



FEIF INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ICELANDIC HORSE ASSOCIATIONS

## Overview of Changes and Clarifications in the R&R 2026 and the Sport Judges Guidelines 2026

- Full documents are available on the FEIF website: <https://www.feif.org/feif/documents/>
- New texts/changed texts in red.
- Deleted text was marked by striking it through
- Numbering has been adapted where relevant.

## Statutes

### Chapter 5.2: The Board

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- After the Delegates' Assembly, the FEIF Board shall propose a member of the Board, excluding the president, for the position of deputy president. The deputy shall be confirmed annually at the chairperson meeting. Should the suggested candidate not be confirmed by a simple majority, the FEIF Board shall present an alternative candidate from among its members for consideration and confirmation within two weeks.
- If the president is not able to fulfil their duties for a considerable period, the deputy president will assume the president's role for a maximum of 3 months. By the end of this period, an extraordinary Delegates' Assembly must be called to update member associations on the situation and to agree on a further course of action.

## General Rules and Regulations

### G2.1.8 About riders and handlers at breeding shows

The same rider ~~must~~ **should** present the same horse during the entire assessment. However, a **different** ~~new~~ rider may present the horse in the 2<sup>nd</sup> assessment. Riders ~~must~~ **should** be sober **and demonstrate respectful, correct riding** ~~show courteous riding~~. **Riders, owners, and handlers must behave fairly and courteously towards the show staff and officials.** and they as well as the owners/handlers of the horse shall be fair and courteous towards the show and its staff. ~~If not~~ **In case of misconduct**, the jury, **judges or show manager** can reprimand ~~the person in question~~, or **if necessary**, dismiss ~~them~~ **the persons involved** from the show.

### G3.5.4 Breeding programme for Icelandic horses

The breeding program aims at preservation and improvement of the Icelandic horse breed. Results from the FEIF / Icelandic breeding horse assessment system and estimated breeding values (BLUP) are used to select breeding horses, to realise and to monitor genetic gain in the population of Icelandic horses registered in WorldFengur

- It is not recommended to use horses in breeding that have an estimated breeding value below average.
- Stallions used in breeding that are born in the year 2000 or later shall have proof of parentage by DNA analysis or blood type and those who are born in 2006 or later by DNA analysis.
- **Stallions should not be used for insemination until they have confirmed natural covering.**
- Mares used in breeding should preferably have recorded DNA analysis in WorldFengur.

- All horses used in the breeding programme must be identified and registered according to the FEIF rules.
- Stallions and mares that are used in breeding should be free from genetic defects such as bone spavin and defects in reproductive organs.

### G3.5.5 Registration of mating

Each member country ~~must should~~ have a functional ~~procedure system~~ for registration of all matings in WorldFengur. Each mating record ~~must should~~ include the FEIF ID of both the stallion and the mare, covering method, date of arrival of the mare OR first mating and date of departure of the mare OR last mating.

~~The When a stallion supervisor is responsible for the registration of matings and ensuring it should be emphasized that the identity of the mare has been verified. In cases where the semen has been sent to a recipient, the mating record must should be based on a document from an authorized insemination technician confirming the recipient mare's identity where the identity of the recipient mare is verified.~~

### G3.5.6 Registration of horses born outside Iceland

A horse born outside Iceland can be registered in WorldFengur by the approved national breeding association in the nation state of its birth when:

- The horse is by a stallion and out of a mare, which are both registered in WorldFengur,
- The covering is registered in WorldFengur ~~and~~ or complete proof of parentage is available by DNA analysis and
- If the father of the horse is born in the year 2000 or later, then he must have proof of parentage. If he is born 2000-2005 this may be by DNA analysis or blood type. If he is born in 2006 and later this must only be by DNA analysis.

## G6.5 Sport competitions and breeding shows

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5. It is the responsibility of the FEIF Board to decide at the annual meeting, based on the recommendation of the FEIF Breeding Committee, no later than two years before the next World Championships, whether confirmation assessment shall be included in the event.

