

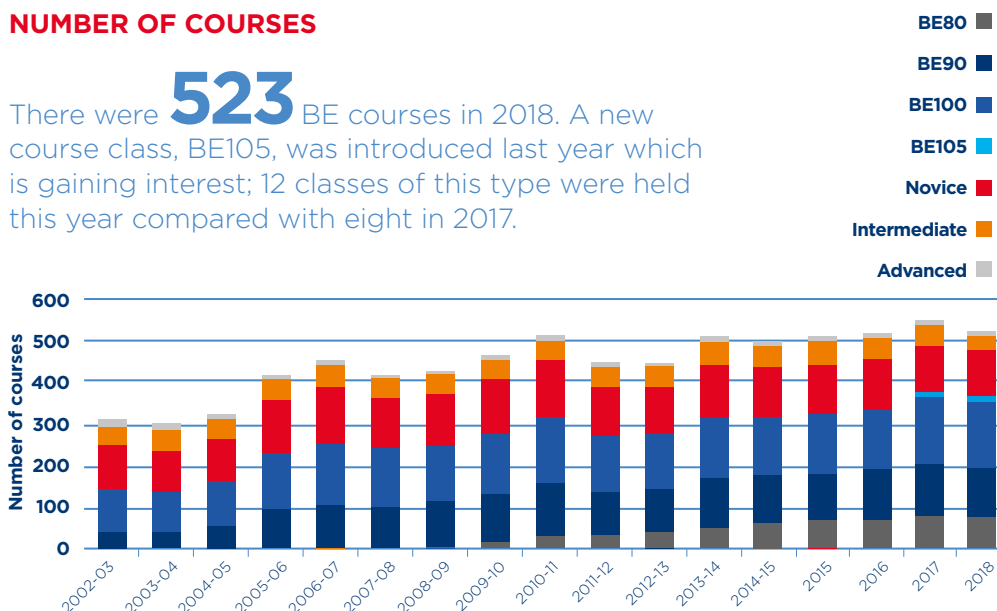
Safety report

A summary of the cross country courses and falls on them for 2018

The British Eventing (BE) falls project started in 2002. Each season the project has collected data that can be used to better understand how falls occur in cross country events. Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) analyses this data to understand how improvements to the safety of the sport have changed the risk of falls and injuries. This article provides a summary of the courses, competitors, fences and falls experienced during the 2018 season. When available, the full report will be published on www.britisheventing.com/compete/rules-and-safety

NUMBER OF COURSES

There were **523** BE courses in 2018. A new course class, BE105, was introduced last year which is gaining interest; 12 classes of this type were held this year compared with eight in 2017.



NUMBER OF COMPETITORS

There were over 65,000 cross country starters during the 2018 season. On average, there were 113 competitors per course, with BE90 and BE100 courses being the most popular. 🐎 = 20 competitors

COURSE	AVERAGE NUMBER OF COMPETITORS
BE80	4 🐎
BE90	10 🐎
BE100	10 🐎
BE105	3 🐎
Novice	6 🐎
Intermediate	6 🐎
Advanced	3 🐎
CIC (1* to 3*)	5 🐎
CCI (1* to 4*)	4 🐎

FENCES

There were over **15,000** cross country fences in 2018. The most common types were:

Round
26%

Ascending spread
16%

Brush
12%

Square spread
17%

Palisade
7%

AIR JACKETS

Overall, **56%** of riders who fell were wearing an air jacket.

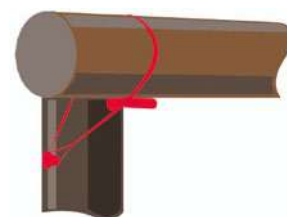
FRANGIBLE ELEMENTS

In 2002 frangible elements were introduced into fences to reduce the chance that a horse somersaults if it makes contact with the fence.

If the impact with the fence is large enough, the frangible element is designed to break, making the fence considerably safer.

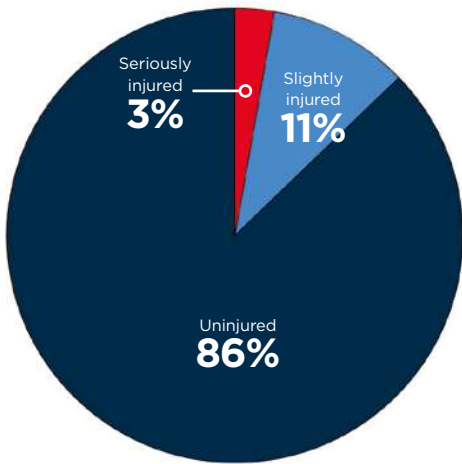
There were 1,054 fences with frangible elements in 2018; 148 falls

occurred at these fences. Only 15 of these falls involved the frangible element breaking. One rider was seriously injured and another rider was slightly injured. All other riders were uninjured.



OVERVIEW OF FALLS

Three per cent of riders who fell were seriously injured and 11 per cent were slightly injured. There were no fatal falls.



