

Author/s Name:	Roger Kane (TD) (EA-FEI.CD Group)	Date:	26.02.2025
Document Type:	Eventing Fall Review Summary (H2) 2025	Summary:	04

Introduction

In 2024, 29 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 25 of the falls. The data showed a trend to more horse falls and higher fall rates in 3* and 4* levels and an increase in rotational falls over last year.

Summary of recommendations

Recurring themes

Clarity of question and giving the horse the ability to read the fence

- Reflection on water when jumping in/out of water fences
- The effect of contrast (with fence and with background) and changing light (especially under trees)
- Importance of groundlines
- Having a reasonable time to assess the question
- Red does not show up clearly to horses-may not provide contrast in GL or fence top.
- Use of trees on oxers

Mitigating or worsening the effect of a horse/rider error

- The effect of horizontal slats, rough bark or wicker work in dragging on a horse's leg(worsening)
- Frangible fences help(mitigating)

Other possibilities

1. Fence related

- Controlling the speed towards the end of the course by positioning fences to direct flow or landing
- The impact on horse of going from light to dark
- Consider the impact of water on striding

2. Rider related

In reviewing the videos, it is evident that some horse falls are the result of poor choices by the rider whether in choice of competition level, speed, line or otherwise. In addition to the sanctions process a discussion with the rider as to what happened (mandatory at FEI) and/or referral to a respected peer or coach may help to support the rider in making better choices.

Detailed Data

Fall Rates

Australian NSO Presentation Statistics

Horse Fall rates by Level-Starters (22)16640, (23)17462, (22)12441

		2024	2024	2023	2022
Level	FH	Starters	% Starters	% Starters	% Starters
80cm or less	2	9263	0.02%	0.03%	0.07%
95cm	3	3408	0.09%	0.15%	0.12%
1*	4	2072	0.19%	0.00%	0.32%
2*	4	1094	0.37%	0.42%	0.51%
3*	11	542	2.03%	1.17%	0.52%
4*	4	250	1.60%	0.95%	1.15%
5*	1	11	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%
Total	29	16640	0.17%	0.13%	0.18%

Note: -
4
Events (Tonimbuk, Melbourne, Albury, Sydney) produces total of 10 horse falls at 2,3,4*

Level

Whilst the numbers are small the fall rates overall are consistent with prior years but with a continuation of the trends observed in the first half of the year.

- Higher fall numbers and fall rates at higher levels
- A higher proportion of falls at C (square spread) type fences
- Five rotational falls, whilst they all had positive outcomes for both horse and rider, they could easily have been much worse

Below is a comparison of fall rates in Australia at 3 & 4* S/L both CCI and CCN with fall rates for FEI competitions both short and long. These tables should be viewed remembering that the numbers involved are small and thus can produce large % changes.

Comparison with FEI-2024 at 3 and 4* Level

	Starters	Horse falls	Rotate	%FH	%ROT
FEI 3&4* S&L	8412	99	12	1.18%	0.14%
Aus (CCI +CCN) 3&4* S&L	792	15	4	1.89%	0.51%
	Starters	Horse falls	Rotate	start/FH	Start/ROT
FEI 3&4* S&L	8412	99	12	85	701
Aus (CCI +CCN) 3&4* S&L	792	15	4	53	198

Falls by fence type

Average Course % fence Type based on 2023 courses

	2024		Average Course	2023	
Fence Type	#FH	%FH	% Fence Type	FH	%FH
C	9	31%	20%	4	17%
F	3	10%	18%	4	17%
E	8	28%	26%	3	13%
?J2/J3	5	17%	3%	6	26%
D	3	10%	16%	3	13%
G+other	1	3%	3%	3	13%
Total	29	100%	86%	23	

Horse falls at frangible fences

There were four (4) horse falls at C1 (oxer) frangible fences in 2024. None of these fences had trees on the side. No horse falls were recorded at C1 frangible fences with trees on the side.

Rotational falls

- 1 at 4*
- 3 at 3*
- 1 at 2*

Two (2) of the falls were at C3 fences, Two (2) at brush fences and one (1) at a log F1. Three (3) of the fences were in areas potentially affected by shadow from trees.