

## **Mission**

The purpose of the USIHC National Team is to develop the Icelandic Horse Sport here in the USA through the cultivation of our top Icelandic horse equestrians by:

- Developing a sense of community and teamwork among our top riders
- Investing in educational resources and experiences for the riders most able to take advantage of those opportunities
- Offering financial support and fundraising to aid in the cultivation of our riders
- Positioning our top Icelandic horse equestrians to serve as inspirational role models and share their experiences and skills with the Icelandic horse community at large
- Serving as a prerequisite for our World Championship team and a way to create a more competitive and professional international presence

## **Qualification Process for Adult Riders**

Adult riders have the opportunity to qualify for the USIHC National Team every six months by meeting the listed rider requirements by January 1st or June 1st of the current calendar year. The team of riders will be announced including any new team members within 10 days of the start of each six month term. Once initially qualified, team members remain eligible for the team for a 12 month time span. After the 12 month time span, riders must meet the eligibility requirements for the USIHC National Team on the January 1st or June 1st deadlines.

Rider Requirements:

- Be a current USIHC Member
- Be 22 years old or over that calendar year
- Riders must be compliant with the Code of Conduct for Team Members.
- Riders must be U.S. Citizens or holders of Green Cards for at least one year prior to the start of the team term.
- Riders must participate in one USIHC Nationally Ranked or World Ranked In-Person Competition on United States soil prior to the team admission deadlines. The goal of this rule is to promote participation in our shows in the U.S. with the intention of building more community ties between team members and the community at large. Riders may compete in any class for which they are eligible per USIHC rules, the score the rider receives must be officially recorded but does not need to contribute to the rider's ranking. In addition to the traditional FEIF Classes the USIHC classes such as the horse based classes may be used to fulfill this requirement . A list of host farms willing to lease out horses for this purpose will be provided upon request.
- Be listed within the current U.S. National Rankings in one or more of the following classes with an average score of 6.0 or above: T1, T2, V1, F1, T3, T4, V2, F2. Or be ranked within the top three fastest times in the current U.S. National Rankings in P2.
- Pace riders competing outside of the U.S. may qualify for the team via an eligible average of two times recorded in the current World Ranking list. This is due to no virtual show option existing currently in P2. Riders with a qualifying time may notify the team leader and upon confirmation of eligibility join the team.

## **Qualification Process for Young Riders**

Young riders may qualify for six month terms in the USIHC National Team by meeting the listed requirements by January 1st or June 1st of the current calendar year. The team of riders will be announced including any new team members within 10 days of the start of each six month term.

Rider Requirements:

- Be a current USIHC Member
- Be age 16-21 that calendar year
- Riders must be compliant with the Code of Conduct for Team Members.
- Riders must be U.S. Citizens or holders of Green Cards for at least one year prior to the start of the team term.
- Young riders must participate in one USIHC Nationally Ranked or World Ranked In-Person Competition on United States soil prior to the team admission deadlines. The goal of this rule is to promote participation in our shows in the U.S. with the intention of building more community ties between team members and the community at large. Riders may compete in any class for which they are eligible per USIHC rules, the score the rider receives must be officially recorded but does not need to contribute to the rider's ranking. In addition to the traditional FEIF Classes the USIHC classes such as the horse based classes may be used to fulfill this requirement . A list of host farms willing to lease out horses for this purpose will be provided upon request.
- Be listed within the current U.S. National Rankings in one or more of the following classes with an average score of 6.0 or above: T1, T2, V1, V2, T3, T4. Or be listed within the current U.S. National Rankings in one or more of the following classes with an average score of 5.5 or above: F1, F2. Or be ranked within the top three fastest times in the current U.S. National Rankings in P2.
- Young pace riders competing outside of the U.S. may qualify for the team via an eligible time recorded in the current World Ranking list. This is due to no virtual show option existing currently in P2. Riders with a qualifying time may notify the team leader and upon confirmation of eligibility join the team.

### **Selection of Team Leader**

A Team Leader will serve 2 year terms. Official term will begin on January first of even calendar years and will end December 31st of the following odd calendar year. This will enable the Team Leader to serve for the year prior to a World Championship year and the year of World Championships. If a Team Leader is unable to serve their entire term they will be replaced as promptly as possible. Team Leaders can be nominated by any USIHC member via email to the USIHC Sport Leader. The Sport Leader will bring all nominations to the USIHC Board of Directors for a vote. Team Leaders may be present at that meeting to answer any questions the Board of Directors may have about their qualifications and merits as a Team Leader. Team Leaders must meet the following requirements:

- Maintain current USIHC Membership during the duration of their term
- Have extensive knowledge of the Icelandic horse sport and maintain current knowledge of FEIF and USIHC rules
- Must be U.S. Citizens or holders of Green Cards for at least one year prior to the start of the team term.
- May NOT be currently serving a term as a rider in the USIHC National Team

- Must notify the USIHC Sport Leader and Board of Directors and disclose any conflicts of interest involving team members including but not limited to loyalty and relationships to family and friends, financial or business interests, contractual or legal obligations, reputation or status. If a conflict of interest exists the USIHC Board of Directors will determine if and when the Team Leader may need to recuse themselves from certain decisions and will outline protocol for the Team Leader accordingly.

