

A minute with Farmer Fred crops

Ronald Rogainer: I just don't get this crop business. A few years ago I went to Western Australia for the Australian Rogaining Championships and we spent hours walking legally across young wheat crops. Half way across a paddock a farmer stopped me for a chat; he was certainly not concerned about crop damage. Today, you tell me that this tall strong wheat crop is completely out-of-bounds.

FF: Yes, and yes. I bet your wheat crop in WA was young and the shoots were small. The farmers probably knew a year ahead of time that walking through the property on that date of the rogaine would do no harm.

FF: But today – look at that magnificent wheat crop in front of you. Nearly a metre high, and if you walk through the crop you'll crush the wheat in your path and cause serious loss.

RR: So you are telling me that we have different rules for different crops in different States?

FF: Yes, that is exactly what I am saying. Listen to your organisers. They explained the situation clearly to you in WA, and the rules are absolutely clear today. This is not rocket science. As Captain Obvious said in the preamble, the rules are there to make life easy for everyone.

RR: You are correct. I am over-complicating this. I need to read and understand the event rules, and just follow what the organisers say. If they make crops out-of-bounds and I have to go around the long way, then the same rules apply to everyone and I am not being disadvantaged.