

MODULE 4

Riding Phase

- ▶ PCA NATIONAL TETRATHLON COMMITTEE, 2022
- ▶ Compiled by GUY CLARE
 - ▶ NCAS Level 1 Riding Instructor
 - ▶ PCA Level B Instructor
 - ▶ UK Level 1 Triathlon Coach

Riding phase

- ▶ The Riding Phase course design may be: entirely Show jumping (SJ); entirely Cross Country (XC) or a Derby course. The latter includes a mixture of show jumps with a faultable rail (SJ) and cross country (XC) style 'solid' obstacles
- ▶ Except in exceptional circumstances a Gate and Slip Rail will be included. These are not classed as 'jumping efforts, but need to be numbered sequentially on the Course Plan



Riding phase format at the National Championships

- ▶ The ride includes a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 18 jumping efforts plus the Gate and Slip Rail
- ▶ The length of the course shall not exceed 1850m
- ▶ A maximum of 2 combinations are allowed either; two Doubles or one Double and one Triple combination



Calculating the Time Allowed

- ▶ The speed for a Derby course is 350m per minute
- ▶ The speed for a Cross country course or a Show jumping course is calculated using the optimum speed for each jumping height as specified in the PCA Horse Trials Rules
- ▶ The time for the course is calculated using the length of the course divided by the speed
- ▶ The Time Allowed is the time for the course + 30 secs for the Gate, + 30 secs for the Slip Rail i.e. time for the course + 1 minute
- ▶ There are no penalties for completing the Course under the Time Allowed
- ▶ The Time Limit is double the Time Allowed, exceeding the Time Limit = Elimination
 - ▶ A Tet TD should be aware that in heights < 75cm then the speed can be slower than 350m per minute



When measuring a Course then the jumping lines for the different class heights must be considered, especially from one 'row' of XC fences to another. This will ensure that each category (SJ, JNR or SNR) has an accurate Time Allowed (TA) based on an accurate course distance



Jump Specifications

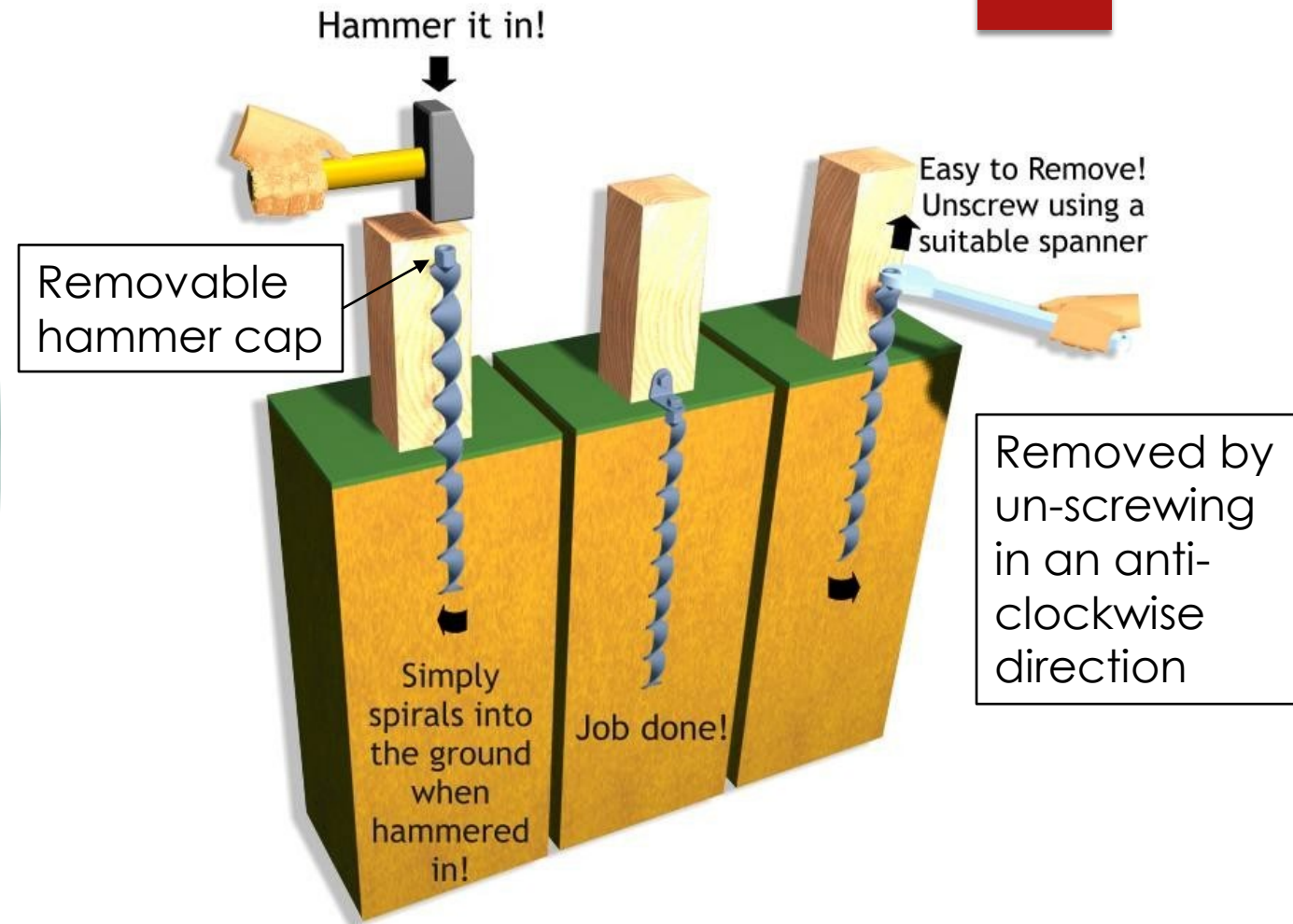
- ▶ The Tetrathlon riding phase follows PCA Horse Trials Rules or State Horse Trials Rules in the absence of PCA Tetrathlon Rules
- ▶ All solid fences must be built to meet the Horse Trials rules safety standards
- ▶ XC fences MUST be secured to the ground according to Horse Trials Rules
- ▶ All show jump fences must use safety cups on the back rail of spread fences (oxers) and the middle and highest rails of a triple bar
- ▶ The width of a fence may not exceed it's height at the maximum height of the fence
- ▶ Brush fences are measured to the top height of the brush for tetrathlon purposes