## G8.1 Saddles

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The saddle should be placed on the horse so that a major part of the girth is placed on the sternum. The saddle should neither cover the shoulder blades nor be weight bearing on the lumbar region in the standing horse. If the saddle is ~~misplaced too far back a warning can be given and~~ the combination may be subject to disciplinary measures according to the relevant rules for breeding shows or sports competitions.

## G8.2 Bits and bridles

Equipment which is listed on the FEIF website is allowed. The chain and/or the noseband must not be too tight. ~~For all noseband types a space of at least 1,5 cm For the noseband a space of at least 1.5cm for Hanoverian/drop nosebands and at least 1cm for English/combined nosebands must be kept between the noseband and the front of the horse's nose (nasal midline). ...~~

### G8.3.2.3 Alternative Shoes (Other Than Standard Iron Shoes)

All alternative ~~permanent~~ shoes are allowed without filling as long as the weight does not exceed the weight of standard iron shoes of the same size. If the shoeing is glued onto the hoof, an identical spare must be available for inspection at the equipment check.

Alternative ~~permanent~~ shoes must be used as manufactured without any modification.

Alternative ~~permanent~~ shoes must follow the same rules as normal shoes regarding fit and placement on the hoof.



## **G10.7. Disqualifications and Disciplinary measures Sport**

### **G10.7.1 Scope**

Rules concerning disqualification and disciplinary measures are valid for any event from the first moment the riders and/or horse(s) enter the area of the event until the moment the rider and/or horse(s) have left the event venue for the last time.

Riders are considered responsible for the horse(s) with which they are participating in any way.

### **G10.7.2 Violation of Rules**

Riders and their trainers/family/friends/persons involved must show courtesy and polite conduct. Violations of rules, code of conducts or unfair behaviour may be subject to disciplinary measures.

Any person is guilty of a violation of rules, who

- brings the name of the association and/or Icelandic horse (sport) into disrepute,
- treats a horse unfairly, makes excessive demands on it or hits it,
- violates established principles of the prevention of cruelty to animals act,
- competes with a horse, although the horse is suffering from an obvious infectious or contagious disease,
- uses substances which might artificially influence the performance of horse or rider
- does not heed an arbitration ruling
- is dishonest when registering, entering or participating in an event
- offends the code of conduct
- violates any other rules in the FEIF Sport Rules or in FEIF General Rules related to FEIF sport competitions.

### **G10.7.3 Disciplinary measures**

The following measures may be used alone or combined in case of violations of rules as listed in G10.7.2: if the Rules are breached:

- Warning (rider)
  - always announced by the speaker
  - may be registered by the national association of the rider
  - may be published by FEIF
- Elimination from a test or from a part of a test (combination rider/horse)
- Disqualification from an event (rider)
- Suspension (rider)

A warning may lead to forfeiture of the title in the respective test, upon decision by the Chief Judge.

Disqualification from an event includes forfeiture of marks, prizes and titles (if applicable) already given, and invalidation of records (see S3.5). This is also valid for a suspension based on a violation at an event.

Disqualification from an event and suspension ~~must~~ **should** always be imposed combined with a warning to be published by FEIF. The disciplinary measures are described in S18 Appendix 11: Cards and Disciplinary Measures.

### **G10.7.4 Register**

FEIF maintains a register containing all reports of warnings and suspensions reported to FEIF as a consequence of violating a rule described in this chapter and those reported in accordance with the respective chapter of the Statutes.

Warnings and suspensions shall be notified to FEIF within 2 weeks after the case was concluded. The notification shall be posted verifiably in registered post before the time limit expires or sent by email. If the notification is sent by email, FEIF must confirm the receipt of the email. A copy of the notification shall be sent to the parties of the case. FEIF does not take a stand with respect to the case in question



apart from ensuring that the decision was taken by a competent arbitration body of the member association in question.

### G10.7.5 Procedures

Disciplinary measures can be imposed by a member of the judge group at an event including the chief judge, by the Director of Sport (national or FEIF) or by the competition leader at the event. Disciplinary measures can also be imposed by a ring master after the acceptance by the Chief Judge.

Confirmation of a veterinary inspection is necessary before disciplinary measures can be imposed regarding horses suffering from infectious diseases or using substances which might artificially influence the performance of a horse.

