

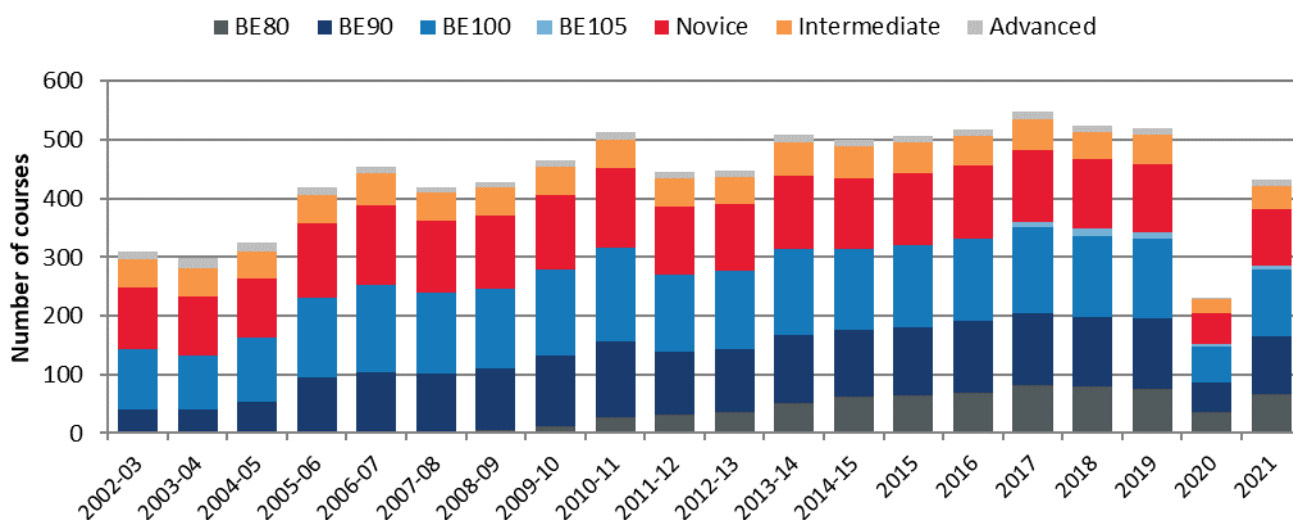
SAFETY REPORT 2021



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 analysis 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 season.

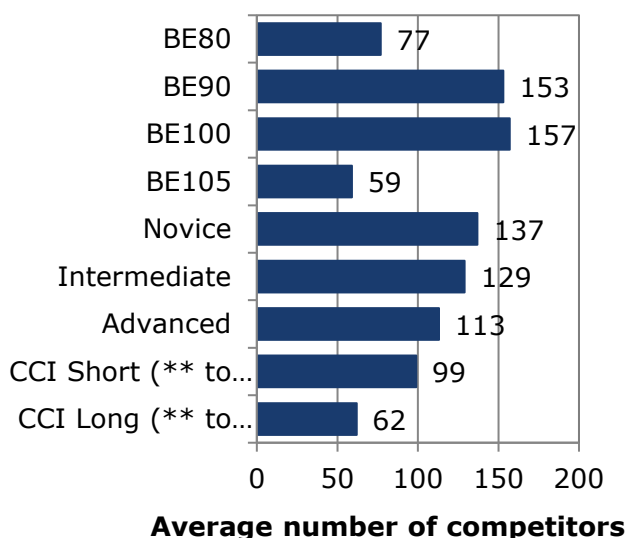
Number of Courses

There were 236 BE courses in 2020 and 446 BE courses in 2021. The break down of the course types is as follows:



