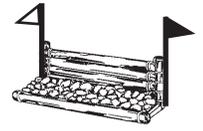




# GUIDELINES FOR CROSS-COUNTRY JUMP JUDGES

From the USEA Competitions Department



The instructions that follow give you the basics of your job; a briefing will be planned for you, conducted by the officials of the event that will help fill in and supplement this document.

**Checklist of what to bring with you to the event on competition day:**  
Depending on the day and predicted weather, for your comfort:

- Folding chair, rainwear, extra warm clothing or jacket, bug repellent, sunscreen, hat/visor, a snack and thermos/cooler with beverages, also bring a stop watch or watch with a second hand (very important item).

**Generally provided by the event:**

- Clipboard, waterproof covering for your score sheets, red flag, whistle, radio.

## YOUR JOB AS A JUMP JUDGE

**To maintain a safe area:**

- Keep a completely clear approach and landing to your jump for the competition; use your voice or whistle if needed. This includes evaluating the footing at the jump and notifying control if repair is needed.
- Sit in front of and to the side of the jump to clearly see the horses as they approach; be out of the way but don't hide. An official will check your positioning.
- If a horse is having difficulty at your jump, an oncoming rider has the right of way. Please inform the rider to clear the approach as the oncoming horse and rider have the right of way.
- Reporting any instances of unauthorized assistance or cruelty.
- Promptly notify control in the case of a fall or accident.  
(Take your radio with you when you go to the rider).

**To judge riders jumping your fence, you will:**

- Observe each competitor at the jump, determine if any faults occur and record the appropriate penalties on your scoresheet.
- Know the wording and intent of the rules.
- Know that your jump is defined by a red flag on the right and a white flag on the left side.
- Know the difference in judging an obstacle with a single number, i.e. 17 vs. one of multiple elements or parts, i.e., 17ABC.
- Do not discuss anything about the competition with competitors; if they have questions, politely refer them to one of the officials.

## KEY WORDS TO REMEMBER WHEN YOU JUDGE

**DECISIVE.** Remember to be decisive – as absolute as possible. As a judge, YOU are the best person to clearly observe all of the details that happen as horse and rider attempt to jump your obstacle. For instance, riders are too busy planning, reacting and steering to fully realize if their horse has taken one or several steps backward or steps sideways. Use the same decision making standard for each rider.

**WRITE or DRAW.** When in doubt of how to score, WRITE/DRAW a complete description of what you observed, then IMMEDIATELY request either the Technical Delegate or Ground Jury official to assist you in the interpretation.

**FAIR AND CONSISTENT.** Your job is not to agree or disagree with each rule but to enforce the rules as they are written in a fair and consistent manner for every competitor.

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE BRIEFING TO GO OUT ON COURSE

- Know your jump number and the proper color for the level of competition  
**Starter:** designated by the organizer and printed on the course map.  
**Beginner Novice:** black # on yellow background; **Novice:** black # on white background; **Training:** white # on black background; **Modified:** orange # on blue background; **Preliminary:** white # on green background; **Intermediate:** white # on red background; **Advanced:** white # on blue background.
- Know the location of the nearest radio; if you are a radio communicator, you will be instructed how to use your radio to report on the course; keep chatter brief; specific instructions will be reviewed in the briefing. Do NOT put the radio down if assisting with a situation; immediately report three things—the status of the horse, the rider and the jump! Please notify control if medical either for human or horse is required.

## OTHER THINGS YOU MIGHT SEE DURING THE XC PHASE

**Unauthorized Assistance**

- Riders are not permitted to receive any outside assistance or competitive advantage of any kind while competing, from you or anyone, i.e. any request for directions to the next jump, info about rules, intentionally joining another competitor and continuing the course in company; to have someone at an obstacle to encourage the horse by any means whatsoever and so on.
- If you witness anything that looks inappropriate, write down the rider's number and pertinent details, identify a bystander who saw the situation and report immediately to the Technical Delegate or Ground Jury member.
- **Exception:** Whip, headgear or spectacles may be handed to a competitor without them dismounting.
- **Remember:** Should a competitor lose his headgear, or should the retention harness become unfastened, during the endurance test, he cannot jump or attempt to jump any other obstacle without it, under penalty of elimination. Notify control immediately if this situation occurs.

