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## Eventing Fall Review Summary (H2) 2023

In the second half of 2023, the EA FEI Eventing Course Designer Group reviewed a further 16 horse falls making total of 23 for the year. Of these falls 4 were incurred when moving away from the fence after a stop rather than being a fall caused “at the fence.” There was one rotational fall in a 95cm class with no injury to horse or rider.

Thanks to the continuing support of Rider Video, Eventful Life and Horse on Course the group was able to view video footage of 19 of the falls. The following suggestions (additional to those made in the June 27 2023 H1Summary) were discussed;

### Open Oxers

The use of trees at the sides of the fence and ensuring contrast between front and back rails to help horses read the fence and, particularly for portable oxers where a central stiffening cross member is used, the use of a ground rail or dressing to avoid the possibility of the creation of a false ground line.

### Contrast

Be aware of the contrast of the fence against the background especially after groundwork has been completed. This may change the background colour and make it difficult for the horse to see or if the fence is in shadow.

A simple test is to ask yourself if you have depth perception (a “3D” view) of the fence.

The horse vision app (links below) gives an idea of how the horse sees contrast (eg white flowers stand out better than red)

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=asada0.android.cvsimulator&hl=en\\_AU&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=asada0.android.cvsimulator&hl=en_AU&gl=US)

<https://apps.apple.com/fr/app/chromatic-vision-simulator/id389310222?l=en>

### Fences with horizontal slats on face

Be aware that fences with horizontal slats, wickerwork or rough bark located on the face of the fence can drag on the horses leg or boots and subsequently increase the chance of a fall.

This is especially important to consider with drop landings which will increase the likelihood of a horse dragging its hindlegs over the fence.

### Roll Tops (F2) and Houses (D3)

These are common fences, represent 34% of the fence types in a course and the same % of falls. It was acknowledged that the horses jump these fences better when the top line and front of the fence are clearly visible to the horse.

The key point is to make sure of contrast in colour or dressing to make the shape more readily understandable by the horse

### Rider Preparation

In around 35% of the falls the horse had experienced some difficulty in one or more of its 4 previous runs. Communicating some of the information more actively to riders and coaches could assist competitors making more informed decisions about their level of preparedness to enter at a particular level.



## Equestrian Australia Eventing Horse fall Summary

Fence Type	FH	% of falls at fence type	% of fence types in courses
E(Brush)	3	13%	25%
FK(jump into water)	6	26%	3%
C(square spread)	4	17%	20%
H1	1	4%	3%
G	0	0%	4%
D	4	17%	16%
L	1	4%	3%
F (log/roll top)	4	17%	18%
A or N/R	0	0%	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>		

*Data Summary 1*

### Key Points

- Table shows % of FH total at fence type vs % fence type in the average course based on 5 example courses)
- jump into water over represented vs fence type % (3 left leg on fence 3 cleared fence but stumbled on landing)
- brush under represented vs fence type %
- C/D/F fall % consistent with fence type distribution % and represent half total falls
- 1 Rotational fall (at 95cm) with no injury to rider or horse
- 9 of the 23 falls were horses that had some apparent difficulty (at least 20) in one or more of the 4 events leading up to the event in which they fell