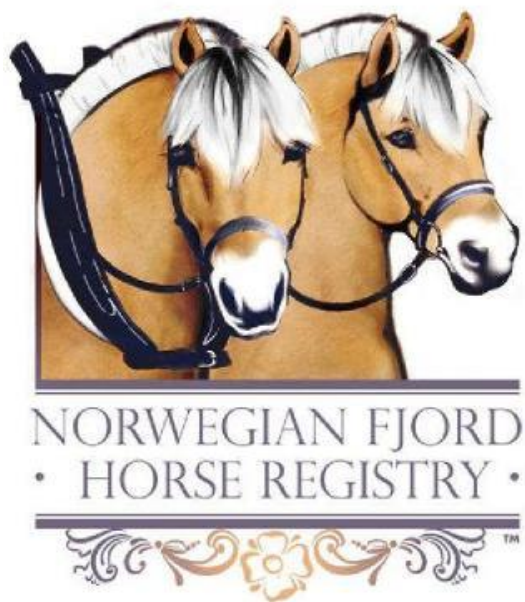


NORWEGIAN FJORD HORSE REGISTRY EVALUATION HANDBOOK

SECTION 1



2019

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SECTION 1

EVALUATION PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

PREFACE

It is with great pleasure that the Evaluation Committee (EC) of the Norwegian Fjord Horse Registry (NFHR) presents this Handbook. It is still a “work in progress” and your feedback is welcome!

The EC wishes to thank all the people that have been involved in the development of this program. Special thanks go out to the Board of Directors, past and present, the Evaluation Committees, past and present, to the Evaluators, both European and American, that have helped in its development and presentation, and to all the participants of the past that have contributed feedback to the system. No individual names are listed, because the list would be too great to complete, and the accidental omission of a person would be an injustice. Suffice to say that the efforts of all the people that have contributed to the American Evaluation Program from its inception in 1984 are deeply appreciated by those of us who love the Fjord Horse.

“The Norwegian Fjord Horses of North America are largely the product of a selective breeding program of the mother country Norway. Though Fjord Horses may have been bred for several thousand years, the modern Fjord Horse is the result of the needs, desires, and environmental factors regarding animal power relating to the lives of rural people living on Norway’s mountainous west coast during the past 150 years. The body size, form, and movement of the Fjord Horse changed from decade to decade depending on what the horse was to be used for. As the Fjord Horse changed, Evaluators helped the owners and breeders of Fjord Horses in Norway identify the desirable and undesirable qualities of individual animals to further the overall breeding program.

The NFHR evaluation program is designed to identify desirable and undesirable characteristics regarding the exterior of the Fjord Horse with the standard conformation test. Through performance tests, the interior qualities such as disposition, character, and the willingness of the horse to do work can be evaluated. These tests, both conformation and performance, are based on a written breed standard. Each individual horse is evaluated as it compares to the breed standard.

The NFHR evaluation program is voluntary and is designed to be an information and educational tool for owners, breeders, buyers and handlers. Through the evaluation program the NFHR is committed to preserving the five colors of the Fjord Horse breed and the diversity in body form, from the heavier body to the lighter framed Fjord.”¹

¹ Taken from an article by Phillip Odden titled: “NFHR Evaluation program 2008.”

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Because the NFHR Evaluation system is a voluntary program, its ultimate success depends upon its acceptance and use by Fjord owners nationwide. It is a carefully controlled system that evaluates the Fjord Horse against our NFHR Breed Standard which is modeled after the Breed Standard in Norway, the “mother” country. Each horse is evaluated according to the Breed Standard and not against another participant. It is not a “horse show” and is not judged as such. There are three parts to the evaluation: The Conformation/Movement tests for horses of all ages, the Family Fjord tests, and Performance tests for horses three years and older in riding, driving and draft. Our program has evolved from the programs in Norway and Holland and has been tailored to the specific ways we use the Fjord Horse in North America. This program is overseen by the Evaluation Committee of the Norwegian Fjord Horse Registry and approved by the Board of Directors. The Evaluation Committee’s function is to continue the development of the evaluation process, making modifications as needed to ensure an equitable and user-friendly system for the Fjord owner, present and future.