It is mandatory to secure portable XC fences to the ground



Securing Portable Cross Country fences

- ▶ All portable cross-country (XC) fences must be secured on the take-off side
- ▶ The SPIRAFIX arrangement used most for XC fences is the SF50-08-0490C type anchor hammered through the hole in the SA238 bracket. The bracket needs to be secured to the XC obstacle. This combination is designed to hold a 500kg turning force
- ▶ The SF50-08-0630C anchor in combination with the SA239 7-hole bracket is designed to hold a 700kg turning force



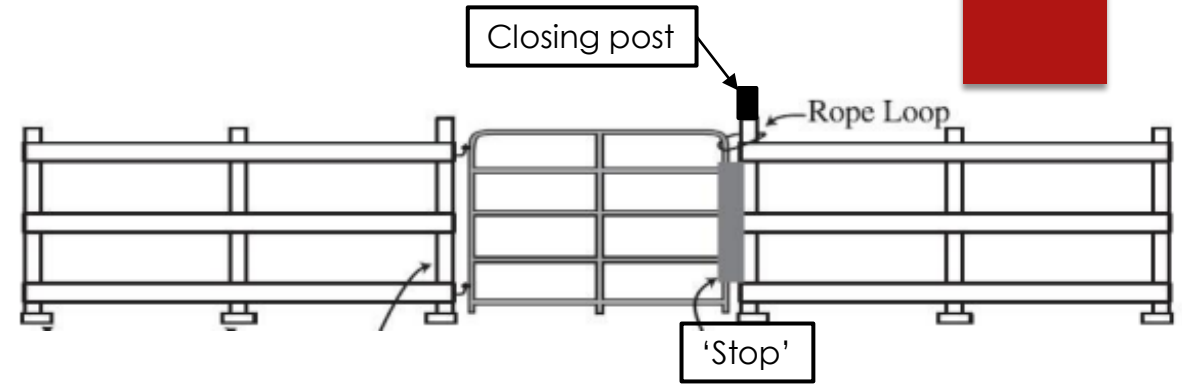
Whenever installing Spirafix anchors please check for buried services prior to the install

The Gate 'Test'



Gate Design

- ▶ Ideally, the only movable portions of 'The Gate' are the Gate on it's hinges and the closing mechanism
- ▶ A "stop" may be placed on the near side of the post adjacent to the latching end of the gate. The purpose is to permit the gate to be opened in the **forward direction only**. It also stops the gate from 'swinging through' on closing
- ▶ The closing mechanism can simply be a loop of rope or other flexible material, fastened to the top of the opening end of the gate. This loop can be placed completely over the inner post (closing post) of the wing. The closing post should be approximately 15cm higher than the gate (range 10 – 20cm)
- ▶ Safety dictates that whatever gate-closing option is chosen, it should not be possible that items of tack can become entangled during it's operation
- ▶ IDEALLY, the gate should be supported by 'wings' that stretch either side of the gate for approximately 3m (9ft) and are secured to the ground



Gate Width (m)	Height of the top of the gate (m)	Closure Mechanism
1.8m (6 ft) minimum	1.2m (4ft) minimum	Rope loop placed over the 'closing post'
3.6m (12ft) maximum	1.5m (5ft) maximum	Any 'safe' closure mechanism

