

Summary of Falls on Cross Country Courses for 2014/15 Season

This summary is based on 64,269 XC starters on 560 BE & FEI courses for UK competitions that were entered into the BE database on the 31st August 2015.

Due to data errors, nine events, covering 33 courses with a total of 3,752 starters were not included in the analysis

The severity of the rider's injury is based on the fence judges' initial assessment; this assessment may be revised in the light of further medical information. The assessment is based on the following guidelines:

- **Fatal** - Death within 30 days as a result of injuries sustained in the accident; not death from natural causes.
- **Serious** - Admitted to hospital as an in-patient either immediately or later as a result of the injuries sustained in the accident, or died more than 30 days after the accident from injuries sustained; or one or more of the following injuries: fracture, internal injury, severe cuts or lacerations, crushing, concussion.
- **Slight** - One or more of the following injuries: sprains, bruises, and cuts judged not to be severe.
- **No Injury** - No recorded injuries.

It should be noted when looking at any FEI data analysis that they have different injury criteria:

- **Serious is "Permanent Disability"**
- **Slight is "Temporary Disability"**

Therefore a lot of injuries we consider serious such as fractures and concussion the FEI categorise as slight.

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64,269 XC starters on 560 BE & FEI courses for UK competitions.
1,828 falls in total on the XC at Events, 1,721 occurred at a fence, 107 occurred on the flat.

	Fatal injury	Serious injury	Slight injury	No injury	Total
Number of riders	0	52	194	1,582	1,828
Percentage	0%	3%	11%	86%	100%

Table 1: All XC falls by the severity of rider injury

Falls	Fatal Injury	Serious Injury	Slight Injury	No Injury	Severity not known	Total
Number of falls involving the horse somersaulting	0 0%	8 28%	7 24%	14 48%	0 0.0%	29 100%
Number of falls without the horse somersaulting	0 0%	19 8%	29 12%	185 79%	0 0%	233 100%
Number of unseated riders	0 0.0%	20 1%	151 10%	1,288 88%	0 0.0%	1,459 100%
Total number of falls	1 0.06%	44 2.42%	182 10.02%	1,590 87.50%	0 0%	1,721 100%

Table 2: Falls at a fence by severity of rider injury

Year	Number of competitors	Serious injury	% Risk of Serious Injury
July 14 – June 15	64,269	52	0.08%
July 13 – June 14	66,407	44	0.07%
July 12 – June 13	64,855	35	0.05%
July 11 – June 12	61,678	39	0.06%
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%

Table 3: Percentage Risk of Serious Injury by year

Using the combined result from table 4 overleaf this gives us the following risk factors for the different types of fall:

Somersault horse fall	28%	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

Table 4: Results of 2002/03, 2003/04, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 seas

Fall Type		2002 /03	2003 /04	2004 /05	2005 /06	2006 /07	2007 /08	2008 /09	2009 /10	2010 /11	2011 /12	2012 /13	2013 /14	2014 /15	Combined Results
Somersault horse falls	Number of seriously/fatally injured riders	33	14	20	17	18	12	16	8	9	7	8	17	8	187
	Total number of falls	90	60	60	67	55	46	43	49	40	40	41	45	29	665
	Percentage of riders seriously/fatally injured	37%	23%	33%	25%	33%	26%	37%	16%	23%	18%	20%	38%	28%	28%
Non- somersault horse falls	Number of seriously/fatally injured riders	28	22	13	9	9	9	15	20	16	14	15	10	19	199
	Total number of falls	235	210	196	178	230	242	225	251	245	224	238	245	233	2,952
	Percentage of riders seriously/fatally injured	12%	10%	7%	5%	4%	4%	7%	8%	7%	6%	6%	4%	8%	7%
Unseated rider falls	Number of seriously/fatally injured riders	43	33	30	30	22	22	16	21	25	18	12	18	44	334
	Total number of falls	1,257	1,182	1,265	1,315	1,486	1,544	1,390	1,366	1,504	1,358	1,337	1,527	1,459	17,990
	Percentage of riders seriously/fatally injured	3%	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%