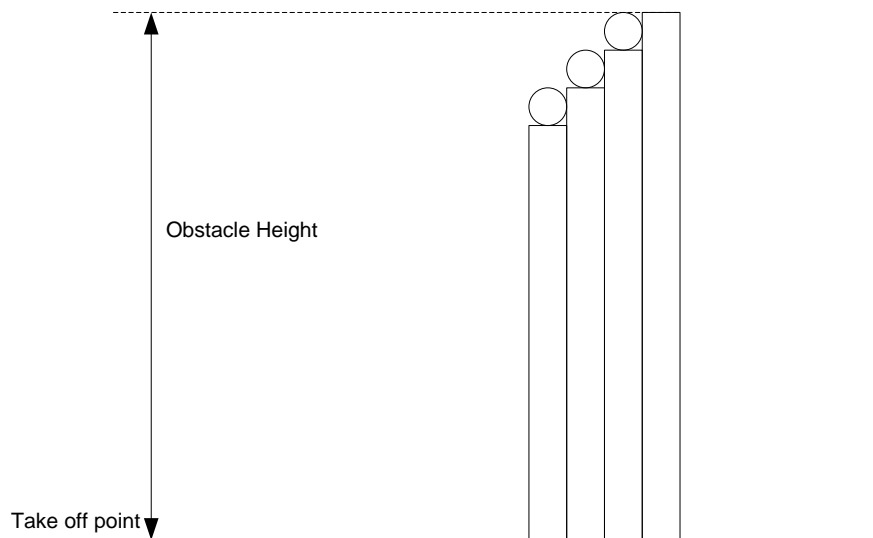


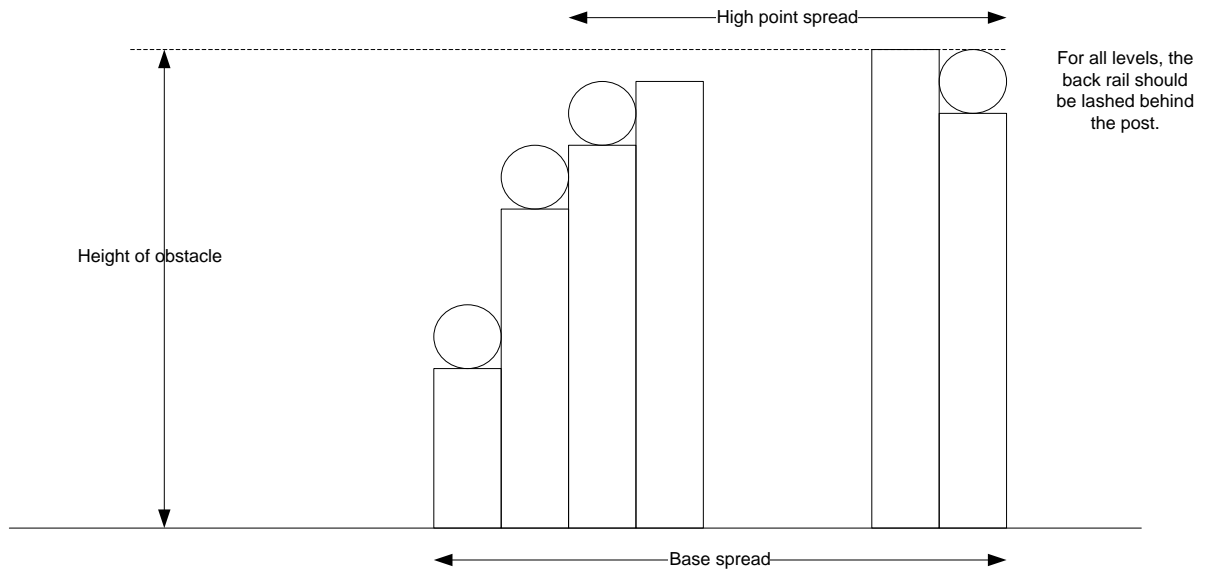
HORSE RIDING CLUBS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.**MEASURING GUIDELINES
FOR CROSS COUNTRY OBSTACLES****A. Measuring straight obstacles**

The take off point in front of the obstacle will vary depending on its height and the slope of the ground , and will also depend on the obstacle profile ie; vertical or sloping.

