FEI EVENTING WORLD CHALLENGE

GUIDELINES FOR CATEGORY C DERBY COURSE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The indications provided below are an integral part of the rules and must be followed in accordance with the present guidelines. Failure to comply may cause for the results of the competition not to be acceptable.

This includes the number of fences, the profiles of the fences, their type and the order in which they are jumped. If absolutely necessary, a fence can be replaced by another fence of the same type. Adjustments to the fence type, profile and/or order based on security purposes due to positioning may exceptionally be granted if deemed necessary by the TD. Any adjustments not within these mandatory guidelines need to be discussed and agreed on by the TD and CD, and proper justification must be provided along with the TD report.

There will be NO exception/adjustment however regarding the number of fences included in the course which MUST comply with these guidelines.

MANDATORY TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

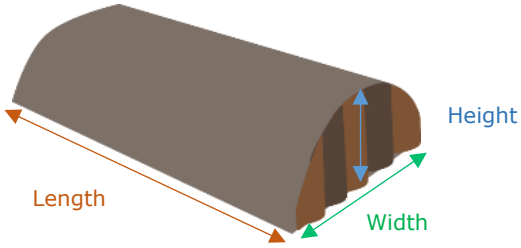
# of Fences:	"Derby" course with 9x Jumping fences (10 efforts) and 7x Cross Country fences of 80cm high (8 efforts, including one combination with no more than 2 strides between combination fences) Note: In accordance with the rules, for the Derby course of Category C, the Course Designer may apply a tolerance of five centimetres in height for the fences, if dictated by the terrain
Meters/Efforts:	Approximately 40-60m between fences
Length:	800-1000 m
Speed:	400 m/min
Optimum Time:	Depending on length of course

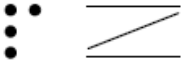
FENCES' PROFILE:

Fence #	Fence Type		Material	Height / Spread
1	Jumping Fence - Oxer		4 poles + 1 plank	80cm / 80cm

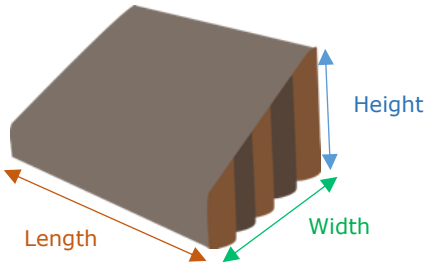
Fence #	Fence Type		Material	Height
2	Jumping Fence - Vertical		4 poles	80cm

Fence #	Fence Type	Height	Width	Length
3	Half Moon / Round	75cm	90cm	4.00m



Fence #	Fence Type	Material	Height / Spread
4	Jumping Fence - Oxer 	4 poles	80cm / 80cm

Fence #	Fence Type	Height	Width	Length
5	Roof / Ascending Spread	80cm	90cm	4.00m



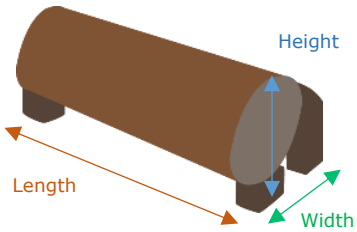
Fence #	Fence Type	Material	Height
6a	Jumping Fence - Vertical 	3 poles + 1 plank	80cm

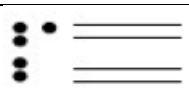
Distance between 6a-6b: 17.80m (in 2024 this distance is an exception to the rules)

Fence #	Fence Type	Material	Height / Spread
6b	Jumping Fence - Oxer 	4 poles + 1 plank	80cm / 80cm

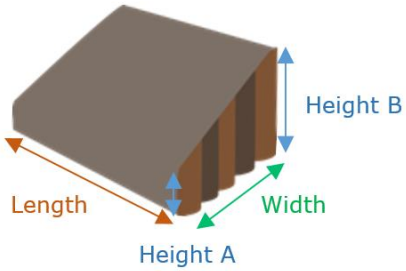
CATEGORY C – Derby Fences Descriptions

Fence #	Fence Type	Height	Width	Length
7	Log / Round	80cm	60cm	4.00m



Fence #	Fence Type		Material	Height / Spread
8	Jumping Fence - Oxer		5 poles	80cm / 80cm

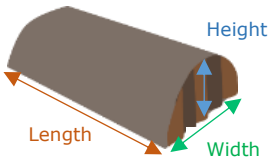
Fence #	Fence Type	Height	Width	Length
9	Spread – Veg display	A - 55cm B – 80cm	100-110cm	4.00m

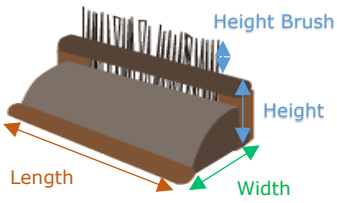


Fence #	Fence Type	Height	Width	Length
10a	Half Moon / Round	80cm	90cm	4.00m

Distance between 10a-10b: 10.80-11.00m

10b	Quarter Moon + Brush	70cm / 20cm (brush)	80cm	4.00m

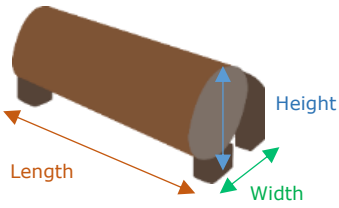




CATEGORY C – Derby Fences Descriptions

Fence #	Fence Type	Material	Height
11	Jumping Fence - Vertical 	4 poles	80cm

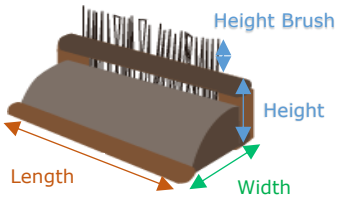
Fence #	Fence Type	Height	Width	Length
12	Double Barrel / Round	80cm	70cm	2.30-2.50m



