

Winter Equestrian Festival 2014-2018 Descriptive Analysis

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This document summarizes competition performances at the Winter Equestrian Festival (Wellington, FL) over the past five years (2014-2018). The document is meant to display normative values and provide insights into the current trends at the winter circuit.

Competitors with the most FEI appearances over 5 seasons

The table below displays the horses and riders with the greatest number of FEI appearances at WEF. These values are limited to the following classes: the WEF Challenge Cup, Grand Prixes, Nations Cups, and the Hollow Creek 1001 Series (formerly the Suncast 1001 Series).

Horse	# Classes	Rider	# Classes
ISHD DUAL STAR	49	SHANE SWEETNAM	168
ROYCE	43	RICHIE MOLONEY	147
CADE	41	MCLAIN WARD	143
PUMPED UP KICKS	38	ERIC LAMAZE	140
BALOU DU REVENTON	33	LAUREN HOUGH	125
CARRABIS Z	33	LAURA KRAUT	123
LILLI	33	KENT FARRINGTON	122
WITH WINGS	33	EMANUEL ANDRADE	116
BULL RUN'S TESTIFY	31	TIFFANY FOSTER	110
QUABELLE	31	BEN MAHER	108

Competitors with the Most Grand Prix Appearances Over 5 Seasons

The table below lists the competitors who competed in the most Grand Prixes (GPs) at WEF. This data includes both FEI and National Grand Prixes.

Horse	# Classes	Rider	# Classes
ROYCE	23	MCLAIN WARD	50
ISHD DUAL STAR	22	SHANE SWEETNAM	49
CARRABIS Z	15	ERIC LAMAZE	45
LILLI	15	LAUREN HOUGH	45
OHLALA	15	MARGIE ENGLE	45
WOKLAHOMA	14	KENT FARRINGTON	41
CADE	13	RICHIE MOLONEY	41
BABALOU 41	12	BEEZIE MADDEN	40
DIXSON	12	BEN MAHER	38
GAZELLE	12	TODD MINIKUS	38

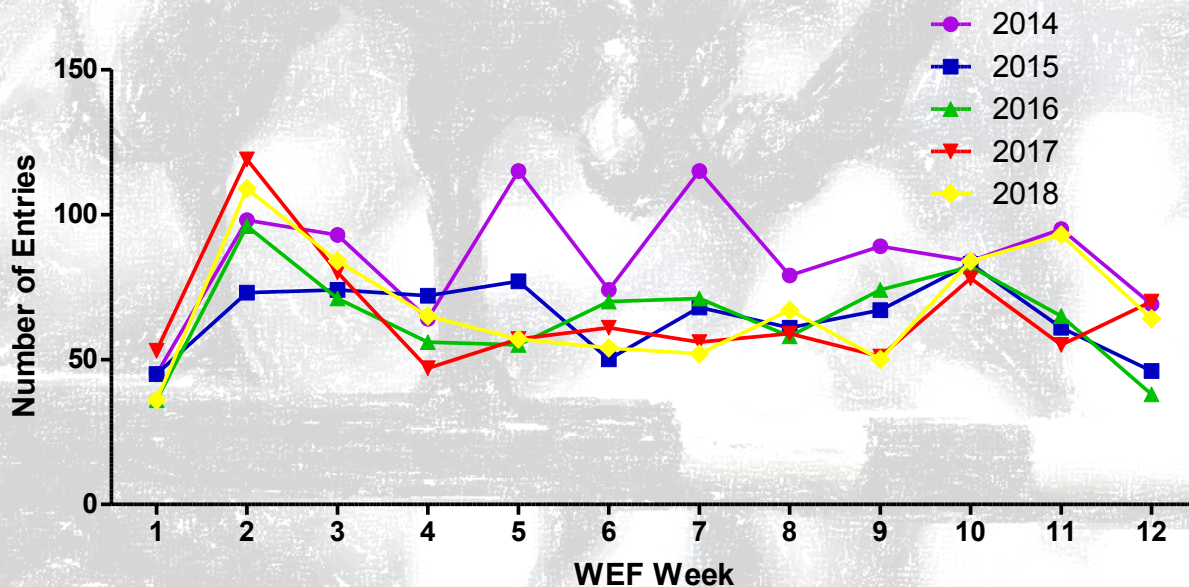
Competitors with the Most Grand Prix Clear Rounds Over 5 Seasons

The table below displays the horses and riders who have put in the most clear rounds in GPs at WEF. This data includes both FEI and National Grand Prixes.

