



## Eventing Safety and Risk Management Report and Statistics H1 2019

(all references to Star levels relate to 2019 definitions)

Let me begin with a **HUGE** thank you to all the Technical Delegates, fence judges and scorers for providing the reporting that supports the compilation of this report and thank you to Lynne and Vicki for doing the background work to produce the numbers.

These officials and the OCs who run the events and support the many safety initiatives that have been introduced are the backbone of our sport and without them it could not run.

### Risk Management

Since early 2017 EA has taken a multifaceted approach to risk management in Eventing that involves preventive and protective measures addressing cross country course design and construction as well as horse and rider competency and behaviour of horse and rider. It can be thought of as a model as below.

## Risk Management Matrix-2017/18/19

	Horse	Rider	Course
Preventive	MER Review Equiratings XC Coaching Syllabus		National XC Guidelines National Athlete Reps Frangible Devices <a href="#">Front Shoulder</a>
Protective		<a href="#">PPE</a> <a href="#">Concussion protocol</a> Fence Judge Incident Video Vet Services Medical Services	
Management	Improved SIMP Protocols		

Well Trained and Effective Officials

Effective Statistics and Compliance Reporting

Competent Risk Aware Competitors

## New Measures

In the first half of 2019 EA has introduced 3 new measures:-

**Sloping front shoulders of spread fences:** A part of the XC Guidelines since late 2017 this was introduced as a rule for 2\*/3\*/4\*/5\* competitions in Australia (whether FEI or National) effective July 2019 with the aim of making it easier for horses to free their legs in the event of an error and thus reducing the risk of horse fall.

**Concussion Protocol:** In place since early 2017 the existing protocol was updated to be consistent with the Sport Australia concussion protocols. As well as a change to eventing rules this change was effected through a change to the EA General Regulations making it applicable to all disciplines.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Mandatory standards for body protectors have been introduced for the XC phase with a grace period until January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. Helmet tagging has begun (a program where helmets marked as compliant to standards a tagged with a yellow tag) thanks to active volunteers in all States. At the time of writing a total of 1365 helmets had been checked with approximately 6% (83) found to be non-compliant.

## Updates to Existing Programs

**National Athlete Reps:** Since the beginning of the year this program has been enhanced with:-

- Role Description and Selection Criteria (Thanks Matt Bates)
- An improved report form and electronic reporting option (Thanks Lynne Brown)
- SMS notification of Rider rep details to competitors(Thanks Jenny Merity)

**Equiratings:** In addition to the ability for owners to view their horses rating through MyEA there is now a “click through” alert when a horse is entered through Nominate on a red rating and an automatic email alert generated to the relevant state branch and NSO. This is followed by an email to the rider alerting them to the fact.

## Foundation Programs

**Officials:** Over the last 6 months the National Officials Education Program has been updated to provide the core seminar element with a consistent program no matter where it is run in Australia. Key aspects of this are:-

- Duration 2 days
- Run at an Event
- Common core Curriculum

A pilot seminar was run in Maryborough Queensland in May and seminars are scheduled in WA (September) and Victoria (November). At the same time Officials pathways are being updated to require more field based activity to maintain or upgrade accreditation.

**Reporting and Statistics:** Once again –thanks to the many volunteers who go above and beyond to not only officiate at events but also to spend the time to report on them afterwards-it is a critical and sometimes thankless task. The data we are collecting is fundamental to the improvement of our sport and the more accurate we can make it the better informed we will be.

#### Risk Management and Serious Incident Planning (H1 =Jan-June H2= July-Dec)

Item	Description	H1 17	H2 17	H1 18	H2 18	H1 19
<b>Event Risk Management Plan</b>						
	# Events rated 1(unacceptable or unavailable)	3	4	2	2	4
	# Events rated 2(acceptable)	14	18	22	16	11
	# Events rated 3(Excellent)	8	20	31	24	37
	# Events - not reported	14	2	1	3	0
<b>Serious Incident Management Plan</b>						
	# Events rated 1(unacceptable or unavailable)	0	2	1	0	2
	# Events rated 2(acceptable)	13	19	16	10	14
	# Events rated 3(Excellent)	11	22	38	32	36
	# Events - not reported	14	2	1	3	0

#### Frangible Device Usage:

Period					
Description	H1 17	H2 17	H1 18	H2 18	H1 19
# star class tracks without devices(2* & above)	24	30	15	13	17
# star class tracks with devices(2*&above)	33	39	31	64	71
# national class tracks with devices(1*& below)	NR	NR	NR	13	27
# Activations	5	8	3	9	21
# false activations(penalty removed)	0	1 failed activation	0	0	0

**NR=not reported**

**Fall Statistics:-**The table below compares fall percentages by level to the average for 2018 of falls in GB, France, USA, Germany and Australia.

