

2007 FEI WORLD JUMPING CHALLENGE

INTRODUCTION

We have now entered the fifth year of organising the FEI World Jumping Challenge. Considering that some developing countries who are interested in organising this event do not have enough course building experience, the Sport Development Department has decided to issue some guidelines. These guidelines will supply useful information to organisers and their course builders to help them in reading the course plan and in building it properly with a minimum of effort.

The courses for Cat. B have been inspired this year again by the Jumping technique taught in the Level 1 Jumping Module of the Coaching Education System. Therefore, Trot sections using trot poles are still used and a compulsory 4 strides straight line (Cat. B Round 2, between obstacles 5 & 6) has been introduced in order to ask riders to improve safety, control and the basic Jumping technique that is necessary to progress at higher levels.

The principle of the compulsory 4 strides is to demonstrate the rider's capability to control the number of strides in between cross poles. This is essential to develop the rider's ability to assess and adjust the distance before a jump.

THE ARENA

Before building the course, the Arena must be fenced off according to the dimensions mentioned in the rules of this competition (90 x 45 m).

In order to do this, different countries may use different materials such as wooden fences, wooden rails, plastic ropes, straw bales, dressage fencing or any other material bearing in mind safety requirements. It is better to avoid using metal as a material.

After fencing off the arena, the sand footing or any surface including grass should be prepared by levelling and making it smooth and flat.

An opening such as a gate should be made for entrancing and exiting.

OBSTACLES MATERIAL

From a practical point of view, it is impossible to build exactly identical courses in different countries due to different types of fencing material available in each country.

Therefore, those organisers who have difficulty in preparing new and modern type fences should bear in mind that they can use simple materials without changing the degree of the difficulty of the fences.

The organisers, after receiving the plans, have to prepare a complete list of all the material they need according to the description of the fences.

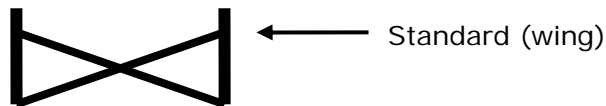
1. Poles

There is no substitute for wooden poles yet. The poles can be 3.5 to 4.0 meters in length.

2. Cross poles

FEI Jumping Rules, art. 244.2.2 - Exercise and schooling areas and practice obstacles – Practice Obstacles: If crossed poles are used as the top part of an obstacle, they must be able to fall individually. The top end of the poles must be in a cup. There can be a horizontal top poles behind the crossed poles, which must be at least 20 cm higher than the height of the place, where the poles cross each other.

The height of the cross poles indicated on the material plan is calculated at the standard, not in the middle of the cross.



3. Trot poles

Distance from trot pole to trot pole: 1.30 m.

4. Planks

Planks are made in different shapes, types and dimensions and should have the same length as poles.

Planks can be waved or straight, they can be solid or they can have different shapes cut out. Also ladders or panels can be used instead, when standard planks are not available.

5. Gates

Normally, gates should hang on their own cups (Flat Cups) and they exist in a wide variety. In case gates hanging on cups are not available, organizers may use gates having their own support on the ground. These can be used on the ground when you have to use them as fillers under the poles.

6. Flower Islands

Flower islands are decoration elements, which are also used as turning points.

A flower island can be made of some flowerpots. The flower island should be visible and respected by the riders/horses.

7. Fillers

Fillers are small decoration elements under a fence. Small walls, rainbows, flowers, etc. can also be used. If such material is not available, use your imagination and be creative with what you have at your disposal.

For example:



8. Liverpool

The Liverpool (or water ditch) should be of approximately 3m x 1m. The Liverpool should be made out of blue material and filled with water. The frame of the Liverpool should be of a soft and elastic material in order to avoid injuries.

If a Liverpool has a different colour e.g. black it is recommended to dye the water.



9. Use FEI-certified safety cups in all oxers, also on the warm-up arena.

HOW TO READ THE COURSE PLAN

The course plans are drawn to scale, and accordingly, the course builders can find the exact place of each obstacle on the ground.

On these plans you can see the following:

- Fence types: verticals, oxers, liverpools
- Number of fences
- The number of each fence
- Distance between combinations
- Start and finishing lines
- Course length, time allowed, time limit and speed for the competition. No speed is applicable for rounds 1 to 3 of the Cat. B, since there are several trot sections throughout the course and therefore different paces.
- Some fences in category B have trotting poles in front of the fence – mark the position of the poles and make sure that the distance of the poles is the same for every participant
- Ground poles are used in category A and B – see material plan

Some course designers show the position of entrance/exit gate and some not, so in the latter case the organisers may choose the place of entrance/exit gate.

HOW TO BUILD THE COURSE

There are different ways to build up the course but we suggest you to review our method as follows:

After fencing off the arena 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 grid lines at least every 5 meters (if they do not exist on the main plan) in order to make it easier for the course builders to find the exact place of each fence on the plan and so on the ground.

Then make copies of the plans for each assistant.

If you have enough people with knowledge in course building, divide up the space of the arena 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.

They have to find the middle point of the fences (middle of the pole) by measuring the real distance of the middle point from both long and short sides of the arena and find the exact place of this point on the ground. They must do the same for each side of the fence in order to find the angle of the fence and to lay down the pole (from the same colour) on the ground.

3. Then to do the same for related distances and combinations.

4. If you gave only one builder as the leader for the group, it is suggested to build up the single fences which have a 90-degree angle with the sides first and then build the other related sides or combinations.

5. In order to check if you have built the course correctly you may compare the place of each fence with other fences around it and to check the angle of the fences by extending assumed lines from the fence and check it with the corners and your benchmarks.

JUDGES DUTY

The president of the Jury should check the following items with the senior course builder before the show and if possible the day before:

1. The size of the arena.
2. The place of the fences.
3. The angle of the fences and lines.
4. The trot section that must be clearly marked.
5. Dimensions of each fence.

If a fence seems to be impossible to build with the exact height, you may put a small piece of wood under the wings in order to reach to the exact height.

6. Combination and related distances.
7. Starting and finishing lines.

If it seems to be impossible to place the start and finish according to the plans, find the correct place according to the rules.