Horse	# Clears	Rider	# Clears
LILLI	7	MCLAIN WARD	20
BABALOU 41	6	BEEZIE MADDEN	15
BLUE ANGEL	6	KENT FARRINGTON	15
BREITLING LS	6	MARGIE ENGLE	15
INDIGO	6	BEN MAHER	14
ISHD DUAL STAR	6	ERIC LAMAZE	14
ROYCE	6	LAURA KRAUT	13
RUBENS LS LA SILLA	6	CONOR SWAIL	11
CITA	5	TODD MINIKUS	11
		GEORGINA BLOOMBERG / MEREDITH MICHAELS- BEERBAUM	10

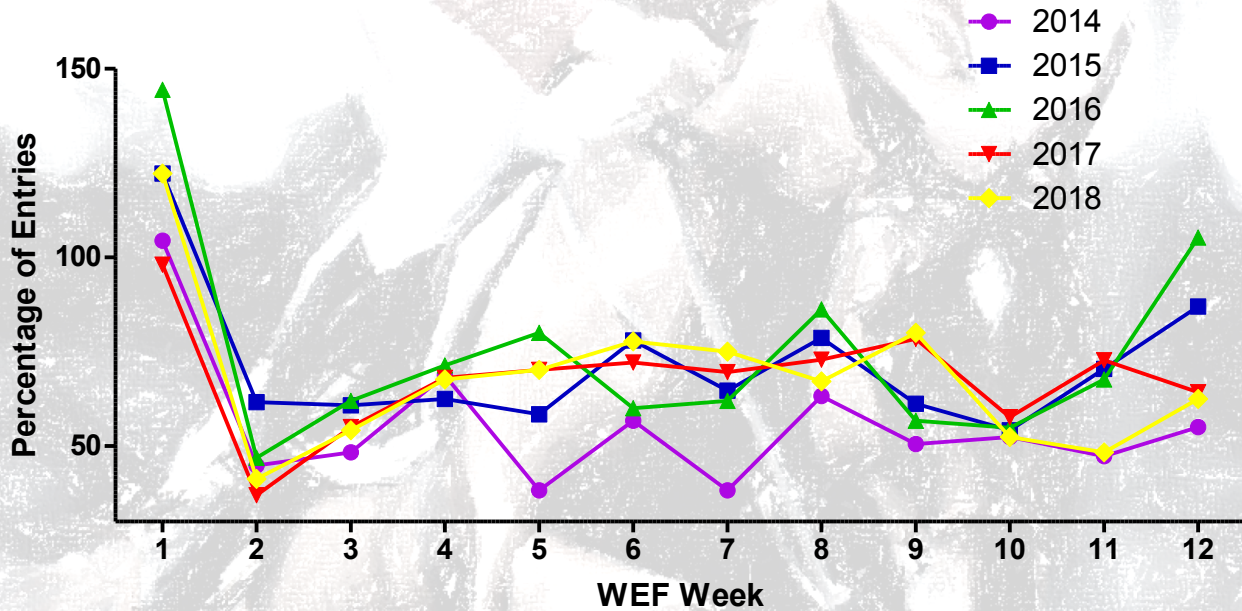
Decreasing Numbers in the WEF Challenge Cup since 2014

The figure below displays the number of entries in each WEF Challenge Cup Rd over the 12 weeks for the past 5 years. In general, 2017 and 2018 had fewer WEF Challenge Cup entries than the years prior – and 2014 tended to have the highest number of entries. The change in the last few years is largely explained by the introduction of the 5* / 2* weeks.



