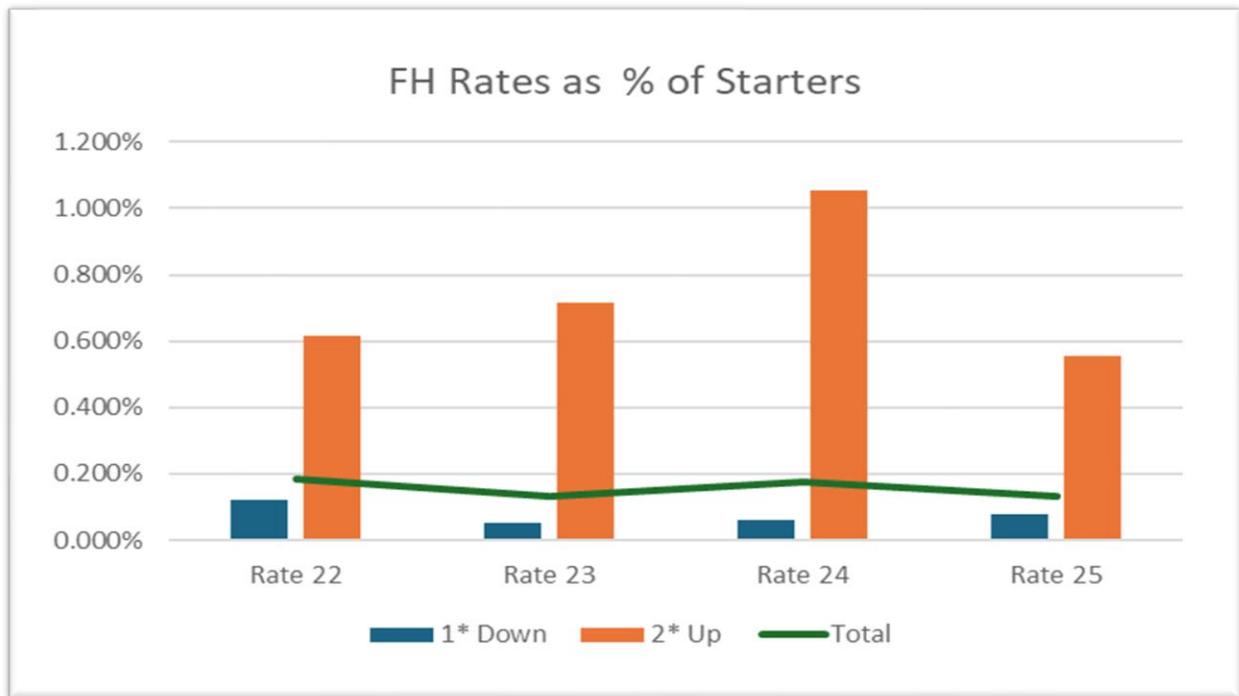


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## Introduction

### Horse Falls 2025

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. Rotational falls also showed a reduction to two in 2025.



	2025 Falls	2025 Starts	2025 FH%	2024 FH%	2023 FH%	2022 FH%
Level	FH	Starters	% Starters	% Starters	% Starters	% Starters
80cm or less	3	8819	0.03%	0.09%	0.03%	0.07%
95cm	5	3090	0.16%	0.09%	0.15%	0.12%
1*	3	1957	0.15%	0.19%	0.00%	0.32%
2*	1	991	0.10%	0.37%	0.42%	0.51%
3*	5	546	0.92%	2.03%	1.17%	0.52%
4*	2	249	0.80%	1.60%	0.95%	1.15%
5*	2	20	10.00%	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15672</b>	<b>0.13%</b>	<b>0.17%</b>	<b>0.13%</b>	<b>0.18%</b>

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 Review Group for their insights.

This year's review showed the continued importance of having the right fence, in the right place with appropriate dressing and groundline. Data shows the benefit of making fences frangible where practical.

In reviewing FEI and National Data around 70% of horse falls are the result of horse or rider misjudgment.

We recommend athletes watch the webinar from the recent "frangible workshop" to hear comments relating to the benefit of gaining education and experience for both horse and rider in the XC phase. 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
- The impact on horse of going from light to dark
- Consider the impact of water on striding