

## The FEI Cross-Country and Dressage decision is flawed:

It can be a very rare occurrence if a horse collapses or falls on its side. However, under these circumstances the horse would land on the same or similar position of the iron, we refer to the green arrows and this would apply whether jumping any obstacle. The FEI jumping committee clearly disagrees with the Cross-Country and Dressage decision and did approve the irons. Further landing on the iron in any position would not kill the horse as it would only contact the muscles of the horse. Further there are other approved irons which are not collapsible and have been used for decades and there are no recorded cases of a horse being killed when falling on an iron. However, when the horse gets up and if the riders are using a traditional iron device, the boot can be all the way in the iron, as indicated in the photo, and if the horse takes off the rider can be dragged and killed. With traditional irons and as the photo shows and refers to the position of the widest section of the boot, and if a rider's boot slips forward it restricts the smooth separation of the athlete's boot from the stirrup putting the rider's boot at a high risk of being hooked up in the iron and the rider being dragged. There are many documented dragging cases supporting this and many photos of rider's feet slipping forward.

However, with the STS toe stopper pocket irons the foot cannot slip forward and as indicated in the photo below, the widest part of the boot sits way back, so there is no restriction and endless room at the widest part of the boot. Therefore, making the separation of the athlete's boot smooth compared to the traditionally approved irons. Further in the event a rider is going to be dislodged and due to the pocket formation, the rider's foot is pushed backwards not forward like traditional irons. Further in the court case where a young rider was dragged to her death, we refer to the top Equestrian Expert witness James Mackie engaged in litigation advice and as a trainer and instructor who has been involved in many equestrian disciplines, "I have come across very many cases where a rider's foot has become trapped in a stirrup when falling, causing the unlucky person to be dragged by the frightened and bolting horse. I cannot think of a case where the injuries would not have been prevented had effective safety stirrups been used and, in my view, the most effective of all are the new Toe Stoppers. Any rider will minimise the risk of serious injury by using Toe Stoppers" The STS irons toe stopper pocket could have prevented this tragedy.

***This clearly proves the FEI Cross-Country and Dressage statement is flawed "Toe Stopper must be made of Collapsible material (plastic, rubber) Any device which could restrict the smooth separation of the athlete's boot from the stirrup in case of a fall is forbidden"***