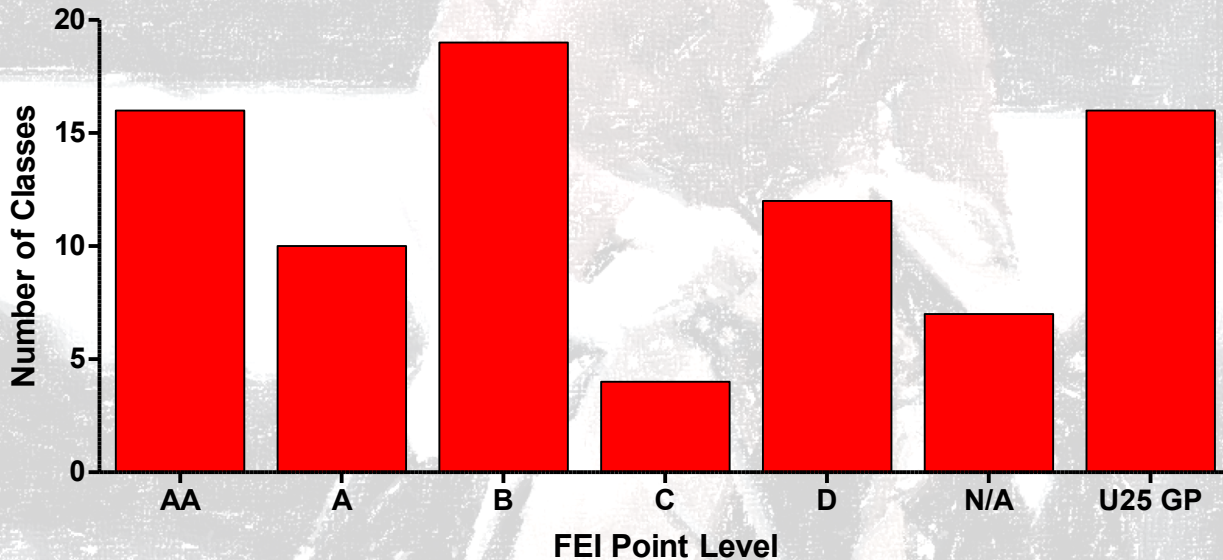
The percentage of entries in the WEF Challenge Cup making it through to the GP remained constant in 2017 & 2018

The graph below demonstrates the percentage of riders competing in the WEF Challenge Class who qualified to compete in the GP. Note that values are above 100% in week 1 because more riders compete in the GP than the WEF Challenge Cup class that week. As alluded to in the graph above, 2014 had the more competitive weeks, with the lowest percentage of riders making it through to compete in the GP. Interestingly, the percentages have been quite consistent for 2017 and 2018. In addition, for the 2* division introduced in 2017, the percentage of riders qualifying for the Sunday Grand Prix from the qualifying class is 64.7 % (data not included in the graph below).



Number of Grand Prixes at Each FEI Point Level

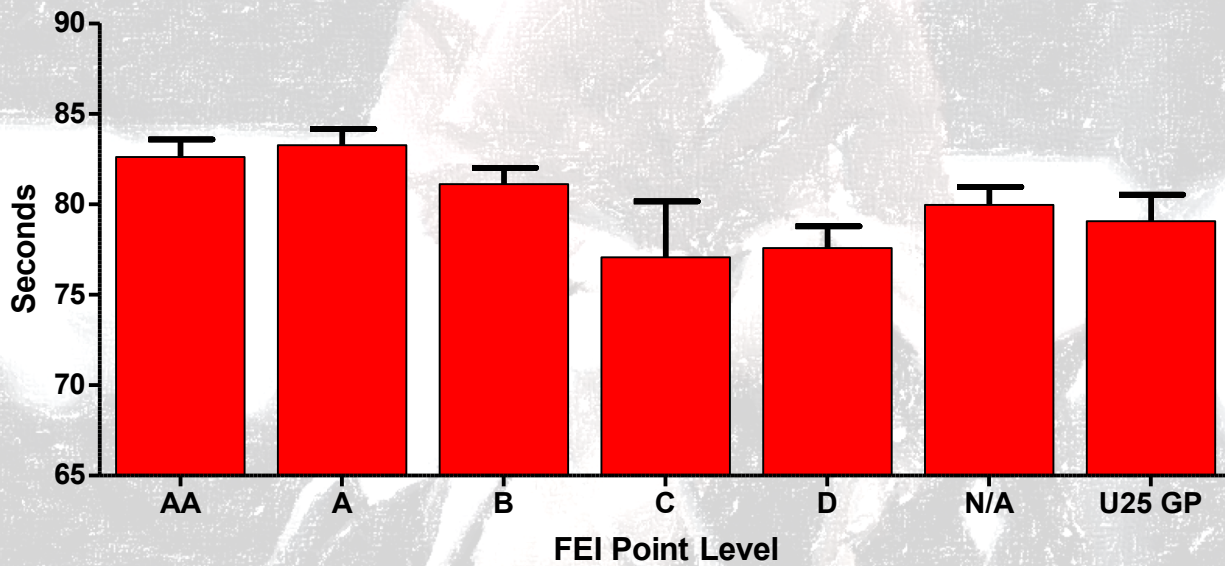
The following graph shows the number of GPs analyzed at each FEI point level, which in turn formed my sample for the bulk of the data presented here. Explanations for the different point levels are below.



