



FEIF Instructor & Trainer Matrix

Malmö 2013

English

Introduction

With the aim of intensifying the international exchange in development and education, and to secure equal standards in education, the **FEIF Instructor and Trainer Matrix** (appendix 1) has been developed by the FEIF-Education Committee, and was approved by the FEIF Board.

In February 2006 agreement has been reached amongst most FEIF countries, and each national organisation will:

- classify their instructor licences to the - competence based - levels 1-4 according to the definitions of the FEIF Instructor and Trainer Matrix;
- mutually acknowledge each other's instructor licences;
- enter their instructor registers (levels 1-4) into a database which will be published on the FEIF website;
- mutually acknowledge attendance at each other's instructor seminars as valid activities for the renewal of the instructor licence (if applicable);
- aim to organise national or international instructor exams according to the required competence level 1-3. Permission to run an international examination is granted by the FEIF Education Committee. For the instructor examinations, an assessor of FEIF (nominated by the Board) should normally be invited;

Note: FEIF does NOT intend to standardise the various education systems of the countries, but to seek international acknowledgement of comparable qualifications.

The FEIF instructor and trainer matrix provides information on the minimum common standard for instructors and trainers at 4 different levels. The 'matrix agreement' ensures mutual recognition of comparable standards of 4 different instructor and trainer levels by each FEIF member association, which has signed the matrix.

Each year national education departments of each member association provide FEIF with a list of instructors and trainers who are qualified, and (if applicable) who currently hold a teaching licence. This list is published on the FEIF website. In practice this means the following:

- Being listed on the FEIF instructor and trainer list guarantees the recognition by all FEIF member associations, which signed the matrix agreement, that the instructor and/or trainer has undergone a mutually acknowledged training in any of the member countries.
- If a person wants to move from one FEIF country to another, national associations should be in a position to advise instructors and trainers listed on the FEIF instructor and trainer list from another FEIF country, on (a) how the national system works in the new country, and (b) on what steps need to be taken to gain a full recognition (and a national licence) in the new country.
- An incoming FEIF instructor and trainer will not automatically get a national licence (if a licence system exists).
- An incoming instructor will not automatically be allowed a place on a training course for the next level.

FEIF recommends that education departments prepare and publish clear guidelines of how an incoming introduction and trainer (at all levels) will gain a national licence, or full freedom to teach and train in the new country. Ideally, national associations would consider devising a clear APL (approved prior learning) system, to ensure smooth mobility for instructors and trainers across FEIF member countries.

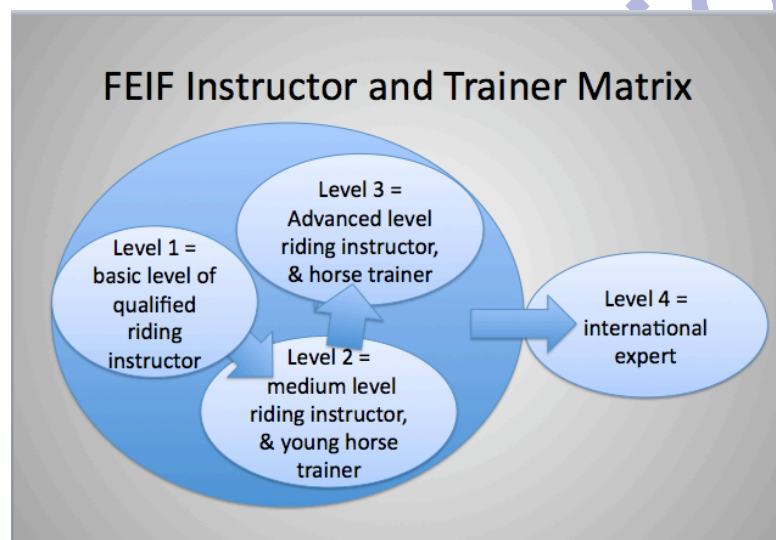
The FEIF Instructor & Trainer Matrix

The aim of the matrix is to provide a commonly agreed overview of what level of expertise is required from instructors and trainers at any given level. All FEIF countries, which have their own independent education system, and has signed up to the matrix, has agreed to recognise qualifications and competences gained in another member country, particularly for the purpose of further training offered by the national Icelandic horse association.