INTRODUCTION

NFHR Evaluation Program, Goals and Intent

The Fjord Horse breed has been recognized in Norway for several centuries. Organized breeding of the Fjord Horse started between 1840 and 1850. Pure breeding of Fjord Horses started in 1907. At that time the Fjord Horse was used primarily in non-mechanized agriculture on small Norwegian West Coast farms and for local transportation. So, the Fjord Horse at that time was used as a light carriage horse, as a mountain packhorse, for pulling logs in the forest in the winter and for hauling hay in the summer. It was used to deliver the mail and to transport goods. The period that Fjord Horses were used in mechanized agriculture such as plowing, harrowing and mowing hay was relatively short. Tractors became popular soon after WWII, displacing the horse as farm power.

Fjords are a Versatile Breed

The Fjord Horse has always been a versatile breed in that each individual horse could be expected to be a packhorse, pull logs, pull a light carriage for long distances and transport heavy loads of goods to market. The desired qualities and conformation of a Fjord specializing as a packhorse, a light carriage horse or a heavier draft horse might vary. If a Fjord was chosen primarily to pull heavy loads for short distances in mountainous terrain, it would be a heavier draft build. If a Fjord was chosen to pull a light carriage for a long distance on a regular basis, it would probably be more refined and of lighter build.

Today horses are no longer needed for agriculture, transportation and forestry work. NFHR members use Fjord Horses for sport (ridden and driven dressage, three-day eventing, pleasure driving and combined driving); recreation (trail riding and parades); for professional therapeutic work; for personal therapy; for hobby agriculture (light draft work); and as pets. The desired qualities and aspects of conformation for the different specific uses of these Fjord Horses might vary, but a Fjord should still be versatile enough to handle multiple jobs well.

A Fjord Horse Should be Foremost a Fjord Horse in its Head

Most people who own and breed Fjord Horses treasure the calm and willing temperament of the Fjord Horse. A Fjord should be easily manageable even in difficult situations. It should be willing to cooperate and should not be stubborn. A Fjord should remain calm or, once excited, should return to a calm nature quickly. A sport horse as well as a working horse will be able to do its job more easily and more effectively if it has good athletic ability. Athletic ability can be assessed in length of stride, activity of the joints, and the use of its topline with resulting impulsion or the lack thereof.

NFHR Mission, Vision and Goals

Mission: The Mission of the NFHR is to register and preserve the genetic purity of the Norwegian Fjord Horse and will include education and the promotion of the breed.

Vision: The NFHR aspires to serve its membership by maintaining a sustainable organization and by supporting and promoting the breed.

Goals:

- To maintain a Registry Database for Norwegian Fjord Horses to preserve their purity and original type in North America.
- To develop educational programs that encourage versatility-of the Fjord horse while maintaining humane and ethical horse management.
- To encourage the membership to participate in accurate recording of Fjord horses including birth, death, transfers, progeny and status changes.
- To undertake activities designed to increase public awareness of the breed and its ability to perform across the full range of equine disciplines.

Intent of the NFHR Evaluation Program

The intent of the evaluation program is to educate people about the horses they own, handle or breed and other horses in the greater population that they are interested in. The evaluation program is also intended to identify and encourage expectations for good horsemanship. The education experience of the evaluation program should help breeders breed better Fjords for their intended use. It should also help people who purchase a horse to find the right horse for their intended use. Better-trained horses that conform to the breed standard will naturally promote the breed.

The qualities and faults of the conformation of Fjord Horses are described in the Breed Standard. The evaluation program is intended to identify some aspects of temperament in the conformation test, and more so in the performance tests. Temperament is thought to be more accurately judged in young, relatively untrained horses. As horses become more trained, despite the quality of that training, the difference between nature and nurture becomes blurred depending on the skill level of the handler or handlers of the horse and their methods of training.

Linear Scoring Regarding Form and Function

Linear scoring is a method of recording characteristics on a scale from one extreme end of the scale to the other extreme. The desired characteristics of any one Fjord Horse may differ according to the intended use of the animal. Some may want a light sport horse, others may want a heavier

horse to do light draft work. Some may want a light carriage horse, others may want a horse that can jump well. Some may want a horse that is very energetic, while others may want a horse that is less engaged. Some people may want a horse with a shorter back, while others may want a horse with a longer back. The linear scoring method is designed to identify aspects of conformation and performance on a continuum from one extreme to the other.

The linear scoring method is also intended to help owners, trainers and buyers learn to see for themselves how well the horse conforms to the breed standard and to identify characteristics that may be important for the intended use of the horse.