**Overtaking Riders**

- Any rider about to be overtaken by a following rider must quickly clear the way.
- Any rider passing another rider must do so only at a safe and suitable place, not immediately before a jump!
- Any rider who willfully obstructs an overtaking competitor, does not follow your directions as the obstacle judge (official), or creates a dangerous situation to others can be penalized by elimination. This situation must be reported as soon as possible.

**Cruelty and/or Abuse**

- If you witness anything that looks inappropriate, write down the rider's number and pertinent details, identify a bystander who saw the situation and report immediately to the Technical Delegate or Ground Jury member.
- Cruelty and/or abuse can include inappropriate use of the whip, spur or bit while competing on course.
- If you see anything that resembles blood on the horse or rider, notify cross-country control so that the situation can be assessed.

**Dangerous Riding**

- Dangerous riding may be a rider riding too slow and crawling over a fence, it may be a rider galloping to fast and seemingly out of control. It may be a rider that is off course and is galloping all around in areas that are not designated as the cross-country track.
- If a situation looks incorrect, or scary or wrong contact control so that officials that are on the course can assess the situation of the horse and rider.
- Do not stop a horse and rider unless you are expressly advised to do so by control or an official.

## NAVIGATING THROUGH THE COLUMNS AND HOW TO USE YOUR SCORE BOOKLET

Each set of pages, one yellow and white together, form one score sheet. At intervals during the day couriers will collect your score sheets from you. Couriers are given the white sheet, you keep the yellow copy.

### Basic Instructions:

Refer to the sample score sheet below.

1. Fill in the level where it says 'division', i.e. – Novice, Training, etc.
2. Fill in the jump or obstacle number where it says 'obstacle no'.
3. Fill in your name after 'judge' on each of your obstacle score sheets as you use them. If someone substitutes for you, be certain that they co-sign the pages that they judge. Include your cell phone number.
4. Scorers and Officials need you to describe to them everything that happened at your jump. Remember-you are the 'eyes and ears' of the cross-country phase!
5. Observe each competitor as they negotiate your jump. Briefly write down what happened and mark ALL the appropriate columns in the sheet immediately. If the rider falls simultaneously with a refusal, penalties are assessed as a fall of rider, which is elimination from the competition. Mark the column as **RF** (Rider Fall).
6. It is recommended that you note any distinguishing characteristics in the Horse/Rider column (red shirt, green hat gray horse, etc.) for all competitors with penalties. This will be of considerable help if you are asked to discuss any objection by a competitor.
7. If a competitor is penalty free at your jump, or 'clear', put a zero in the 'total penalty points' box.

**REMEMBER ...** faults (refusals, run-outs and circles) will be penalized only if, in your opinion observing the jump, they are connected with the negotiation or attempted negotiation of that jump. Falls will be penalized wherever they occur on course between the start flag and the finish line. If you see a fall not in conjunction with the obstacle, call this situation in.

- If you are judging the last jump before the finish line, a competitor can be penalized for 'willful delay' of the finish. If, between the last obstacle and the finish line, the horse halts, walks, circles, or serpentine ("loops") thus purposefully delaying the finish time, this is cause for willful delay and needs to be reported to either the Technical Delegate or Ground Jury as soon as possible.

## AFTER THE CROSS-COUNTRY PHASE ENDS

- Depending on the instructions received at your briefing, after the last competitor has passed your obstacle, either wait for the courier to collect your score sheet or bring it immediately to the scoring center. Missing or unidentified obstacle score sheets hold up the entire scoring operation.
- You should then relocate back to your meeting place and return your borrowed equipment while awaiting the final posting of all cross-country scores.
- Competitors then have 30 minutes to enter an inquiry. It is essential that you remain within paging distance until this 30 minute period has ended. Without your input it is impossible for the Ground Jury to adequately adjudicate a protest. Completion of scoring can take 30 to 60 minutes after the cross-country phase is completed.

