New rules aimed to reduce the prevalence of bone spavin in Icelandic horses

Introduction:
Bone spavis is degenerative joint disease or an osteoarthrosis (OA) of the distal tarsal joints. The disease is commonly found in Icelandic horses, affecting their durability although often subclinically manifested. The development of the disease starts at young age in many cases and the initiation of the disease has been found to be unrelated to the use of the horses for riding. The degeneration of the distal tarsal joints is progressiv in nature. The progression may however be slow and the prevalence of radiographic signs of bone spavin (RS) is strongly correlated to age.
The heritability of age-at-onset of RS, reflecting the predisposition of bone spavin, was estimated to be 0.33. Breeding selection based on radiographic examination of the distal tarsus is therefore expected to reduce the prevalence of bone spavin in the population. It is most important to exclude stallions and mares that develop RS early in life as they are likely to have the highest predisposition for bone spavin.

The new FIZO rules
•All stallions must be radiographed according to bone spavin prior to the first breeding show from the age of 5
oOne examination of each stallion
oThe examination can be performed from the beginning of the year that the stallion becomes 5 year
•Central interpretation organized in each country
•The results are recorded in World Fengur
oBy the person responsible for registration in WF in each country

•Radiographic projections required
oLateromedial (LM)
oDorsolateral – plantaromedial oblique (DL - PlMO)
oPlantarolateral – dorsomedial oblique (PlL – DMO)
oDorsoplantar (DPl)

•Rules for identification of the radiographs
oThe radiographs must be identified at exposure in a way that is not possible to change afterwards
oName of the horse
oMicrochip ID after scanning of the horse, or a freeze marking
oDate
oIdentification of the limb: L /R