Each level of the FEIF Matrix is defined by a set of minimum competences shared by all countries that an instructor and trainer is expected to demonstrate. Usually, this means that instructors and trainers may well be more competent in certain areas of expertise than outlined below. It is understood that a level 2 or 3 instructor is competent in everything that is described in the lower qualification. In addition, they may also need further competences or qualifications (such as the young-horse trainer, or the horse trainer) which are required for the higher level.

Each National Association is responsible for determining their own education system and their own rules. This includes the prerequisites, training, examining arrangements, and the methods adopted for demonstrating the required competences of instructors.

The figure below shows the four levels of the FEIF Instructor and Trainer Matrix.



Level 1 Instructors are able to teach beginners and pleasure riders in basic riding skills and gaited riding with a strong emphasis on horsemanship in keeping, handling and riding the horse.

Level 2 Instructors are able to teach leisure riders as well as competition riding up to intermediate level. This qualification may – but does not always – include proven competences in the training of young horses.

Level 3 Instructors are able to teach riders at all levels in different types of sport and breeding events. This qualification includes proven competences in the training of young horses, and in training horses to an advanced level.

Level 4 instructors are international experts able to teach and train other instructors and trainers, horses and riders at all levels. (See appendix 3)

The following sections define the minimum requirements of competence for each level of instructor and trainer.

FEIF Instructor & Trainer Matrix

description of competences

revised Strasbourg 2013



Instructor & Trainer Matrix

	Level 1 - Instructors are able to teach riders in basic riding skills and gait riding with strong emphasis on horsemanship in keeping, handling and riding the horse.	Level 2 – Instructors & trainers are able to teach riders to intermediate level	Level 3 - Instructors & trainers are able to teach riders at all levels in different types of sport and breeding shows, and train horses to all levels.
Pre-requisites	<i>None. Some countries offer a series of riding badges or other pre-instructor qualifications</i>	<i>Level 1 instructor</i>	<i>Level 2 instructor plus young-horse trainer qualification (see below). The level 3 qualification usually includes the horse trainer</i>
<p>Ethical behaviour: at all times, riding instructors and trainers must aim for and uphold the highest standards of honesty in all dealings with clients, colleagues and the general public.</p> <p>It is equally important that riding instructors and trainers demonstrate fairness and insist on high welfare standards in all dealings with horses.</p>			
Knowledge and understanding – teaching, training, general matters			
Riding principles	<i>General understanding of:</i>	<i>Sound understanding of:</i>	<i>Advanced understanding of:</i>
	seats: such as 3-point, or deep seat, light seat	seats: such as 3-point or deep seat, light seat, jumping seat	seats: such as 3-point or deep seat, light seat, jumping seat
	aids: seat, reins, legs, voice and whip	in young horse training higher complexity in advanced lessons aids: seat, reins, legs, voice and whip: in young horse training higher complexity in advanced lessons	in young horse training higher complexity in advanced lessons aids: seat, reins, legs, voice and whip in young horse training higher complexity in advanced lessons
	all gaits of the Icelandic horse	all gaits of the Icelandic horse:	all gaits of the Icelandic horse

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	<p>tack: proper fitting and use of: saddles, bits, bridles, safety and other equipment</p> <p>basic dressage exercises</p> <p>riding in different environments: legal aspects riding etiquette and adherence to appropriate codes (traffic, countryside, etc.)</p> <p>understanding different requirements for horses for different purposes</p>	<p>training of 4-gaited horses basic pace training tack: proper fit and use of: saddles and equipment, bits + details about function, bridle, safety equipment, training aids</p> <p>(basic) dressage exercises and how to use them for improvement of gaits</p> <p>riding in different environments: legal aspects, riding etiquette and adherence to appropriate codes (traffic, countryside, etc.) competitions understanding different requirements of horses for different purposes “read” the horse and train accordingly knowledge of conformation (quality and function)</p>	<p>training of all 5 gaits pace training tack: proper fit and use of: saddles and equipment, bits + more details about function, bridle, safety equipment, training aids + function and use in detail: advanced dressage exercises and the use for improving gaits & application of suppling/collecting work</p> <p>riding in different environments: legal aspects, riding etiquette and adherence to appropriate codes (traffic, countryside, etc.) competitions understanding different requirements for horses for different purposes + training “read” the horse and train accordingly in-depth knowledge of conformation (quality and function) + of criteria for breeding assessment</p>
Around the horse	<p><i>General knowledge of:</i></p> <p>individual horse care</p> <p>shoeing feeding</p>	<p><i>Sound knowledge of:</i></p> <p>individual horse care</p> <p>shoeing feeding</p>	<p><i>Advanced knowledge of:</i></p> <p>individual horse care</p> <p>good practice in keeping horses, shoeing & balance problems in shoeing specialist knowledge in feeding of horses in training, competition, breeding</p>