If a person disagrees with their disciplinary measure, they can appeal this decision as described in G10.1-G10.5.

Members of the judge group at an event including the chief judge can show cards to indicate judging consequences and/or potential disciplinary measures (S18 Appendix 11: Cards and Disciplinary Measures). They are also entitled to impose disciplinary measures outside of a performance, in which case the actual showing of cards is not necessary. Any other person witnessing a potential violation of rules must inform a judge for eventual further actions.

In case of a card/disciplinary measure due to a violation of rules, the chief judge can decide to have it publicly announced via the competition speaker. Yellow and red cards are always announced. The speaker will only announce the reason/explanation of a card/disciplinary measure after permission of the Chief Judge.

For riders under 18 years of age who receive cards/disciplinary measures, the chief judge must call up their guardian(s) and explain to them the reasons for the card/disciplinary measure given, the severity of the violation and its consequences.

The Chief Judge cannot change the decision of the other judges regarding cards given.

The former Chapter G10.7.4: Disqualifications and Disciplinary measures including the table is deleted completely.

### G11.2 Code of Conduct for World Championship Judges

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- ~~In P1, PP1, and P2 the judge is replaced by a pace assistant, which can only be placed at positions where no marks are given.~~

### G11.3 Procedure in case of violation of the Code of Conduct

The Sport judge committee is collecting issues and announce them to the Director of Sport. The Director of Sport decides who is in the lead of the investigation.

#### Investigation:

- Step 1. Check with chief judge and/or competition leader/organiser
- Step 2. Interview with the concerned judge
- Step 3. **Proposal of disciplinary measures** ~~Proposition of warning/ban~~ to the Sport Committee
- Step 4. Approval of **disciplinary measures** ~~warning~~ by the Sport Committee
- Step 5. In case of a **suspension** ~~ban~~ the approval must be made by the Board of FEIF

## Breeding

### B3.3 Conformation

- The conformation is assessed when the horse is presented in hand and **even to some degree during the first assessment** of ridden abilities. After the preliminary assessment of conformation, the rider must have enough time to prepare the horse for the assessment of its ridden abilities.
- If a horse has been **fully assessed for conformation as a five-year-old or later**, and ~~received a total score~~, the owner can choose to use this last confirmation assessment ~~within the current calendar year~~, including measurements – except for length of hooves. The body



measurements and the conformation marks are taken from the last conformation assessment, and the horse is ~~must be~~ only shown for ridden abilities.

- Riders are entitled to one helper during the conformation ~~assessment judgement~~ of the horse.

### B10.3 FEIF International Breeding Judge Licence

The breeding judge licence is valid for a period of four years with expiration December 31. FEIF can renew the license when the judge has judged at least 400 horses according to the FEIF / Icelandic breeding horse assessment system and

- participated in two international breeding judge seminars during the four-year licence period and at least 7 online training sessions in the license period, or
- participated in one international breeding judge seminar during the four-year license period and at least 10 online training sessions in the license time period.

~~If the individual results at the training sessions during this four-year period deviate on average 0,25 or more from the concluded total scores for each session, the judge must pass a follow-up test described in B10.3.2.~~

Results from the training sessions are evaluated with the same system as is described in B10.2.3 for the breeding judge test. If the individual's results at the training sessions during the four-year license period is lower than 75%, the judge must pass a follow-up test described in B10.3.2.

### B11.1.8.2 Guidelines for the description of foals and young horses

#### 1. Conformation: 98 points

##### 1.1: ~~from poor [1] to well [7], 4 points~~ Size: from small [1] to tall [7] 4 points

~~Describes the physical development in consideration of the height of the horse. and muscularity. Description of the horse's body condition at the event is possible under remarks. The ideal horse [75] is well developed, with well-developed withers in regards of age, well-muscled and robust.~~

##### 1.3.2. Position: from low [1] to high [7], 8 points

Describes the lowest point of attachment to the trunk. Ideal [75] is an attachment which lies above the horizontal cross-section of the trunk. If the neck attaches right at the cross-section line of the trunk, it is a medium position [43]. ~~Is the attachment underneath the cross-section line it needs to be described in category [1] or [2].~~

##### 1.3.3 Texture: from coarse [1] to fine [7], 8 points

Describes the texture of the entire neck from coarse to fine where the ideal texture [75] is a light, but well-muscled neck that is thin at the throat.