You will need to watch all types of fences being jumped in order to ascertain where the average horse takes off. On uphill slopes the point is almost at the base of the obstacle.

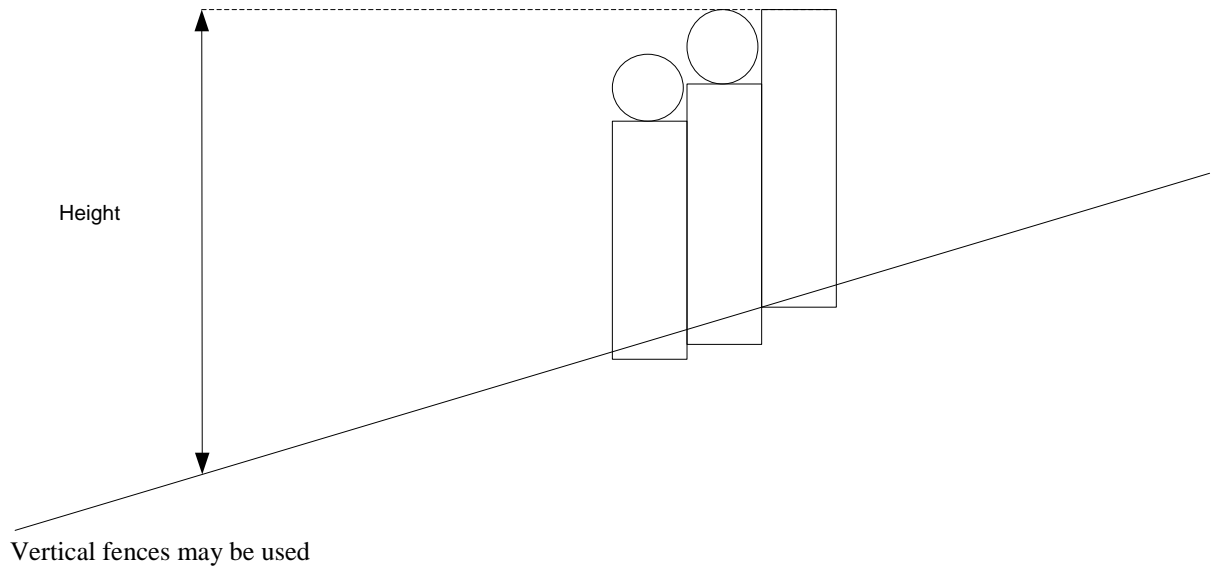
On downhill slopes the point is also closer to the obstacle than where it would be for level ground

