

JUMPS RACING REPORT 2024



10

Horses were
killed following
injuries sustained
on track

24

Horses fell
negotiating
steeples or
hurdles

275

Cases of horses
struggling to
negotiate the
obstacles

Pictured: Grand Promenade was the first horse to lose his life in the 2024 jumps racing season.

Report of the 2024 Jumps Racing season in Victoria

Prepared by the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses

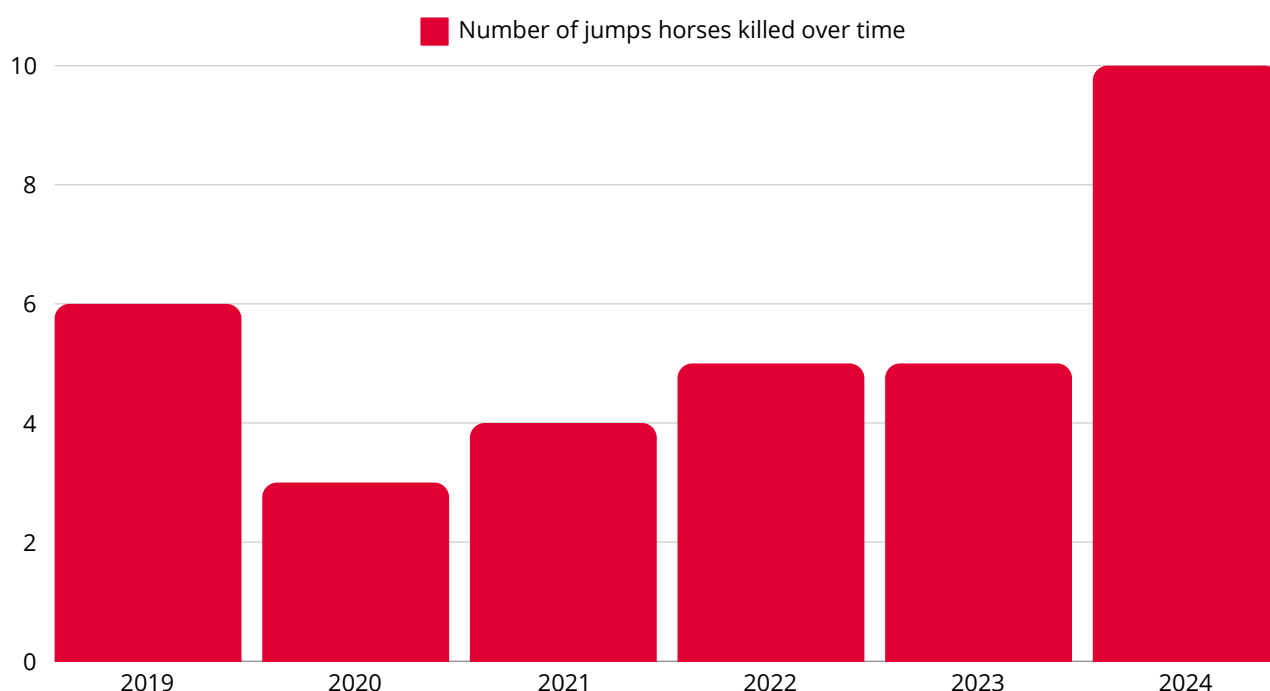
Summary of the 2024 season

The 2024 jumps racing season in Victoria consisted of a total of 73 races: 49 hurdle races and 24 steeplechases. In the very first race of the season, on 12 March, three horses suffered horrendous falls. On only the second jumps race day, 25 March, the first horse was killed as a result of injuries he sustained after a fall. On the final day of the season, 25 August, three horses were killed.

A total of 10 horses lost their lives in jumps races or in jumps trials in the 2024 jumps racing season. A further two jumps horses were killed from injuries sustained during trackwork. These two, San Remo (9yo) and Sivar (7yo), are not included in the stats of this report.

