

CONSTRUCTION OF FENCES (Regulation 80 and Appendix (3)A (to this Instruction))

3.4 Detailed recommendations on the construction of permanent fences are set out below. Inspectors have been asked to ensure that these recommendations have been carried out to their satisfaction before any Point- to-Point Meeting is held.

Should there be plans to modify any fences away from the traditional structure, the BHA Inspector must be consulted in good time ahead of the meeting.

If there are any particular points which need clarification, the BHA Inspector should be contacted for their assistance. BHA Inspectors visit all National Hunt courses regularly during the Season and if given adequate warning may be able to meet Clerks of Courses or Local Inspectors to discuss points of detail.

BHA Inspectors should always be informed when a course intends to use a new fence builder.

The BHA acknowledge that measurements when constructing fences can never be absolute, and that small variations may be found, but courses should endeavour to meet the guidelines stated. See Appendix (3)A for fence construction diagrams.

(a) Height of Fence

Fences shall not be less than (1,295mm.) 4ft 3ins. in height, measured from take-off side to the highest point (A-B) except in the case of a water jump or where the nature of the ground justifies any variation.

(b) Plain Fences

A plain fence should be built on a base of about (1,676mm.) 5ft 6ins. (C-D) and the slope of the fence should reduce the thickness at the top to about (305mm.) 12ins. (E-F) which should be of fine birch. The base measurement is calculated as the distance from the take-off board, or apron to the point on the landing side vertically below the overhang of the birch.

(c) Open Ditches

The width of the fence at the top should be about (610mm.) 2ft (L-M) and the width of the ditch (1,524mm) 5ft, measured from the front edge of the frame on the take-off side to the front of the guard rail (O-P). The frame rail of the fence on the approach side must be obscured so that horses approaching the ditch do not see two parallel rails (the guard rail and the frame rail) and the material used should not overhang the ditch by more than (457mm) 18ins.

Where portable open ditches are used, the turf should either be dug out or covered with sand or earth.

(d) Frames / Advertising Hoardings

No frames should be higher than (559mm) 24ins. From ground level (J-K). Advertising hoardings (either canvas or rigid) must not be attached to fences unless they are securely fixed and below frame height. There must also not be string attached or tied to the birch above the height of the frame.

(e) Guard Rails

- (i) Open Ditch - It is recommended that the rail is between (304mm) 12ins and (457mm) 18ins high and must be painted white. The boards beneath the rail (in cases where a turf facing is not used) must be painted white. To prevent shine a gloss finish must not be used.
- (ii) Plain Fence - Where guard rails are used, they MUST be painted white. A gloss finish must not be used. Dimensions of (102mm) 4ins by (51mm) 2ins are recommended. The top of the guard rail should not be higher than (635mm) 25ins. (i.e. half the height of the fence) from ground level, and must be recessed into the line of the fence (G-H).

The Padding of Guard Rails, where used, is compulsory. Fence builders should cover all guard rails with tight fitting and well secured foam padding (also painted white). For the avoidance of doubt, the take-off boards on open ditches must also be padded.

N.B. Guard rails are not compulsory. However, should a Meeting wish to omit guard rails in their fences (ordinarily when using spruce) they must first seek approval from their BHA Inspector.

(f) **Take-Off Boards**

These are compulsory and must be painted white. (254mm) 10ins. by (51mm) 2ins. is the recommended minimum size of which (51mm) 2ins. should be either let into the ground or turves placed between the ground and the board. There must be no gaps between the ground level and the bottom of the take-off board. In addition, to ensure clear visibility of the take-off board it may be necessary to trim along the front of the board.

(g) **Aprons**

It is recommended that birch, broom or spruce is used. Gorse is not acceptable. In order to maintain uniformity all plain aprons must consist of the same material. Open ditch aprons may consist of other suitable material as agreed with the BHA Inspector.

(h) **Wings**

Wings must be provided and except in the circumstances detailed below must be made of plastic. The design and type of wing support must be approved by the Local Inspector. The supports should be constructed from rounded timber and be no more than (76mm) 3ins in diameter with the support behind the leading edge of the wing being preferably padded. Under certain circumstances (e.g. high winds) a support in the form of a T-bar can be used mid-way along the wing. This can be constructed from rounded timber or plastic and must be no more than (1,219mm) 4ft in height and (76mm) 3ins in diameter.