B. Measuring spread obstacles

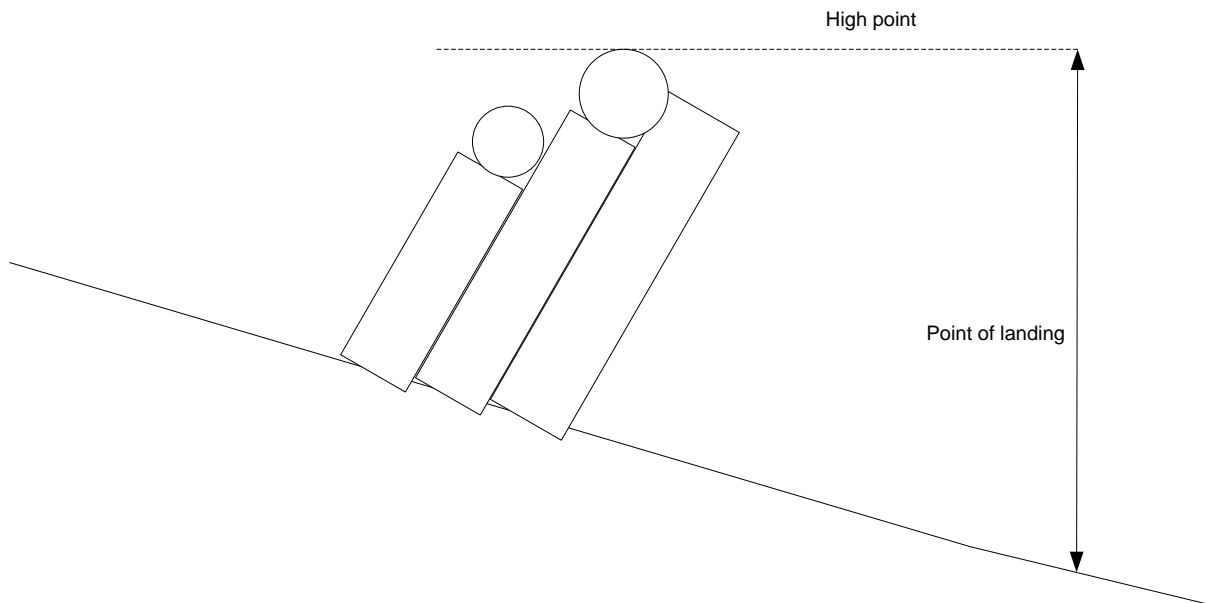


Note: front rail should be 50mm lower than the back rail.

C. Measuring uphill obstacles



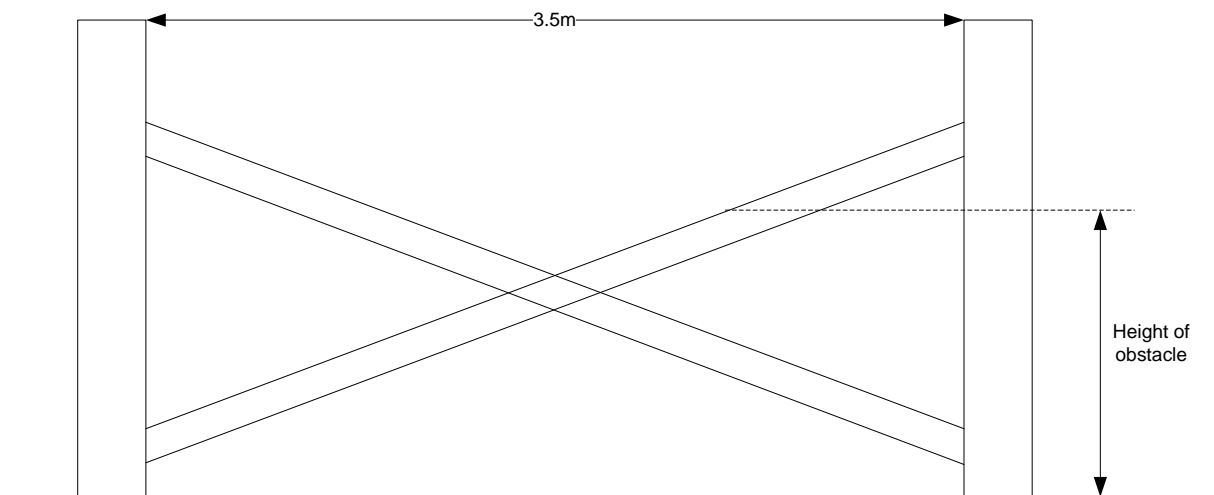
D. Measuring downhill obstacles



With this type of obstacle, the take off will be close to the base of the obstacle, care will be needed to ascertain the landing point as this may govern the height of the obstacle.

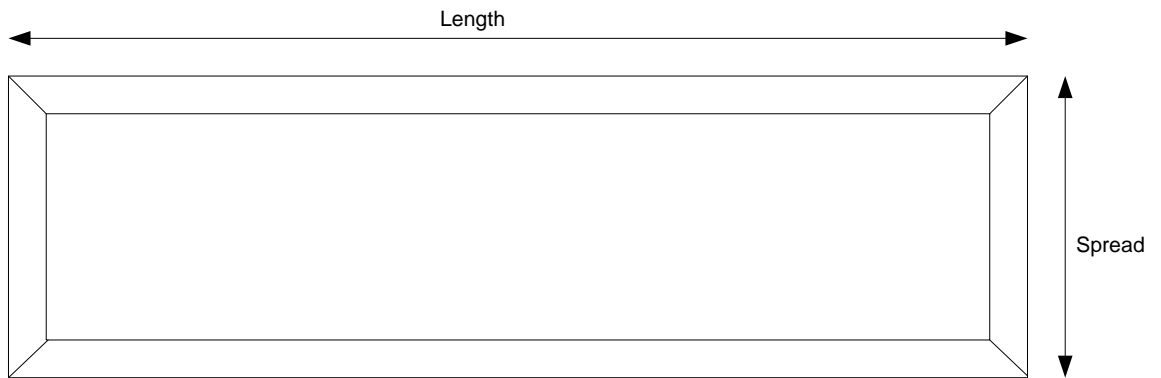
Vertical fences should not be used.