FALLS AT FENCES

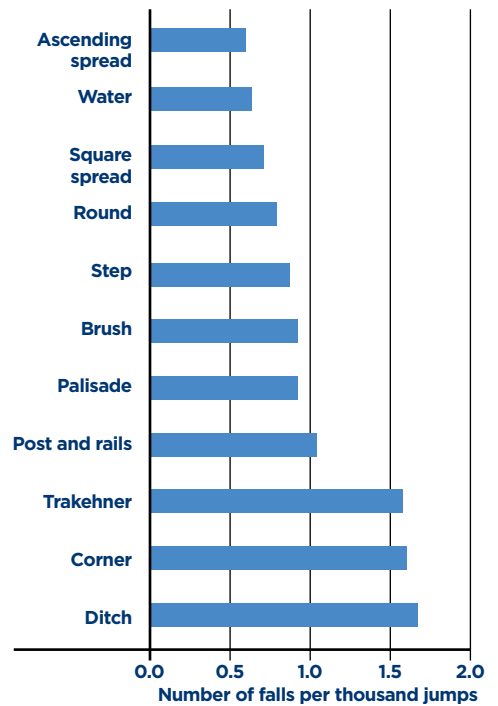
There were 1,529 falls on cross country courses in 2018. The majority of these (1,399) occurred at fences.

British Eventing does not record the number of times each fence is jumped; however, if certain assumptions are made, it is possible to estimate the number of times that each type of fence is jumped, and compare this with the number of falls that occur at this fence type. This can be used to see at which fence types falls are most likely to occur.

The chart to the right shows the number of falls per thousand attempts at each fence type. Fences with a higher number of falls per thousand jumps are more risky.

Ditches had the highest number of falls per thousand jumps of all the fence types; for every thousand attempts at this fence type, 1.7 riders fell. This was followed by corner fences (1.6 falls for every thousand jumps).

Fewer falls per thousand jumps occurred at ascending spread, water, and square spread fences (around 0.6 falls for every thousand jumps).



The number of falls per thousand jumps has continued to reduce since the 2002-03 season

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

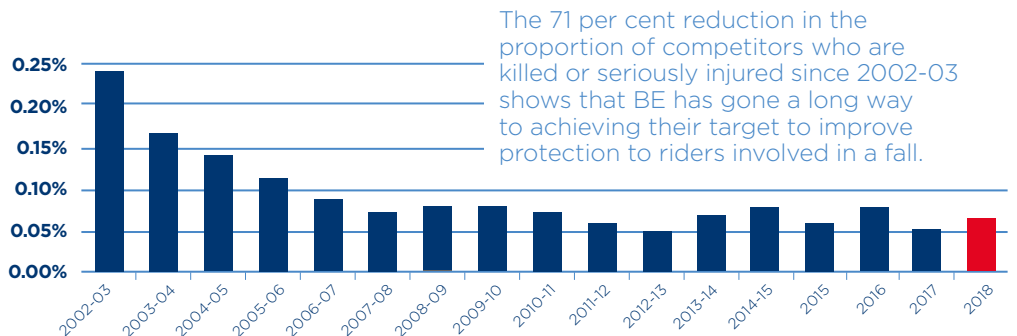
British Eventing has adopted a casualty reduction strategy, which aims to:

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

To assess if BE are meeting these aims, a number of Key Performance Indicators are used to monitor rider safety.

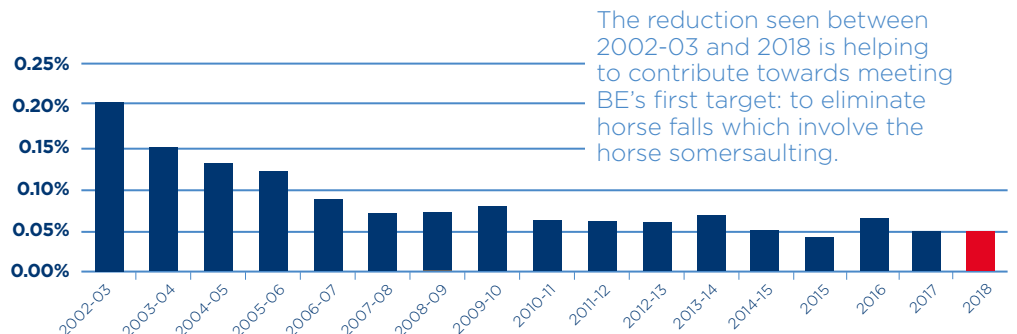
BRITISH EVENTING WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE NUMBER OF FALLS AND STRIVE TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF THEIR CROSS COUNTRY EVENTS.

PROPORTION OF RIDERS FATALLY OR SERIOUSLY INJURED



The 71 per cent reduction in the proportion of competitors who are killed or seriously injured since 2002-03 shows that BE has gone a long way to achieving their target to improve protection to riders involved in a fall.

PROPORTION OF RIDERS IN FALLS WHERE THE HORSE SOMERSAULTS



The reduction seen between 2002-03 and 2018 is helping to contribute towards meeting BE's first target: to eliminate horse falls which involve the horse somersaulting.