## PENALTIES . . . WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Refusals, run-outs and circles are three types of disobediences that may occur while riders are in the process of attempting to jump your obstacle. A fall of horse and/or rider is elimination from the competition and is penalized by **Mandatory Retirement (MR)** for the horse or **Fall of Rider (RF)** for the rider.

### REFUSAL

#### **Refusal at obstacles with height greater than 30 cm or 12 inches:**

At obstacles or elements with height exceeding one foot, a horse is considered to have refused if it stops in front of the obstacle to be jumped.

**Explanation:** The horse CLEARLY STOPS ITS forward motion. THE QUESTION YOU MUST ASK YOURSELF IS: DID THE HORSE STOP MOVING FORWARD?

## SAMPLE SCORE SHEET WITH REMARKS:

- Always add a descriptive remark whenever a penalty occurs.
- Write/Draw and explain any unusual situations; use back of white sheet if necessary.
- List horses in actual order as they arrive at your jump.  
**Do not pre-number.**
- Do not write the numbers of missing horses; i.e., #6, 8, 9, and so on.
- If clear, leave all boxes empty except a '0' in the total column.

USEA Division Training Sheet No. 1

### FAULTS AT CROSS-COUNTRY OBSTACLES

Obstacles No. 12 A & B Judge(s) Your Name

Horse NO.	1st refusal, run-out or circle	2nd refusal, run-out or circle at the same obstacle	3rd refusal, run-out or circle at the same obstacle	1st fall of rider	3rd Penalized disobedience on the entire course M/P/I/A	4th Penalized disobedience on the entire course BN/N/T	Activating a frangible fence	Fall of horse or horse trapped in obstacle FEI - Elimination	Omission of obstacle or boundary flag, error on course not rectified, unauthorized assistance	TOTAL PENALTY POINTS	REMARKS
	20	40	Elimination	Elimination /RF	Elimination	Elimination	11 Penalties	USEF M. Retirement	Elimination/ Tech. Elim. (TE)		
1	X									20	Ran out to left, red hat
3	X	X								60	Horse stopped, backed-up, tried again, stopped & backed-up, then jumped, blue hat
2										0	
4							y			11	Horse hit fence activating the MIMs, horse continued
5	X									20	Horse stopped at first attempt, jumped fence on second try
7				X						RF	Horse ran out to right, rider fell off.
10	X						y			31	Horse stopped, sliding into the fence activating the MIMs
11								X		MR	Horse slipped and fell on landing side of jump.
13	X									20	Ran out to left, blue hat
50	X			X						20/RF	Horse stopped, danced around sideways then jumped, rider fell off after jump, green hat
14										0	
15									X	TE	Rider forgot to jump this fence; ran right by it & jumped #13.

HT/T3D/N3D/BN3D/P3D/CCI

After a refusal, if a competitor TRIES AGAIN TO JUMP THE OBSTACLE WITHOUT SUCCESS, OR IF THE HORSE IS RE-PRESENTED AT THE OBSTACLE AFTER STEPPING BACK AND STOPS OR BACKS AGAIN, THIS IS A SECOND REFUSAL, AND SO ON.

**Refusals at all other obstacles 30 cm or 12 inches in height or less:** A HALT followed immediately by a standing jump is not penalized, but if the halt is sustained or in any way prolonged this constitutes a refusal. The horse may step sideways but if it steps back, even with one foot, this is a refusal.

**Explanation:** At a ditch or a drop fence, sometimes a horse will come up to the obstacle or element, come to a quick halt, or pause to take closer look at the obstacle or element, and then immediately continue to move forward and jump the obstacle or element. This is not a refusal if in your opinion the horse did not firmly “decline” to jump. Remember, the horse is not penalized if he steps sideways, **THEN IMMEDIATELY GOES FORWARD WITH THE INTENTION OF JUMPING.**

After a refusal, if a competitor TRIES AGAIN TO JUMP THE OBSTACLE without success, or if the horse is re-presented at the obstacle after stepping back and stops or backs again, this is a second refusal, and so on.