E. Measuring variable height obstacles



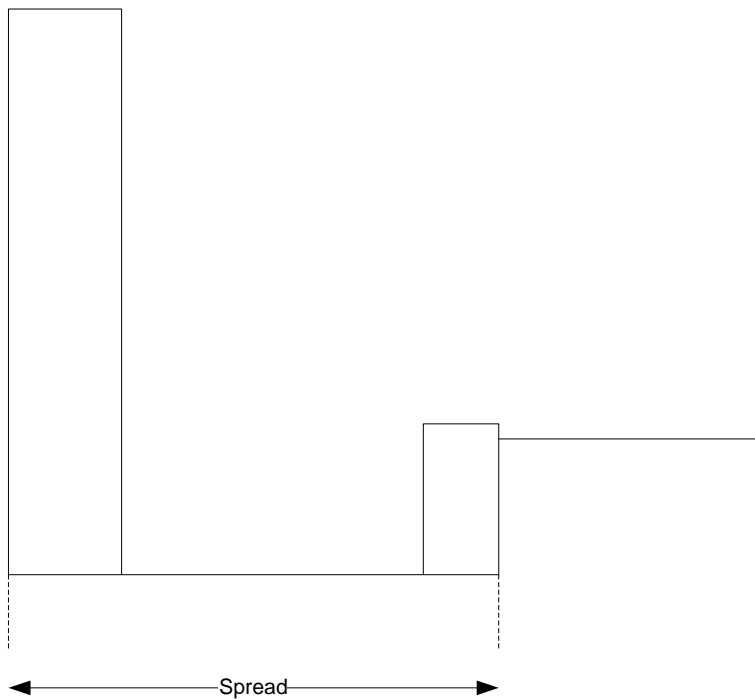
Height to be measured at 1/3 of the outside width of the obstacle.

F. Measuring ditches or coffin spreads

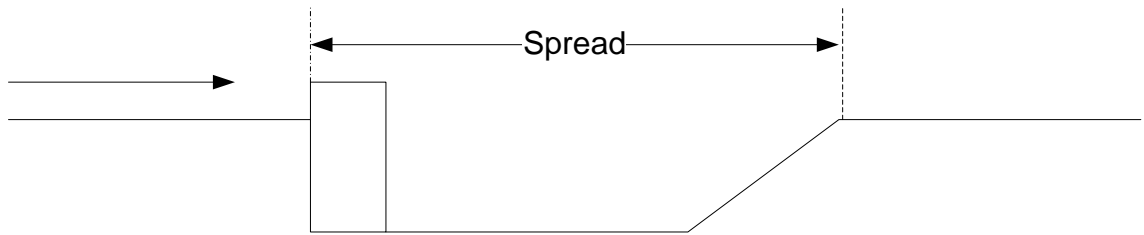


Spread measurement must include the material used in its construction, not just the width of the ditch.

G. Measuring spread at ditch and brush fences



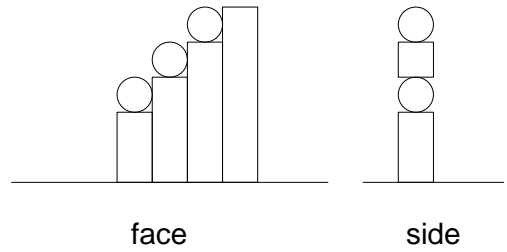
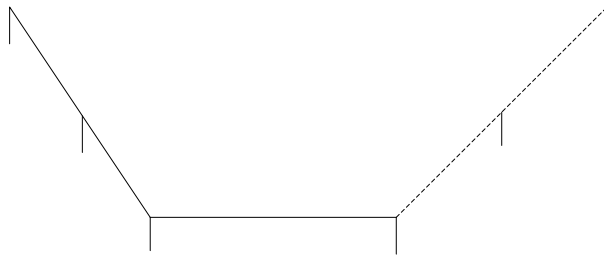
Base spread includes base material plus any included shoring or ground rail and not just the width of the ditch. Approach side take off should be clearly defined.

H. Measuring open ditches

Front to be shored with log or timber with approximately 10cm visible above ground level.

