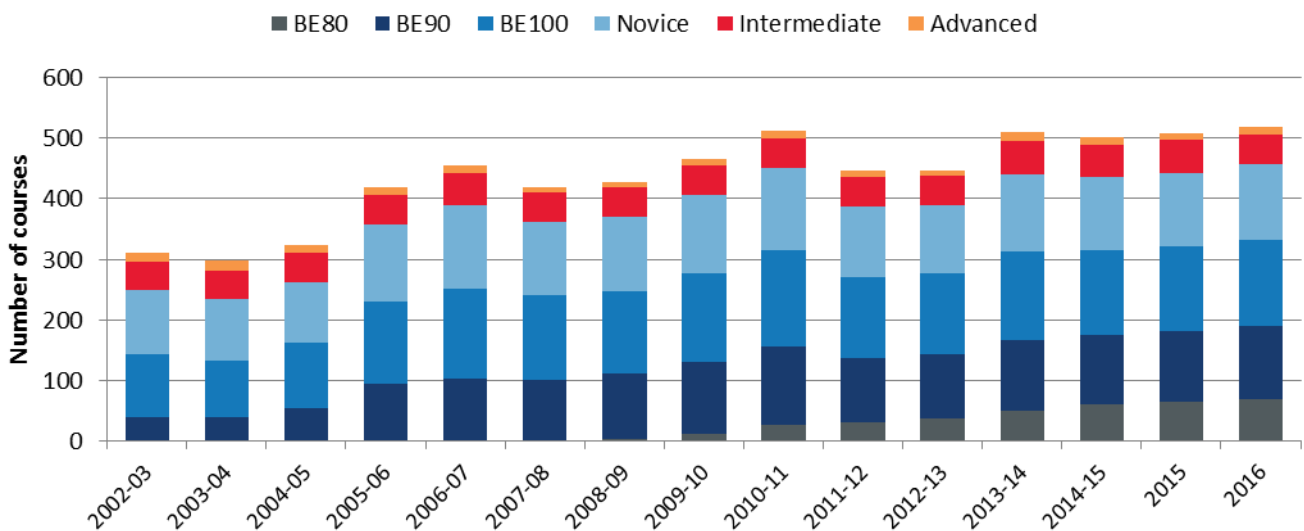


The British Eventing (BE) falls project started in 2002 and aims to collect data that can be used to develop a greater knowledge of how falls occur in cross country events. Each year, data from falls are analysed by TRL to understand how improvements to the safety of the sport have changed the risk, particularly in those falls which result in fatal or serious injury. The figures below display a summary of the courses, competitors, fences and falls experienced during the 2016 season. The full report (covering both the 2015 and 2016 seasons) is available on the BE website ([www.britisheventing.com/safety](http://www.britisheventing.com/safety)).

In previous annual reports, the analysis included data from two seasons covering the period from July to June the following year. This year, the reporting periods changed to match the BE seasons, which typically run from March to October.

## Number of Courses

There were 518 BE courses in 2016. This is the highest number recorded since reporting began in 2002-03.



## Number of Competitors

There were over 68 thousand cross country starters during the 2016 season. On average, there were 118 competitors per course, with BE100 and BE90 courses being the most popular.

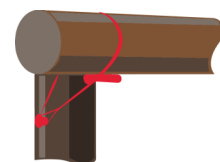
= 20 competitors

COURSE	AVERAGE NUMBER OF COMPETITORS
BE80	
BE90	
BE100	
Novice	
Intermediate	
Advanced	
CIC (* to ***)	
CCI (* to ****)	

## Frangible Elements

In 2002 frangible elements were introduced into fences to reduce the chance that a horse somersaults due to the way in which it impacts a cross-country fence. If the impact with the fence is large enough, the frangible element is designed to break, making the fence considerably safer.

There were 754 fences with frangible elements in 2016. Twenty two falls occurred at these fences, only one of which involved the horse somersaulting.



