

RULE CHANGE TYPE

Extraordinary

EFFECTIVE

4/1/2017

BOARD ACTION

EO REASON

Safety

PROPOSED CHANGE

EV140 Cross-Country Obstacles [CHAPTER SUBCHAPTER EV-3 RULES FOR HORSE TRIALS]

9. FRANGIBLE FENCES

Obstacles for which approved frangible technology is appropriate shall be constructed using this technology, or shall be retrofitted using this technology. **The Ground Jury for each event must approve the Frangible Technology employed.** Information on the appropriate applications of Frangible Technology in cross-country fence construction is available in the USEA Cross-Country Obstacle Design Guidelines. Frangible Technology may be installed only by or under the supervision of Course Designers/course builders who have attended a USEA Seminar on Frangible fence construction.

b. At the Modified Level and above, all frangible oxers, whether using frangible pins, MIM Clips, or any other load relieving devices, shall in all cases have front rails able to be activated by horizontal and vertical downwards forces, as well as horizontal and vertical upwards forces. Additionally, the back rails must at a minimum be able to be activated by horizontal and vertical downwards forces.

PROPONENT

US Eventing

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CONTACT

Rob Burk

rburk@useventing.com

INTENT

The USEA Cross-Country Safety and Design Task Force has proposed an extraordinary rule change, which has been further supported unanimously by the USEA Executive Committee. Engineers, cross-country course designers, cross-country builders, eventing officials and professionals have been conducting extensive observational research in person, by video and by photograph of horse and rider impact on oxers constructed with frangible devices. Those involved in this research have determined that when a horse impacts the front rail of a frangible oxer in an upwards and horizontal trajectory there is a high probability that an oxer with a front rail that is either front pinned or reverse pinned will fail to activate the frangible device or it will activate in a less than ideal fashion to reduce the possibility of a rotational fall. With this conclusive evidence the USEA Executive Committee feels that an extraordinary rule change is necessary to help to further protect the safety of eventing horses and riders.

This rule change would require both the front and back rails of frangible oxers using pins, MIM clips or other load bearing devices, be activated by specified forces. To be in compliance with this rule change using present frangible technology, builders must use MIMS on front rails and MIMS or reverse pin on back rails. While current technology is available to meet this standard, the language will also allow for future frangible devices. This is a change that will most likely occur in the near future through the FEI, and it is important for the U.S. to be a leader in regulations that will ultimately protect our national competitors and horses. If this rule passes, the USEA Board of Governors may also be amenable to releasing funds to offset the costs of course builders obtaining replacement frangible devices for oxers not currently meeting this standard at recognized and endorsed competitions thereby lessening the overall burden in implementation.

POTENTIAL IMPACT

There is a potential impact on the USEF inventory of frangible devices. However, there is limited to no financial impact on the USEF. Upon rule passage some events would need to replace the frangible device used on the front rail of frangible oxers. It is unknown how many events this could impact, but the USEA has determined that the safety concerns over ride that cost. The USEA Board of Governors may also be amenable to releasing funds to offset the costs of course builders obtaining replacement frangible devices for oxers not currently meeting this standard thereby lessening the overall burden in implementation.

LINKED RULES/COMMENTS

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 12/22/2016

Draft 2: No Comments

Licensed Officials

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 01/02/2017

Draft 2: No Comments