**RUN-OUT**

A horse is considered to have runout if having been presented at the jump, it avoids the jump to be jumped by running out to one side or the other, or in such a way that it must be re-presented.

**CIRCLE**

- If a rider circles the horse (WHERE THE HORSE CROSSES HIS TRACK) between elements of a jump composed of more than one part, i.e.—if the jump is marked with an A, B, etc., the circle will be penalized AS A DISOBEDIENCE. THIS CROSSING WILL BE PENALIZED EVEN IF IT OCCURS AFTER THE LAST JUMP (refer to diagram).
- A circle will not be penalized as a disobedience when it occurs between separately numbered jumps as long as it is not a refusal (refer to diagram).
- After being penalized for a disobedience (refusal, run-out) a rider is

permitted to circle without penalty in order to make another attempt, and may circle repeatedly without penalty until the rider attempts to jump the fence.

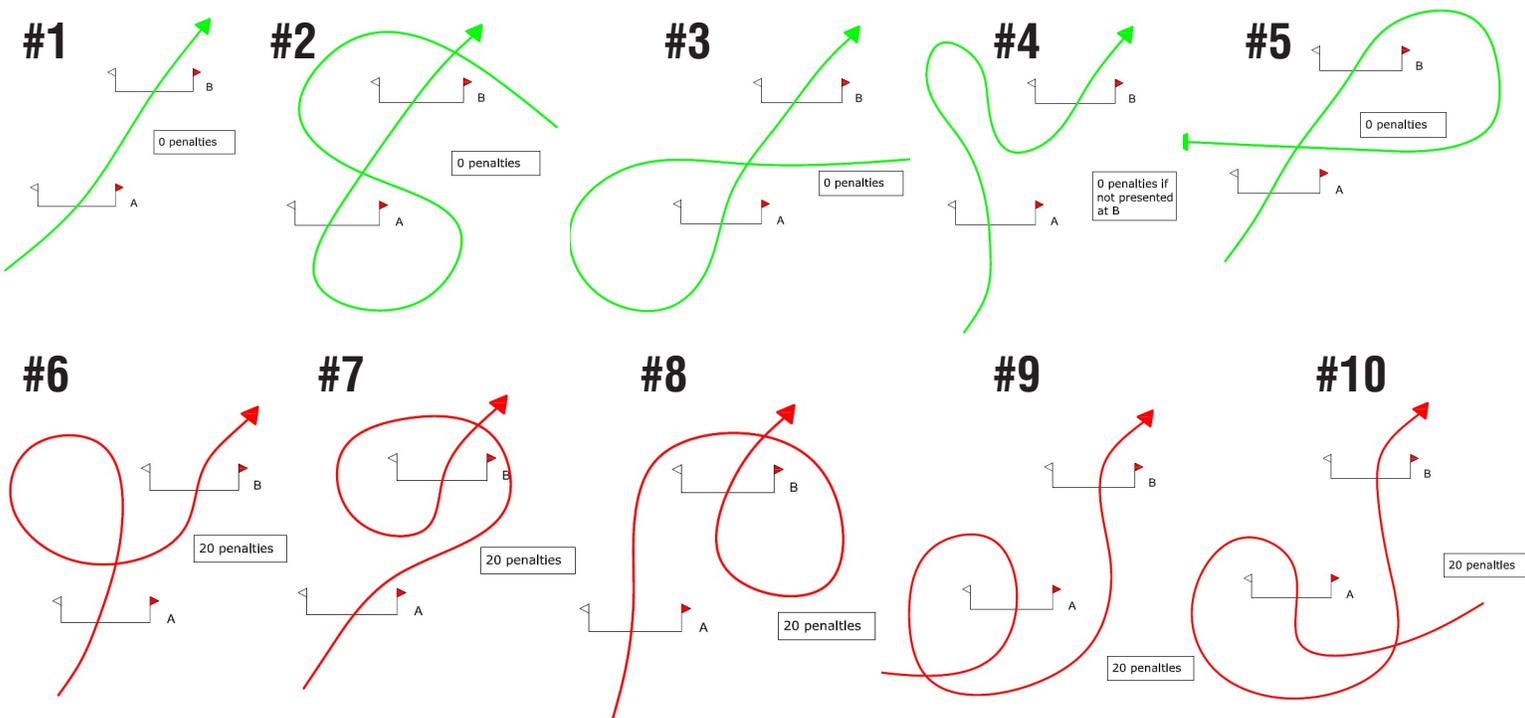
If there are two separately numbered jumps, though sited closely together, each jump is judged independently; a rider will not be penalized for crossing the track between jumps only if the rider clearly did not present the horse to jump the second obstacle.

