The Linear Scoring Form

The linear scoring form provides detailed information about the conformation of a horse. The form is made up of two parts: the upper bar-graph column and the lower bar-graph column. The information in the upper and lower bar graph columns is an important tool for selecting a stallion.

The upper bar-graph column
The upper bar-graph column gives a <u>description</u> of 22 conformation characteristics. The choice in favor of these characteristics is based on the relationship of these characteristics with the breeding objective characteristics for racial type: endurance and aptitude for sport. The characteristics are scored in 9 categories using scores of 5 through 45. The scoring is strictly about the making of an observation in which the highest score is not always the most desirable. The scoring form indicates by means of gray shading what the most desirable score is for each characteristic. This can then be used as a benchmark to see how well the horse compares to the breeding objective for each element.

The lower bar-graph column
In the lower bar-graph column, an <u>assessment</u> is given for 5 main characteristics using scores from 3 to 9. In a certain sense, this assessment is an interpretation of the scores received in the upper bar-graph column. Needless to say, the assessment also considers supplementary relevant elements. There is a general relationship between the lower bar-graph column and the awarding of premiums:

Average score	*premium*
< 6	not included in studbook
~ 6	included, no premium
~ 6 – 7	included, third premium
~ 7	included, star, second premium
> 7.5	included, star, first premium

Please note: For purposes of awarding premiums, the characteristics of racial type, walk and trot count heaviest. Furthermore, a horse that receives a score of 4 or less for one or more characteristics will not be registered in the studbook, and a horse receiving an unsatisfactory score (5 or less) for one or more characteristics in the lower bar-graph column cannot be entered in the star register.

A tool for choosing the stallion
The linear scoring form is an excellent tool for choosing the stallion. For this purpose, the best way to use the form is in two steps, as follows:
<u>Step 1</u>: From the <u>lower bar-graph column</u>, a general impression of a horse's weakest element can be seen at a glance. So it would thus be advisable to select from a group of stallions with characteristics that will correct for this element in his offspring. For stallions that have been approved on the basis of their offspring, the conformation index can be used for this purpose.
<u>Step 2</u>: The <u>upper bar-graph column</u> reveals a horse's weakest elements. These can be compensated for as follows: if a horse's score falls to the left of the gray area, stallions with a breeding value less than 100 must be excluded and stallions with a breeding value higher than 100 would be preferred. On the other hand, if a horse's score falls to the right of the shaded area, stallions with a breeding value higher than 100 must be excluded and stallions with a breeding value less than 100 would be preferred.

Involving more than 3 to 5 characteristics in this process of compensation is not recommended. The most important and/or the characteristics that deviate most from the ideal deserve the highest priority. The stallions selected as based on step 1 can then be evaluated during step 2 after which the most suitable stallion will remain.