##### 1.3.4. Topline: from concave [1] to convex [7], 10 points

Describes the shape of the topline, which ideally [75] is a pronounced convex bend from the withers to the poll.

##### 1.3.5 Raising of the neck: from low raised [1] to well raised [7], 6 points.

Describes the natural raising of the neck, i.e. the angle of the lower neckline where the ideal [75] is closer to a vertical line.

##### 1.5. Backline: from stiff [1] to swayback [7], 4 points

Describes the line of the back, starting at the end of the withers to the end of the loins (highest point of the croup). The ideal [43] is a strong backline where the whole line should neither be too straight nor too weak soft (swayback) [7].

##### 1.6. Slope of croup: from steep [1] to flat [7], 4 points

Describes the slope of the pelvis, from the point of the hip toward the seat bone/point of the buttock. The ideal [43] is approx. a 45° angle.



**1.7. Proportions:** 14 points

**1.7.2. Leg length:** from short [1] to long [7], 10 points

Describes the length of the legs, from the elbow to the sole. The legs should be as long as possible [75].

**1.7.3 Body format:** from short [1] to long [7], 4 points

Describes the length of the body where the ideal [43] is a horse that is neither too short or too long, in comparison with leg length.

**1.7.4 Balance:** from downhill [1] to uphill [7], 14 points

Describes the balance of the horse on the scale from downhill to uphill where the ideal horse [75] has high front quarters in comparison with hind quarters.

**2. Reactions:** from slow [1] to fast [75], 4 points

Describes the time of reaction from slow or hardly any reaction [1] to overreacting [7] where the ideal reaction is in the middle [43]

**3. Movements:** 98 points

**3.3. Height of movement:** from low [1] to high [7], 14 points

Describes the height of the movements in the front legs where high movements are ideal [75].

**3.4. Speed capacity:** from little [1] to much [7], 14 points **Ideal [7]**

Describes the ability of the horse to show speed in tölt or trot without losing beat, carriage or suppleness.

**3.8 Gaiting ability:** from diagonal [1] to lateral [7], 2 points

Describes the movement pattern of the horse where the ideal horse [43] shows the whole range from trot to gaiting ability (tölt/pace) with good sections of clear tölt and distinct separation of the gaits. The extremes are a horse that only moves in trot [1] or a horse that only moves in pace [7].

## Sport

**S1.6 Invalid performances ~~Disciplinary measures~~**

A performance is invalid when indicated by 2 or more judges by a grey card. An invalid performance leads to the elimination of a horse/rider combination from the performance (see S18.1 Appendix11). The consequences of the elimination are described in the following chapters.

In chapter S1.6.1 and S1.6.2 and 1.6.3 the word “test” has been replaced by performance where appropriate.

**S1.6.2 Elimination from a performance test with partial marks**

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- there is a serious disruption in the communication and mutual understanding between horse and rider, resulting in a loss of control ~~the horse shows serious disobedience;~~<sup>1</sup>

**S.1.6.3 ~~Disciplinary measures~~ Consequences regarding shoeing**

**S1.6.3.1 Incorrect shoeing**

If a horse/combination is found to **violate** ~~break~~ the rules regarding shoeing when selected for an equipment check, it will be eliminated from that test and all previous ridden tests at the current tournament **including the forfeiture of any prizes already given (see S18 Appendix 11: Cards and Disciplinary Measures)**. Reshoeing is possible with the permission of the chief judge and the rider is allowed to start in the following tests.

<sup>1</sup> This rule is valid from the moment the horse is starting to enter the track to the moment the horse has left the track.



### S1.6.3.2 Loss of a shoe

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- When the loss of a shoe is noticed in the equipment check, it will result in elimination **from the performance** in the preliminaries. In the final, it will result in a zero for the last section.