Jumps horse deaths over time

Over the past five years, jumps horse deaths per season, have ranged from three to six: 5 in 2023; 5 in 2022; 4 in 2021; 3 in 2020; and 6 in 2019. Clearly the 10 deaths in 2024, particularly three killed at a single meeting, indicate that the so-called safety measures introduced by the racing industry, have been completely ineffective.



Details of jumps horses killed

The details of the ten horses who were killed after sustaining catastrophic injuries in either steeplechase or hurdle races or trials in the 2024 season are listed below. The majority were killed on the Warrnambool racecourse.

Horse	Date	Track	Race/trial	Jump type
Grand Promenade	25/3/2024	Warrnambool	Race	Hurdle
Rebel Racer	19/4/2024	Warrnambool	Trial	Hurdle
Mont Agel	27/5/2024	Warrnambool	Trial	Steeple
The Rattlin Bog*	1/5/2024	Warrnambool	Race	Steeple
Fatigues	23/6/2024	Warrnambool	Race	Hurdle
Joffrey	30/6/2024	Casterton	Race	Hurdle
Rider in the Snow**	7/7/2024	Warrnambool	Race	Hurdle
Maserartie Bay	25/8/2024	Ballarat	Race	Hurdle
Buffalo Bill	25/8/2024	Ballarat	Race	Hurdle
Mighty Oasis	25/8/2024	Ballarat	Race	Steeple

*The Rattlin Bog was killed off-track. Stud book noted 'deceased' 11/5/2024.

** Rider in the Snow died off track at vet the same day.

Injuries to horses in jumps races

During the 73 jumps races in the 2024 season the Stewards Reports noted many injuries and medical issues caused by the stressors of jumps racing. **A total of 472 incidents** including eight deaths on track were recorded. This means that each horse who ran in the 2024 jumps season, on average, suffered 2.8 incidents.

<p>24</p> <p>Horses fell, which often result in catastrophic injuries leading to death. An additional four horses fell during jumps trials.</p>	<p>51</p> <p>Horses failed to finish their races. An additional three horses failed to finish during jumps trials.</p>	<p>275</p> <p>Awkward jumps were recorded. This refers to horses struggling to safely clear the obstacles.</p>
<p>48</p> <p>Horses blundered or knuckled on their knees after an obstacle, barely avoiding a fall.</p>	<p>32</p> <p>Horses were found to be lame. Some horses were lame in more than one limb.</p>	<p>34</p> <p>Horses suffered EIPH, lacerations, respiratory, soreness, haematoma, or otherwise struggled to recover after their race.</p>

Fallen and injured jockeys

A record number of 20 Lost Rider incidents were recorded during races in the 2024 season. Over the past ten years, this figure has been on average, about ten Lost Riders per season with the exception of 18 in 2015.

This year, several jockeys were rushed to hospital after being thrown off, when their horses stumbled or knuckled. Note that Lost Rider incidents do not include those where the horse fell. Thus for 2024, exclusive of falls in trials, **jockeys fell from their horse a total of 44 times.**

Eyewitness testimonial

Four-year-old Joffrey was killed after a fall in a jumps race at Casterton on Sunday 30 June 2024. A woman who was on the track to divot-fill witnessed his death:

“

We were waiting near the track for the first race to finish, when Joffrey fell at a jump very close to where we were. To our relief the jockey landed safely and at first, we thought Joffrey was alright too, as he stood quickly. Then to my horror, as he turned around, I saw his front leg was swinging loose with a catastrophic open fracture exposing bone and flesh.

I cannot overemphasise the impact of that nightmarish vision.”

After the race, the divot-fillers picked up several shards of shin bone and a glistening piece of knee joint from Joffrey spread across the track.



The future of jumps racing in Victoria

Several reviews of jumps racing and initiatives to improve the safety over the last two decades has not managed to make jumps racing any safer for either horses or jockeys.

Following the death toll of horses this 2024 season, Racing Victoria has announced that another review will be conducted into the future of jumps racing in Victoria. The findings of the review are expected to be announced by the end of the year 2024.

[Please support our petition to end jumps racing in Victoria once and for all.](#)