At a combination jump of several parts, i.e. – 17A and 17B, a competitor only has three chances to clear all parts; this jump is judged as a single obstacle. If a rider refuses, runs out, or circles at any part, he is permitted to retake any part already jumped, although he will be penalized for any faults incurred on subsequent attempts even if he has already jumped that part of the obstacle successfully. For example, at obstacle 5A, 5B, 5C, a horse may have a disobedience at the first element (5A), then clear that element and have a disobedience at the second element (5B). Since obstacles formed of several elements are judged as a single obstacle, the disobedience at 5B, although the first refusal at that element, is nevertheless considered the second disobedience at Obstacle 5. Riders have only three attempts to complete ALL parts, and NOT three attempts at each part.

**FRANGIBLE TECHNOLOGY**

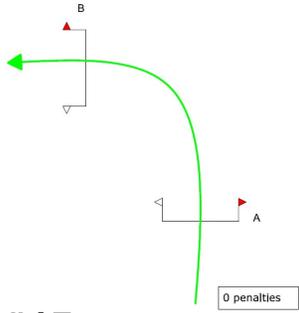
You may have a frangible device at your cross-country fence. These devices are designed so that if a horse hits them in a certain way, they will collapse and may prevent or reduce the chance of the horse having a rotational fall. These devices may be called MIM clips, reverse pins, regular pins, or there may be a collapsible table at your fence. All these types of devices have been engineered to activate if a certain amount of pressure is placed on them. Either the Course Designer/Builder or the Technical Delegate will brief you on the device, how you should report it if the device is activated, and how to document/record it on your jump judge sheet. The President of the Ground Jury, in consultation with the Technical Delegate, would apply the penalty for activating the device. They will need to know the facts of why and how the device was activated. Therefore, you will need to be able to give a clear description of what happened at your fence.