The recommended height of the wings where they join the fence is about (1,829) 6ft. and the length not less than (5,486) 18ft.

When a fence is built in the line of an existing bank or wall, wings need not be provided, but the bank or wall for a distance of (4,572) 15ft. on either side of the fence, must be, or made up to be, not less than (1,829) 6ft. in height. (See 'Gaps Beside Fences' below).

Wings should be sited where possible such that they are no more than 3ft out from the perpendicular.

(i) **Width of Fences**

Unless otherwise agreed with the BHA Inspector the overall width of the first fence (inclusive of bosses) for any race should not be less than 14 yards in width and every other fence not less than 10 yards in width (inclusive of bosses).

(j) **Gaps Beside Fences**

Every fence must have a gap adjacent to it on one side through which the field may race in the event of the fence being deemed unsafe to jump. The gap should be no less than 5 yards wide with no barbed or naked wire left within 15 yards of the gap, nor shall any vehicle be parked within that distance of the fence or gap.

The gap and angle of adjacent wing must be positioned to give the least deviation from the line of running and should also be roped off. THE RACING SURFACE THROUGH THE GAP MUST BE COMPARABLE TO THAT OF THE MAIN PART OF THE COURSE.

It is recommended that such gaps should be on the outside of the obstacle.

(k) **Area Around Fences**

Where fences are built in an existing fence or hedge line, there shall be no barbed or naked wire left within 15 yards of the fence on either side, nor shall any vehicle be parked within that distance of any fence.

Where fences are sited within close proximity of the car parks (i.e. home straights etc.), the Clerk of the Course must ensure that there is a sufficient lay-by area between the wing of the fence and the perimeter of the car park area. (See 'Gaps Beside Fences' above).

It is strongly recommended that all public areas immediately before and after a fence are double railed/roped on the inner to prevent the crowd from standing (or cars parking) too close to the racing line.

PORTABLE FENCES (SECTIONAL FENCES)

3.5 On those courses where portable fences are used, the design must be approved by the BHA Inspector. Should a Meeting consider the introduction of portable fences on their course, the Clerk of the Course must first of all obtain the necessary approval from the BHA Inspector.

Care must be taken to ensure that the portable fences are consistent with those permanent fences already sited on the course. Instructions on the construction of portable fences are available from the manufacturers and should be strictly adhered to. It is important to ensure that the adjoining sections are bolted together at the base, and then secured either by means of metal/steel hoops or wooden stakes on the landing side (not above timber it is supporting) to avoid any movement.

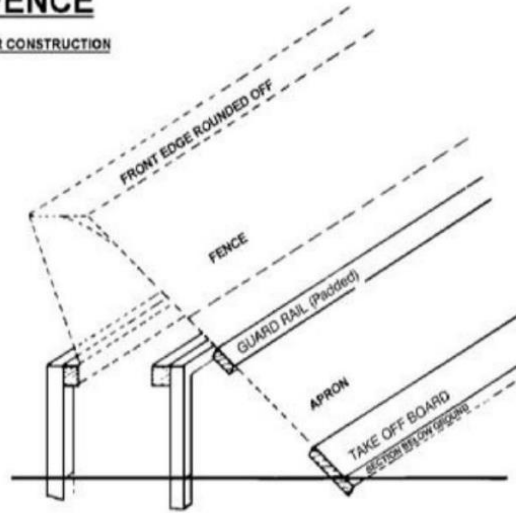
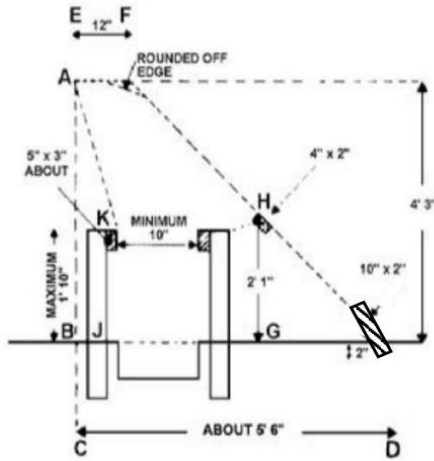
When fences are refurbished, it is essential that they are made up to the required standard.

Appendix (3)A

Fence Construction Guide

PLAIN FENCE

SUGGESTED GUIDE FOR CONSTRUCTION



OPEN DITCH

SUGGESTED GUIDE FOR CONSTRUCTION