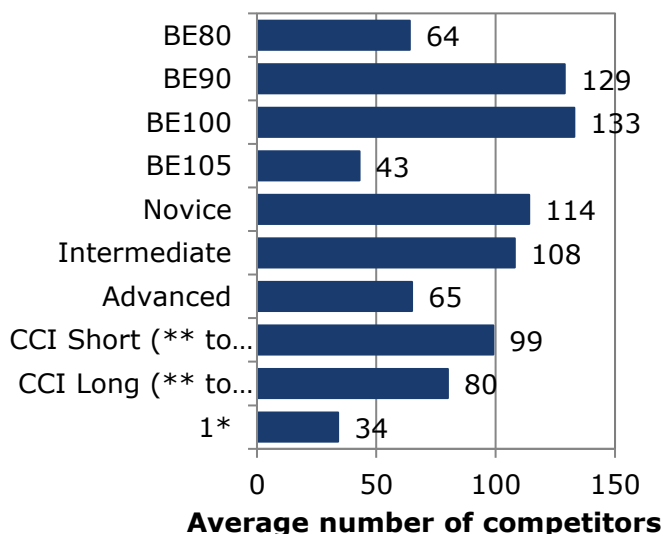
Number of Competitors

There were over 32 thousand cross country starters during the 2020 season. On average, there were 130 competitors per course, with BE100 and BE90 courses being the most popular.



Number of Competitors

There were over 52 thousand cross country starters during the 2021 season. On average, there were 109 competitors per course, with BE100 and BE90 courses being the most popular.

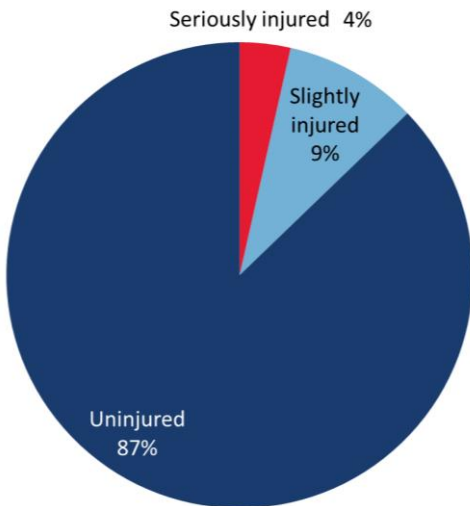


“ The number of falls per thousand jumps has continued to reduce since the 2002-03 season. ”

Overview of Falls

Four percent of riders who fell were seriously injured and nine percent were slightly injured in 2020.

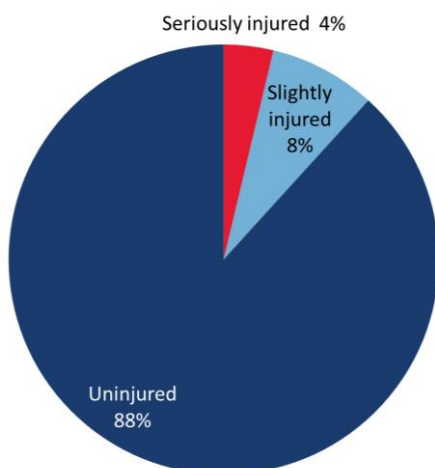
There were no fatal falls.



Overview of Falls

Four percent of riders who fell were seriously injured and eight percent were slightly injured in 2021.

There were no fatal falls.



Air jackets

Overall, 50% of riders who fell were wearing an air jacket in 2020 and 2021.