**DIAGRAMS OF FAULTS AT CROSS-COUNTRY OBSTACLES**

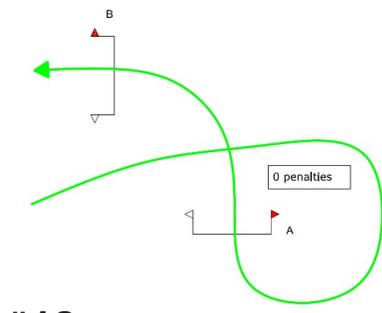


# DIAGRAMS OF FAULTS AT CROSS-COUNTRY OBSTACLES

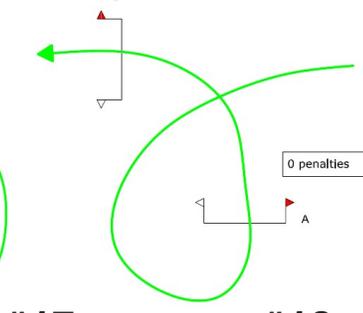
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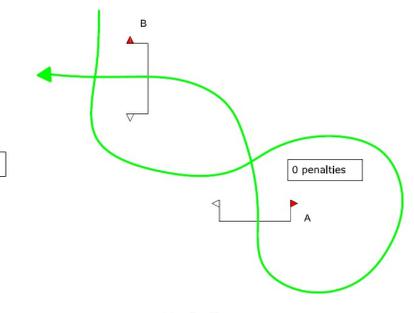
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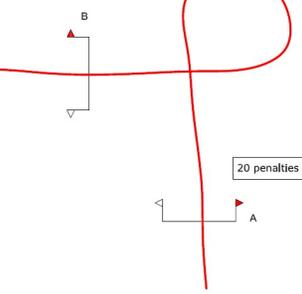
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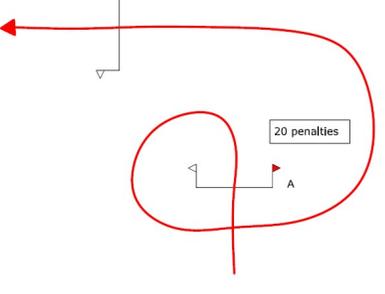
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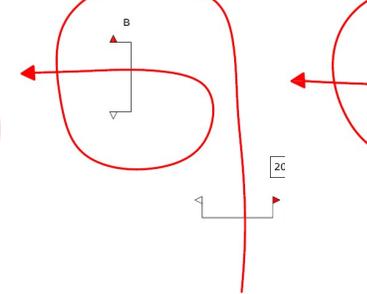
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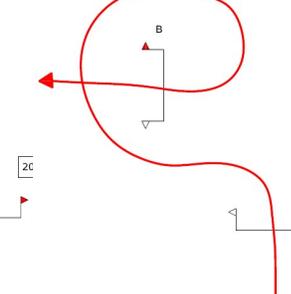
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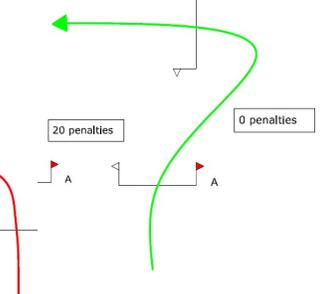
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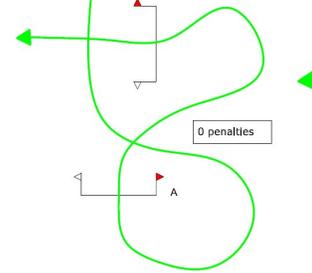
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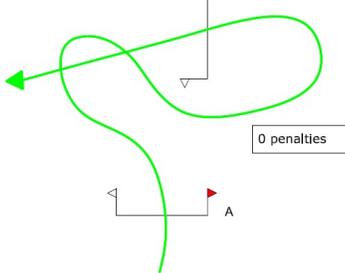
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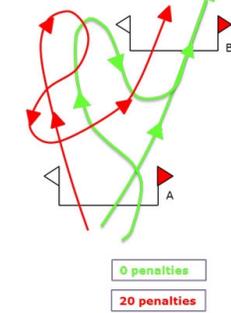
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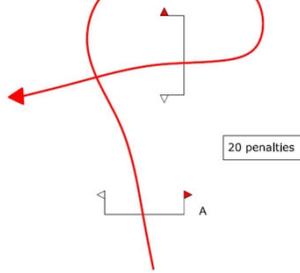
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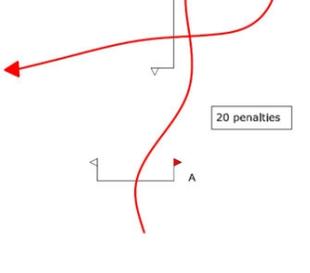
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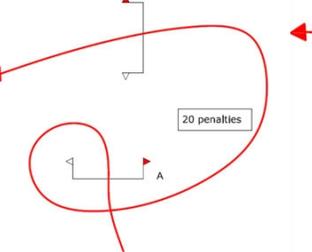
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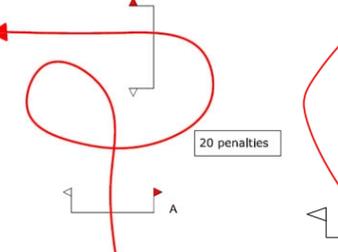
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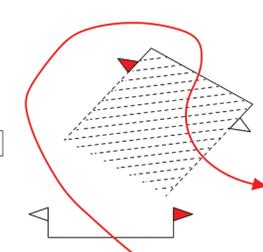


