



Online FEI Eventing Seminar

20 January 2024

Risk management data: 2023 Highlights of international statistics

- David O'Connor FEI Chair Eventing Committee, USEF Chief of Sport, FEI CD
- Geoff Sinclair Chair RMSG, FEI TD



COMPETITIONS AND STARTERS Statistics 2014 – 2023

2023 Highlights of international statistics

Competitions

Year	Competitions Total number
2014	619
2015	684
2016	671
2017	690
2018	725
2019	758
2020	335
2021	660
2022	788
2023	813

Starters

Starters									
Year	Total	1* (former intro)	2*	3*	4*	5*			
2018	20,903	180	10,082	6,603	3,638	400			
2019	20,921	904	9,185	6,721	3,839	272			
2020	10,644	845	4,705	3,347	1,702	45			
2021	19,231	2,081	7,972	5,773	3,198	207			
2022	21,470	2,837	8,866	6,304	3,093	370			
2023	21,283	3,280	8,385	5,971	3,362	285			

From 2022 to 2023

- Number of competitions has increased by 3.1%
- Number of starters has decreased by 0.87%



FALLS Statistics 2014 – 2023

Falls

Total falls per competition level and percentage of total falls on starters

Vasu		Total		1* (former Intro)		2* (former 1*)		3* (former 2*)		4* (former 3*)		5* (former 4*)	
Year	starters	falls	%	Falls	%	Falls	%	Falls	%	falls	%	falls	%
2014	19,210	1,073	5.59%	NA	NA	468	4.91%	330	5.23%	213	7.20%	62	15.58%
2015	20,351	1,140	5.60%	NA	NA	469	4.85%	400	5.75%	235	6.96%	36	10.47%
2016	19,921	1,064	5.34%	NA	NA	466	4.72%	327	5.19%	226	6.70%	45	12.23%
2017	20,611	1,101	5.34%	NA	NA	484	4.74%	346	5.23%	223	6.47%	48	14.46%
2018	20,903	1,123	5.37%	7	3.89%	488	4.84%	335	5.07%	249	6.84%	44	11.00%
2019	20,921	1,166	5.57%	45	4.98%	447	4.87%	352	5.24%	287	7.48%	35	12.87%
2020	10,644	462	4.34%	33	3.91%	177	3.76%	163	4.87%	89	5.23%	0	0.00 %
2021	19,231	958	4.98%	68	3.27%	354	4.44%	298	5.16%	209	6.54%	29	14.01%
2022	21,470	1,165	5.43%	120	4.23%	459	5.18%	321	5.09%	224	7.24%	41	11.08%
2023	21,283	1,157	5.44%	178	5.43%	398	4.75%	314	5.26%	227	6.75%	40	14.04%

Falls per type and percentage of falls on starters

		Unseate	ed Riders	Horse Falls				
Year	% falls on starters	Falls	% on starters	Total Falls	Falls at XC fence	Total %	XC falls %	
2019	5.57%	882	4.22%	284	238	1.36%	1.14%	
2020	4.34%	358	3.36%	104	84	0.98%	0.79%	
2021	4.98%	743	3.86%	215	183	1.12%	0.95%	
2022	5.43%	912	4.25%	253	216	1.18%	1.00%	
2023	5.44%	910	4.28%	247	203	1.16%	0.95%	

Falls

Horse falls per type and percentage of type of falls on starters

	Non ro	otational	Rotational				
Year	Total falls	Total %	Total falls	%			
2014	277	1.44%	38	0.20%			
2015	248	1.22%	38	0.19%			
2016	248	1.24%	30	0.15%			
2017	249	1.21%	36	0.17%			
2018	295	1.41%	28	0.13%			
2019	258	1.23%	26	0.12%			
2020	92	0.86%	12	O.11%			
2021	186	0.97%	29	0.15%			
2022	238	1.11%	15	0.07%			
2023	222	1.04%	25	0.12%			

2014 – 2023 Horse falls at a fence per format and level

Percentage of falls on starters (at the level)

