

<b>Author/s Name:</b>	Roger Kane (TD) (EA-FEI.CD Group)	<b>Date:</b>	24.07.2024
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## Introduction

In the first half of 2024, 14 horse falls were recorded in EA Eventing Competition and reviewed by the Horse Fall Review Group.

Thanks to the support of An Eventful Life, Rider Video and Horse on Course the group was able to look at video footage of 12 of the falls.

**Fall Rates** As below the fall rate as a % of starters was not inconsistent with prior years

			<b>First half 2024</b>	<b>Full year 2023</b>	<b>Full year 2022</b>
Level	FH	Starters	% Starters	% Starters	% Starters
80cm or less	1	4950	0.02%	0.03%	0.07%
95cm	1	1723	0.06%	0.15%	0.12%
1*	3	1070	0.28%	0.00%	0.32%
2*	1	729	0.14%	0.42%	0.51%
3*	5	326	1.53%	1.17%	0.52%
4*	2	124	1.61%	0.95%	1.15%
5*	1	11	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8933</b>	<b>0.16%</b>	<b>0.13%</b>	<b>0.18%</b>

Whilst the numbers for the first half are too small to demonstrate significant trends some noticeable points are:

- A growth in the % of falls at the higher levels
- A higher proportion of falls at C (square spread) type fences
- Concerningly, three rotational falls. Whilst they all had positive outcomes for both horse and rider, they could easily have been much worse

<b>Year</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Fence Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Frangible</b>
<b>2023</b>	95CM	F2	Roll top	N
<b>2024</b>	4*	C3	Box	N
<b>2024</b>	3*	C3	Box	N
<b>2024</b>	3*	F1	Log	N

In discussions the following points were noted:-

**Clarity of question** is important for helping a horse read a fence and make the right decisions -in particular

**Contrast** between parts of the fence and between the fence and the background to give some shape and definition to the fence.



**Between Brush and Rail**



**Before**



**After**

**Dressing:** Trees at side, plants on back of tables to define spread and suitable groundlines.



**Trees on front rail of Oxers**

**A clear view** of the next part of the question in the case of multiple elements e.g. a frangible rail with minimal dressing before a ditch may allow a horse to better understand the total question than a fence which obscures its view of the ditch.

### Frangible Devices

Whilst not necessarily preventing a horse fall frangible devices may reduce the severity when horse or rider gets it wrong.

As one rider said at Melbourne “I rode to a distance that wasn’t there-without the frangible we would have been in an awful mess.” Frangible devices when correctly used provide an important aid to safety.

### Rider preparation and awareness

In at least four instances the combination had experienced trouble in 1 or more of the previous four lead up events to the event in which they fell; in one case the rider was sanctioned for riding a tired horse.