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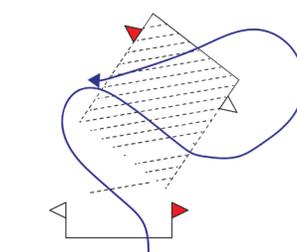


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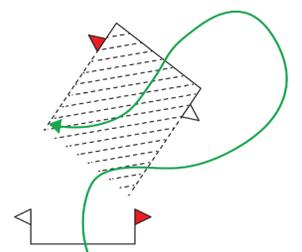
At an Obstacle composed of several elements (A, B, C, etc.) a Horse will be penalized if it passes around the back of any element or circles between elements.



**RED ROUTE:** 20 penalties, because it passes around the back of element, B (crosses the entire projection of the back of the element B).

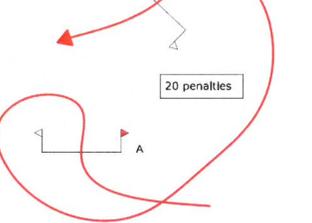


**BLUE ROUTE:** Clear, because it avoids passing around the back of element, B (crosses the entire projection of the back of element B), but crosses back to avoid passing around the back of an element B).

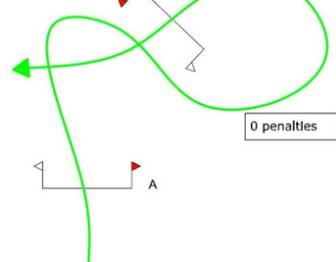


**GREEN ROUTE:** Clear, because it avoids passing around to the back of element B (avoids to cross the entire projection of the back of element B).

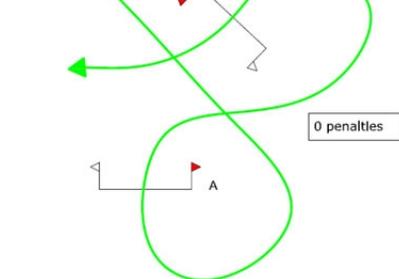
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## FALLS

- A rider is considered to have fallen when he is separated from his horse which has not fallen, in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle whether it occurs at an obstacle or in between obstacles.
- Dismounting as a result of attempting an obstacle, whether voluntary or not, is penalized as a fall.
- A horse is considered to have fallen when, at the same time, both the shoulder and hindquarters have touched either the ground or the obstacle and the ground
- A fall will always be penalized when it occurs between the elements of a multiple obstacle (A, B, C).
- If both the horse and competitor fall at the same time, this means mandatory retirement (MR (first fall of horse)).
- Any fall of rider is penalized by elimination from the competition.

## WHAT TO DO IF A RIDER OR HORSE FALLS AT YOUR JUMP

- Do NOT put the radio down if assisting with a situation; immediately report the status of three things—the horse, the rider and the jump!
- If medical assistance is needed for the rider or the horse, please contact control and request medical or veterinary Assistance. The Event Safety Coordinator and an Event Official (TD, Ground Jury) will be dispatched to your obstacle.
- If the rider appears to be unharmed, check to be certain that they are fully oriented. Ask the rider for their name, the day, place, etc. During the briefing you will be advised where the riders need to go or be met to be checked by medical. All riders that are riding multiple horses must be cleared to ride the next horse.
- If a fall happens between jumps, Control must be notified of these falls.

## A COMPETITOR IS ELIMINATED FROM CONTINUING ON COURSE FOR...

- Three disobediences at the same obstacle
- Fourth penalized disobedience on the entire course through the Training level. Cross-country Control makes this decision.
- Three total stops on course at the Modified level and above.
- Unauthorized assistance anywhere on course. This is reported to control and the PGJ makes this decision.
- Error on course not rectified, i.e. forgetting an obstacle.
- Omission of obstacle or red and white flags.
- Retaking an obstacle already jumped, except after a disobedience in an obstacle composed of several elements (A B C, etc.).

