

Safety report

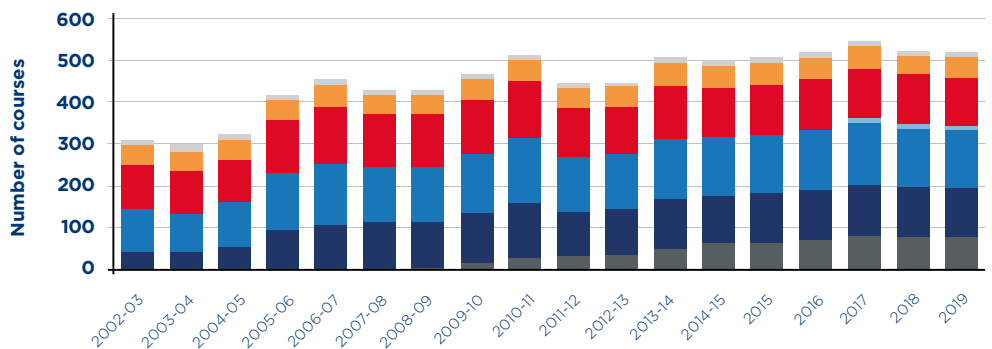


The latest data from British Eventing's 2019 season

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. 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 2019 season. The full report will be available on the BE website: www.britisheventing.com/safety.

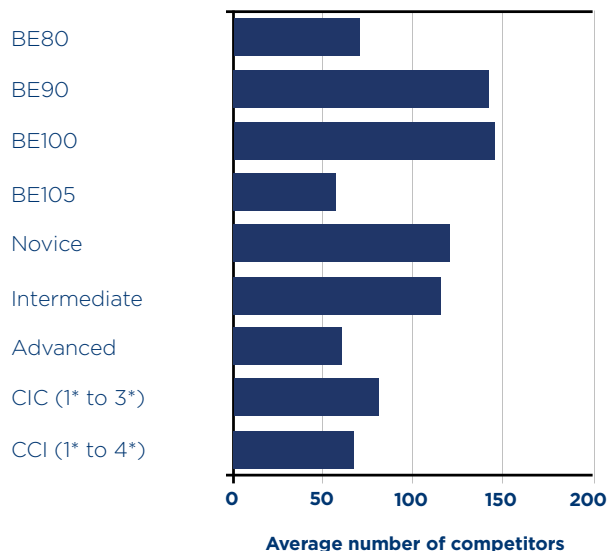
NUMBER OF COURSES

There were **520** BE courses in 2019. The breakdown of the course types is presented below:



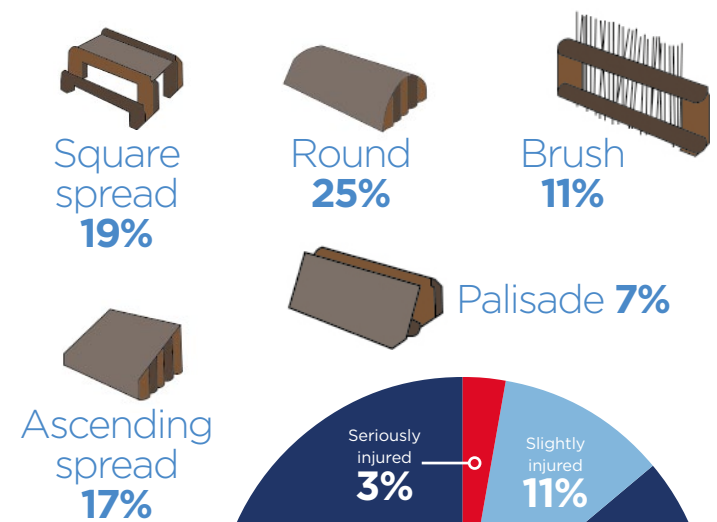
NUMBER OF COMPETITORS

There were more than 66,000 cross country starters during the 2019 season. On average, there were 113 competitors per course, with BE90 and BE100 courses being the most popular.



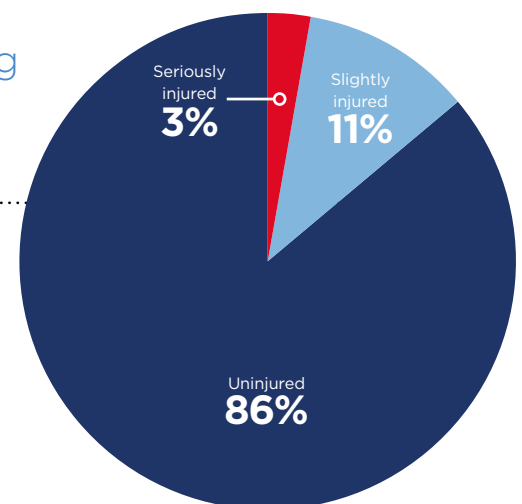
FENCES

There were more than **14,000** cross country fences in 2019. The most common types were:



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.



