

Addition to: *Guidelines for Cross-Country Jump Judges*

ELOC Committee – 3/1/2021

<https://useventing.com/resources/documents/Guidelines For XC Judges 2018 rev.pdf>

## **PENALTIES . . . WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

Refusals, run-outs and circles are three types of disobediences that may occur while riders are in the process of attempting to jump your obstacle. A fall of horse and/or rider is elimination from the competition and is penalized by **Mandatory Retirement (MR)** for the horse or **Fall of Rider (RF)** for the rider. At the Novice and Beginner Novice level if a rider falls off and lands on their feet and remains standing on their feet they may remount and continue. However, if they choose not to continue it should be noted R for Retirement with 65 penalties.

### **REFUSAL**

#### ***Refusal at obstacles with height greater than 30 cm or 12 inches:***

At obstacles or elements with height exceeding one foot, a horse is considered to have refused if it stops in front of the obstacle to be jumped.

**Explanation:** The horse CLEARLY STOPS ITS forward motion. THE QUESTION YOU MUST ASK YOURSELF IS: DID THE HORSE STOP MOVING FORWARD?

After a refusal, if a competitor TRIES AGAIN TO JUMP THE OBSTACLE WITHOUT SUCCESS, OR IF THE HORSE IS RE-PRESENTED AT THE OBSTACLE AFTER STEPPING BACK AND STOPS OR BACKS AGAIN, THIS IS A SECOND REFUSAL, AND SO ON.

#### ***Refusals at all other obstacles 30 cm or 12 inches in height or less:***

A HALT followed immediately by a standing jump is not penalized, but if the halt is sustained or in any way prolonged this constitutes a refusal. The horse may step sideways but if it steps back, even with one foot, this is a refusal.

**Explanation:** At a ditch or a drop fence, sometimes a horse will come up to the obstacle or element, come to a quick halt, or pause to take closer look at the obstacle or element, and then immediately continue to move forward and jump the obstacle or element. This is not a refusal if in your opinion the horse did not firmly "decline" to jump. Remember, the horse is not penalized if he steps sideways, THEN IMMEDIATELY GOES FORWARD WITH THE INTENTION OF JUMPING.

After a refusal, if a competitor TRIES AGAIN TO JUMP THE OBSTACLE without success, or if the horse is re-presented at the obstacle after stepping back and stops or backs again, this is a second refusal, and so on.

### **RUN-OUT**

A horse is considered to have runout if having been presented at the jump, it avoids the jump to be jumped by running out to one side or the other, or in such a way that it must be re-presented.

### **CIRCLE**

- If a rider circles the horse (WHERE THE HORSE CROSSES HIS TRACK) between elements of a jump composed of more than one part, i.e. – if the jump is marked with an A, B, etc., the circle will be penalized AS A DISOBEDIENCE. THIS CROSSING WILL BE PENALIZED EVEN IF IT OCCURS AFTER THE LAST JUMP (refer to diagram).
- A circle will not be penalized as a disobedience when it occurs between separately numbered jumps as long as it is not a refusal (refer to diagram).
- After being penalized for a disobedience (refusal, run-out) a rider is permitted to circle without penalty in order to make another attempt, and may circle repeatedly without penalty until the rider attempts to jump the fence.

If there are two separately numbered jumps, though sited closely together, each jump is judged independently; a rider will not be penalized for crossing the track between jumps only if the rider clearly did not present the horse to jump the second obstacle.

At a combination jump of several parts, i.e. – 17A and 17B, a competitor only has three chances to clear all parts; this jump is judged as a single obstacle. If a rider refuses, runs out, or circles at any part, he is permitted to retake any part already jumped, although he will be penalized for any faults incurred on subsequent attempts even if he has already jumped that part of the obstacle successfully. For example, at obstacle 5A, 5B, 5C, a horse may have a disobedience at the first element (5A), then clear that element and have a disobedience at the second element (5B). Since obstacles formed of several elements are judged as a single obstacle, the disobedience at 5B, although the first refusal at that element, is nevertheless considered the second disobedience at Obstacle 5. Riders have only three attempts to complete ALL parts, and NOT three attempts at each part.

After **CIRCLE**, please add:

## **FRANGIBLE TECHNOLOGY**

You may have a frangible device at your cross-country fence. These devices are designed so that if a horse hits them in a certain way, they will collapse and may prevent or reduce the chance of the horse having a rotational fall. These devices may be called MIM clips, reverse pins, regular pins, or there may be a collapsible table at your fence. All these types of devices have been engineered to activate if a certain amount of pressure is placed on them. Either the Course Designer/Builder or the Technical Delegate will brief you on the device, how you should report it if the device is activated, and how to document/record it on your jump judge sheet. The President of the Ground Jury, in consultation with the Technical Delegate, would apply the penalty for activating the device. They will need to know the facts of why and how the device was activated. Therefore, you will need to be able to give a clear description of what happened at your fence.