- Jumping an obstacle in the wrong order.
- First fall of rider (scored as rider fall RF).
- First fall of horse (scored as a mandatory retirement (MR), not elimination).
- Horse trapped in an obstacle (scored as mandatory retirement (MR)).
- Jumping an obstacle in the wrong direction.
- Jumping or attempting to jump an obstacle without properly fastened headgear. Report this to control.
- Failure to follow the instructions of the obstacle judge while being overtaken or willful obstruction of an overtaking rider. Report this to control.

Any eliminated competitor must leave the course at once, by the most direct means, and has no right to continue. If you are certain that a competitor has been eliminated, it is your duty to instruct him/her to leave the course. Under no circumstances should a competitor be allowed repeated attempts at an obstacle after elimination. A competitor must WALK the horse off the course either mounted or dismounted. Violators shall be warned and can be fined up to \$100 at the discretion of the Ground Jury.

## HOLDS ON COURSE

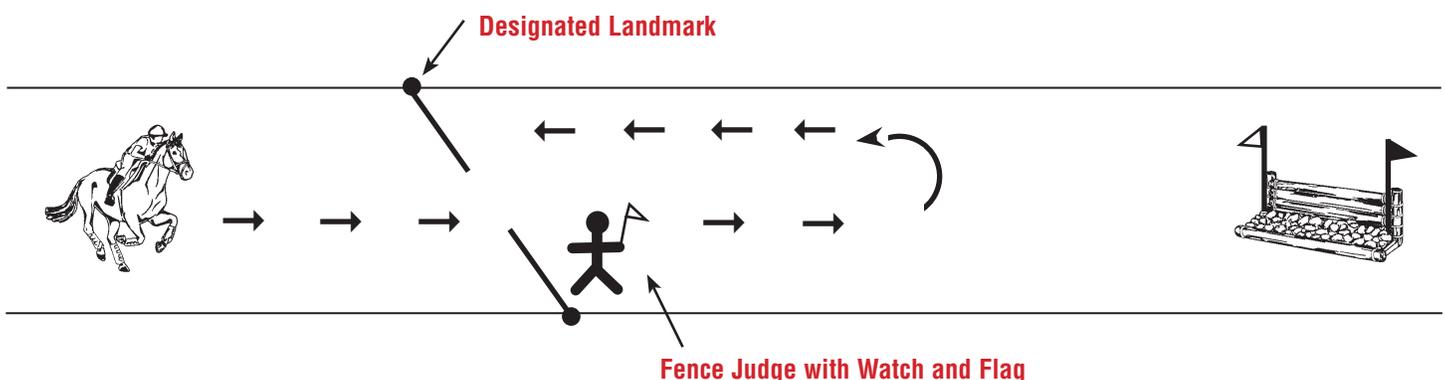
- Only stop a rider if you are instructed to do so by Event Control, or if there is a horse in trouble at your fence and you see the oncoming horse/rider approaching you.

- Two more things to do: Take the **TIME**/write it down and **STOP THE HORSE**.

### How:

1. Move well in front of the fence.
2. Choose a visual landmark (i.e. tree, vehicle, rock) as a point of reference.
3. First note the TIME as the rider passes between you and the landmark, then stop them using any means available—wave your arms, your whistle, or your voice, or a flag.
4. When the “hold” is lifted, Control will inform you to restart. Instruct the rider to return to a suitable distance in front of the landmark point to regain their pace. As they gallop by, note the time as the rider passes between you and the landmark point. Record this time on your score sheet.
5. Be certain both times are noted and are on the score sheet.
6. While the rider is being held, you may talk with them but be careful not to offer any “unauthorized assistance”. If the hold has been lengthy, allow time to warm up before restarting on course. Another official may come to assist you with the hold.

## SAMPLE HOLD ON COURSE:



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