

THE RIDING IBOP TEST

WHAT DOES THAT



Dagger LSF
2017 New England Keuring Day End Champion
Reserve Champion Riding IBOP
Star Gelding
Ridden and Trained by Danielle Barrasso
Owned by Pamela Groom
Photo by Jamie Savioe

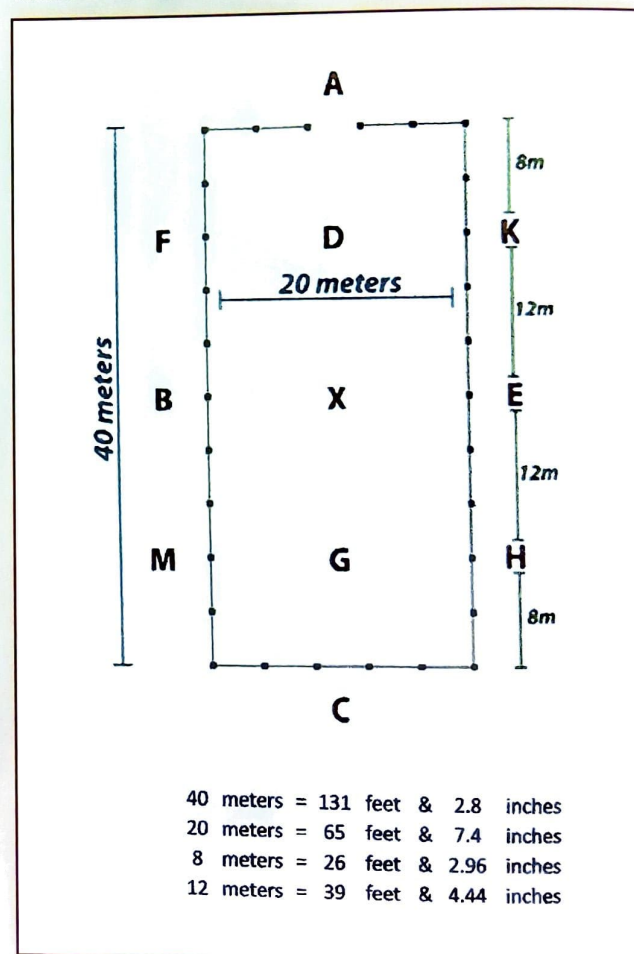
Over the past 15 years that I have been involved with the Friesian breed, I have witnessed the breed evolve in many ways. The KFPS, with specific breeding, has made the Friesian horse more athletic and has developed its ability to excel in multiple disciplines. With that, they have been able to study the horses and provide certain testing through the year to judge and score each horse in hopes of continuing with the growth of the breed.

The IBOP Riding and Driving Tests are conducted by the Koninklijke Vereniging "Het Friesch Paarden-Stamboek" (KFPS).

The purpose of this examination is to establish a horse's suitability for various uses and to do so with the greatest degree of objectivity. Every horse, aged 4 or older, can be presented for this examination (riding test, driving test or show driving test). Participation in more than one test on the same day is possible. Horses can be entered for the examination through FHANA and KFPS. The results of an IBOP test can be used for obtaining the star, crown or model titles. The horse must score a 77 or higher to pass.

The KFPS and FHANA select a location for conducting the testing. In North America, each inspection site usually offers IBOP testing if there are participants who are interested. The IBOP can be held in indoor or outdoor arenas with proper

sizes. The specifications for the small dressage arena (20m x 40m) are required. I always encourage the site host to have adequate barriers around the perimeter. In past years, classic dressage fencing has been used, as well as poles on the ground, to show the dimensions. Corners are very important, especially for young horses; they help the rider gauge the distances from corner to corner.



The region I'm from, New England, conducts these IBOP tests at the yearly inspection. Each year the number of participants continues to grow more and more. Since 2015, through the current year, New England participants, including myself, have

MEAN AND HOW DOES ONE PREPARE?

BY DANIELLE BARRASSO

been awarded with qualifying scores and even High Score of the year. In years past, Dream Gait Friesians and Iron Spring Farm have sponsored the IBOP's High Score Awards. The top 5 of each receive a cooler and the champions and reserve champions receive a monetary award for their accomplishments.



