

Portable Fences

Frequently Asked Questions



Who is deemed qualified to decide whether a course is built to standard or not?

Anyone can be deemed competent to decide if fences are secured as per The Pony Club guidance. It is not necessary to have any specific training or qualifications; as long as you understand the guidelines you can judge whether a fence is secured safely.

BE hold courses every spring which may be suitable for Course Builders, DCs or Health & Safety Officers looking for further guidance. For more information visit BE's website: <http://www.britisheventing.com/training/>.

If you have any queries please contact the Health and Safety Chairman whose contact details may be found at the end of this document.

Do all courses (whether BE or not) have to be checked by a Technical Advisor (TA) or equivalent prior to use? If so, how often do they need to be inspected and who pays for this. There are no TAs in the Isle of Man.

It is not necessary for a TA to check courses used for Pony Club activities. TAs and Stewards inspect courses before BE competitions to ensure they are safe and suitable for the level of competition but, as described above, anyone can do this for Pony Club events or training as long as they understand the rules.

We recommend checking fences visually before each use and alerting the landowner or course builder of any issues as they are responsible for the securing and maintenance of fences, both permanent and portable, on private land.

Once the course has been checked, do we need written evidence that the course is built to standard?

No, this is not necessary, but we strongly recommend that all inspections and checks are recorded in the comments section of your Risk Assessment so that you have a record of your inspections and checks.

We have looked at the BE guidance and there is room for interpretation and judgement e.g. "it is important that the appropriate one [Spirafix ground anchor] is used depending on soil type" and "the anchor brackets must be securely fixed to the frame of the fence"

Further guidance can be found on the Spirafix website (<http://www.spirafix.com/>).

Are any other makes of ground anchor permitted or just Spirafix?

Any other ground anchors will be fine, as long as they do the same job and the fence is properly secured.

What are the guidelines for securing or weighting fences on artificial surfaces?

Guidelines for weighting portable fences on an artificial surface can be found here:

The Pony Club feels the formula for calculating the amount of sand needed is a little confusing so we will be issuing our own guidelines in due course. In the meantime, we recommend using knock down style fences.

Do the rules apply to modern plastic cross country jumps where poles or gates are supported on cups? They are designed to knock down on impact.

The concerns relate to the type of fence which may turn over, causing a fall or a rotational fall, therefore knock-down fences (coloured show jumps or rustic working hunter style fences) are not included in the ruling and therefore do not require to be secured as per BE guidelines.

We've had enquiries from people who use Jump for Joy Cross Country fences who are querying how to secure them as Jump for Joy's guidelines differ from those issued by BE. If you have these jumps it should be sufficient to secure them as per the Jump for Joy guidelines.

What is the definition of a portable Cross Country fence?

A portable Cross Country fence is a jump which is designed to be moved to another site for another competition or training session.

Who is liable when The Pony Club is running events at non-BE venues? If a BE official deems the course is built to standard, is he then liable in the event of an accident? Would the landowner be liable in any way?

Liability depends on the arrangement between your Branch and the owner of the land. If guidelines for securing fences are followed, The Pony Club's insurance will be able to defend a claim on behalf of all parties involved.

Is there a minimum height which doesn't require securing as per BE guidelines?

No, all fences must be secured as per the guidelines.

Where can I get further advice?

If you require further information please contact Bill Cook, Health and Safety Chairman

Email: safety@pcuk.org

Telephone: 07768 495918 or 01726 882247

Is there any training available?

For information about training, please visit the British Eventing (BE) website

(<http://www.britisheventing.com/training/>)