AIR JACKETS

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

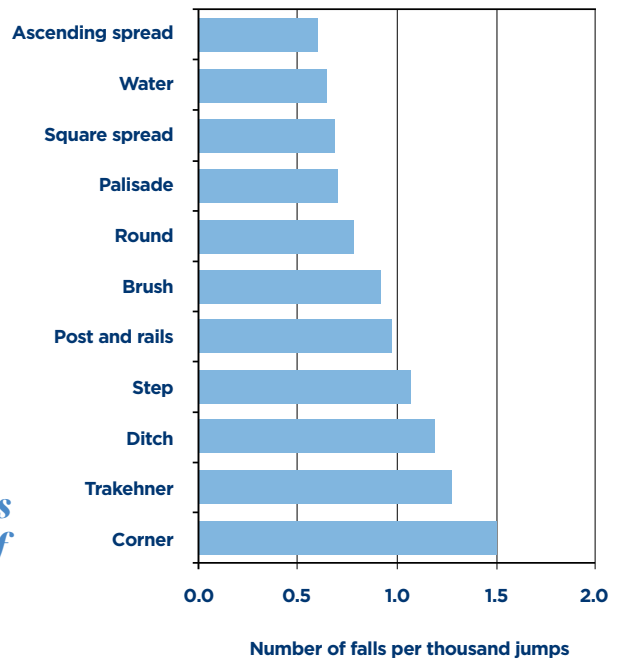
FALLS AT FENCES

There were 1,578 falls on cross country courses in 2019. The majority of these (1,401) 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 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.

Corner fences had the highest number of falls per thousand jumps

of all the fence types – for every thousand attempts at this fence type, 1.5 riders fell. This was followed by trakehner fences (1.3 falls for every thousand jumps). Fewer falls per thousand jumps occurred at ascending spread, water and square spread fences (between 0.6 and 0.7 falls for every thousand jumps).

Corner fences had the highest number of falls per thousand jumps of all fence types



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

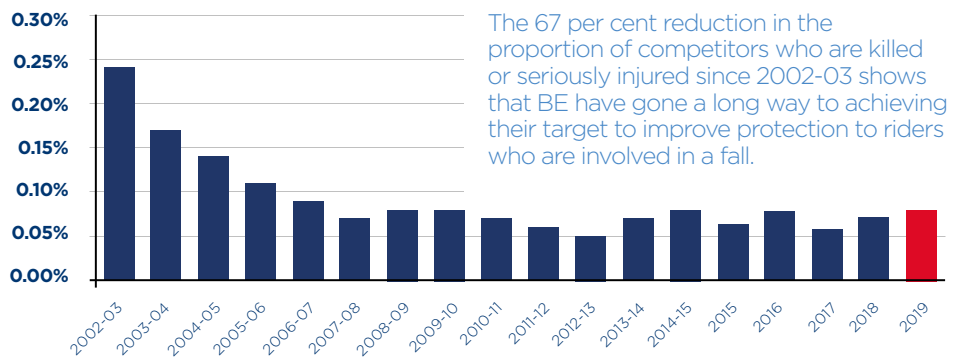
STRATEGIC AIMS

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.

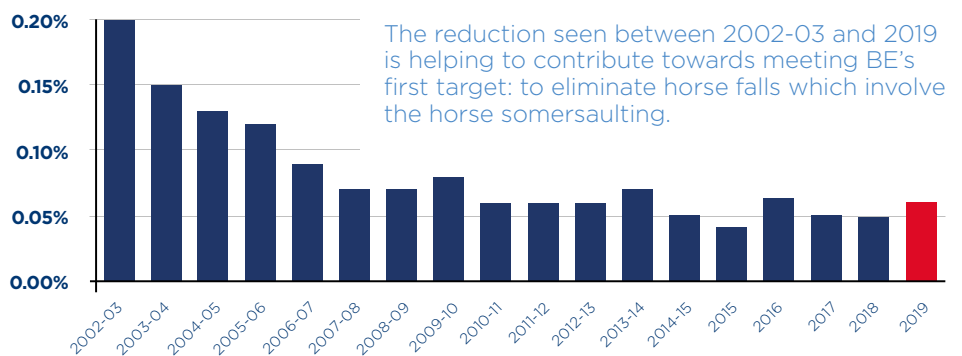
To assess if BE are meeting these aims, a number of key performance indicators are used to monitor rider safety.

PROPORTION OF RIDERS FATALLY OR SERIOUSLY INJURED

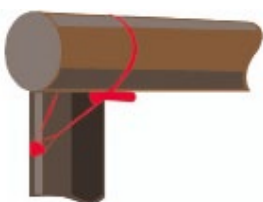


The 67 per cent reduction in the proportion of competitors who are killed or seriously injured since 2002-03 shows that BE have gone a long way to achieving their target to improve protection to riders who are involved in a fall.

PROPORTION OF RIDERS IN FALLS WHERE THE HORSE SOMERSAULTS



The reduction seen between 2002-03 and 2019 is helping to contribute towards meeting BE's first target: to eliminate horse falls which involve the horse somersaulting.



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 1,038 fences with frangible elements in 2019 and 134 falls occurred at these fences. Only 28 of these falls involved the frangible element breaking. One rider was seriously injured. All other riders were uninjured.

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