Chapter S1.6.4 Disqualification has been deleted completely – see chapter G10.7 and S18

### S1.7 Consequences regarding equipment check

A horse/rider combination is eliminated from a performance with no marks if

- the horse is unable to be checked when selected for an equipment check as determined by the Chief Judge and after being given ample opportunity to calm down before the check;
- the horse/combination is found to break the rules regarding bleeding or tack when selected for equipment check.

A rider who skips the equipment check will be disqualified from the event and eliminated from all tests including the forfeiture of any prizes already given.

A violation of the equipment rules (see G8) concerning sports competitions leads to an elimination of the performance. Additional disciplinary measures may apply if specified in a chapter under G8.

### S1.1 Withdrawals

Riders and horses are expected to be fit for the preliminary rounds and pace tests unless stated differently latest one hour before the start of the test concerned. Withdrawal after this time limit will only be accepted if the horse (by a veterinary surgeon who has examined the horse on site) or rider (by a doctor) is declared unfit, or by decision of the Chief Judge; otherwise, the rider is disqualified from the event including forfeiture of marks and prizes already given. **For withdrawals between rounds in pace see S3.6.1.3.** ~~In case this concerns too late withdrawal between rounds in a pace event the combination is only eliminated from that test.~~

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In competitions without teams, riders and horses are expected to be fit for the finals unless stated differently ~~one~~ **two** hours before the first final for that relevant test begins. If the rider/horse combination is preregistered for preliminaries that are scheduled after this first final, and the rider has only one horse in this final, the rider is allowed to withdraw from it until 30 minutes after the end of the last preregistered preliminary of the horse/rider combination. Withdrawal after this time limit will only be accepted if the horse (by a veterinary surgeon who has examined the horse on site) or the rider (by a doctor) is declared unfit or, in exceptional circumstances, by decision of the Chief Judge; otherwise, the rider is disqualified from the event including forfeiture of marks and prizes already given. **The disqualification in published by FEIF and registered with 2 red cards (see S18.4, Appendix 11: Cards and Disciplinary Measures).** ~~The Chief Judge shall make an immediate report to the FEIF Registrar of Bans and Warnings issuing the rider a two-week ban starting from the Monday following the last day of the event.~~

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If a rider has two or more horses in either the A-, B-, or C-final, they have to decide with which horse they will start in each final at least ~~one~~ **two** hours before the start of each final. The other horse(s) of this rider will be ranked in the order they had in the preliminary round in the last position(s) of that final. Subsequent riders can take the free position(s) according to S2.5.

### S2.3.1 Preliminary rounds with one rider on the track

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- **Entrance onto the oval track and transitions between sections of the test play a role in the judges' assessment of "connection".**

### S2.6 Tie breaks

In the case of equal marks for the first place in any final (**A-, B-, or C-final**), the judges determine the placing using the marks they have already given and showing the ranking, where they can only use the first position once. If horses have equal marks in other than first place of the respective final, they will share the place.

### S3.2 Judges

~~A licensed FEIF Breeding (as listed on the FEIF website) or Gæðingakeppni judge (as listed on the Landssamband hestamannafélaga website)~~ **Pace assistants** may be employed in any required position for pace track tests/**races (except P2)** where the duties are limited to showing a flag to indicate whether



a horse is in pace or not. **Pace assistants may not be employed during World Championships. Pace assistants should be properly trained and approved by their national associations.**

### S3.5 Records

For a record time to be recognised by FEIF, the following conditions must be met:

- the track must meet the requirements described in the FEIF Rules and Regulations
- the use of start boxes is required in P1 and P3
- the correct working of the start boxes must be monitored by video recording
- the use of electronic time keeping equipment is required
- in P1 and P3 the time keeping starts running when the front gates of the start boxes start to open
- in P1 and P3 the finish has to be filmed with video equipment connected to the time keeping system, able to distinguish between riders
- the wind speed in the direction of the race must not exceed a speed of 5.4 m/s and should be measured with a **certified** wind gauge ~~meeting the requirements set by the FEIF Sport Committee located at~~ **located within 5 meters** of the side of the **pace track near the middle of the timed section approximately 1.5m above the ground**
- the rider must have adhered to the racing rules
- **the race was performed completely following the rules in “Rules & Regulations”.**

#### S3.6.1.6 Start with start boxes or automated starting machines

When starting boxes or automated starting machines are used all riders are allowed **1.0 minute** ~~2-0 minutes~~ to bring their horses into a start box; the start should be performed not later than 30 seconds after the last horse has entered its start box. If a rider doesn't succeed within this time limit, they are eliminated from the specific round.