Point Level	Prize Money (USD)
AA	382,800+
A	203,800 – 382,799
B	130,900 – 203,799
C	69,700 – 130,899
D	35,000 – 69,699
N/A	National GPs
U25 GP	The U25 Series GPs

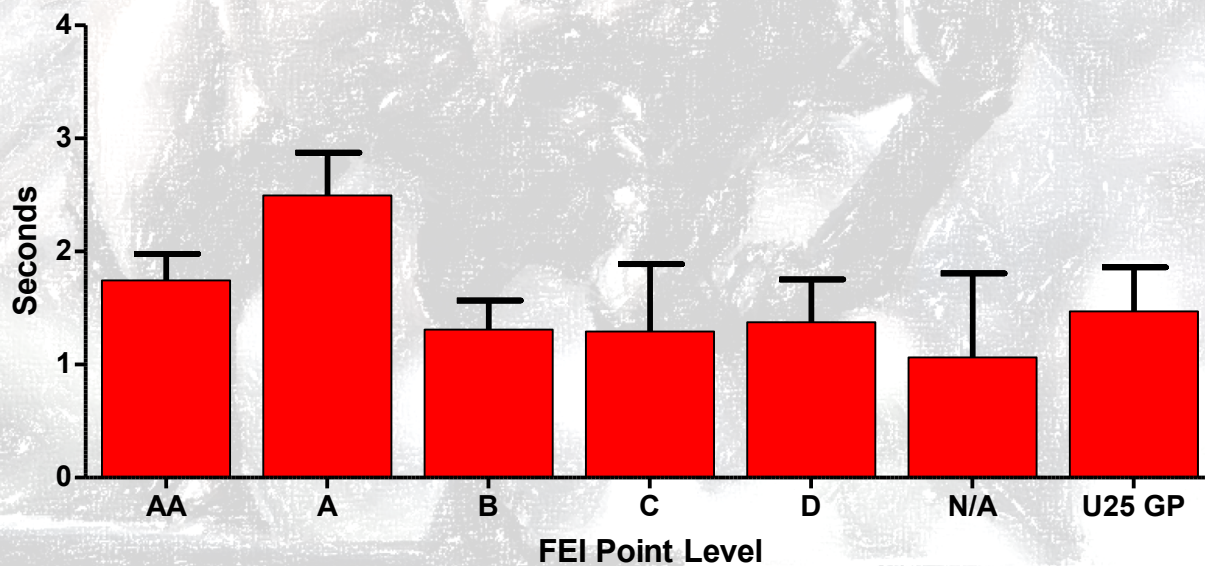
As prize money increases so does the time allowed (TA)

Below is the average TA for GP classes over this 5 year period. It is clear that as the prize money (FEI point level) increases the TA increases. National and U25 GPs fall in the middle.



