

Safety review and statistics

British Eventing's National Safety Officer **Jonathan Clissold** brings you a summary of the Cross Country Courses and Falls on them for 2010/2011 Season

AS A CONTINUED safety audit of the sport BE continues to collect data on all of the fences and the falls that occurs at them at every BE and FEI Event throughout the year. The Technical Advisors measures all the fences and allocate them a profile from a list, this is then all entered into the BE database through the TA's laptop computer. The fence judges fill in a Fall Report Form for each fall and this is then also entered into the laptop by the TA and sent electronically to the BE database.

This data that is collected is constantly analysed allowing BE to keep an continual audit of the sport and quickly react to any fences or trends that appear that could affect the safety of cross country courses.

The reporting year for the cross-country data is 1st July to 30th June and at the end of this reporting period the database is sent to the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) for an independent audit and annual report.

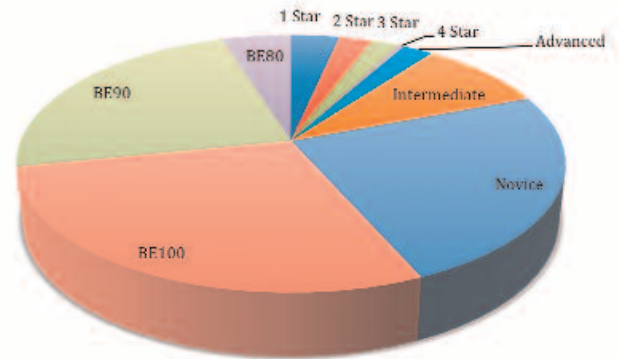
Here is the data reported for the period from 1st July 2010 to 30th June 2011

- 560 BE & FEI Courses in the UK
- 13,886 Cross Country Fence Elements
- 69,856 Cross Country Starters
- 1.7 million estimated Fences jumped
- 1,901 Cross Country Falls
- 1,789 Falls associated with a Fence

Table 1: Courses and Starters

BE & FEI Classes	No. of Courses	No. of XC Starters
1 Star	19	1,191
2 Star	13	842
3 Star	11	789
4 Star	2	149
Advanced	12	958
Intermediate	50	5,866
Novice	136	17,057
BE100	159	25,159
BE90	131	16,206
BE80	27	1,639
Total	560	69,856

Distribution of 560 BE & FEI Courses by Class



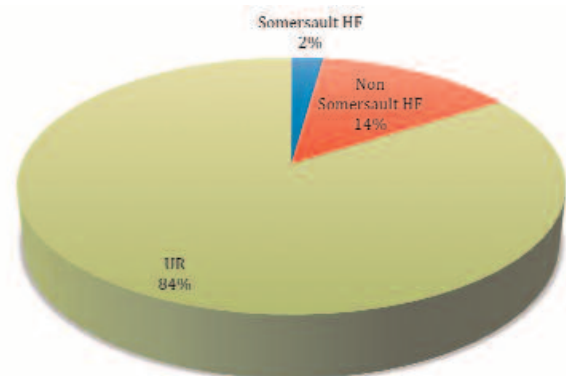
Falls

1,901 falls in total on cross country courses at Events
1,789 occurred at a fence
112 were on the flat
This table shows the 1,789 falls at a fence by fall type.

Table 2: Categories of falls

Somersault horse falls	Non-somersault horse falls	Unseated rider	Total
40	245	1,504	1,789

1,789 Falls at Fences by Fall Type



Injuries

Table 3 details the 1,504 unseated rider falls.

Table 3: Severity of injury from unseated rider falls

Unseated rider falls	No Injury	Slight	Serious	Fatal	Severity not known	Total
Number of riders	1,340	139	24	1	0	1,504
Percentage	89.10%	9.23%	1.60%	0.07%	0.00%	100%

Table 4 details the 285 falls where the horse and rider both fell.

Horse Falls	No Injury	Slight Injury	Serious Injury	Fatal Injury	Not Known if Injured	Total
Number of falls without somersaulting	170 69.4%	59 24.1%	16 6.5%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	245 100%
Number of falls involving the horse somersaulting	17 42.5%	14 35.0%	9 22.5%	0 0%	0 0%	40 100%
Total number of falls	187 65.6%	73 25.6%	25 8.8%	0 0%	0 0%	285 100%

Table 5 details the falls at fences.

Fall Type		July 02- June 03	July 03- June 04	July 04- June 05	July 05- June 06	July 06- June 07	July 07- June 08	July 08- June 09	July 09- June 10	July 10- June 11	Combined results
Non-Somersault horse falls	No. of seriously/fatally injured riders	28	22	13	9	9	10	15	20	16	142
	Total number of non-somersault falls	235	210	197	178	236	244	225	251	245	2,021
	Percentage	12%	11%	7%	5%	4%	4%	7%	8%	7%	7%
Somersault horse falls	No. of seriously/fatally injured riders	33	14	20	18	18	12	16	8	9	148
	Total number of somersault falls	90	60	60	68	55	46	43	49	40	511
	Percentage	37%	23%	33%	26%	33%	26%	37%	16%	23%	29%
Unseated rider falls	No. of seriously/fatally injured riders	43	33	30	31	23	23	16	21	25	198
	Total number of unseated rider falls	1,257	1,182	1,275	1,316	1,492	1,547	1,390	1,366	1,504	12,329
	Percentage	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%

Conclusions

Looking at the results for this year it can be seen that the number of seriously injured riders from non-somersault horse falls has reduced but the percentage of seriously injured riders following a somersault horse fall has increased slightly having dramatically decreased last year. However the biggest change in the figures is the decrease in Somersault Horse Falls from 49 to 40.

It is difficult to know if this is significant on only a one year of reduction but this is one of the figures that we are striving to drive down as it is in the highest risk area so we will be keeping an eye on it.

Risk

Using the combined result from table 5, so using all the data collected, this gives us the following risk factors for the different types of fall:

- Somersault horse fall 29% risk of a serious/fatal outcome
- Non-somersault horse fall 7% risk of a serious/fatal outcome
- Unseated rider fall 2% risk of a serious/fatal outcome.

The table, right, shows that the percentage risk of serious injury from July 10 – June 11 is 0.07%, which is as low as the risk has ever been. In fact there is a 99.93% chance that you will NOT be seriously injured following a fall on the cross country at a BE or FEI Event in the UK. 🐾

Table 6 details all serious injuries at Events.

Year	Number of competitors	Serious injury	% Risk of serious injury
July 10-June 11	69,856	50	0.07%
July 09-June 10	64,816	49	0.08%
July 08-June 09	65,041	53	0.08%
July 07-June 08	64,462	48	0.07%
July 06-June 07	60,357	52	0.09%
July 05-June 06	56,041	63	0.11%
July 04-June 05	47,934	66	0.14%
July 03-June 04	41,221	69	0.17%
July 02-June 03	44,962	108	0.24%