Landing side to be earth bank only. Spread width includes base material plus any shoring. Measurement is taken from the leading edge of the shoring to the top of the ditch on the landing side.

1. Arrow Head – full or half



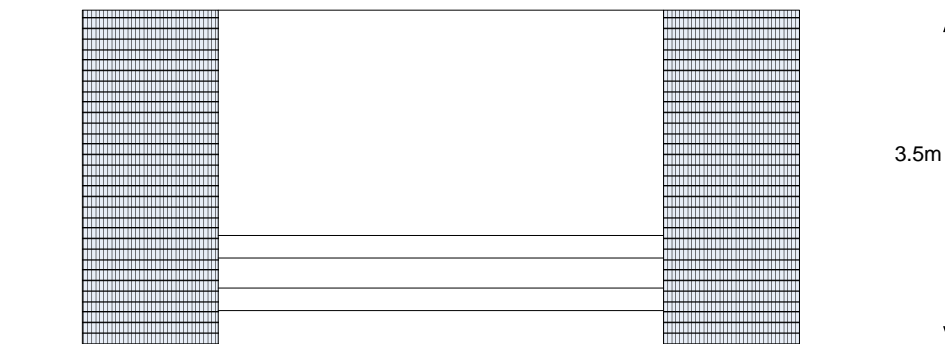
Minimum width of front face to be not less than:

Level 5	Not recommended
Level 4	2.4m
Level 3	2.1m
Level 2	1.8m
Level 1	1.5m

The long side should not be less than 5.8m at an angle of not less than 45° to the face of the obstacle.

Face of obstacle to be godfathered, side legs to be vertical if more than one rail is required.

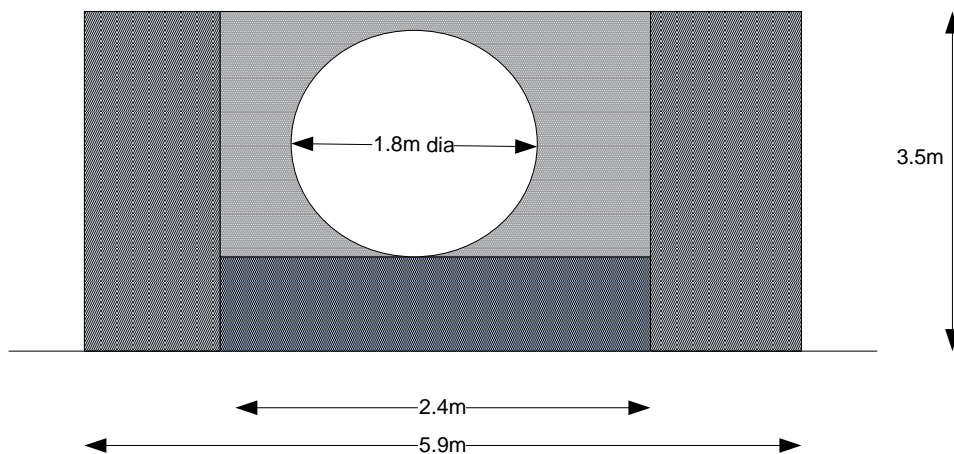
2. Picture frame (or window)



Only timber type cladding may be used ie treated pine halves/garden trellis. Fixed head not to be less than 3.5m from the ground. Total width of obstacle to be not less than 3.5m.

Level 5	2.4m
Level 4	2.4m
Level 3	2.4m
Level 2	2.1m
Level 1	1.8m

3. Keyhole (level 1 and 2 only)

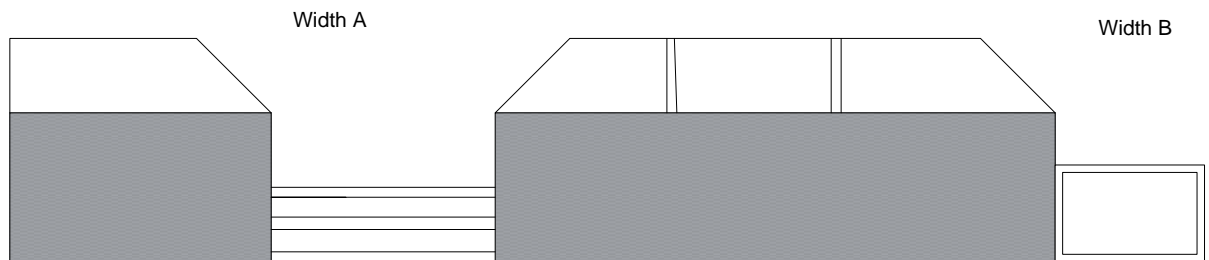


Construction to be the same as for level 2 window or picture frame. Minimum width of solid frame to be not less than 2.4m.