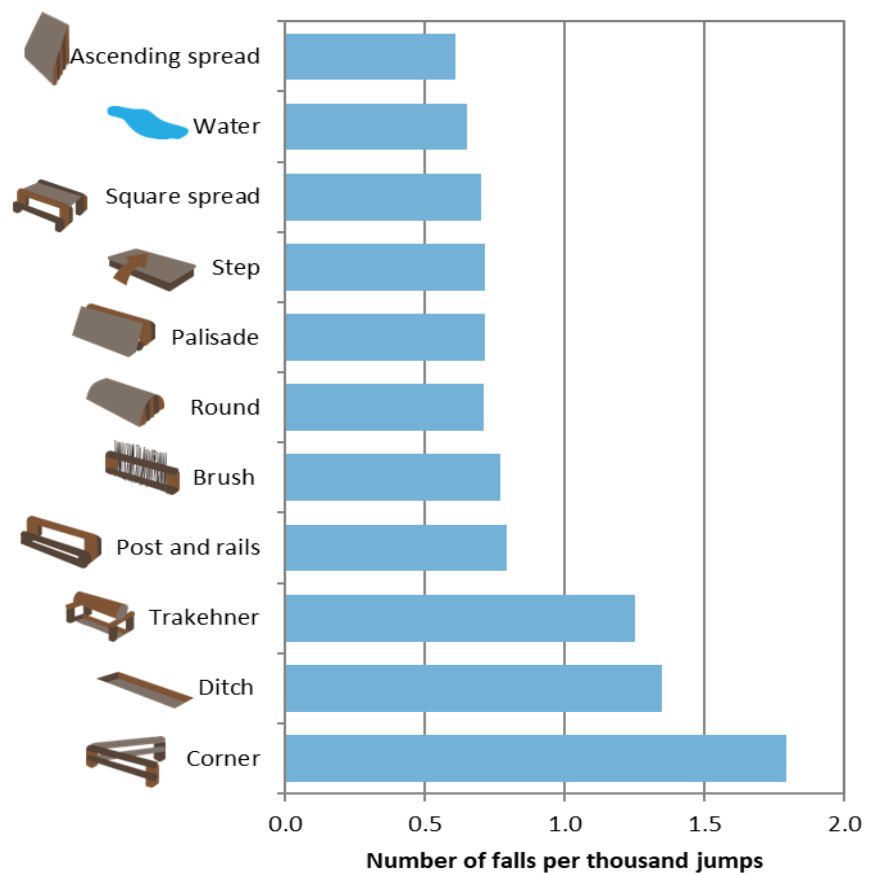


Falls at fences

There were 712 falls in 2020 of which 673 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 which fence types falls are most likely to occur at.

The chart below 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.



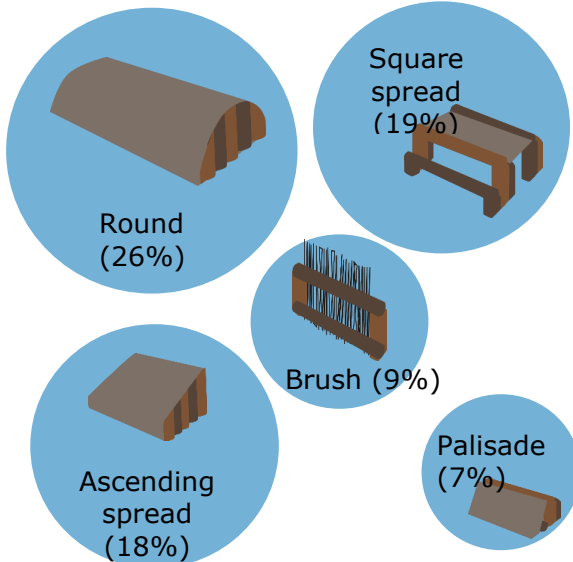
In 2020, Corner fences had the highest number of falls per thousand jumps of all the fence types; for every thousand attempts at this fence type, 1.8 riders fell. This was followed by ditch fences (1.4 falls for every thousand jumps).

Fewer falls per thousand jumps occurred at water, ascending spread, and square spread fences (between 0.6 and 0.7 falls for every thousand jumps) in 2020.

Number of Fences

There were over 12,000 cross country fences in 2021. The most common fence types were:

MOST COMMON FENCE TYPES



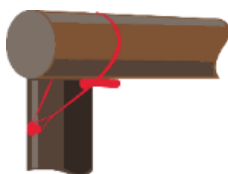
These were the most common fence types in 2020 as well

Frangible Elements

Frangible elements were introduced to reduce the chance that a horse somersaults if it contacts 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 468 fences with frangible elements in 2020; 61 falls occurred at these fences. Only 2 of these falls involved the frangible element breaking. Neither rider was seriously injured. Both riders were uninjured.

