

FENCE JUDGE BRIEFING

Fence Judges are responsible for judging and marking Athletes at their fence/s and for the safety of Athletes & spectators at or near your fence.

- [Welcome](#), introduce [key people](#) and [thank](#).
- Days cross country [start time](#), time of [course changes](#) and [last Horse](#) schedule time.
- [Fence number colours](#) and how to get to fences if appropriate.
- Check they have all the kit they should have including whistle, judging book, pens, stop watch, fall report forms, radio (if allocated), red flag.
- Fence Judges can take any action, tempered with common sense, to prevent any accident or injury to Horse, Athlete or spectator.
- When arrive at fence [establish timing marker \(note 1\)](#). Choose the best position, usually apx 20 paces from it & where you can observe, if possible, take off for scoring & landing side for falls. Also so you can see approach of athlete to note their number.
- Establish [radio contact](#) with control.
- [Explain score book](#). They will vary from country to country. Each new class should be started on a new page. Each page should contain name (in CAPS) & contact number for Fence Judge.
- Record Horse's number and then (using score book as an educational tool) discuss :
 - [Refusals](#)
 - [Stop watch use](#)
 - [Runouts](#)
 - [Stopping procedure \(note 2\)](#)
 - [Circling at ABC combinations \(best discussed at fence\)](#)
 - [Fall forms](#)
 - [Rider Falls](#)
 - [Horse Falls](#)
 - [Total up scores for each horse](#)
 - [Trapped horse](#)
 - [Overtaking](#)
 - [Radio procedure \(note 3\)](#)
 - [Outside assistance](#)
 - [Abuse of whip](#)
- Stress importance of writing details of incident on extra paper if necessary , diagrams of routes and why eliminated
- [Look after your take off and landing](#) between horses to maintain consistency (very important).

Note 1

Timing Markers

Choose, or make, and memorise your timing landmark. This should be about 100 paces (minimum) from your fence, on the approach side. Choose something that won't move during the day. As each Horse passes your timing point click the start/stop button of stop watch. Log the time of each & every horse as it passes this point. It will also be necessary for stopping a horse if necessary.

Note 2

Stopping procedure

1. You need to be able to stop the competition safely, fairly & immediately any accident makes a fence impassable or dangerous, or if directed by control.
2. When the competitor you are stopping passes your timing marker press the start/stop button on your stop watch.
3. Then, and only then, stop the athlete by waving the red flag below shoulder height. Once the competitor has been stopped record the stop time.
4. Point your timing marker out to athlete & explain that he is free to dismount or walk/trot around & will be given fair warning when & how to restart.
5. Advise control that athlete is stopped. When advised by control to re-start the athlete, and not before, give the athlete a flying start from beyond your landmark.
6. When the athlete passes the timing marker press the stop/start button on stop watch and record the time.

Note 3

Radio procedure

1. Radio operators communicate with Cross Country Control and the primary objectives are safety and information.

Please don't change channel – if you are lost off the net the Cross Country will have to be stopped.

2. Speak your message clearly – Horse Number/Status/Fence Number.
3. Report each Athlete over each fence & mention each incident as it happens. – bearing in mind that one radio operator might be reporting on a series of fences and not necessarily in numerical order.
4. If a fall happens at your fence, say HORSE FALL AND/OR RIDER FALL clearly, together with the fence number, horse number and whether the course is BLOCKED or CLEAR. At this point all other radio operators should remain silent unless they also have a FALL.
5. When Control acknowledges your message ask for the appropriate Emergency Service; if in doubt ask for all help.
6. Keep your radio with you AT ALL TIMES, even if attending to a fall.

All other notes regarding faults etc. can be put together from the latest edition of the FEI Eventing Rules.