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	general health care common diseases animal welfare	health care issues common diseases animal welfare general knowledge of the principles in feeding of horses in training, competition, and breeding	specific health care issues common diseases animal welfare breeding grassland management specialist knowledge in feeding of horses in training, competition, and breeding
Teaching Skills	<i>Pedagogy and didactics at a general level</i>	<i>Pedagogy and didactics at an intermediate level</i>	<i>Pedagogy and didactics at an advanced level, appropriate for rider and horse</i>
	use appropriate teaching content apply appropriate didactics safety be able to use different approaches according to students' needs	use appropriate teaching content apply appropriate didactics safety be able to use different approaches according to students' needs	use appropriate teaching content apply appropriate didactics safety be able to use different approaches according to student's needs
Training	<i>Training skills - can demonstrate:</i>	<i>Training skills – can apply:</i>	<i>Training skills – can demonstrate and apply:</i>
	basic horse training and understanding of bio-mechanics	new methods for advanced riders focused training mental preparation horse training and biomechanics young horses competition horses	new methods and training styles for advanced riders focused training mental preparation training and biomechanics young horses competition horses
General	<i>General knowledge of:</i>	<i>Sound knowledge of:</i>	<i>Advanced knowledge of:</i>
	history of riding & horsemanship: origin, breeding (Icelandic horses), riding horse behaviour (consequences for practical	history of riding & horsemanship: origin, breeding (Icelandic horses), riding horse behaviour (consequences for practical	history of riding & horsemanship: origin, breeding (Icelandic horses), riding horse behaviour (consequences for practical

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	<p>handling and riding):</p> <p>knowledge of Icelandic horse organisations</p> <p>preventing accidents in keeping and riding a horse</p> <p>first aid for horse and rider</p> <p>business management: awareness of customer-oriented business</p>	<p>handling and riding):</p> <p>'read' the horse (different character types of horses)</p> <p>knowledge of Icelandic horse organisations</p> <p>rules and regulations for competition and breeding shows</p> <p>preventing accidents in keeping and riding a horse</p> <p>first aid for horse and rider</p> <p>business management: good understanding of customer-oriented business</p>	<p>handling and riding):</p> <p>"read" the horse (different characters of horses)</p> <p>knowledge of Icelandic horse organisations</p> <p>rules and regulations for competition and breeding shows</p> <p>possibility to specialize in an certain area, e.g. judges' education, etc.</p> <p>preventing accidents in keeping and riding a horse</p> <p>first aid for horse and rider</p> <p>business management: thorough understanding of customer-oriented business</p>
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Horse Skills			
Riding Skills	<i>Good practical riding skills</i>	<i>Extended practical riding skills at intermediate competition level</i>	<i>Extended practical riding skills on the highest competition level</i>
	<p>basic gaits + tölt</p> <p>basic and correct dressage movements</p> <p>aids</p> <p>seats, such as: 3-point or deep seat, light seat</p> <p>exercises to make the horse supple</p>	<p>basic gaits + tölt + pace</p> <p>different training phases</p> <p>identify problems and find solutions to improve the horse</p> <p>intermediate dressage riding</p> <p>aids</p> <p>seats, such as 3-point or deep seat, light seat, jumping seat</p> <p>exercises to make the horse supple</p> <p>collecting exercises</p>	<p>basic gaits + tölt + pace</p> <p>different training phases</p> <p>identify problems and find a range of solutions to improve the horse</p> <p>comprehensive dressage riding</p> <p>aids</p> <p>seats such as 3-point or deep seat, light seat, jumping seat</p> <p>exercises to make the horse supple</p> <p>sound grasp of appropriate collecting work</p>

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	achieve progress over time in a training schedule	achieve progress over time in a training schedule	achieve progress over time in a training schedule
Ground work	<i>Basic skills in ground work, e.g.:</i>	<i>Intermediate skills in groundwork, e.g.:</i>	<i>Advanced skills in groundwork, e.g.:</i>
	leading a horse from different positions riding with a hand horse (in walk, trot and canter) basics in lunging	leading a horse from different positions, range of exercises from the ground riding with a hand horse (in walk, trot and canter) basics in lunging double lunge	leading a horse from different positions, range of training and therapeutic exercises riding with a hand horse for training purposes complex lunging exercises double lunge

