain is affected by the position of the laces in the combination with the leveler noseband.



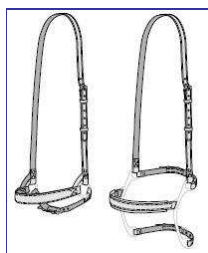
- **The flash nosebands or Mexican noseband in combination with all bits with upper and/or lower cheeks (leverage mechanism).**

The flash noseband or Mexican noseband fits badly with most of these bits and in some cases the combined mechanism makes the equipment very severe. Prohibited as of April 1, 2011.



- **The drop (German/Hanoverian) noseband or leveler noseband in combination with all bits with upper and/or lower cheeks (leverage mechanism).**

This type of bit should be used with another noseband as it does not fit very well together. It leads to an ugly picture. The chain and the lower part of the noseband could come very close to each other so the skin can easily get squeezed. The functioning of the cheeks is affected by the position of the laces in the combination with the leveler noseband.



- **Kineton noseband**

This type of noseband combines bitless techniques (hackamore) with a bit and is designed for use in training. This is not appropriate for use in competition.

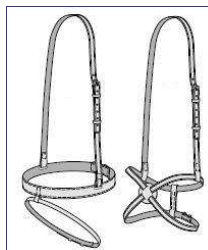


- **A conventional bitted bridle used together with a bitless bridle.**

This is against the intention of the bitless bridle.

- **The flash nosebands or Mexican noseband in combination with all bits used with a curb chain**

The flash noseband or Mexican noseband fits badly with most of these bits and in some cases the combined mechanism makes the equipment very severe. Prohibited as of April 1, 2011.




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*The pictures shown are provided as an example only. Pictures can be enlarged by clicking on them.*

List maintained by the FEIF Sport Committee.

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