Provision to be made on frame for brushing sides, base and top. With the jumpable section, the back rail holding the brush must be at least 50mm ***lower*** than the front rail.

The density of the brush must not be too thick. The horse and rider must be able to negotiate the obstacle without accident or injury to either.

4. Optional type (where non-jumpable rails are used)



Width A		Width B	
Level 5, 4, 3	2.4m	Level 5, 4, 3	2.4m
Level 2	1.8m	Level 2	1.8m
Level 1	1.8m	Level 1	1.2m

Non-jumpable rails should be 0.45m to 0.6m above the height of the maximum level for which it is designed, and must have two rails or sufficient filling to stop any horse or pony attempting to pass under the non-jumpable section.

5. Water jumps

Where a horse is compelled to jump into water, the water must extend to the base of the jump on the landing side and not exceed 300mm in depth.

The base of the water crossing shall be firm and unyielding and should be a minimum of 6 metres between entry and exit, except where an exit/step/s or fence is jumped directly out of the water, in which case the minimum length should be 9 metres.

No jump whether flagged or not, shall be constructed in such a way that it requires a horse to jump from water to water.

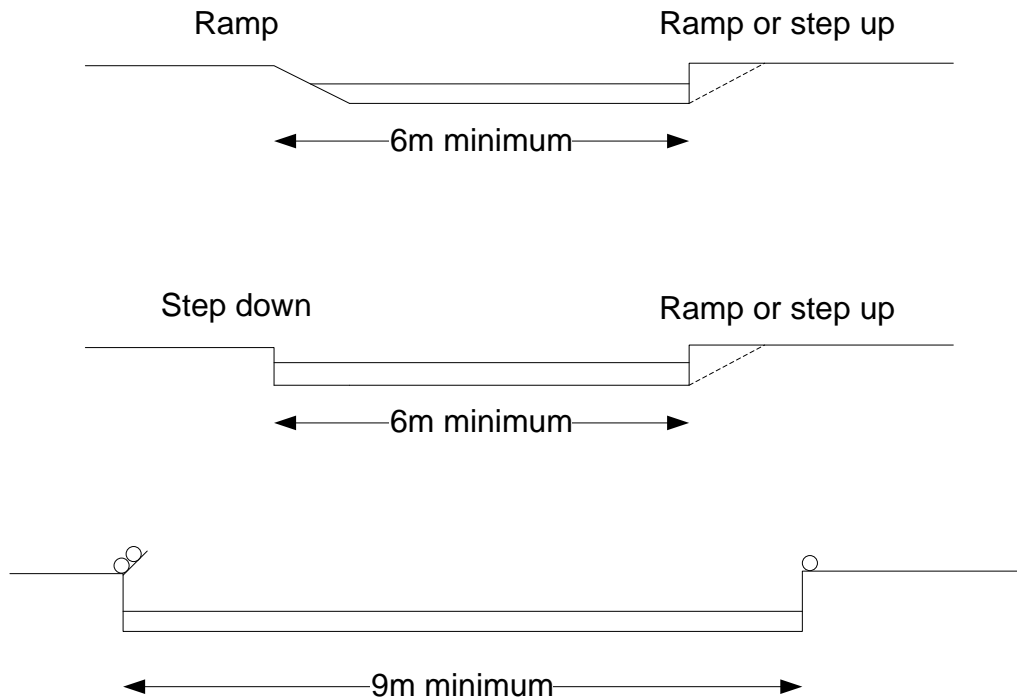
Level 5 must be able to walk in and walk or step out of water

Level 4 must be able to step down into and walk or step out of water

Level 3, 2, 1 may jump an obstacle into and out of water

All water jumps should be wide enough on the approach side to use an obstacle 3.6 metres wide. The obstacle into water must be a sloping fence or large diameter log. Brush or spread fences should not be used.

