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Introduction

Horse Falls 2025 First Half

Whilst the numbers are small and fluctuate a lot it is good to see the drop in the overall fall rate to 2023 levels and the reduction of 3* and 4* horse falls from 2024.

	H1 25 Falls	H1 25 Starts	half year 2025	Full year 2024	full year 2023	full year 2022
Level	FH	Starters	% Starters	% Starters	% Starters	% Starters
80cm or less	2	4460	0.04%	0.02%	0.03%	0.07%
95cm	2	1538	0.13%	0.09%	0.15%	0.12%
1*	2	968	0.21%	0.19%	0.00%	0.32%
2*	0	570	0.00%	0.37%	0.42%	0.51%
3*	2	263	0.76%	2.03%	1.17%	0.52%
4*	0	110	0.00%	1.60%	0.95%	1.15%
5*	2	20	10.00%	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%
Total	10	7929	0.13%	0.17%	0.13%	0.18%

Once again, thanks to Rider Video, Eventful Life and Horse on Course for providing the video footage to facilitate review of the falls. Thanks to our Technical Delegates for providing the information and to the EA FEI Course Designer Review Group for their insights.

The review showed no insights relating to fence design, placement or footing, beyond those of previous years. Comments from previous reviews remain relevant, those from 2024 are below

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

- 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