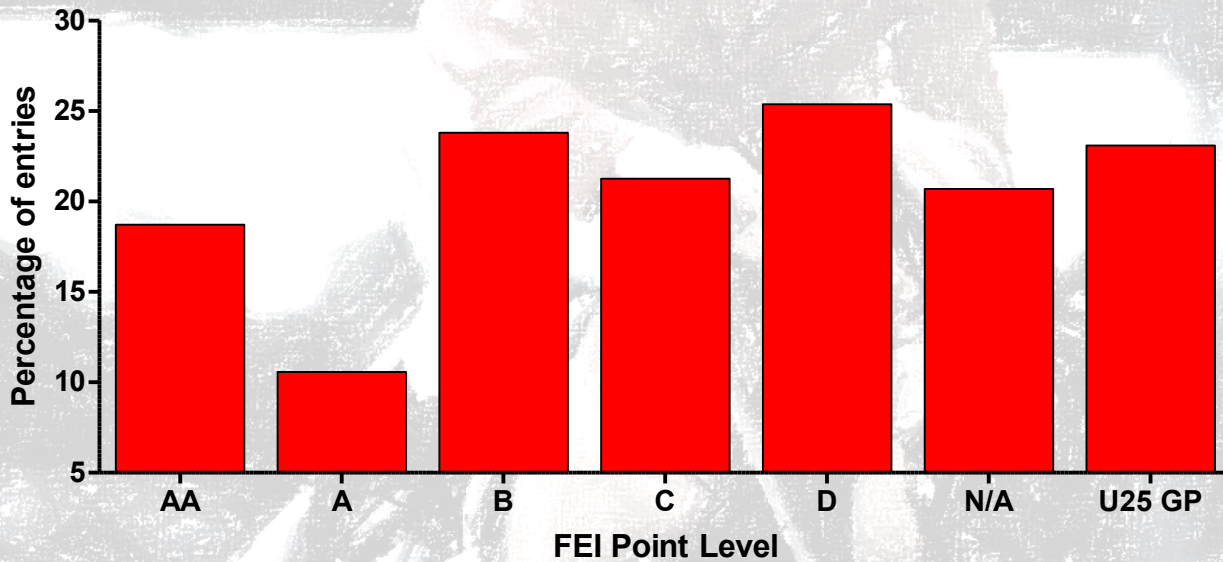
Grand prixes at the 'A' point level had more relaxed TAs

Below is the average amount of time (seconds) that riders come in under the TA. Although for most point levels riders come in ~1.1 seconds under the TA, this value leaps to 2.5 seconds in the 'A' point level GPs.



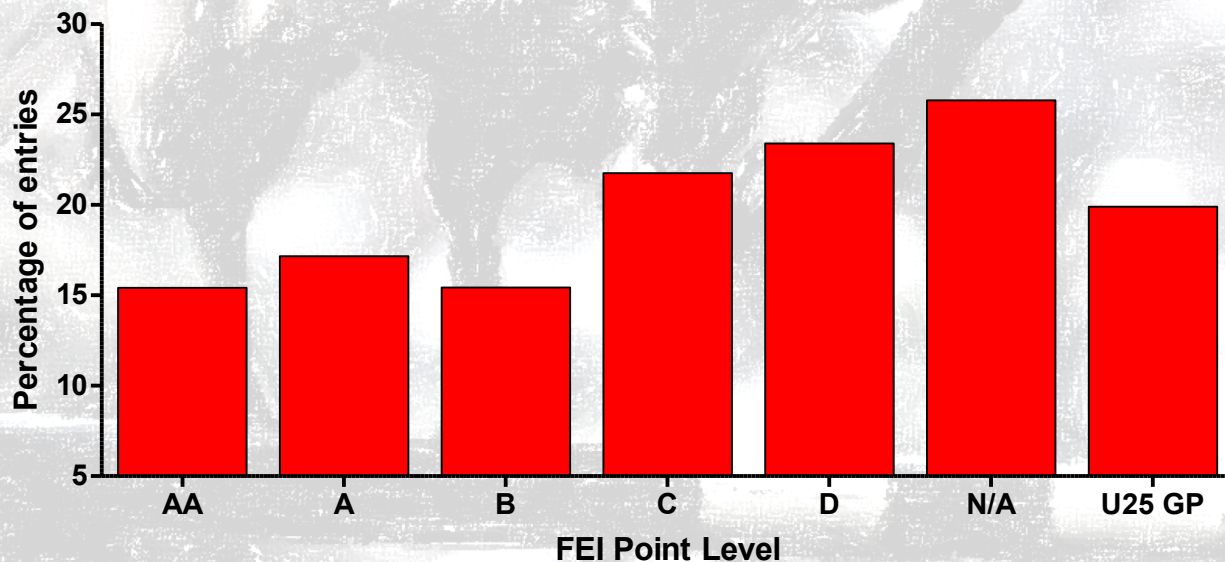
Approximately 1 in 5 competitors had time faults

In general, the prevalence of time faults in GPs ranges between 20–25% of competitors. The exception over this five year period was 'A' level GPs, which had a seemingly more generous TA which resulted in a lower percentage of time faults.