Fjord Breed Character

Fjord breed character is what makes a Fjord different from a Haflinger, a Quarter Horse or any other breed. Fjord Breed Character is difficult to define and should not be confused with use type. Lighter built as well as heavier built Fjords must still retain and exhibit Fjord breed character, yet Fjords can be underbuilt or overbuilt. Fjord breed character has much to do with the front of the horse, its head, neck and shoulders, as well as the expression of its gender. Understanding and identifying Fjord breed character is as much about what the horse doesn't exhibit as well as what it does exhibit.

A very important aspect of Fjord breed character is gender expression. Stallions need to look and act like stallions, while mares need to look and act like mares. Geldings cannot be expected to look like and have the expression of a stallion.

Fjord breed character has to do with the horse's presence. A horse with presence is balanced, proportional and far from ordinary. A horse with presence captures your eye pure and simple and says, "Look at me." It carries itself in an extraordinary way.

The Norwegian Fjord evaluation program has never offered an official example of a horse that defines true Fjord breed character though in recent years some mares and stallions in Norway have earned the highest score for Fjord breed character and type. Fjord Horses of differing intended use types have always had to, and must still conform to, Fjord Breed Character within their gender.

The recognition and assessment of Fjord Breed Character is something one learns to see by inspecting large numbers of Fjord Horses of different use types over several years under the mentorship of knowledgeable and respected Fjord Horse Evaluators, breeders and Judges.

Evaluations are Different from a Horse Show

There has long been a feeling that the NFHR evaluation program should try to move away from typical horseshow type judging. This linear scoring program will move our evaluation program away from the horseshow scoring model. The evaluation forms contain several headings describing conformation traits and faults of the body and the mind of the horse that relate directly to form and function. Both the conformation test and the performance tests will be judged using the linear scoring system. The information provided on the work sheets is intended to help create a picture in your mind of the horse on that day. An official conformation photo of the horse will be included as well.

Horsemanship Skill Level, Body Condition Scores

The conformation form includes a body condition score and a horsemanship skill level score. The body condition of the horse affects the appearance and the ability of the horse to move. The body condition of the horse affects its overall appearance and health.

The horsemanship score is not meant to disparage an unskilled handler. It provides additional information regarding the behavior of the horse. Should a horse appear to be nervous and fractious when handled by a nervous handler who is lacking skill, this notation on the score sheet may show the behavior scores might have been adversely affected by the handler. Should the same behavior occur with a skilled, calm and competent handler, a very different picture of that horse's temperament could be shown. Conversely a calm horse with a nervous handler should show a positive picture of that horse's temperament. A very skilled and experienced handler will most likely show the horse to a better advantage than a relatively unskilled handler. It is always important to note that training and the skill of the handler affect the scores since a judge can only judge what is seen on that day at that time.

NFHR EVALUATOR CANDIDATE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) PROGRAM

The Evaluator Training Program is overseen and implemented by the NFHR Evaluation Committee with the approval of the NFHR Board of Directors. There are three main parts of the program:

1. Evaluator Candidate Program – The NFHR will provide Evaluator Candidates educational opportunities and other opportunities to demonstrate their readiness to become Approved NFHR Evaluators.
2. Approval to become an Evaluator – Once requirements have been satisfied, the Evaluation Committee will provide a recommendation to the NFHR Board of Directors for a final decision regarding an Evaluator Candidate.
3. Evaluator/Candidate Continuing Education (CE) – The NFHR will provide opportunities for Evaluator and Evaluator Candidates to obtain continuing education on topics related to performing the tasks of NFHR Evaluators.

NFHR EVALUATION ETHICS

Ethics are Important

Ethical principles which are practiced and adhered to by individuals and Evaluators associated with the NFHR Evaluation Program are very important to the overall success of the program. These ethical principles must be understood by all individuals involved and be transparent to the membership at large. Official NFHR Evaluators may own, breed, train, buy, and sell Fjords. They may also offer private clinics and consultation to Fjord owners. The NFHR governing body determined that it was in the best interest of our organization as well as our Fjord Horse to involve people in the evaluation process who have knowledge and experience in breeding, training, and even selling Fjords. Official NFHR Evaluators are encouraged to share their valuable knowledge of Fjord Horses through appropriate channels outside the evaluation process.

Ethical problems, either perceived or real, have the potential to arise within the system we have adopted. By outlining a set of ethical standards, the NFHR governing body wishes to make members as well as Evaluators aware of the minimum ethical standard we expect. In every situation the Evaluators should attempt to act and behave with the highest ethical standards in mind. Not every procedure or incident can be covered by a rule.

