

JUDGING OF 'SKINNY' FENCES

For all TD's and GJ's

Revised: 19 December 2017

With the increasing number of technical 'skinny' fences and combinations it has become paramount for the **fair judging** of every competitor that all TD's ensure that the fence is judged from the best possible position and filmed with a smart phone wherever possible. At all EA and FEI competitions in AUS we ask that you follow the guidelines below.

THE FEI/EA RULE:

549.2 Run out - missing a flag

A Horse is considered to have run out if, having been presented at an element or obstacle on the course, it avoids it in such a way that either the head, neck or either shoulder of the Horse fail to pass between the extremities of the element or obstacle as flagged.

In case the Horse has clearly attempted to jump the element or obstacle and may have missed a flag, the athlete can choose:

- a) To represent (accepting automatically 20 penalties), **or**
- b) To continue on course incurring 50 penalties (**no elimination**) in case the element or obstacle was not correctly cleared.

Note: If the Athlete represents and was clear in his first attempt, the Athlete will not be penalized with 20 penalties but no time will be removed.

A Horse will be considered to have cleared the fence when head, neck and both shoulders of the Horse pass between the extremities of the element or obstacles as flagged.

Jump judges need to be behind the fence to clearly see the head, neck and both shoulders are inside the flags **as if the flag was still upright in its original position.**

HORSES SHOULDER:

The head and neck are clear. The horse's shoulder is actually quite a big area marked with this yellow line. All the shoulder needs to pass inside the flags as though they were upright.



PLACEMENT OF THE JUMP JUDGE:

This is the view the jump judge should see:



This side on view is NOT ACCEPTABLE as the judge could not see if the flag was bent towards them making the gap the CD is testing wider:

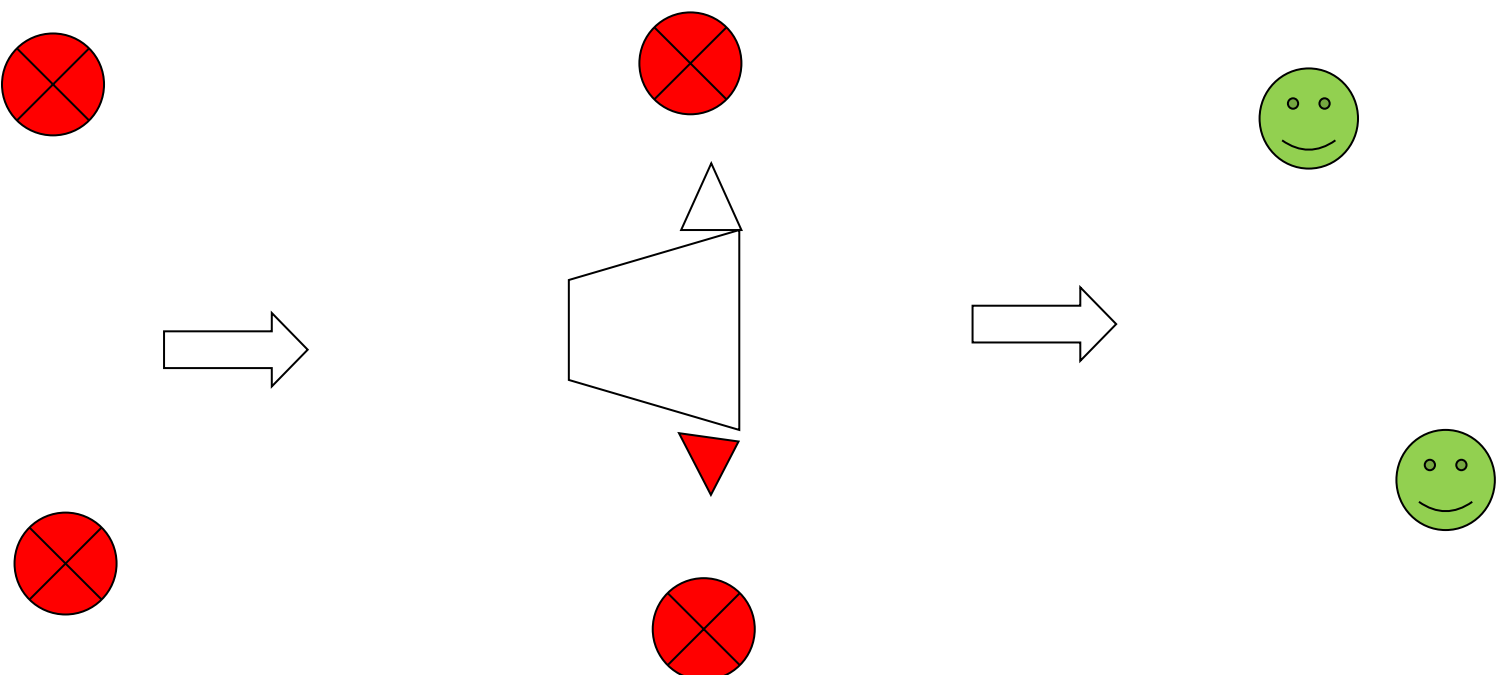


Judging from **behind** a skinny is NOT ACCEPTABLE as the horse behind can block a clear view of the head, neck and shoulders going thru the upright flags.



The diagram below indicates where a jump judge on a skinny fence should be placed. It is ok to be quite a distance back from the fence for safety but being on the side or behind a skinny fence is NOT ACCEPTABLE.

The TD should know the correct position for jump judges BEFORE the competition starts and then ensure they are in the correct position...obviously with the delegated help of other experienced people if necessary. A good idea is to use line marking paint to mark the judging spot when the TD measures the course and check it with the CD and GJ when they do a course walk (if applicable event).



POSITION OF JUDGE AT CORNERS:

If there are two flags on one side, the ideal position (of course far enough away from the fence so not to disturb the horse) is from where you **see both flags as one**.

VIDEOING EVERY HORSE:

Every smartphone or tablet now has video function and most of our judges will have them with them. The TD should encourage and at bigger events including all FEI events insist that the jump judge or their assistant records every horse jumping a skinny fence from the correct angle described above. It is a split second decision as to whether a horse jumped a skinny correctly. Having good evidence will assist the jump judge, TD, and GJ greatly to decide if there is a penalty (50) or not, as they can look at it frame by frame.

If the phone has capacity all short videos should be kept until the end of the competition in case there are any queries/protests. If there is not enough memory on the phone, then just keep the videos where there was any doubt and ask the TD to come and view them.



50 PENALTIES or CLEAR!

Thank you for helping make our sport fair by following these guidelines at all events. It makes a BIG DIFFERENCE to every competitor that you get this right!