

How to properly use Breakaway Cups

Holly Grayton

[Back to Articles...](#)

HOW TO PROPERLY USE BREAKAWAY JUMP CUPS:

Breakaway jump cups are used at all sanctioned horse shows and are designed for the safety of the horse and rider. These cups are to be used on the standards for the back rail of an oxer. Their purpose is to hold the rail in the desired place, but if a horse hits the back rail with a fairly low threshold of force, the rail will fall straight down as the cup itself drops from the standard. This helps prevent having horses get hung up in the rails and/or sending the rail out in front of the horse when incidentally struck.

It is important that when you assemble the breakaway cup that you hang the cup in the breakaway backing with the opening facing down. This ensures that the cup slides down through the opening when the rail is hit. Often people put the cup together incorrectly with the opening facing up, which eliminates the safety breakaway feature.

If you attend a sanctioned show and these cups are not available in a warm up ring, alert the steward assigned to the warm up ring in question such that they can arrange to have some breakaway cups provided.