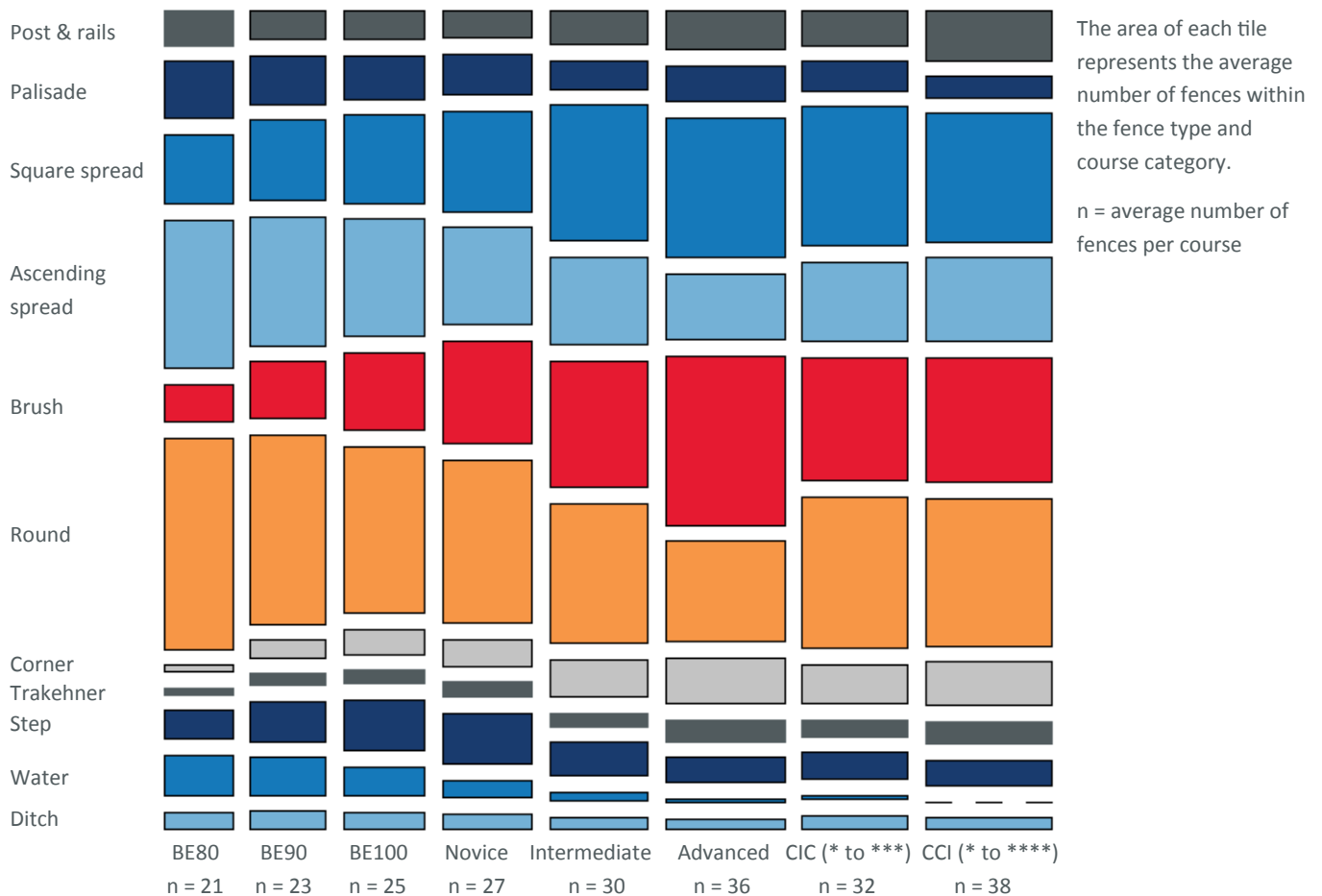
“ In 2016, 3% of riders who fell were seriously injured. This is a reduction from 6% in 2002-03.

## Number of Fences

There were over 15,000 cross country fences in 2016.

- Round elements were the most common fence type (26% of all fences).
- On average, advanced courses had the most fences (36 per course) and BE80 courses the fewest (21 fences).
- Square spread and brush elements were more common at the higher levels and ascending spreads were more popular in BE80, BE90 and BE100 classes.

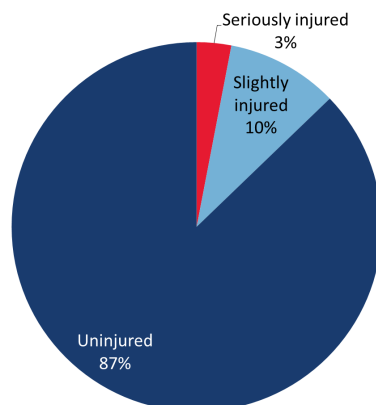
### AVERAGE NUMBER OF FENCES BY FENCE TYPE AND COURSE



## Overview of Falls

### RIDER INJURY SEVERITY

Three percent of riders who fell were seriously injured and 10% were slightly injured.