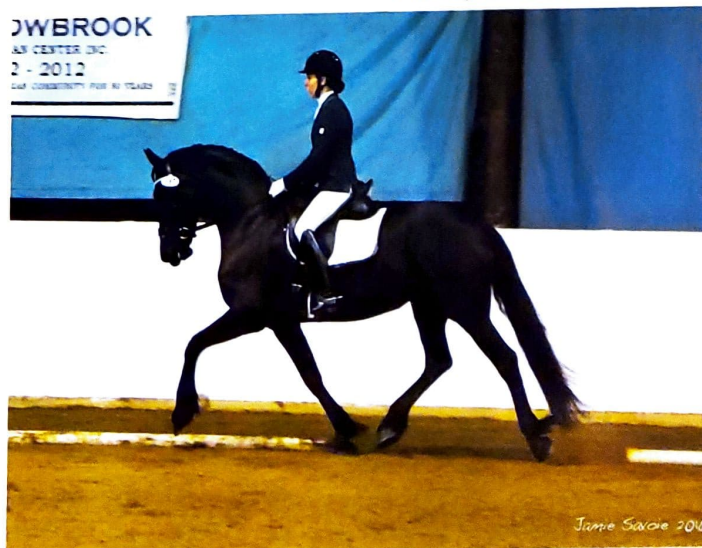
Lillee DCT- owned by Kathy Crellin- received Iron Spring's Dressage Cup Cooler.

Regardless of discipline, a horse may participate in an IBOP no more than twice a year. This examination may be administered on the same day or on two different days. If the maximum number of two IBOP tests are conducted on the same day, however, they must be in two different disciplines. All tests will be ridden/driven individually. After the completion of the IBOP riding test, the participants will return to the ring in groups of two or three. At the request of the jury, the participants can be asked to repeat one or more of the components. For

example, if they want to see the horses' lengthened gaits, or the walk again, they will ask. Sometimes the horse and rider can be nervous and tense, which changes the horse's stride and freedom of gaits. Both horse and rider may be more relaxed after performing the test, showing a better quality of the movement. The tests, as well as an explanation of the assessment criteria, can be found on the FHANA website and in the most recent edition of the KFPS test booklet. FHANA also has an Inspection Handbook that is available and is sent out to all chapters for their members. This book includes information, not only on how to prepare for the inspection, but also about all IBOP tests. Be sure to get an updated version as rules may change from year to year.



Lillee DCTF score 78.5
Owned by Kathy Crellin
Rider Jessica O'Donnell
Photo by Jamie Savoie



I had the pleasure of working with many talented Friesians over the years. Many horses that I've been in contact with have had such amazing raw talent. On the other hand, some had little to no training, and some even had to be restarted. Riding the IBOP is not like riding a dressage test. It may be in a dressage arena, wearing dressage attire, execute specific movements at each letter but, as stated before, it is scored differently.

Conditioning the horses is very important. The tests are long and if ridden properly can be very strenuous on the horse. You will hear a lot about top lines and whether they are weak or strong. It is important for your performance horse to be in shape, conditioned and strong. When used properly, cavalletti and hill work help tremendously, along with many other training exercises (lunging, riding, ponying, trails, etc). IBOP tests are usually held first thing in the morning of the inspection. The horse will then be asked to come out again later, in-hand. The horse will need a lot of stamina. When training, cardio should be an important part of the horse's training program, in addition to muscle development.

A horse being presented can be excused for many different reasons. The jury may notice lameness, unsoundness, blemishes, illnesses or abnormalities. I encourage all horse owners to educate themselves and to have horses fully evaluated by a qualified professional trainer or licensed veterinarian. If the jury witnesses a horse not being presented, ridden, or handled in an acceptable manner it will be eliminated and excused from the inspection. Dangerous horses that are unruly or not trained can also be asked to leave and come back another time, once the horse has been handled or trained more.

The owner of the horse can determine whether they present the horse themselves or by a third party. The third party would be a hired handler, runner or rider. Changing riders for various tests is also permitted. Many horse owners may prefer to hire other professionals to present their horses. In this case, as a professional myself, I would always like to know as much information about the horse I am handling and hope the training is appropriate for the category in which it is being presented.



