Education Continuing Education Policy Update

All USIHC certified trainers and instructors must fulfill a standard Continuing Education requirement in order to uphold the standards of quality horse training and instruction, keep in touch with modern research and maintain a regular commitment to upholding standards of equine welfare.

Every USIHC trainer/instructor is responsible for fulfilling a minimum of 16 seminar units every three years, with each unit being equivalent to 45 minutes of instruction. This will begin the date of certification and end the 31st of December three years after the date of certification. If the continuing education is successfully completed during the specified timeframe, the next compliance period will begin January 1st of the following calendar year. For example, a trainer certified in July of 2025 would have until December 31st 2028 to fulfill 16 seminar units of instruction. They would then have the time frame of January 1st 2029- December 31st 203 to fulfill their next 16 seminar instruction units.

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All seminars organized by the USIHC, IPZV, FT or any other professional development seminars by any FEIF member countries are allowed to be used *provided that a form signed by the seminar coordinator is provided to the Education Committee by the end of February of the year following the seminar.*

Seminars that are not pre-approved due to the above clause must be submitted for approval within one month of the seminar. In order for a seminar to be accepted by the USIHC, it must be publicly advertised and have a particular focus, theme or topic relevant to the work of an Icelandic trainer and riding instructor. General riding lessons do not fulfill this requirement, neither are watching lessons within a clinic setting. For continuing education credit the applicant must be part of the primary target audience of the session.

If an applicant has any doubt, they should contact the education chair ahead of time to ensure that the seminar they have chosen to attend, and how they intend to participate, will fulfill the continuing education requirement. The advertisement for the seminar should be provided as well as a lesson plan for the session or a seminar schedule if the seminar will span multiple days.

This policy will take effect January 1st, 2025. All USIHC trainers and instructors certified before this date will have their first three year continuing education period begin January 1st, 2025. Such trainers may submit continuing education credits from 2024 provided that they fit the above stated requirements. In this case their first continuing education period would span January 1st, 2024 to December 31st, 202.

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