### PROPORTION OF RIDERS WHO FELL WHO WERE WEARING AN AIR JACKET

Overall, 59% of riders who fell were wearing an air jacket. The lowest proportion was 39% on BE80 courses.

“ Popularity of eventing has increased over the past 15 seasons with more courses and competitors than ever before. ”

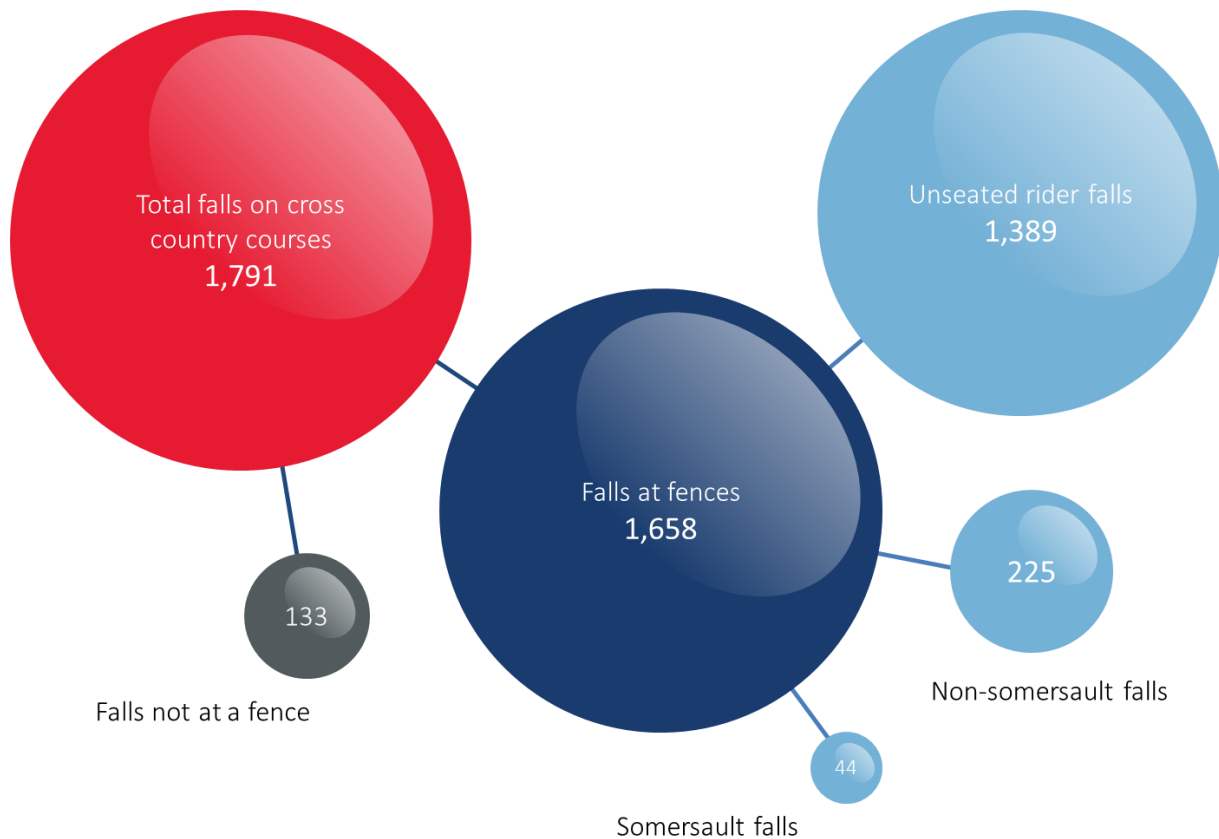


BRITISH  
EVENTING

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OF TRANSPORT

There were 1,791 falls on cross country courses in 2016. The majority of these occurred at fences.



## Conclusions

The popularity of eventing has increased over the past 15 seasons with more courses and competitors in 2016 than ever before. Despite this, there was a 27% reduction in the number of falls per thousand jumps between 2002-03 and 2016, indicating that safety has improved substantially over this time.

BE will continue to monitor the number of falls and strive to improve the safety of their cross country events.

### STRATEGIC AIMS

BE's casualty reduction strategy aims to:

- Reduce the percentage of riders who are fatally/seriously injured.
- Reduce the percentage of horse falls relative to the number of competitors.

### NUMBER OF FALLS PER THOUSAND JUMPS

