



CREATE A SAFE CROSS-COUNTRY SCHOOLING COURSE

SAFE POLICY FOR SCHOOLING:

- No schooling alone.
- Preferably school with a USEA ECP Certified coach.
- Have liability waivers signed.
- Be properly insured.
- Charge money for schooling. This will help with the maintenance of the schooling course.
- Have a safety plan in case of a bad accident.
- Know where your local trauma hospital is and consult with your local fire department.
- Mandate appropriate safety equipment be worn by all riders.

THE FOOTING

- Footing is probably the most important aspect to consider in maintaining your schooling course. The education and safety of the horse all starts with good footing.
- The footing around permanent jumps will have to be fixed routinely. The landing and take off will need raking and replacement of footing depending on use. Use stone dust in these areas as footing will not hold up to a lot of schooling.
- Check the footing in the water complex. Holes and depressions develop with constant schooling.
- For grass courses, mow a minimum of two times a month, and four times a month in the growing season. This will promote good turf and allows you to survey the course for holes and other bad footing issues.
- Fertilize and grass seed yearly to promote good turf.
- Have soil sample done to make sure you have the right PH level in the soil.
- Use a chain harrow to drag after excessive use on the course. This will help smooth footing and break up any manure piles.
- Have your portable jumps moved around once a month so no one spot on the field gets too beat up.
- Aerate grass at least twice a year.
- Weedwack every time you mow. Grass will often grow high enough to obscure ground.

SOIL/SYNTHETIC SURFACES

- For soil and synthetic surfaces, drag and water routinely to maintain consistency.
- Fill in the take-offs and landings regularly and rehydrate the ground regularly. When lack of water is an issue artificially add water to the ground. If the ground is hard open the top with aggravator to allow the watering to get into the base.
- Where heavy rain is an issue you need to seal the sand so the water runs off. Where it floods you need to create a channel for the water to run off. Where drying is an issue aggravate to allow the moisture to sink in.
- Getting the take-offs and landings in level condition is vital. Using stone dust as a filler eventually means you are taking off and landing on concrete ground. It is essential to make sure the ground on take-off and landings is able to accept moisture and provide relief from the concussion.

THE JUMPS

- Have enough space and don't overcrowd your schooling field with too many jumps.
- Have enough space between your complexes so you can gallop from complex to complex and catch galloping jumps along the way.
- Proper construction, design, and engineering is essential for schooling. Having the proper bracing and material to cover the jump will ensure a jump's safety and longevity. The shape of the jump and placement will also be important for a safe schooling. Consult a licensed designer for assistance on placement.
- Jumps should be routinely inspected. The heating and cooling during the year will warp boards and pull out nails and screws. These can be a potential hazard to a horse who might rub a jump and injure themselves on the screw head. Go around routinely to pound screw heads flush.
- Replace rotten logs. Rotten logs can be a hazard for schooling. If the log rots enough it won't be solid enough for jumping. Rotten logs also prove a home for bugs and bees that can be a hazard.
- Have your tables stained and/or painted bright colors on top front and back lip. Don't have too many or too big of tables. Consider your schooling clientele and build for appropriate schooling. Consult local trainers.
- Stake down all portable jumps, so they don't roll over in case a horse slides into a jump.
- Have the water complex engineered to have the ability to drain the water. Over time stagnant water will promote weeds growing and mosquito and snakes. Having the ability to bucket out the organic material and keeping a clean complex will help to ensure safe schooling.
- Have water complex engineered to keep the proper water level. Six inches of water is the most you would want in a water jump for schooling.
- Fence in your schooling field.
- Use frangible fence equipment wherever possible.
- For more information view the ***USEA Cross-Country Obstacle Design Guidelines*** at www.useventing.com.



**For more information
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