The Slip Rail 'Test'



Slip Rail Design

- ▶ The Slip Rail 'Test' is negotiated once the rider has dismounted. It comprises a movable 'top rail' that slides out of the way to 'open' a gap, allowing the horse and rider to pass 'through'. The 'test' is completed when the slip rail is returned to the original 'closed' position
- ▶ A Slip Rail can be made using Jump wings and plastic pipe of different diameters where the inner pipe is the longer 'sliding' pipe held in place by a larger diameter supporting pipe
 - ▶ *Jump wings and poles can also be used, however the weight of the poles should be suitable for the size of the children*
 - ▶ *In other countries it is common for there to be the 'movable' top rail and an additional lower 'fixed' rail (15-25cm above the ground) that the horse and rider 'step-over'*
- ▶ A mounting block must be made available for riders to use (at no penalty) if they choose. This should be located within 15m of the 'Test'

Movable upper rail



Slip Rail Opening Width (m)	Minimum length of the movable top rail (m)	Height of the movable top rail from the ground (m)
1.8m (6 ft) minimum	2.4m (8ft) minimum	0.9m (3ft) minimum
2.4m (8ft) maximum	3.0m (12ft) maximum	1.2m (4ft) maximum

Safety & Welfare of the Rider and Horse

- ▶ It is the responsibility of the rider to demonstrate: -
 - ▶ Appropriate control of their horse
 - ▶ Sufficient horsemanship during the 4 phases of jumping
- ▶ The Tet TD MUST be consulted and MUST eliminate, prior to starting or during the riding phase itself, any competitor where there are sufficient concerns regarding the welfare of the horse or the safety of the rider



The following may be emphasized to the riders

The Gate and Slip Rail are completed when they have been returned to their original starting position with rider and horse having passed 'through' the 'Test'. The Gate MUST NOT be able to be 'pushed open' without first dis-engaging the latching / closing mechanism

Fallen spectacles AND helmet can be recovered and passed to a rider and this is NOT classed as 'Unauthorised Assistance'

Whips must be 75cm or less

The time stops when the horse's nose passes through the Finish 'line'

If a faster rider wants to pass a slower rider, this MUST be at a distance >15m from a jump and it must be safe to do so. An audible shout should be used by the faster rider to signify this e.g. 'Coming Through!'

A bell in SJ and a red flag for XC are used to signal riders that the rider MUST STOP on course if there is; an accident, damage to a fence that needs re-building or safety concerns for rider or horse. The overall time needs to be adjusted to take into consideration the length of time the rider has been stopped

In the event of a Fall (of horse or rider) 'on Course'

The Arena Judge must
ring the bell

The fallen rider must be
medically checked.
They may not remount

The Rider is not allowed
to take any further part
in the riding phase as a
fall of horse or rider
incurs Elimination

Knowledge Check



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- ▶ 1. What are the 3 types of riding course that are acceptable for the Tetrathlon Riding Phase? (3)
- ▶ 2. What type of riding course is used for Tetrathlon Nationals? (1)
- ▶ 3. What are the minimum and maximum numbers of jumping efforts on a Tetrathlon Riding Course? (2)
- ▶ 4. What is the maximum length of the Tetrathlon Riding Course? (1)
- ▶ 5. What is the maximum width of an obstacle in relation to the maximum height? (1)
- ▶ 6. If a brush fence is included in the Tetrathlon Riding Course, how is the height measured? (1)

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- ▶ 7. Which other Pony Club riding discipline is used as a reference, with respect to the Tetrathlon Riding Phase? (1)
- ▶ 8. How many combination fences (an obstacle with more than 1 element) are allowed in the Tetrathlon Riding Phase? (1)
- ▶ 9. What are the 2 tetrathlon specific obstacles that make the Tetrathlon Riding Course unique and are not included as jumping efforts, but do need to be numbered on the Course Plan? (2)
- ▶ 10. True / False, is it compulsory to anchor to the ground all jumping obstacles that are used on the course that do not have a faultable rail? (1)
- ▶ 11. What additional piece of equipment is required in the Slip Rail Test? (1)

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- ▶ 12. What must happen if a rider or horse fall? (3)
- ▶ 13. Whose responsibility is it to demonstrate sufficient horsemanship to be admitted to the Tetrathlon Riding Course? (1)
- ▶ 14. Who must be consulted if there are concerns that a horse and rider combination do not have sufficient skill to be allowed onto the Tetrathlon Riding Course? (1)
- ▶ 15. What action must the Tet TD take if they believe that a particular horse and rider combination have not demonstrated enough horsemanship in the Warm-Up Arena or concerns regarding horse welfare or rider safety happen 'on course'? (1)
- ▶ 16. What must a rider do, if during their round, a Red Flag is being waved or a bell is rung? (1)
- ▶ 17. What must the Jump Judge do, in the event that they use a Red Flag during a rider's round? (1)