

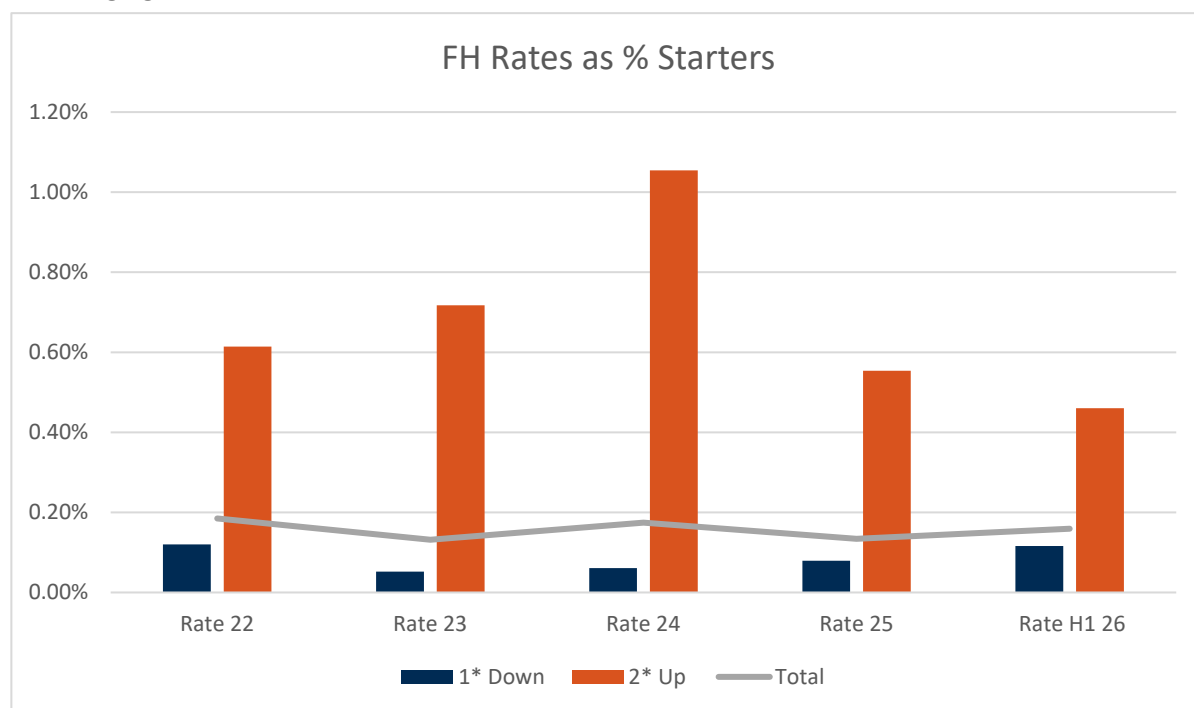
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Eventing Fall Review Summary (H1) 2026

Horse falls, first half of 2026

Introduction

Trends based on small numbers can be misleading, so these figures should be read with some caution. Even so, the apparent decline in on-course horse-fall rates at the higher levels is encouraging.



Horse-fall rates as a percentage of starters, 2022 to the first half of 2026.

Further analysis of the results — made possible by Lynne Brown, Vicki Burgess and others — used certain recognisable jumping-fault totals as an indicator of frangible-device activation. This suggests that frangible activations per starter at 2* and above may have risen by around 50% in the first half of 2026.

Detailed data

Level	2026 H1 Falls	2026 H1 Starts	2026 H1 % Starts	2025 % Starters	2024 % Starters	2023 % Starters	2022 % Starters
80cm or less	1	3829	0.03%	0.03%	0.09%	0.03%	0.07%
95cm	3	1309	0.23%	0.16%	0.09%	0.15%	0.12%
1*	3	894	0.34%	0.15%	0.19%	0.00%	0.32%
2*	0	468	0.00%	0.10%	0.37%	0.42%	0.51%
3*	3	259	1.16%	0.92%	2.03%	1.17%	0.52%
4*	1	129	0.78%	0.80%	1.60%	0.95%	1.15%
5*	0	13	0.00%	10.00%	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%
Total	11	6901	0.16%	0.13%	0.17%	0.13%	0.18%

The 11 horse falls include two at frangible fences, although one of these was a technical horse fall: the horse was standing in the fence and had to be helped clear. There were no rotational falls on course. A single rotational fall occurred in the warm-up and is recorded separately.

Review and acknowledgements

Our thanks once again to Rider Video and Eventful Life for supplying the footage that makes these reviews possible, to our Technical Delegates for providing the information, and to the Review Group for their insights.

As in previous periods, the past six months of reviews reinforced the value of the right fence, in the right place, with appropriate dressing and a clear groundline. Once again, a large proportion of horse falls followed an error by either the rider or the horse.

Recurring themes

Fence selection and dressing

- The right fence, in the right place, with appropriate dressing and a clear groundline.

Clarity of the question — helping the horse read the fence

- Reflection on the water surface when jumping into or out of water fences.
- The effect of contrast — against both the fence and the background — and of changing light, particularly under trees.
- The importance of clear groundlines.
- Allowing the horse a reasonable time to assess the question.
- Red does not show up well to horses and may fail to provide contrast on a groundline or fence top.
- The use of trees on oxers.

Mitigating or worsening a horse or rider error

- Horizontal slats, rough bark or wicker work can drag on a horse's leg, worsening the outcome.
- Frangible fences help to mitigate the outcome.

Other possibilities to consider

- Controlling speed towards the end of the course by positioning fences to direct the flow.
- The effect on the horse of moving from light into dark.
- The impact of water on a horse's striding.