Educational Organization

Since the NFHR does not officially license breeding stock, as do Fjord Horse organizations in other countries, our service is primarily educational. Evaluators have a compelling responsibility to evaluate fairly and independently each horse and to provide the horse owner with information and guidance that is clear and useful. The Evaluator should be aware that often the owners and breeders are novices, and care should be taken to make explanations understandable. Owners, breeders, and handlers who take part in an Evaluation have an obligation to respect the weighted view of the Evaluator. Care must be taken not to misquote Evaluators, take their quotes out of context, or disparage an Evaluator due to a score not well taken.

General Rules of Conduct

The breed standard and a personal inner picture of the breed are the standards by which Evaluators will be guided in evaluating the Fjord Horse. Within this standard a certain level of subjectivity is inevitable. This can be accepted if the Evaluator shows great understanding and knowledge of the Fjord Horse and if the Evaluator gives understandable reasons for the assessment. Evaluators are expected to be willing to explain their assessments in addition to the written scores. Brief explanations can be given in the ring, and Evaluators should be available to make explanations to horse owners outside the ring and after the evaluation is finished. Time will be allowed for this.

The NFHR is committed to preserving all recognized colors of modern Fjord Horses as well as the major body style from draft to light driving and riding. The Evaluator must attempt to present a positive and professional image. The Evaluator should be willing to offer helpful information, suggestions and even physical assistance if needed. Further, the verbal manners (tone) of an Evaluator and personal behavior are very important. The Evaluator shall be friendly and respectful while evaluating and educating. Evaluators should dress in a respectful manner and should be prompt and on-time, balancing the evaluation timetable while taking enough time sufficiently to evaluate each horse.

The Evaluator must never disparage a horse or its breeder or owner in any way. Evaluators must be respectful of other countries' Evaluation Programs and/or Breeding Programs, whether at an evaluation or in a clinic/consultation forum. Evaluators are representatives of the NFHR Evaluation Program and should bear that in mind when addressing comments to NFHR members and the public. Evaluators should remain respectful when receiving members' feedback on the Evaluation Program and uphold the NFHR philosophy that the Evaluation Program is an evolving one which welcomes members' feedback to further the goal of continuous improvement. Through their work in the NFHR Evaluation Program, Evaluators will have access to documents, email messages, and information which is not available to the general membership. They have a responsibility to avoid the unauthorized disclosure of this confidential information of the Registry.

Specific Rules of Conduct

1. The Evaluator must judge a horse objectively as it is presented on that day. The Evaluator must reject any information previously received through a breed organization or any group or person regarding a specific horse. If an Evaluator has prior knowledge of a possible fault or positive trait in an animal presented, the Evaluator must only proceed by finding visible evidence of this trait.
2. An Evaluator cannot evaluate a horse currently owned by the Evaluator or having been owned in the past 12 months prior to the evaluation, or of his own breeding. "Own breeding" means first-generation offspring of a mare or stallion currently owned by the Evaluator, either in whole or in part
3. An Evaluator must not evaluate a horse owned, or handled by, any member of the Evaluator's immediate family or household.
4. An Evaluator cannot evaluate a horse which the Evaluator has owned or leased within the previous year, or in which the Evaluator has had a commercial interest for the previous year.
5. When an Evaluator has trained or handled a certain horse, a waiting period of 90 days shall elapse before that Evaluator can evaluate that horse.
6. There shall be no waiting period regarding lessons given to horse owners or handlers who show horses to an Evaluator, providing the Evaluator does not board or directly handle the horse.
7. If a horse is presented at an evaluation that an Evaluator cannot evaluate due to these conflicts of interest, the owner may either withdraw the horse from the evaluation or choose to have the horse evaluated by only one Evaluator. In the case of withdrawal, a refund of entry fees paid will be made.
8. An Evaluator evaluates a horse only by comparison to the breed standard and his own inner picture of the breed, not by the pedigree, the bloodline, or the breeder/owner/handler.
9. Evaluators must never assign scores to animals outside an official evaluation.
10. The Evaluator must avoid public or private companionship with breeders, owners, and handlers immediately before and during an evaluation. This rules out private accommodation, shared traveling arrangements, and social dining with breeders, owners, handlers, or trainers before or during an evaluation.