### **Selection of a Team Trainer**

A Team Trainer will serve a 1 year term. Official terms will begin on January 1st and end December 31st of that calendar year. If a Team Trainer is unable to serve their entire term they will be replaced as promptly as possible. Team Trainers can be nominated by joint decision between the Team Leader and USIHC Sport Leader. The Sport Leader will bring all nominations to the USIHC Board of Directors for a vote. Team Trainers may be present at that meeting to answer any questions the Board of Directors may have about their qualifications and merits as a Team Trainer. Team Trainers must meet the following requirements:

- Have extensive knowledge of the Icelandic horse sport and maintain current knowledge of FEIF and USIHC rules
- Have an exemplary record of professional success as a sport rider and coach on an international level
- May NOT be currently serving a term as a rider in the USIHC National Team
- Must notify the USIHC Sport Leader and Board of Directors and disclose any conflicts of interest involving team members including but not limited to loyalty and relationships to family and friends, financial or business interests, contractual or legal obligations, reputation or status. If a conflict of interest exists the USIHC Board of Directors will determine if and when the Team Leader may need to recuse themselves from certain decisions and will outline protocol for the Team Leader accordingly.

### **Code of Conduct for Team Members**

All team members including riders, team leaders, and team trainers agree to the following code of conduct:

1. I agree to abide by the rules, policies, and procedures of FEIF and the USIHC and acknowledge that my failure to do so may result in my immediate suspension from the team.
2. I agree to abide by the USIHC Trainer Code of Ethics. I understand that horse welfare, dignity, safety and health of horses are paramount and I commit to place them above all other interests.
3. I agree to act in a sportsmanlike manner toward my teammates and to all other persons at all events and competitions where I represent or may be perceived as representing the team. I recognize that I am an ambassador of my country and will conduct myself accordingly.
4. I understand that my attendance is required at 80% of team events and meetings unless I receive an excused absence from the Team Leader.

5. I understand that all communication and mitigation regarding team issues from the time the team is formed goes first through the Team Leader and ultimately the USIHC Board of Directors who has the authority to make all final decisions.
6. I will show team spirit and loyalty and will support my fellow team members to the best of my ability.
7. I agree to speak English as the team language at team meetings and team social gatherings to encourage a spirit of transparency and inclusivity.
8. I accept that drunken behavior will not be permitted, nor will use of recreational drugs.
9. I will proudly wear any and all of the team uniform clothing or competitive clothing I am asked to wear to whatever event the Team Leader requires unless expressly given permission otherwise by the Team Leader.
10. I understand that, in the event of possible suspension, I have the right to a hearing by the Team Leader and two other rider representatives selected by the riders. If the issue cannot be resolved within that group it will be appealed to the USIHC Board of Directors for a final decision.
11. Rider's are responsible for all costs associated with qualifying for or representing the USIHC National Team unless specifically announced or stated otherwise.

### **Rider's Strategic Planning Meeting**

At the beginning of each term the Team Leader will set a meeting for the USIHC National Team and a Strategic Plan will be formed for that term. Topics that will be addressed may include:

- Competition attendance / show circuit plans
- Opportunities for virtual coaching with the Team Trainer
- Opportunities for in person coaching with the Team Trainer
- Opportunities for learning more about the judge's perspective and furthering understanding of the rules and regulations for Sport Competitions
- Plans for supporting team members at competitions
- Plans for cultivating more experience and understanding for team members of the level and type of international competition that the World Championships presents.

### **Executive Committee Strategic Planning Meeting**

At the beginning of each term an executive committee made up of up to four volunteers, the USIHC Sport Leader, the USIHC. President, a volunteer USIHC member willing to help with organization, and a representative from the USIHC National Team. This group will meet to work on the following topics:

- Fundraising for team expenses and World Championships
- Financial support for team members
- Plans for supporting team members at competitions
- Plans for team apparel

### **National Training Team**

Concurrent to the establishment of the USIHC National Team a sub committee will be appointed by the USIHC Board of Directors to establish a USIHC National Training Team. This team will

be open to all USIHC members, and for a nominal fee, will provide educational tools to those interested in sport riding.