The young-horse trainer

The **young-horse trainer** (a necessary element for the level 3 instructor qualification) is able to start an Icelandic horse and provide it with a solid foundation for general riding or more specialised training, normally within 3 months / 10 weeks

Prerequisites	<i>Normally, the young- horse trainer has several years of experience with and around the horse, plus a recognized qualification, such as Level 1 riding instructor, or similar.</i>
Age of trainer	<i>Normally, the young-horse trainer is at least 18 years old.</i>
Number of horses	<i>Normally, 4 horses which are deemed to be physically and mentally ready, and which have not undergone any ridden training, should be shown for the test. The precise number of horses to be presented at the test depends on the rules of the national association.</i>
Age of eligible horses	<i>Refer to national regulations.</i>
Good practice	<i>The physical and mental state, and the potential separation of the gaits of all horses to be trained, is carefully recorded by officials at the beginning of the training period.</i>

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Professionalism and Ethics	
	<p>Young-horse trainers are required abide by the FEIF code of conduct</p> <p>Honesty in all dealings with customers</p> <p>Maintain fairness and welfare of the horse in all aspects (keep the horse, training and rest)</p> <p>Good communication skills and dealings with customers</p>
Knowledge and understanding	
Around the horse	<i>The young-horse trainer is able to:</i>
Reading the horse	<p>assess conformation and draw conclusions about potential and limitations of riding ability and, gait distribution</p> <p>assess healthy horse, and fitness for training</p> <p>assess the maturity and learning ability of the horse</p> <p>assess training needs and outcomes</p> <p>apply the principles of horse psychology to the training needs of the horse.</p>
Training principles	<p><i>The young-horse trainer has good knowledge of:</i></p> <p>biomechanics of the horse</p> <p>ground work and working loose</p> <p>lunging and double lunging</p> <p>driving from the ground</p> <p>hand horse riding</p>
Riding principles	<p><i>The young-horse trainer has good knowledge of:</i></p> <p>principles of training</p> <p>understanding and training of the gaits</p> <p>training schedules for individual units, e.g. leg yielding, half halts or <i>rein back</i>.</p>

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	making the most of different environments (e.g. indoors, out doors, traffic, etc) effect of the different seats
General	<i>the young-horse trainer has good knowledge of:</i> use and function of equipment and tack use and function of shoeing keeping horses and natural requirements of the horse principles of feeding health and welfare issues legal issues

The horse trainer

The horse trainer is able to train and prepare a horse for any level of competition or breeding class within the limitations of the natural ability of the horse.	
<i>Based on the competences of the level 3 instructor AND the young-horse trainer, and possibly other professional qualifications, the horse trainer has extensive knowledge and understanding of:</i>	
	how to keep horses how to train horses to the highest level of refined performance how to present horses at competitions and shows / for assessment (sport and breeding) sound knowledge concerning organisation and rules of sport and breeding classes give a oral or written assessment of the natural ability, training level and training needs of a horse after a short ride

Level 4 instructor description

The award of level 4 instructor is up to each member association.

Several, but not necessarily all, of the following descriptors will apply to any person who becomes a level 4 Instructor

Competences for a Level 4 Instructor – international expert:

- Candidate has to have worked many years training horses on a professional level, and already hold a level 3 instructor qualification (necessary!);
- Several years of teaching experience, which includes students at the highest levels of riding;
- Candidates should have experience as examiner of level 2 and 3 instructors, and / or contribute to the development of education system, including CPD (continuing professional development / Fortbildung) events;
- Level 4 instructors need to be engaged in active learning and personal development on a regular basis;
- Candidates have to share something original and innovative about horsemanship in form of teaching, lectures and/or publications e.g. in acknowledged magazines or books, or video materials;
- Candidates have gained a good international reputation for professional work, and be able to inspire others;
- Candidates need to be seen to actively support and contribute to the Icelandic horse world, the promotion of good riding, and the welfare of the horse;
- Level 4 instructors needs to show awareness of their responsibility as a trainer of future teachers, and have sound knowledge of didactic and pedagogical principles, and an awareness of current developments;
- Candidates need to be respected as a good colleague and a role model!

Haarlem, Oct 2011