Evaluator Candidates

The conduct rules listed above also apply to Evaluator Candidates who are working inside the Evaluators' ring at a show or evaluation. When a breeder or owner contributes all or part of the costs involved in an Evaluator Candidate's education, the breeder or owner is considered a sponsor of that Evaluator Candidate. On the date the Candidate becomes an official Approved NFHR Evaluator, there will be a two-year waiting period before that Evaluator can evaluate horses owned by the sponsoring breeder or owner.

Dispute Resolution

If an NFHR member perceives that an Evaluator or Evaluator Candidate has acted in an unethical manner, the following procedure should be followed:

1. The incident should be reported to the Technical Delegate (TD) immediately. The TD is a representative of and appointed by the Board of Directors (BOD.) The TD is responsible

for insuring that the evaluation is conducted in a safe manner and follows all Evaluation Rules and Regulations. Whenever possible, it is preferable to raise the matter at the evaluation site. If it is not possible for a matter to be raised on-site, the TD who was officiating at the evaluation should be contacted as soon as possible thereafter. There is a time limit of 30 days to raise concerns for matters involving the score or permanent record of the horse. The TD will make every effort to protect the personal dignity of all parties.

2. If necessary, the TD will convene a Ground Jury, and they will consider the issue and make a ruling. The Ground Jury is comprised of at least three members: TD, a Board of Director or Evaluation Committee member, and an NFHR member. Members of the Ground Jury should not be exhibitors.
3. If the matter was not resolved on site, it will be taken up with the Evaluation Committee, which may refer the problem to an Evaluation Committee Review Board (ECRB.) The ECRB is responsible for making recommendations to the BOD regarding the approval of Evaluators following the Candidate period, and to resolve disputes referred by the Evaluation Committee or the BOD. The ECRB shall consist of two Senior Evaluators, two members of the Evaluation Committee, and one member of the NFHR BOD who is not a member of the Evaluation Committee or an Evaluator. All members shall be approved by the NFHR BOD. An Evaluator or Evaluator Candidate subjected to the scrutiny of the ECRB may not be a current member of the ECRB. The NFHR BOD, following recommendations from the ECRB, will make final decisions in all disputes.

HOSTING AN EVALUATION

The NFHR provides Evaluations through a volunteer host or regional Fjord Horse club. The NFHR Evaluation Coordinator/Registrar will be the point of contact for the NFHR. They will coordinate all communication and approvals needed from the Evaluation Committee and the Board of Directors. The Evaluation Coordinator/Registrar may appoint a Secretary to assist in tabulating and recording all scores.

The evaluations may be one of two types: Roving/Partial or Complete. A Roving/Partial Evaluation includes the conformation and movement tests. This type of evaluation could be a one-day evaluation at a private farm that is open to outside Fjord Horses, owners and spectators. This type of evaluation may also be held at a public facility. Depending on the facility and number of expected entries, performance tests may be offered. A Complete Evaluation offers all evaluation tests. A Complete Evaluation can be held at a private or public facility that can accommodate all the tests. More detailed information can be found in Section 5 of this Handbook.

GENERAL EVALUATION RULES

Eligibility

1. The Fjord Horse must be NFHR registered, DNA tested, and microchipped.
2. The owner of the entry must be a member in good standing with the NFHR.

Equine Health and Fitness

1. All Fjord Horses on the grounds must provide a negative Coggins (EIA) test from their State Veterinarian Office. The Coggins test date must be (whichever is shorter):

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- a. Within 12 months of the evaluation.
 - b. In accordance with the regulations for the state or country in which the evaluation is held.
 - c. In accordance with the requirements of the facility.
2. Horses traveling across state lines or country borders must comply with Health Certificate requirements for the state or country where the evaluation is located.
3. The evaluation host committee will contact a local veterinarian or the state Veterinary Office when there is an outbreak of equine contagious diseases in the local area, state, or region where the evaluation is held. It is important to convey Veterinary recommendations to all exhibitors or possible exhibitors as soon as possible.
4. A veterinarian and farrier must be on call for each evaluation.
5. If a horse is deemed unfit to perform by a licensed veterinarian, the decision is final.
6. Cruelty or abuse of a horse by any person at an evaluation is forbidden.
7. No horse shall be misrepresented using drugs, surgery, or medications. The TD may appoint a veterinarian to inspect any animal presented for evaluation. Veterinary inspection will be done at the owner's expense. Refusal to submit an animal for examination by an authorized veterinarian after due notification shall constitute a violation.
8. The NFHR, The Evaluation Committee, TD, Secretary, and the Host of the evaluation will not be responsible for any accident, damage, injury, or illness to any horse, handler, owner, spectator or other persons or property.
9. All harness, tack, and vehicles must be well fitted, safe, and in good working condition.