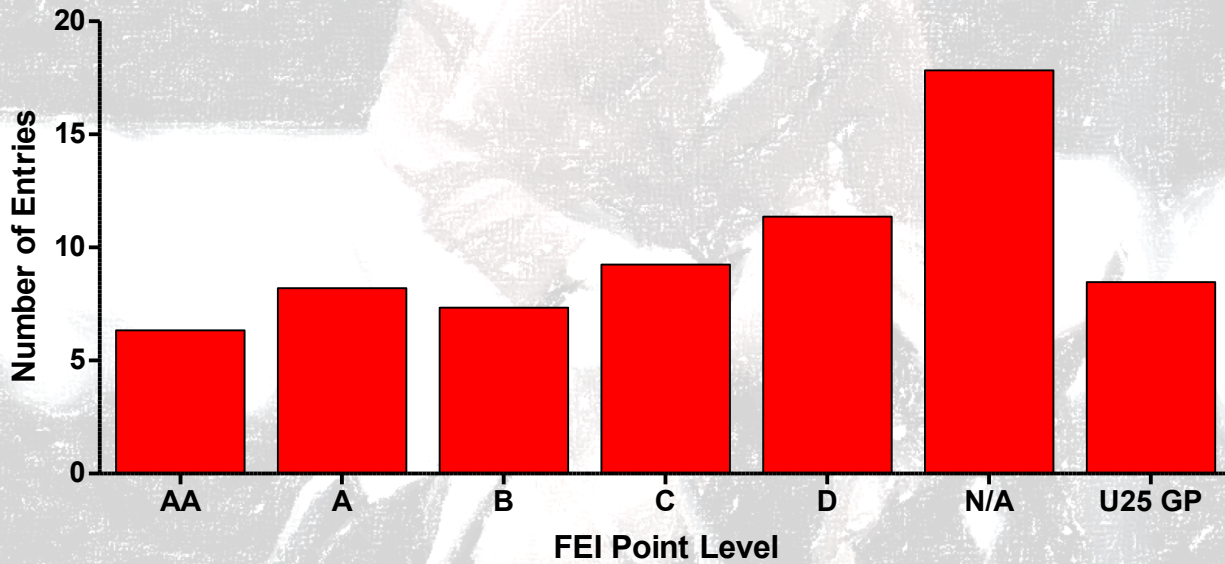
The likelihood of making the jump-off in a national GP is nearly double that of an 'AA' GP

Below, the percentage of entries that make it through to the jump-off in GPs are shown. For 'AA' point level classes, an average of 15% of starters make the jump-off, while this number is 26% in National GPs.



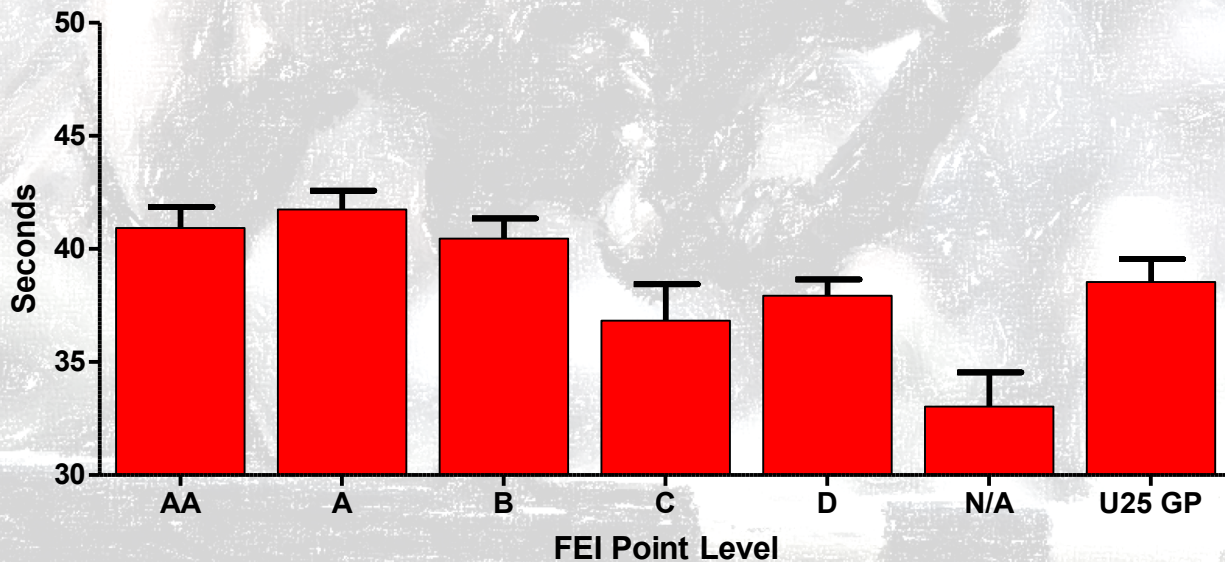
National GPs averaged 18 riders in the jump-off