On inground pit type water jumps where an entry obstacle is close to an adjacent edge, a small panel 1.2 metres in height shall be used to stop bold horses attempting to apex the corner.



	Height of front element	Drop not to exceed	Height of jump out
Level 3	500mm	800mm	500mm
Level 2	700mm	900mm	750mm
Level 1	800mm	1200mm	900mm

6. Brush fences

Brush fences or natural hedges are obstacles where the height cannot be easily defined. The height measurement is taken from the take off point to the fixed and solid part of the obstacle through which a horse cannot pass with impunity.

The overall height of the brush for all levels shall not exceed the maximum height by more than 150mm and it shall be of a thickness and density to allow a horse to brush through with minimal resistance, thus lessening the chance of a horse falling or injuring itself or its rider if it makes a mistake in gauging the obstacle.

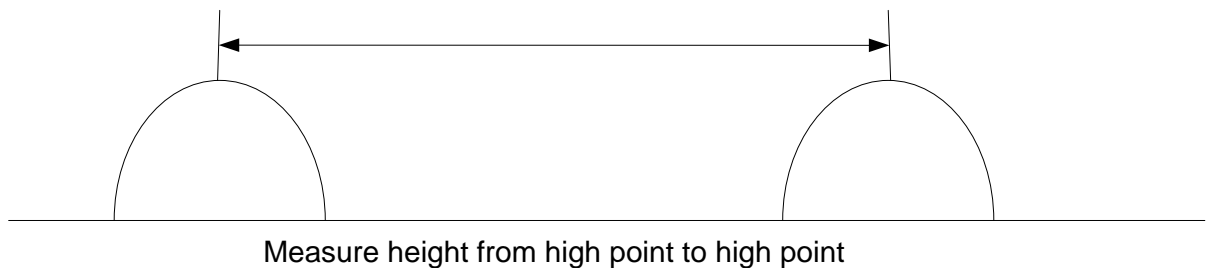
For levels 1 and 2, it is recommended that the solid part of the obstacle supporting the brush be 150mm lower than the maximum height allowed.

The back rail for such an obstacle shall be 50mm lower than the front rail.

Level	1	2	3	4	5
Brush fence height	1200	1050	900	750	600
Front rail height	900	750	750	600	450

7. Round top fences

The obstacle must not exceed the base spread width for the given height, and, if used as a combination fence, the measurement between the efforts is from the centre of each obstacle and not the back of the first effort to the front of the second effort, as in the case of a vertical to an oxer, or an oxer to a vertical.



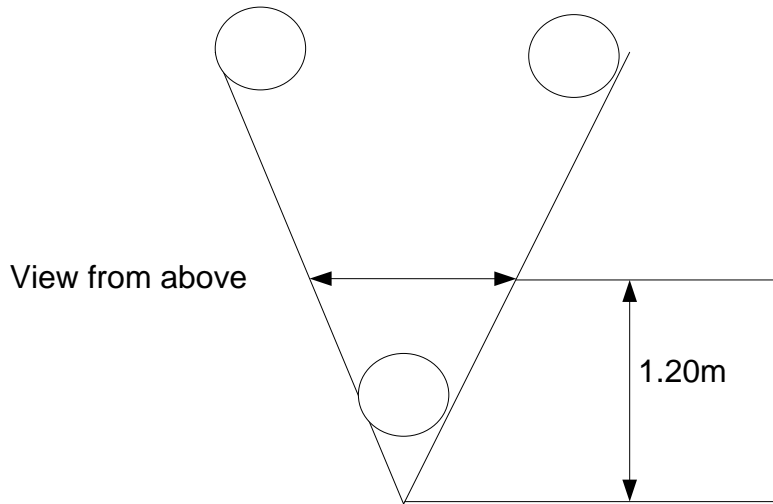
The distance whether it is a bounce, one stride or two strides should be set by an experienced designer.