Entries

1. A completed entry form and appropriate fees must be sent to the Evaluation Coordinator and postmarked between the opening date for entries and closing date for entries. Entries will be accepted on a first come first served basis. As part of the evaluation approval process, the Evaluation Coordinator will recommend to the Board of Directors the minimum number of entries needed to cover the costs and the maximum number of entries that can be handled by the evaluation. As such, the Entry Form shall be used to register horses for evaluation tests, to determine if there are enough entries to cover the costs of the evaluation, and to provide an itemization of all related fees. Entry forms may be used to limit the number of entries if more than the maximum number of entries is received, reserve stalls, reserve camping, charge for extra bedding and other itemized expenses.
2. Post-entries will be accepted on a space available basis with an additional late fee per horse at the discretion of the Evaluation Coordinator. Though every attempt will be made to do so, horses that are post-entered may not be listed in the official evaluation catalogue and may be requested to perform tests out of the order listed in the evaluation catalogue.

Refunds

1. If enough entries are not received by the closing date, the evaluation will be cancelled. All entry fees will be refunded.
2. A full refund will be given if attendance is not possible due to sickness or injury (horse or human) providing that a note signed by a licensed veterinarian or physician accompanies the request.
3. Refunds may be granted due to special or extraordinary circumstances, following a written petition to the Evaluation Committee and approval by the Board of Directors.

Safety Rules

1. It is recommended that stallions shown in hand wear a “stud chain” or a headstall with a bit unless prior arrangements are made with the TD. When out of the stall, stallions must always be attended and under control.
2. Handlers under the age of 18 must be supervised by an adult, and at the discretion of the TD, may not be allowed to handle stallions. If a handler is under 18, the entry form must be signed by a parent or guardian.
3. If a horse presents a risk to itself, the handler, Evaluators, or anyone on the grounds, the TD may dismiss it from that portion of the event. The horse, if deemed safe, may return to the evaluation process, after a period, with the permission of the TD. If excused a second time, the horse will be disqualified and will not be allowed to participate in that portion of that evaluation.
4. Dogs must always be on leash or crated and may be prohibited according to the rules of the venue.
5. Removal of a bridle from a horse while hitched or leaving a horse unattended while hitched will result in discharge from the evaluation.
6. Anyone mounted, driving or doing draft work in the evaluation, or on the grounds, must wear a helmet. A waiver may be signed to opt out of wearing a helmet in draft performance.
7. All horses must be under physical control of their handler (lead, reins or lines) unless in a stall, trailer, are being shown in Conformation at liberty, or turned out for exercise in an enclosed pen or arena. Horses may be tied to a safe object, if the handler is near.

Additional Rules

1. All entrants are responsible for understanding and abiding by the rules and regulations set forth by the Evaluation Committee and published in this handbook.
2. Substitute runners for running Conformation/Movement patterns will be permitted.
3. Entrants with special needs are encouraged to participate in the Evaluation Program if safety and supervisory conditions are ensured.
4. A mandatory meeting will be held each morning before the start of the tests. The purpose will be to clarify through the TD, Evaluators and Host, any questions that are posed by the participants and to give any special instructions that are deemed necessary.
5. Personal Liability Insurance is strongly recommended for all entrants and owners.
6. In the event of a question or problem not covered by these rules, the decision of the TD and/or Ground Jury is final.
7. Once the horse has been scored in Conformation or Performance, the score cannot be erased and will be recorded. A horse can be reevaluated at another evaluation and each score will be recorded, even if the repeat score is lower.
8. A horse may withdraw part way through a Conformation or Performance test if the handler deems the animal not fit to continue, and the score will not be recorded.
9. The decision of the Evaluators is final. Results will be published in the Fjord Herald and on the Fjord Horse’s pedigree on the Pedigree Search webpage at NFHR.com.