There were 913 fences with frangible elements in 2021; 90 falls occurred at these fences. Only nine of these falls involved the frangible element breaking. One rider was seriously injured. The rest of the riders were uninjured.

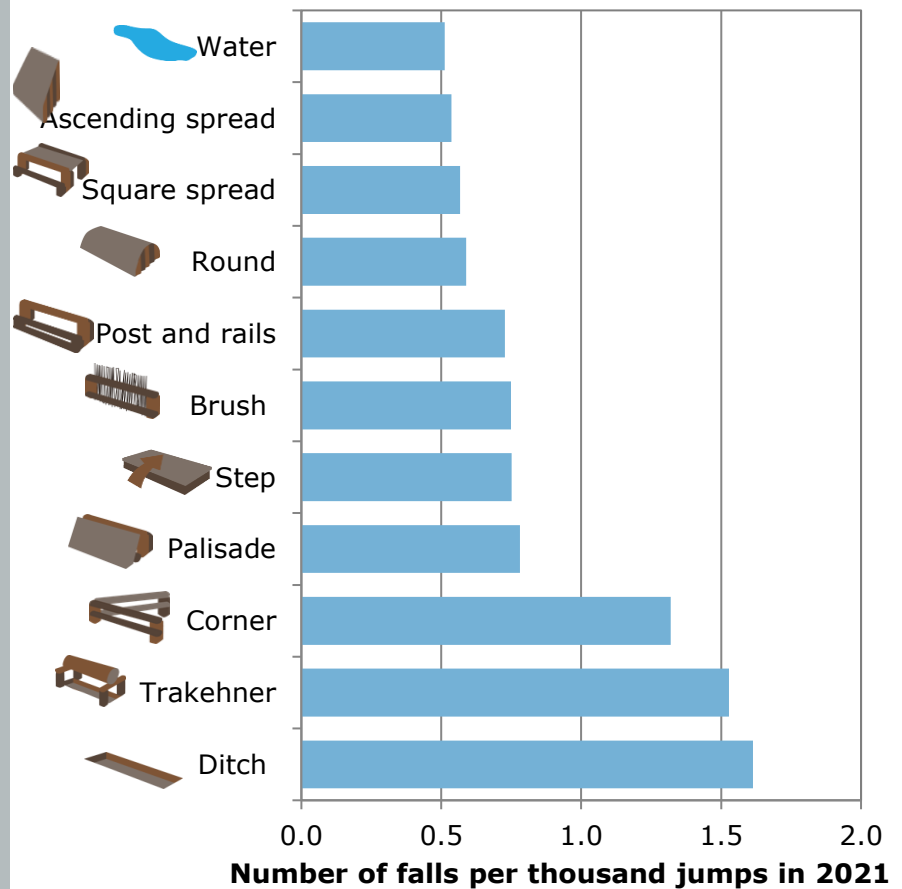


Falls at fences

There were 1220 falls on cross country courses in 2021. The majority of these (1119) occurred at fences.

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The chart below 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.



Ditch fences had the highest number of falls per thousand jumps of all the fence types; for every thousand attempts at this fence type, 1.6 riders fell. This was followed by trakehner fences (1.5 falls for every thousand jumps) in 2021.

Fewer falls per thousand jumps occurred at water, ascending spread, and square spread fences (between 0.5 and 0.6 falls for every thousand jumps) in 2021.