	CCI1*-	Intro	CCI	2*-S	CCI	3*-S	CCI	4*-S	CCI	2*-L	CCI	3*-L	CCI	4*-L	CCI	5*-L
Year	N° Horse falls	% on starters at the level														
2014	N/A	N/A	48	0.86%	56	1.19%	46	1.99%	45	1.14%	35	2.20%	28	4.36%	23	5.78%
2015	N/A	N/A	43	0.69%	68	1.28%	41	1.67%	27	0.79%	44	2.65%	20	2.17%	17	4.94%
2016	N/A	N/A	47	0.74%	59	1.25%	52	1.98%	36	1.01%	23	1.46%	19	2.53%	20	5.43%
2017	N/A	N/A	42	0.66%	45	0.89%	41	1.60%	45	1.17%	25	1.62%	33	3.75%	21	6.33%
2018	N/A	N/A	48	0.77%	60	1.20%	63	2.25%	41	1.08%	25	1.55%	21	2.52%	15	3.75%
2019	2	0.22%	40	0.68%	38	0.75%	70	2.44%	33	0.99%	21	1.28%	22	2.26%	12	4.41%
2020	5	0.59%	9	0.27%	16	0.60%	20	1.50%	9	0.66%	12	1.73%	11	2.97%	0	0.00%
2021	5	0.24%	33	0.63%	43	0.98%	34	1.39%	17	0.62%	19	1.39%	17	2.27%	15	7.25%
2022	9	0.32%	39	0.65%	53	1.06%	39	1.58%	22	0.74%	19	1.44%	16	2.58%	19	5.14%
2023	9	0.27%	30	0.53%	47	1.00%	37	1.45%	17	0.62%	23	1.80%	25	3.11%	15	5.26%
Target		N/A		0.75%		1.00%		2.00%		1.00%		1.50%		2.50%		4.00%

Falls 2014 - 2023

FALLS KEY FACTS:

- The number of falls on the flat (non XC fence related, Dressage, Jumping, Warm-up) has slightly decreased passing from 27.73% in 2022 to 26.19% in 2023.
- The average for the period is of 4.01 unseated athletes for every 100 starters (1 unseated athlete every 25 starters) and 1.33 horse falls for every 100 starters (1 horse fall every 75 starters).
- The distribution of falls per competition format shows an established trend with a higher percentage of falls in Long format with an average for the period of 4.92% for Short format and 6.39% for Long format.
- Figures for 2023 show that the 4.28% of unseated athletes is just above the average of the period (2014-2023) of 4.02%. Total horse falls at 1.16% are well below the average of the period of 1.33%.
- The percentage of rotational horse falls (higher risk of injuries for horse and athlete) has decreased from 0.20 horse fall every 100 starters (1 rotational horse fall every 506 starters) in 2014 to 0.12 rotational horse fall every 100 starters (1 rotational horse fall every 851 starters) in 2023. Rotational falls have constantly been decreasing since 2014.



INJURY Statistics 2014 – 2023

Injuries

Falls per type of injury and percentage of injuries on starters

Year	No ir	njury	Serious and fatal injuries					
r ear	Falls	% (on starters)	Falls	Concussion	% (on starters)			
2014	982	5.11%	32	2	0.17%			
2015	1,068	5.25%	32	2	0.16%			
2016	1,002	5.03%	26	26				
2017	988	4.79%	44		0.21%			
2018	989	4.73%	41	26	0.20%			
2019	1,045	4.99%	35	15	0.17%			
2020	419	3.94%	8 3		0.08%			
2021	838	4.36%	24 5		0.12%			
2022	1,013	4.72%	28 9		0.13%			
2023	999	4.69%	33 6		0.16%			

Distribution of Athletes seriously/fatally injured per type of fall and percentage on falls

	Unseated	d athletes	Non ro	tational	Rotational			
Year	Seriousl	y injured	Seriousl	y injured	Seriously injured			
	Athletes	% (on starters)	Athletes	% (on starters)	Athletes	% (on starters)		
2014	13	1.72%	13	4.69%	5	13.16%		
2015	13	1.52%	12	4.84%	6	15.79%		
2016	9	1.15%	9	3.63%	5	16.67%		
2017	18	2.21%	17	6.83%	9	25.00%		
2018	15	1.88%	21	7.12%	5	17.86%		
2019	12	1.36%	18	6.98%	5	19.23%		
2020	2	0.56%	3	3.26%	3	25.00%		
2021	3	0.40%	14	7.53%	7	24.14%		
2022	12	1.32%	12	5.04%	4	26.67%		
2023	12	1.32%	16	7.21%	5	20.00%		



Injuries

INJURIES KEY FACTS:

- As from 2019, the serious injury definition has been reviewed to "Serious injuries can be categorised as those that, in the opinion of the referring doctor, would require hospital admission for immediate treatment. Examples: major fractures (including all compound fractures, but excluding simple fractures of clavicle and wrist), crush injuries with suspicion of pneumothorax, ruptured spleen etc."
- For 2023, 33 serious injuries were reported. Out of the 25 rotational falls in 2023, 20% led to a serious injury (5 falls). Although, rotational falls have decreased, this is a big focus to eliminate.
- A total of 16 concussions were reported, 12 linked to a serious injury and 4 to a slight injury.
- In 2023, 86.35% of falls caused no injuries, 10.80% caused slight injuries and 2.85% led to serious injuries.
- The relative risk factors for the different types of falls show clearly that the risk of having a serious injury changes dramatically from the unseated athlete for whom, as an average of the period, the risk of having a serious injury is once every 72 falls to the rotational horse falls where the average risk of a serious injury is once every 5 falls.



Thank you! Any questions?