



## Legal Jumping

### Sue Haws and Holly Grayton

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#### Legal Jumping in Canada

The warm up ring can be a daunting place for many riders and trainers. In addition to the stress of preparation for a competition, and the sometimes overwhelming number of horses and people in one place at one time, there is also an important set of rules that need to be followed in the warm up ring, as set out by Equine Canada (EC) or the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI).

Often there are training techniques that are commonly used at home by riders and trainers that are not acceptable in the parameters set out by EC or FEI. For the most part the errors that we, as stewards, see in the warm up rings are due to a lack of knowledge on the part of the offender. When a rider or coach gets busy they may forget to move a rail, or set something they do at home that may work for that horse but may not be permitted at a show.

Competitions whose warm up rings operate under FEI rules differ only marginally from the EC rules, as EC adopted the very same FEI warm up rules with only one or two exceptions. An important difference between the two sets of regulations is that under EC rules a trainer may hang a cooler on the vertical plane of the jump – that is to say a trainer may hang a cooler on any of the front rails, but never on the back rail of an oxer. It is not permissible under FEI rules to hang a cooler anywhere on a jump in the warm up ring.

Riders must always be aware that they are responsible for the fences they jump in the warm up area. A rider who jumps a fence in the warm up ring that is not legal, that rider may be eliminated from that competition! Riders should err on the side of caution and always ask a steward before jumping something questionable. This is one of the main jobs of the steward; stewards will answer your questions and keep riders out of trouble and safe in the warm up ring. Stewards should always have their rule book on their person, so there should always be an answer to your queries.

Some common rules to keep in mind for the warm up ring include:

#### Flags

Red flags on the jump standards must be on the right side when jumping, and white on the left – always and with no exceptions! Riders must ask permission from the stewards prior to changing the direction of any jump.

#### Oxers

The front rail of an oxer must be lower than the back rail. This is for safety reasons.

A ground line may only be present on the front side of an oxer, and may never be on the landing side.

The back plane of the oxer may only consist of one rail.



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A landing or placement pole may not be positioned closer than 1.5 strides after an oxer.

The back pole can never be lower than the front pole, even if it's only on one side, as in the case of a Swedish oxer. Swedish oxers are not permitted in the warm up ring.

### Verticals

The height of 1.30m is significant for a few different rules. Any jump (oxer or vertical) must have two rails in cups in the front plane if it is set larger than 1.30m.

For jumps larger than 1.30m, the use of placement rails 3m in front or behind are not allowed.

A ground line is permissible on both sides of a vertical, but must be a single pole. The landing side ground line must be the same distance from the jump or closer than the front ground line.

Some interesting things that are allowed in the warm up ring include:

It is permissible to jump an uneven fence as a vertical or an oxer, meaning one side is higher than the other, as long as the back rail matches or is higher than the front rail. There is no limitation to the height difference. (see photo)

It is possible to create a Skinny or narrow jump, as long as the standards that are used to create the skinny effect are positioned on the front side of the jump. The reasoning is for safety, so that the jump rail will fall free and clear towards the back of the fence. (see photo)

Guide rails can be set as close to the front of the fence as desired, but must be at least 3m from the back of the fence. (see photo)

This is just a sample of what can and cannot be done in warm up rings in Canada. As always, be sure to consult EC rule books or the steward on duty at the competition to be certain. Ask questions and be informed!



Yes



Yes



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Yes



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No



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Yes



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No