Over this five year period, national GPs averaged 18 riders in the jump-off. The average for 'AA' point level GPs was 6 horses, while 'D' GPs was 11.



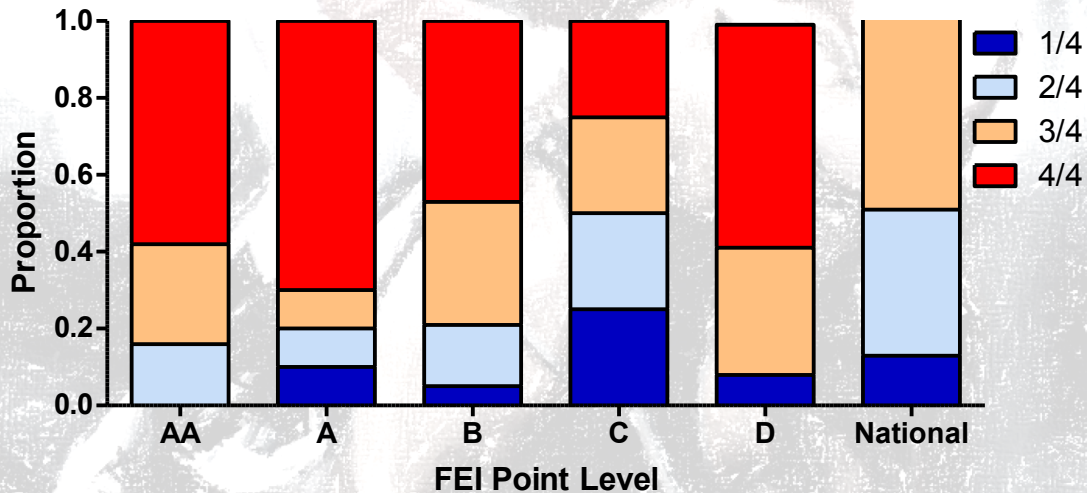
Higher point level GPs have longer jump-offs

The average fastest jump-off times for the different GPs are shown below. On average, the GPs offering more money have longer jump-off tracks (longer times) than lower prize money classes. Interestingly, the national GPs have had jump-off times 7 seconds shorter than high point level GPs.



A horse-rider combination going in the first quarter of the class has not won an 'AA' GP at WEF in the last 5 years.

The below figure depicts the percentage of class winners as a function of their location in the first round start order (broken down into quarters). In general, the highest proportion of winners are those horses and riders starting in the last quarter of the class. A horse-rider combination going at the beginning of an 'AA' level GP has not won over this 5 year period. Conversely, a horse going towards the end of a national GP has not won over this same time period.



Some Quick Stats

- Across all GP jump-offs, the fastest jump-off round was the winner 64% of the time (i.e. the other 36% of the time the fastest jump-off round had at least one rail more than the winner).
- Of the 70 GPs analyzed, the first horse to go in the jump-off has only won ONCE. Conversely, the last horse to go in the jump-off has won 14 times (20% of GPs).
- Of the 70 GPs analyzed, the first horse to go in the jump-off has never had the fastest overall time.