Mount Olympus
 Star Stallion
 Owned by Sierk Baalbergen
 Ridden by Simone Detemple
 2017 New England Ridden IBOP Champion scored a 77



Danielle Barrasso riding Hilbrand
 Owned by the Thomas Family at Virginia Horse Park
 Photo by Jamie Savoie

Every year many Friesian horses take part in the IBOP tests. But what exactly are these tests about and what aspects of these horses are considered for assessment? What are the judges looking for?

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The IBOP is a test for horses of four years and older designed to establish an objective assessment of a horse's natural aptitude and suitability for a specific use. At the same time the IBOP is a means to collect data which FHANA and the KFPS uses for breeding value estimates of sport aptitude.

The IBOP is designed to test a horse's aptitude and suitability for sport. The panel will focus on the three basic gaits: walk, trot and canter. They will be focusing on the horses' regularity, scope and then see if the horse has natural balance, posture and proper use of the body. The judges will also be looking at the horse's ability to have clear transitions between each gait while engaging the hind end. When training your horse, be sure to execute many upward and downward transitions. When teaching them different variations in each gait make sure the horse knows what you're asking of him or her. It is sometimes confusing to them if you are not clear with your training or your aids. When training, it's black or white (yes or no) - no grey areas and no 'maybe's.' The horse is looking for your guidance. The judges will be looking for a powerful carrying trot not a lacking-push trot. You will want to see the horse's legs come under him to lift himself up throughout every movement and transition.

The IBOP tests are judged on the basis of assessment bars. In the riding and driving tests walk, trot, canter and self-carriage/balance are each counted twice. Additional scores are given for suppleness, transitions and impulsion. Herman Smit explains, "For use of the body, we like to see a horse that lowers the hindquarters and rises in the forehand. The overall picture should be uphill. Balance is about the correct sense of equilibrium shown in all paces."

This is the score card the judges use. Here you can see how each category is tallied. Out of 110 points you must receive a 77 or higher to have a passing score.

IBOP RIDING TEST

Walk	Trot	Canter	Carriage & Balance	Agility	Transitions	Impulsion	Total
2x	2x	2x	2x	1x	1x	1x	

Total: 110 points

"For the assessment of suppleness, we look, for example, at how the horse moves through the turns. A good way to assess use of the hind leg is by looking at transitions and extending paces," Herman Smit explains. "For the capacity to switch gears, we evaluate transitions between and within the paces. Impulsion is the horse's natural urge to move forwards, but always controlled and dictated by the rider."

Listening to the judge is one of the most important things to proper presentation. Many of the inspections throughout North America conduct educational clinics with the judges the day before inspection. They go over what they are looking for in

the horses' movement and conformation and they will answer any questions. After each horse is shown, they will go through their scores in each category. They may determine whether he or she passes or not.

I feel the IBOP tests are a great way to see the difference in the breed today. You can see how athletic the Friesian horse has become as it has evolved over the years. These tests, along with others like the ABFP, will help the breeder choose specific stallions for their mares and see how they pass their genes on. I encourage Friesian owners to present their horses each year at the inspection in their area. I will continue to prepare horses each year, not only for the in-hand portion of the inspection but also the IBOP tests.

2016

Iron Spring Farm Ridden IBOP Cup

1. 82.5 Liza van de Meikade (Maurus 441 x Sjaard 320) owned by Claudia Rayner winner of \$500 and a Iron Spring Farm Cooler
2. 79.5 Tanwen D. (Folkert 353 x Teunis 332) owned by Charlotte Dumford winner of \$250 and a Iron Spring Farm Cooler-***This horse won the tie breakers which came down to the score for the walk
3. 79.5 Ymkje K. (Ulbert 390 x Hearke 254) owned by Ted and Tina Vanderkooi winner of an Iron Spring Farm Cooler
4. 79 Doutzen R.N. (Tsjalke 397 x Olof 315) owned by Carlos Macias winner of an Iron Spring Farm Cooler
5. 78.5 Lillie D.C.T.F. (Sape 381 x ritse 322) owned by Katherine Crellin winner of an Iron Spring Farm Cooler

2017

Iron Spring Farm Riding IBOP Results

- *79 - BAUKJE ÚT 'T WESTEN owned by All-Star Friesians
- *78 - OBSIDIAN FAN LEANDRA owned by Mark and Kelly Twambly
- *77 - MOUNT-OLYMPUS owned by Sierk Baalbergen

