



## Baileys Horse Feeds/British Breeding/BEF Futurity 2017

### Factsheet 4

#### What is Linear Scoring?

The linear score sheet consists of two parts, in practice referred to as the 'lower beam' and the 'upper beam'. The lower beam includes a large number of conformation and movement characteristics that can provide a detailed description of the horse. The upper beam, the evaluation of the horse as a whole, follows only after all individual characteristics have been observed and described. The upper beam consists of a score for the overall conformation and various movements of the horse.

The characteristics on the linear form relate to the conformation and movement of a horse. The form describes per characteristic where the horse being evaluated stands comparable to the sport horse industry that makes up the average. Is it within the norm, or does it fall that norm. And if it does, to what extent? This has nothing to do with appreciation, only to the observation and describing of conformation and movement characteristics.

#### Scoring Traits

The linear score form lists various traits of conformation, movement, and jumping separately. Descriptive terms, representing the extremes of each trait (for example, long and short; uphill and downhill) appear by each trait evaluated. The descriptive terms are separated by nine check-boxes representing the degrees between the two extremes. Specifically, the middle three boxes represent a trait as it appears in the average horse. The three boxes left of the middle (for example, uphill) and the three right of the middle (for example, downhill) represent a trait that is clearly evident in the horse, depending where along the continuum the box is checked. Evaluators must check one of the nine boxes to indicate the degree to which the specific trait is evident in the horse.

#### Overall Scores

After evaluators have marked the horse's traits on the linear score form, they can determine overall scores. Based on the traits observed, scores are awarded for the primary traits of conformation, movement, and jumping. The scoring scale used for this purpose ranges from 0 to 10, marked in .25 increments.

Dressage horses are scored on conformation and movement. Showjumping and Eventing horses are scored on conformation, movement and jump. Endurance horses are not subject to linear scoring.

#### Important information

After the evaluation, every owner receives a copy of the completed score sheet by email. Although the majority of owners usually know what the strong and less strong points of their horse are, the

independent evaluation of an expert is often a good tool for those that want to succeed in breeding and sport.

Additionally, a copy of all completed score sheets goes to the BEF office where the information is entered into the database. Here all the horses are linked to their sires, developing a profile of that sires progeny.

The lower beam (the linear scores on the form) is especially relevant in providing a greater insight into the characteristics of the horse. This data is important for the breeding and future sport data as well as giving the owner detailed feedback about individual traits and characteristics. The owner will – quite understandably – be especially interested in the upper beam because those scores determine what premium the youngster receives.

For more information about linear scoring please follow the link:

[http://www.wbfs.org/files/KFSTOCK\\_LinProfiling\\_WBFSH20131007Main.pdf](http://www.wbfs.org/files/KFSTOCK_LinProfiling_WBFSH20131007Main.pdf)

**Good luck and we hope you all have a very fruitful Futurity 2017.**

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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