

Cross-Country for Dummies Part II

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Last issue we got you out of the start box and on course! Here are a few more things to consider between the start and finish flags.

1. EV 138.5

If you are about to pass someone on the cross-country course, be smart about it, or risk a dangerous riding penalty or possible elimination for unsafe behavior. Overtaking a competitor should only occur in a wide-open area and never right before an obstacle. It is the responsibility of the rider being overtaken to yield to you, getting out of your way so as not to slow down

your progress. That can only occur *if* he or she knows that you are trying to pass! Use your voice to call out your approach and ask that your way be clear. There are penalties in place for willful obstruction of an overtaking rider too. If, after you finish, you feel that circumstances on the course interfered with your ride, speak to the Technical Delegate to sort things out.

2. EV138.7

Sometimes unplanned or unpredictable events occur during the cross-country phase that necessitate stopping riders while on course. There are many reasons why this might happen. If a jump judge

or official is waving at you to stop, listen to them. They are acting under the direction of the Course Controller. They might have a red flag or may just use their hands to catch your attention. Regardless of the manner, it is clearly unsafe for you and your horse to continue. The time during which you were held is subtracted from your total time taken on the course. If in doubt, stop; ask questions later. But stop!

3. EV138.8 and 9

Cheering you on is one thing, but giving you advice or direction during your round is clearly something different and is not allowed. Any one or "thing" that gives you



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a competitive advantage during your ride is forbidden. Often incidents of unauthorized assistance are unsolicited, but not always. In particular, the following are prohibited:

- Intentionally joining another rider on course and continuing close behind them.
- Being followed by any vehicle and/or person.
- Having friends at certain points to signal or call out to you.
- Having someone influence your horse by any means whatsoever.
- Altering any of the jumps, flags, ropes, or any part of the course.

But ... after a fall or if you dismount, you can be assisted to catch your horse, adjust your tack, almost any other help you need other than directions and advice. Your helmet and glasses can be handed to you at any time.

4. EV138.9

If you are unclear as to a possible jumping penalty, you may ask the jump judge for clarification. For example, after jumping a flag at a corner, the jump judge, if asked, may clarify whether or not it was a run out, but may *not* tell you what to do next!

5. EV138.10

Elimination means leave the course immediately. If you know you are eliminated, or if you choose to retire, then leave the course at a walk either mounted or dismounted, but *do not continue* or risk being fined up to \$100 payable to the Organizing Committee! *Some* reasons for elimination:

- Third disobedience (refusal, run out or circle) at the same obstacle.
- Fifth disobedience on the entire course.
- Second rider fall on the course.
- Exceeding the posted time limit.
- Jumping without a secured helmet harness or without headgear.
- Willful obstruction of an overtaking rider.
- Failure to follow the instructions of the jump judge or officials.
- Causing possible danger to another while overtaking a rider.
- Not stopping when signaled.
- Unauthorized assistance.
- Riding with improper saddlery.
- Forgetting a flagged obstacle or passage.
- An error of course not corrected.
- Jumping obstacles in the wrong number order.

- Retaking an obstacle already jumped or jumping an obstacle in the wrong direction, other than an obstacle with multiple elements. But don't continue on course when you *know* you have had three refusals at the water, well, actually four ... and hope you don't get "caught!"

6. EV140.2

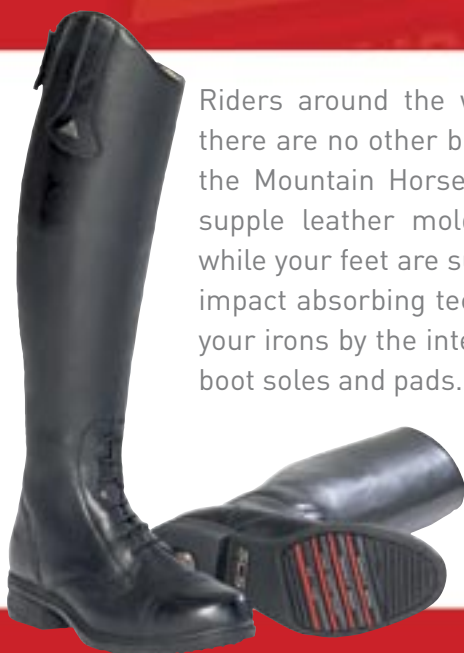
Know the difference between obstacles that are close together but carry separate numbers, compared to obstacles that have the same number with several efforts or "parts" of the question. Successfully negotiating these two types of cross-country obstacles without incurring penalties is not exactly the same. Remember that with separately numbered obstacles, you have three opportunities *at each* obstacle to clear the jump whereas with an obstacle composed of several parts or elements (A, B, C and so on) you have three opportunities to navigate *the entire jump*, including all its parts! Check out the diagram on the next page.

Black striped alternatives were discussed in a recent edition of **Eventing USA**. This is an important item to review if you missed it the first time around.

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