“ For the last few years, the injury risk for riders has remained relatively stable. ”



Key Performance Indicators

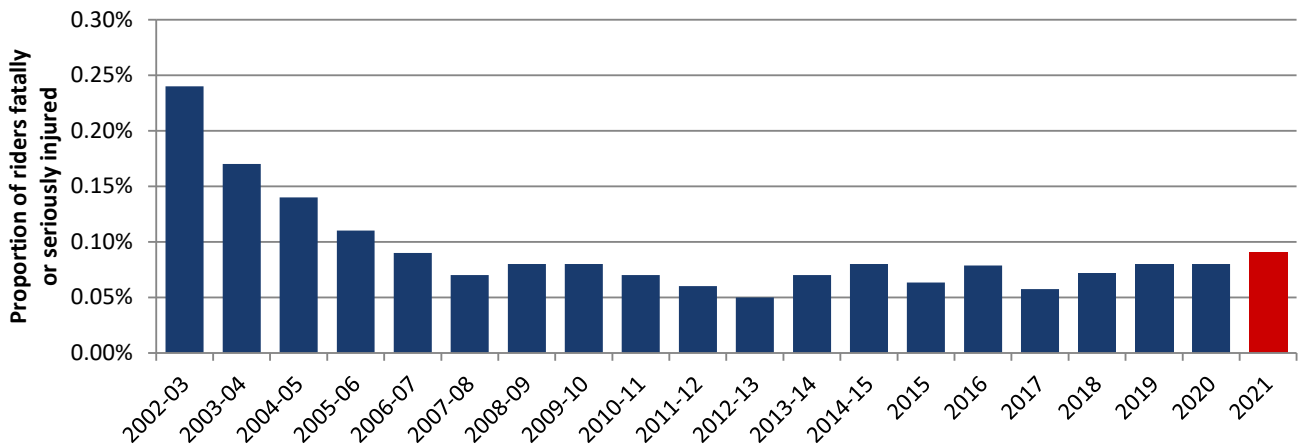
STRATEGIC AIMS

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

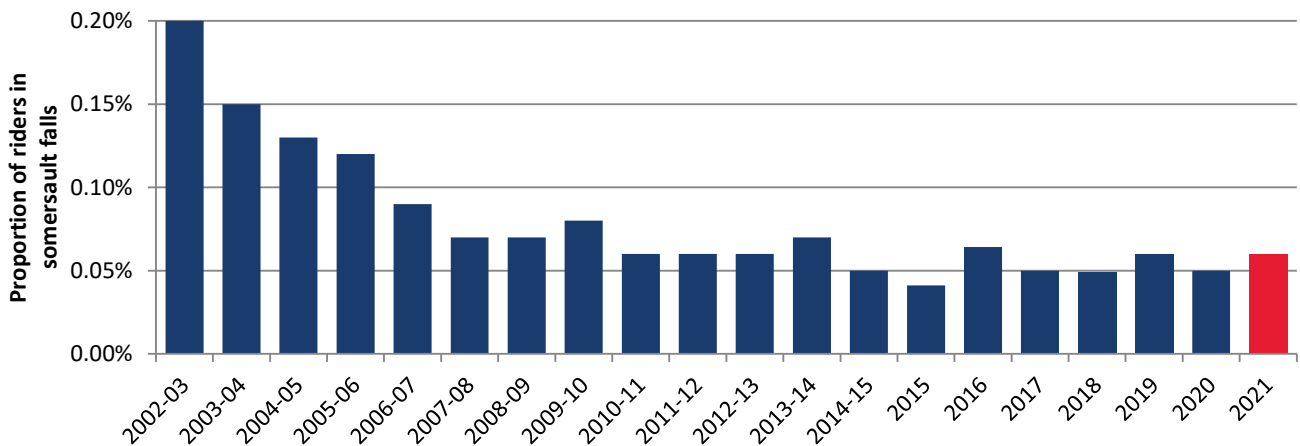
1. Reduce the percentage of riders who are fatally/seriously injured.
2. Reduce the percentage of horse falls relative to the number of competitors.

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% 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 2021 is helping to contribute towards meeting BE’s first target: to eliminate horse falls which involve the horse somersaulting.

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