	H1 2019	FEI top 5 2018 Average	H1 2019	FEI top 5 2018 Average
	Horse Falls %	Horse Falls %	All Falls %	All Falls %
EvA80	0.00%	0.07%	2.48%	1.86%
EvA95	0.24%	0.23%	2.72%	2.13%
CCX1*	0.38%	0.00%	3.91%	2.67%
CCX2*	0.44%	0.51%	3.56%	2.71%
CCX3*	1.25%	0.68%	6.25%	2.79%
CCX4*	0.51%	1.22%	4.10%	4.30%

Note: For EvA 95 there is no exact WW match so the comparison was made with 100CM class

Bearing in mind that the numbers are small (20 falls in total in CCX3\*) there does appear to be a significantly greater % fall rate than average at the CCX3\* level.

Of the 20 falls

- 6 (30%) were at brush fences
- 4 (20%) were at corners
- 7(30%) were at long format competition

### Year on Year Comparison

rider falls per level % of starters						
	Up to 0.80	0.95 cm	1m05	1m10	1m15	1m20
H1 18	152	49	34	28	10	7
%	2.9%	2.1%	2.3%	2.6%	2.2%	3.6%
H2 18	114	52	29	23	16	11
%	3.0%	2.6%	2.1%	2.6%	3.0%	5.1%
H1 19	164	52	47	28	16	7
%	3.2%	2.5%	3.5%	3.1%	5.0%	3.6%

Horse Falls per level % of starters						
	Up to 0.80	0.95	1.05	1m10	1m15	1m20
H1 18	5	2	6	10	1	1
%	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	0.9%	0.2%	0.5%
H2 18	1	6	4	9	4	4
%	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%	1.0%	0.8%	1.9%
H1 19	5	5	5	4	4	1
%	0.1%	0.24%	0.38%	0.4%	1.25%	0.51%

With such small numbers it is difficult to spot meaningful trends although it does appear as though the 1.15M level has shown a consistent upward trend as a % of starters for both rider and horse falls over the last 18 months.

Approximately 13% of all falls were falls on the flat

### Breaking out horse falls at fences and falls on the flat

Horse Falls Recorded				
	110CM (28) and Above		95CM and Above	
Period	FOF	Fall at fence	FOF	Fall at fence
H1 18	2	10	3	17
H2 18	4	13	6	19
H1 19	2	7	4	15

Whilst the numbers are too small to have any statistical significance it is encouraging to see the year on year reduction in horse falls at fences.

## **Injuries**

Our reporting has been modified to encourage the use of drop down boxes for ease and consistency of data management. We now have categories of “hospital admission” and “transferred to hospital” to designate more serious concerns.

As a % of total falls:-

- Hospital Admission was 1.48% of all falls- a good proxy for Serious Injury
- Hospital Admission plus transfer was 3.8% of all falls
- 2018 FEI wide stats for serious injuries as a % of falls was 3.65%

There were 10 concussions recorded in the first 6 months of 2019

## **Competent Risk Aware Competitors:**

A continuing program of safety and risk management talks to competitors (Most recently South Australia) and Coaches (most recently Sydney, Canberra and Tamworth) together with website and Facebook posts is helping to build more risk aware and safety conscious competitors.

State branches continue to run squad clinics for experienced riders and newbies alike which offer the chance to learn from experienced coaches in a friendly group setting.

A key part of helping competitors become more risk aware is the warnings and sanctions process –we look for a balance between the % of starters and the % of warnings on a state by state basis to ensure it is being used consistently.

	H1 19	H1 19	H1 19
Rider Sanctions	Starters	%age starters	% of sanctions
NSW	3832	38%	15.38%
Vic	2727	27%	46.15%
WA	1269	13%	7.69%
Qld	1270	13%	17.95%
SA	657	7%	5.13%
TAS	309	3%	7.69%
Total Starters	10064		<b>39</b>

## Summary and Acknowledgement

I hope you find the information above interesting-please let me know of any questions or suggested changes. As we continue the data collection process it will undoubtedly reveal more about our progress in reducing the risk inherent in eventing and tracking our progress in program implementation. The work by Vicki Burgess and Lynne Brown was invaluable in the production of this report. The NSO function and the supporting data management work is generously supported by the Terry Snow "Making Eventing Safer" fund.

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