

Youth Work in the Swiss Icelandic Horse Association (IPVCH) 2020

The Swiss Icelandic Horse Association (IPVCH) has 88 members, who are under 18 years old.

Unlike in other countries, in Switzerland the youth work is represented in each commission. So the needs of the youth are represented in every committee (sport, leisure, breeding, education, communication) in one perspective this is great but as you can think it's also a challenge to coordinate the events and communication in the different committees. Nevertheless, the cooperation works very well. Above all, the leisure and sports committee works a lot in youth work. The Leisure Riding Committee is especially focused on how to gain more members and how to support youth and leisure riders in their riding without concentrating in sport tournaments. Two committee members are involved with the youth work. The sport commission has created a concept for the youth sport riders in Switzerland.

The best event in 2020 was the first **young rider camp**. A good year ago, the idea arose to organize a Young Riders' Camp instead of the Young Riders' Day as in the past years. We, Denise Hablützel and Anja Gämperle from the leisure commission, were looking for a suitable stable. There had to be some infrastructures for a camp with 10 youngsters and their own horses (By the way: 25 young riders signed up for the camp!! So this will clearly be repeated again in near future hopefully) Therefore we were very happy that the Icelandic horse farm Hackenberg made their beautiful infrastructure available for us. The idea that we would have four different Swiss trainers present was successfully realized thanks to Petra Liggerstorfer, Rebecca Joos, Livio Fruci and Catherine Mynn. A lot of preparations were necessary, but the four eventful and interesting days were clearly worth it.



The following texts were written by our participants:

On Thursday morning all the young people and their horses arrived. Today we already had the first trainer (Petra Liggerstorfer) with us. The riding lessons were held in small groups today and the main topic was the breeding of Icelandic horses in the theory unit. In order to understand the theory better, we received a small FIZO ridden by two Swiss sport riders. In the afternoon we could enjoy again a lesson from Petra. After the first intensive day, everyone enjoyed a delicious home-cooked dinner and the day ended with an evening of games.





After the first night, the first item on the agenda was sport for the rider, where we did a short workout in the ridinghall. After the morning feeding of the horses and breakfast for the riders, we started with the first theory lesson. Our trainer of the day was Rebecca Joos. While the first group rode, the other half got to do a course with their horses with the youth show group Hestaleikhus. Rúna and her colleague Celina arrived to show us an insight into their work with the horses. Starting with relatively simple things, like the horse walking next to you without a rope, to something more difficult, like the compliment. The result was impressive and some horses even mastered the compliment in the end.

Also in the afternoon there was an additional program besides riding lessons. Rúna and Celina packed their camera and we were allowed to do a photoshoot. You might think that all this would be enough for one day, but our organizers still prepared a little scavenger hunt around the farm. Using an app and clues, we had to find and scan QR codes, each of which provided us with new clues. At the end, we found a box of horse halters, from which we were allowed to choose one and decorate it ourselves with decoration material.



Just like yesterday morning, we start Saturday with morning sport for the riders. After breakfast and taking care of the horses, we welcomed Livio Fruci, our trainer for today. After exciting riding lessons in the morning followed by a delicious lunch, the youngsters were allowed to spend the afternoon training in individual lessons. The other youngsters received a saddle course from Seraina De Marzo and afterwards we had a theory lesson in young horse training. Afterwards we ate fondue and were allowed to watch the movie "Kraftur: The last ride".



The last day of the Camp started at 7am with a yoga workout. After all the horses were fed and all the riders were fortified from breakfast, our day began with a theory lesson. This was designed by our trainer of the day, Catherine Mynn. It was about the fastest gait of the Icelandic horses: the racing pass. She was able to give us an interesting insight into the requirements of a good race passer, the conditioning and the aids. In the morning the riding lessons took place in the hall. The main focus was on the preparation of racing pass.

In the afternoon, most of the riders went to the indoor arena again and the exercises of the morning were repeated and further developed. Two riders were allowed to ride with Catherine on a straight track in the terrain to race pass. After these two great riding lessons, unfortunately, everything had to be packed and tidied up and after the general farewell, it was time to go home.



The Leisure Riding Committee organizes different events every year which support the versatility of the Icelandic horse. Every year there are two events and they are activities for the whole family.

The **SwissMót Family Day** takes place every spring. This is an event open for other horse breeds, as well as the event of 2019. Being there and having fun with our four-legged friends is everything and is in the centre! The other event is our yearly **Swiss Mót** which is a tournament especially for leisure riders. Unfortunately, both events could not be held due to the Corona situation.

We look forward to offering a **Young Rider Day** again next year. Already the preparations are underway and it will be an event with an agility trainer for horses.