Recommended distances are:

Bounce:	3.6m – 4.5m
1 stride:	7.0m – 7.5m
2 strides:	10.0m – 11.5m

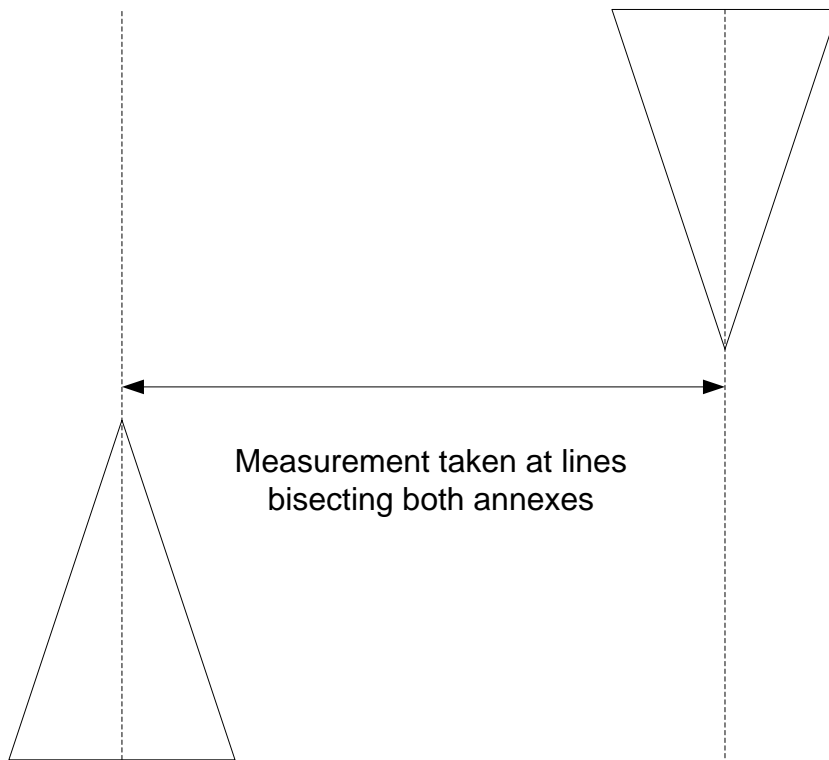
8. The Apex

The spread should not exceed the maximum for the level at approximately 1.2m from the point of the apex.



Measuring distance between two apexes

If the test is for two apexes, one the opposite way, then the measurement between them is taken by using two parallel lines at the required distance.



Cross country course design

Recommended distances for related obstacles

The experienced course designer will know how to adapt distances between the elements of combinations according to the type of fence, the terrain and the standard of horse and rider. However on flat ground the following will ride well for most horses. In general terms, the lower the obstacles, the shorter the distance between them. Unlike those in show jumping, cross country fences are never so high that they cause a horse to land closer to the fence.

Vertical to vertical

Bounce	4.0m – 4.5m
1 stride	7.3m – 8.2m
2 strides	10.5m – 11.5m

Vertical to parallel (oxer)

Bounce	3.6m – 4.2m
1 stride	7.3m – 7.9m
2 strides	10.5m – 10.9m

Parallel (oxer) to parallel (oxer)

Bounce	not recommended
1 stride	7.3m – 7.5m
2 strides	10.5m – 10.9m

On gentle downhill slopes, the horse will naturally lengthen his stride, on all uphill slopes he will shorten his stride.

Steps up and down

Bounce	2.7m
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Bank (Normandy type)

Bounce	3.2m – 3.30m
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Flat or round topped bank

Bounce	3.6m – 3.9m
1 stride	6.4m – 7.2m

Rails to step up

Bounce	3.6m – 3.9m
1 stride	7.0m – 7.2m

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Rails to step down

Bounce	3.0m – 3.3m
1 stride	6.0m – 6.4m

Step up to rails

Bounce	2.7m
1 stride	6.0m – 6.4m

Step down to rails

Bounce	3.6m
1 stride	6.4m

These distances are only intended to be a guide. They will be appropriate at all levels for relatively straight forward fences. At the highest levels of competition, where combinations may be sited on unusual terrain, only the most experienced course designer can set the distances.

Coffins**Rail/ditch/rail**

1 stride – normal	5.4m – 6.0m
1 stride – medium	4.5m
Ditch width	as per spread without height specifications
Ditch depth – level 1, 2	450mm
Ditch depth – level 3, 4	300mm

Ditch to rail

Bounce	3.6m
1 stride	5.4m – 6.0m

All distances are measured inside to inside of fences, except in the case of a corner (or V) in a combination, which should be measured from the middle of the spread ie a line bisecting the corner.

Trakhener

Ditch depth – level 1, 2 -	600mm
Ditch depth – level 3, 4	300mm