Fence #	Fence Type	Material	Height / Spread
13	Jumping Fence – Triple Barre 	5 poles	30-60-90cm / 110cm

Fence #	Fence Type	Material	Height
14	Jumping Fence - Vertical 	3 poles	90cm

Fence #	Fence Type	Height	Width	Length
15	Quarter Moon + Brush	80cm / 10cm (brush)	90cm	4.00m



Fence #	Fence Type	Material	Height
16	Jumping Fence - Vertical 	2 poles + 1 plank	80cm

HOW TO READ THE COURSE PLAN

The course plan provides necessary information to the construction of the course in order to guarantee the technical requirements are respected in all countries

On these plans you can see the following:

- Fence types: verticals, oxers, cross country
- Number of fences
- The number of each fence
- Start and finishing lines
- Course length, optimum time and speed for the competition.

HOW TO BUILD THE COURSE

The course plan provided for the Derby is an example of what can be built in a polo type field, but it is not mandatory to follow "design" if the terrain used is not of the same dimension.

What is however imperative is to respect the following:

- Minimum overall course length 800m
- Maximum overall course length 1000m
- Speed: 400 m/min

Since each course might be different in each country, it is the responsibility of the Officials (TD, CD and PGJ) to calculate the OPTIMUM TIME based on the final plan and course length.
Per reminder the calculation of the Optimum Time is based on the distance chosen, carried out at the chosen speed (FEI ERs 545.2.1). For example a course of 840 meters long (from Start to Finish line) will have an optimum time of 126 seconds (840m x 60sec divided by 400 m/min).

Guidelines about the metres per effort (mpe)

Start and Finish:

The first & last obstacle of Cross Country shall be not less than 20 metres no more than 50 metres from the starting and/or finishing line.

Distance between fences:

In Category C, the distance between fences is every 40-60m. Taking into consideration the terrain (turns, slopes, etc.), this distance may need to be slightly adjusted to make sure fences are positioned in such a way that it is safe for the horses to jump them. Any adjustments not within these mandatory guidelines need to be discussed and agreed on by the TD and CD, and proper justification must be provided along with the TD report.

After identifying the area/path/field which will be used for the Derby and preparing the footing, the course builders and their crew (Arena Party) may start to build the course according to the plans.

1. Draw the place of each fence on the plan to facilitate the positioning/construction on the ground.
   Make copies of the plan for each assistant.
   If you have enough people with knowledge in course building, divide up the course among them.
   If not, at least one course builder should be available to lead the group.
2. Each builder will try to build in his own area/field.
   They have to find the middle point of the fences (middle of the pole) to measure the distances between fences, then do the same for combinations.

Ground Lines

CDs and all officials need to assist and encourage horses to take off at a good point. There are several ways to do this: one of which is to help horses with their depth perception. There are 3 key reference points which it is believed will assist horses with this: one on either side of the fence and one in the centre.

Research has shown that in order to get over a fence without catching a leg on the leading edge, a horse must be no closer at the point of take off than:

- 1.8m when travelling at 600m/min
- 1.35m when travelling at 450m/min
- 0.9m when travelling at 300m/min

The point of take-off is not the same as the ground line when measuring Base Spread.

With this information it is possible to consider ground lines in a fresh light.

- Ground lines are intended to help horses read the fence and identify the leading edge.
- Ground lines should be used to improve the profile of fences and to help prevent horses getting too 'deep' to a fence.
- The height of the dressing in front of a fence is equally as important as how far in front of the fence a ground line may be.
- Unless there are exceptional circumstances, ground lines should always be used on fences at all levels.
- An additional ground line is not compulsory for fences with a front leading edge of 50 cm or less.
- It is expected for there to be a discussion between the TD and CD as to the type of ground line to use.
- Ground lines can be rails, flowers/plants mulch/woodchip, it can be offcuts or anything suitable that will help or further improve the profile of a fence. It need not necessarily extend all the way along the front of the fence, but must remain consistent throughout the day.
- Ground lines should be used on steps out of water.
- A single rail must never be used without a ground line.
- False groundlines are not acceptable under any circumstances.
- Groundlines should stay consistent through the entire competition.
- Solid groundlines need to be set but not fixed if there is any chance that they may cause a leg trap.
- Solid ground line is part of the base spread measurement.
- Soft ground lines (such as mulch or flower) is not included in the in the base spread. They are put in front of a fence to help it to jump better.

What are the benefits of ground lines?

The sport has an objective and a responsibility to do what it can to reduce rotational falls. Part of this relates to fence profiles which should help the horse read the question and help the shape of its jump.

Experience has shown that fences generally jump better if there is a ground line. It is believed that the height of ground line (to give an improved profile to the fence) is perhaps more important than how far out in front of the fence it is. There is a balance to be found between helping the horse and encouraging riders to go too fast.

In assessing a fence the horse has to process a lot of information in a short timeframe. We know that the closer the horses gets to the fence the more it draws information from the sides, therefore decoration on the sides of the fence helps keep the horse away from the leading edge, while it is believed the ground line in the middle of the fence helps the horse identify the question from distance.

Rather than ask the question "why would you put a ground line in?", it is better to ask "why wouldn't you use one?"

Anchoring or Securing of Portable Fences – Refer to Guidelines for Course Builders.