



**Updated Guidelines on the Securing down of Portable Cross Country Fences
and Fitting of Pins & Reverse Pins**

Securing Portables:

All portable cross-country fences must be fastened down securely so that they will not move if hit by a horse. A “Belt and Braces” approach (too many fixings rather than too few) is a good one to have as fences lifting or moving can increase the severity of a fall..

In order to achieve this there are various ways of securing portable fences to the ground, the two most common ones are the Spirafix system and the use of posts.

Spirafix system 50mm “C” type Ground Anchors: this is a very good system but there are some key points to consider in their use:

- The anchors must be at the front of the fence rather than at the back, or at the front as well as the back. At least two must be used.
- Where fences with small base spreads are to be fixed down extra ground anchors may be required at the front of the fence.
- There are two lengths of anchors available (460mm and 620mm) and it is important that the appropriate one is used depending on the soil type. i.e. long ones in sandy soil.
- The anchor brackets must be securely fixed to the frame of the fence so that the fence cannot break away from the brackets under a large impact.

Posts: these should be substantial in size and well dug or knocked into the ground. A depth of 0.75m in the ground would be the norm but ground conditions could require them to be in the ground more.

- Posts should be at the back of the fence and if set below the highest part of the fence should be put at the front as well to stop the front lifting on impact.
- Try to avoid using posts with lots of knots as this can weaken the post .
- Using a mixture of posts and anchors can be useful and is quite acceptable.

Fitting of Pins & Reverse Pins: for frangible pins to work properly it is important that they are fitted properly. Here are some points to consider:

- Keep it simple and don't try and push the boundaries and use pins in fences that are not really suitable. If you have any queries please discuss with a Technical Advisor.
- If pinning a fence made from sawn timber reverse pinning may not be suitable, whereas front pinning probably will be.
- Remember at all BE and FEI competitions in the UK all post and rail fences that can be pinned must be.
- In front pinning when a length of rod is used under the rail to improve the tangent contact between the rail and the pin it must be carefully monitored in case the rail rotates off the rod.
- The use of rod under the rail when reverse pinning is **NOT RECOMMENDED** as if the rail is knocked and rotates off the rod it will loosen the wire and allow the rail to move down the pin and the pin will then break at a much lower load. This is particularly important in FEI competitions where 21 penalties are given for activating a frangible device.
- When fitting the wires on reverse pins the bolt that goes through the bottom dowel into the rigging screw body should be lubricated so that a true torque setting can be achieved.
- Always use the "Pivot Sleeve Position Look Up Chart" provided in the instructions to correctly position the pivot sleeve when reverse pinning.
- During competition regularly check the condition of the pins, the way the rail is sitting on them and the tension of the wires if reverse pinned.