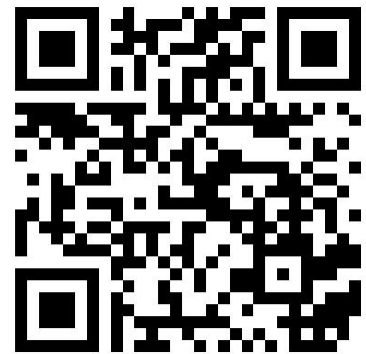
In 2020, the **youth sport team** currently has around 24 members. We had 11 events organized for the national youth team. We didn't let ourselves get demotivated by coronavirus and could successfully hold most of the event (sometimes in a bit a different from as we thought – but there are always ways ☺). These were to name some of the highlights: riding tournamenttest in front of international FEIF judges, a course in how to fall of a horse in a safe way, and a shoeing course on real dead horse legs!!! As said above the youthwork coordinates in all committees. This makes it possible for the swiss youth team to also take place in all events organized by breeding, education etc. Which is a great symbiosis – and shows why it is great to have the youthwork in all committee.



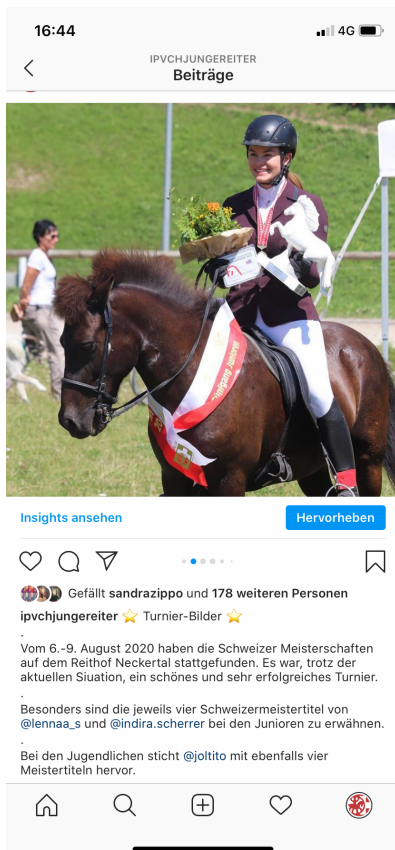


Our **national magazine** appears four times a year. The youth work has always had its own double page since the summer 2017. Two young peoples who are members of the Leisure Riding Committee report in every magazine about all activities of the youth riders. It contains interviews. Each magazine introduces a young rider with his/her horse. Also, all newly qualified juniors for the squad will be listed in every magazine. The **Facebook page** (Islandpferde-Vereinigung Schweiz IPV CH) already exists for several years, which informed about news from the tournaments etc. live. On our **website** you will find dates, news and information about the committees. To recruit new members, there are 12 reasons why you should become a IPV CH-member. The website will be reworked in 2021.

Since May 5th 2019 the young riders of IPV CH are also represented on **Instagram**. This is supervised by two members who are active in youth work and by the young people themselves. Currently we have over 740 Followers.



The page offers different contents. On the one hand, we take photos of the young people at the tournaments and put them online, of course with their consent. The young people themselves also report live in the stories of the tournaments. During the Young Riders Camp, the youth posted a lot from the camp on our account. The big highlight of the year on the account was the **advent calendar**. Every day something was raffled off by a sponsor. This could be a bridle, sweat blanket, riding clothes, riding helmet, treats, vouchers and so on. With the barcode right you find directly to our Instagram page.





Coronavirus has struck everyone in the world and of course in the Icelandic horseworld as well hard. The IPV CH decide in 2020 to **financially support all ridingschools** with Icelandic horses in Switzerland with a one time solidarity payment. During the first wave of the virus all ridingschools had to close. A catastrophe for all youth development! The ridingschools build the base for all youngsters learning the passion for the Icelandic horse – so we felt our association had to step in and help the ridingschool. Around 20 ridingschools could be helped covering they're mainting costs during the time of the lockdown as of food for the horses, shoeing etc. so when they were allowed to start they're work again they were ready!

Haldenhof

Liebe IPV CH

Im Namen vom Haldenhof möchten wir uns für den grosszügigen finanziellen Beitrag von ganzem Herzen bedanken.

Wir hoffen, dass wir noch vielen Kindern das Islandpferd näher bringen dürfen.

Rahel Helfenberger, Haldenhof, Aesch



Why should we become **youth country of the year 2020**?

- In the last couple of years we have build up our youthwork in all different committee. The result is now as you can see a large range of activities and exposure of the youth and its work in Switzerland
- Our youthwork goes way over the support of the sport interested youth
- We didn't let ourselves get stopped by the virus! Organized many events (we're open to change events to make them happen) and supported those in need as far as we could. Always under the believe that the Icelandic horse and the passion for it can help coping in difficult times.

2008 was the last **FEIF Youth Cup in Switzerland**. Now it's time to have the next one. The committee already exist and we have already found a suitable stable in Bern, which will take us on the great journey to the FEIF Youth Cup 2022. Planning is underway and we firmly hope that the event can be held in 2022 based on the current situation.

The three of us have decided to step down from the committees as of March 2021 and let new motivated people take our place. We thank everyone for the good and pleasant cooperation with the Youth Committee of FEIF.

Best regards,

Catherine Mynn, Denise Hablützel & Anja Gämperle
Youth Work Switzerland