OVERVIEW

An evaluation program provides owners and breeders an opportunity to gain information about the strengths and weaknesses of individual horses and to make informed choices when selecting quality breeding stock or verifying the caliber of using stock. There are three parts to the Evaluation Program:

1. Evaluation of Conformation/Movement for horses of all ages.
2. Evaluation of Performance in three disciplines: Riding, Driving and Draft. Within each performance discipline there are two levels of tests:
 - a. Introductory Performance Tests are open to horses three years of age and older.
 - b. Advanced Performance Tests are open to horses four years of age and older who have first completed an introductory test in the test discipline. Advanced tests are designed to measure skills expected of the mature horse. The Advanced Performance Tests for riding and driving include a Trail segment for riding and a Utility part for driving.
3. Family Fjord Tests. There are four Family Fjord Tests:
 - a. Foundation (open to horses two years of age and older)
 - b. Ground Driving (open to horses two years of age and older)
 - c. Riding (open to horses three years of age and older)
 - d. Driving (open to horses three years of age and older)

Horses may be entered into any part of the program in a given year whether it is conformation alone, performance alone, or any combination of tests. Tests may be retaken another year if a higher score is desired. Both Introductory and Advanced tests may be taken at the same Evaluation.

Young Stock

A horse that will be three or more on or after January 1st of the year it is evaluated is considered an adult horse. Horses younger than this can be evaluated in the Conformation/Movement test as young stock using the young stock evaluation form. Because bone and muscle structure changes in young stock, Conformation/Movement evaluation scores for young stock are not official. Only Conformation/Movement scores for horses evaluated as three-year-olds or older are official NFHR evaluation scores. A participation ribbon will be awarded to all young stock entered in the Conformation/Movement evaluation. Horses two years of age and older can perform the Family Fjord Foundation and Ground Driving tests, and the results will be recorded.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Ribbons

After completing an evaluation test, the following ribbons will be given to horses two years of age and older in the Family Fjord Foundation and Ground Driving tests, and horses three years of age and over in Conformation/Movement, Performance and Family Fjord riding and driving tests:

Blue-Very Good to Excellent.....Red-Average to Good.....Yellow-Below Average

Medallion of Quality

All horses categorized average or above in both Conformation and Performance and/or both Conformation and Family Fjord Tests will be given a Medallion of Quality: Bronze for the Family Fjord category; Silver for the Introductory category; and Gold for the Advanced category. Within each of the three Medallion categories a horse with qualifying requirements in the tests may rise through the levels 4 to 1. The highest Medallion Award received for each Medallion level will be noted on the pedigree. Updated pedigrees may be ordered from the NFHR Registrar at current pedigree price.

BRONZE – Family Fjord Medallion of Quality Ribbon		
Level	Color	Qualifying Requirement (must have average or above conformation score)
4	White	One Family Fjord Test
3	Yellow	Any two Family Fjord Tests
2	Red	Any three Family Fjord Tests
1	Blue	All four Family Fjord Tests

SILVER – Introductory Medallion of Quality Ribbon		
Level	Color	Qualifying Requirement (must have average or above conformation score)
3	Yellow	Any one Introductory Test
2	Red	Any two Introductory Tests
1	Blue	All three Introductory Tests

GOLD – Advanced Medallion of Quality Ribbon		
Level	Color	Qualifying Requirement (must have average or above conformation score)
3	Yellow	Any one Advanced Test
2	Red	Any two Advanced Tests
1	Blue	All three Advanced Tests

Versatility - Hallmark of the Breed

Horses may be entered into any one or combination of tests; and because versatility is one of the important hallmarks of the Fjord breed, all horses are encouraged to enter a variety of performance disciplines. The ultimate horse has good conformation and is a willing partner in Advanced Level Riding, Driving and Draft. At any evaluation, horses may be tested in any of these disciplines; or the testing may be done over several years as time, opportunity and the skill of owner and horse develop.

The NFHR Evaluation process also qualifies horses to receive an offspring award for recognition of the quality of a horse's offspring. A ribbon will be awarded, and the award will be noted on the pedigree. To qualify the horse must meet the following requirements:

1. The horse must have offspring that are evaluated in the NFHR evaluation system. These offspring must be evaluated in Conformation/Movement and in Performance and have received a Medallion of Quality. For a Mare or Dam to qualify, a minimum of two offspring must have received Medallions. For a Stallion or Sire to qualify, a minimum of five offspring must have received Medallions.
2. Sires and Dams of the applicant horse are not required to have been evaluated within the NFHR Evaluation system.
3. The qualifying horse's owner must be a member of the NFHR and in good standing with the NFHR.
4. The owner of the horse must notify the NFHR Registrar if the owner has a horse that qualifies for this award.