#### S3.6.1.7 and S3.6.3.2 Judges

Nine judges are needed.

A minimum of five judges is required at WorldRanking events. The other positions may be filled using pace assistants.

~~Pace assistants should be properly trained and approved by their national association:~~

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When start boxes are used one extra judge or pace assistant is needed to supervise the starting procedure behind the starting line. The judges or pace assistants have coloured flags in the same colours as the riders. If elimination is necessary, the judge or pace assistant will show the relevant colour, if the horse's run is OK, they will show a white flag. As an alternative, judges or pace assistants may have a red and a **white green** flag. On demand of the speaker, the judges placed from 50 m to 250 m line show **white green** flags if the horse was in pace in their section. The judges show red flags if the horse was not in pace in their section. If at least one red flag is shown the run is considered not valid.

#### S3.6.2.3 Judges

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The judges show **white green** flags if the horse was in pace in their section. The judges show red flags if the horse was not in pace in their section. If at least one red flag is shown the run is considered not valid.

#### S3.6.4.4 Start

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Between the 25 m mark and the 50 m mark (beginning of the timed stretch) change into racing pace. On crossing the 50 m mark time keeping starts at a visual signal. After the 150 m mark (end of the timed stretch) and before the end marker at 200 m, the horse has to have returned to tölt, trot or walk. For high marks the horse **must be** ~~shall have~~ returned to walk.

### S7.7 Punctuality

In oval track tests and dressage tests, the rider shall be present with the horse in the collecting ring at least three minutes before the planned start of the test for that rider. In pace track tests, all riders involved shall be present with their horse in the collecting ring at least three minutes before the planned start of the test. **Otherwise the combination is eliminated from the performance (see S18.2 Appendix 11)** ~~current FEIF General and Sport Rules apply.~~



## Appendices

### S8 WorldRanking

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7. At each competition a Chief Judge must be appointed. Chief judges must be a FEIF International Sport Judge when both national and FEIF International judges are available.

### S9.4 Content of the Examination

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The examination is divided into three parts all of which must be passed for the candidate to receive a license or recommendation for a license<sup>2</sup>. Candidates must pass the theory exam (i.e. written and oral parts) before they are eligible to try the practical exam (i.e. judgement of live horses). The practical exam will then be held on a separate occasion in the same year.

### S9.5 Execution of the Practical Portion

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The process for examining PP1 is slightly different. The candidates and examiners all judge the horses together in ~~three~~ ~~two~~ sections. Each horse will make ~~three~~ ~~two~~ sprints. During the first sprint the candidates and examiners give marks for the laying into pace (judge position 1, between 0m-50m) ~~and the quality of the first half of the pace sprint~~. During the second sprint the candidates and examiners give marks for the ~~second half of the pace~~ quality of pace in the pace sections (judge positions 2&3, between 50m and 150m markers) ~~and the slowing to walk~~. During the third sprint the candidates and examiners give marks for the slowing down (judge position 4, between 150m and 200m).

### S9.7 Re-Examination

International license candidates must pass all parts of the exam to be recommended as a FEIF International Sport Judge. ~~It is possible to arrange a re-examination if the candidate does not pass the oral or written parts 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).

Candidates who fail one or both parts of the theory exam must re-take both parts of the theory exam again before they are eligible to take the practical exam. Candidates who fail the practical judging exam may re-take the practical judging exam without re-taking the passed theory exam at the next available opportunity (and no more than 2 years after the first attempt). ~~The re-examination must take place within one year of the original license examination.~~

Chapter S18 has been added to the Sport R&R 2026 - <https://www.feif.org/feif/documents/>

