

Selection of the US National Team for the 2025 World Championships

Goal

The USIHC's goal is to send the best qualified horse/rider combinations to the World Championships. These horses and riders should be competitive with the European riders and also represent our values of excellence in horsemanship, sportsmanship and riding.

Tryout Prerequisites

1. Riders must meet all current FEIF Sport Rule requirements for riders including being US citizens or holders of Green Cards for at least one year before January 1st 2025.
2. Riders must be members in good standing of the United States Icelandic Horse Congress for at least one year before January 1st, 2025.
3. Riders must be a member of the USIHC National Team when announced in January 2025.
4. Riders must be currently ranked in the US National Rankings in all their tests of choice for the World Championships tryouts by the tryout deadline.
5. Each horse may only be used by one rider in the tryouts.
6. The horse must be registered in the United States if the tryout (by video) takes place in the United States. If the horse is European, it must have a FEIF ID Number.
7. Riders must submit proof their horse is microchipped. 8. Riders must pay the appropriate fees.

The virtual tryout videos must comply with all the rules presented in the current FEIF Sport Rules and Regulations.

Tryout Process

In 2025, all riders wishing to try out for the WC, will have to **enter the USIHC Virtual Spring Show**.

1. The tryout entry deadline shall be set by the Sport Leader to be no later than May 13.
2. The team members shall be announced by the Sport Leader as soon as possible but no later than the end of the first week in June.
3. Adult riders must qualify by achieving the following scores in their tryout videos: T1: 6.5, V1: 6.2, T2: 6.2, and F1: 6.0, P2 under 8.5 sec. (These scores are the same as the ones used in Iceland to compete at the "master" level)

And Young riders must qualify by achieving the following scores in their tryout videos: T1: 6.2, V1: 5.9, T2: 5.9, and F1: 5.7, P2 under 8.66 sec.

4. Riders who qualify in F1 or P2 may ride in any other pace event at the Championships. Other Riders who make the team are only allowed to compete in the World Championships in tests they qualified for during the tryouts.

5. Riders must qualify on the horse they will take to the World Championships.
6. The same five FEIF International Sport Judges will evaluate all videos.
7. Tryout videos must be made no earlier than 60 days before the tryout submission deadline. For the 2025 tryouts, all video entries will be judged by a panel of five FEIF International Sport Judges following the principle of eliminating the lowest and highest overall scores.

Team Selection

Following the evaluation of all video submissions, the team shall be selected by first taking the highest qualifying combination from each of these tests: T1, T2, V1, F1 and P2. The remaining spaces on the team shall be filled with any additional qualifying combinations. In the case that there are more qualifying riders than spots on the team, the combinations are invited to join the US team by the Team trainer and Team leader after they evaluate the progress during the year of training and tryout results.

There are some exceptions to this process: (the simple traversal of the ranking)-take this out

- The four- and five-gait combination events are not considered in the selection of the team.
- Per the rules of the Championships, each rider may only start on one horse. If a rider qualifies for the team with more than one horse in the same test, he/she is encouraged to bring the highest scoring/ranking horse but can bring the other horse as a reserve as long as there are extra spaces on the team. In the event that one rider has the highest scores in 2 different tests on different horses they get to pick which horse and discipline they would like to compete in with the help of the USIHC Team Trainer and Team Leader.
- Point for discussion: A reserve horse or horse/rider combination could be chosen by the Team leader and USIHC Team Trainer.
- In the event that more than seven riders qualify for the US National World Championships team, four placements will be prioritized for US residents. In the event more than five young riders qualify for the US National World Championships team, three will be prioritized for US residents.
- Ties between combinations are broken as follows:
 1. Young riders defer to adults. This rule is applied first because we can send up to 5 additional young riders.
 2. The combination with a higher (possibly non-qualifying) score in another test is chosen first.
 3. Coin toss.

World Championship Qualification Amendment 1 - Flex Spots

Provided that there would be unused spots for the USIHC to send riders to the world championships, the National Team's Team Leader and Team Trainer may nominate additional USIHC members to the WC team in their discretion. These nominated riders must be members in good standing with the USIHC and maintain the same citizenship and / or residency requirements as any other rider on the WC team. A maximum number of three adult flex riders shall be qualified per WC year, and a maximum of two youth flex riders shall be qualified per WC year. In no event shall the number of flex spot riders exceed the number of riders qualified through the non-flex process.

The purpose of these flex spots is to provide additional opportunities for USIHC Members in good standing who are not currently on the National Team or who do not meet the National Ranking

requirements. Applicants seeking flex spots must otherwise meet all USIHC and FEIF requirements to participate at the WC on behalf of the USIHC, as well as timely apply for the WC flex spot under all other requirements, including timely video submission. Any horse / rider combination qualifying under this route needs to secure a minimum score in their WC tryout video of: 1. For Adults: 7.0 in T1, 6.7 in T2, 6.7 in V1, or 6.5 in F1; and 2. For Youth: 6.7 in T1, 6.4 in T2, 6.4 in V1, or 6.2 in F1.

These flex spot nominations only are available if there are unused openings on the USIHC World Championship Team after all riders who have qualified through the existing WC tryout and qualifications process have been offered a spot.

In addition to the cost of submitting a video submission for the WC tryout, any rider admitted to the WC team with a flex spot shall pay a \$1,000 team fee to the USIHC.

Horse / rider combinations must apply in writing for any available flex spots by the WC submission deadline of the WC year. Applications shall be addressed to the Team Trainer and Team Leader, copying the USIHC President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Applications shall include a list of the rider's full competition results for the past two years, and a personal statement detailing why the rider believes they fit the considerations outlined below. The Team Trainer and Team Leader may request what additional information or materials they deem fit from any applicant.

When exercising their discretion, the Team Leader and Team Trainer are directed to consider:

1. The horse / rider's recent competition results and performances as a whole;
2. The rider's overall contributions to the USIHC membership and overall community of icelandic horses in the United States;
3. Whether the rider(s) will make for a more inclusive, well-rounded, and competitive team; and
4. Whether the rider(s) are likely to use their experience at the WC to improve and support the USIHC's mission and community as a whole.

The Team Leader and Team Trainer are directed to use their discretion to field the most inclusive, well-rounded, competitive, and member-serving WC team possible. Any nominations to the WC team under this policy must be ratified by the USIHC Board of Directors.