



SAFETY FIRST

The horse comes first in American Steeplechasing

- American Steeplechasing, governed by the National Steeplechase Association, places the highest priority on the health and well-being of our horses and our human athletes. Racehorse safety is a key component of industry integrity.
- American Steeplechasing is a relatively small sport, and its owners, trainers, caretakers, and jockeys have a close relationship with the horses. They care deeply about their horses and do their very best to protect their interests.
- Most steeplechase competitors are based in the country, train in the country, and benefit from the country environment.
- Autonomous race meets spend thousands of dollars each year on maintenance of their race courses and course improvement. In most cases, the courses are used only once or twice a year.
- Safety inspections of all race courses are conducted several weeks before each meet, and recommendations are made for short-term and long-term improvements.
- Some race meets have invested in state-of-the-art irrigation systems to assure suitable race conditions for their meets.
- American Steeplechasing is a jumping sport, and its National Fences are designed for safety. Our new custom-designed EASYFIX fences are made with the safety of the horse as the top priority.
- The fences are consistent from meet to meet, and the fence components are under continual review by officials and horsemen for potential improvements. In 2020 we added a set of custom-designed EASYFIX fences to our inventory, developed over several years of study to meet our needs today and well into the future. We are also exploring options for a break-away timber fence, potentially using technology adopted by the international eventing community.

- All steeplechase stewards and other race officials are focused on the welfare of the horse.
- Veterinarians conduct examinations of all horses before they race and have the authority to scratch a horse that they do not consider to be ready to run.
- Steeplechase medication rules are stringent currently only allow the use of veterinarian-administered furosemide on race day. Other policies mimic the standards of the Mid-Atlantic flat racing jurisdictions.
- The National Steeplechase Association conducts rigorous post-race testing for illegal medications and excessive levels of permitted medications.
- Jockeys are instructed to ride for safety and to protect the interests of their mounts, other horses, and their fellow jockeys.
- Jockeys carry humane riding crops and must adhere to industry-prescribed limitations on the use of the riding crop.
- All race meets are required to have equine ambulances with attending veterinarians on course at all time during the races.
- Race meets are required to have medical ambulances with trained emergency personnel available at all times during the races.
- While fatalities may occur, the National Steeplechase Association prioritizes the prevention of such and conducts a full review of all occurrences with the results being focused on prevention and education.
- The National Steeplechase Association's Safety Committee works to maintain and enhance the highest safety standards to protect the well-being of horses and jockeys.