



## Baileys Horse Feeds/BEF Futurity 2010

### Factsheet 3

#### Entry and evaluation process step by step

May be updated from time to time – version 1

In order to be part of the 2010 Futurity, please follow this step by step guide:

#### **Where do I start?**

There are a number of regional evaluations, dates and venues are published on [www.bef.co.uk](http://www.bef.co.uk). Choose your venue and date. Entries open 1 June and as venues start to fill, we will notify you through the entries page when there are fewer than 10 places left at each venue. Each venue can accommodate 60 horses.

At each of these regional evaluations, horses and ponies from foals to three years will be evaluated for their performance potential as dressage horses, showjumpers, eventers or endurance horses. Choose your discipline and your age group. A horse may only enter one discipline. The 2010 entry fee is £55 plus VAT.

Entries are only available online. There will be a link to the entry site from [www.bef.co.uk](http://www.bef.co.uk) and [www.nedonline.co.uk](http://www.nedonline.co.uk) from 1 June. In order to enter you will need all the information contained on your horse's passport and/or registration papers. If your horse is a foal and does not yet have a passport, you will need full sire, dam and damsire information including their passport details and/or registration details (if sires are overseas) and you will need to specify which studbook you intend to register your foal with.

Your evaluation times will be available online for you to view on your entries page one week before evaluation day. Specific times will be given for vetting and for evaluation which may vary the later your time is during the day, so please use them as a guideline only.

#### **Before you set off**

Make sure you have your horses' passports with you (with the exception of foals), this is a legal requirement rather than a Futurity requirement.

Ideally, horses should be plaited, mainly so that the evaluators can see the shape of the neck and withers. If your horse is intended for endurance, long plaits or a running plait will be fine. Ultimately, in all cases, a tidy mane will be fine, but most people do plait.

You will need a helper/helpers on the day. You may struggle to manage a young horse on your own, so it is safer to have plenty of help.

### **When you arrive**

Declare your arrival to the organisers. At your specified vet time, have your horse ready for the vet in hand and he/she will assess the horse for any potential performance inhibiting conditions which could compromise your horse's ability to perform at its best when it reaches competitive maturity. This is usually outdoors. The vet's comments will be recorded on your score sheet and the vet will explain any comments he/she makes. If you have any questions it is your responsibility to ask the vet there and then to explain them to you, because it is difficult to deal with any concerns later. Baileys Horse Feeds will also be on hand to provide advice on nutrition.

In order for your horse to have a fair assessment please would you ensure that any horse, where appropriate, has had its feet seen by a farrier in the four weeks before an evaluation. Unbalanced or untrimmed feet could lose you marks. Please read Factsheet 8 for further detail.

At your evaluation guideline time, please present your horse at indoors. Horses are not allowed to wear any boots, bandages, hoof oil or any other dressing on their legs. Whips and other aids (shakers, whistles) are allowed but must not be used in the collecting ring, where they may alarm other horses, they may ONLY be used in the evaluation arena. Bag whips are not allowed at any time. There must be no lunging in the collecting ring.

Handlers' assistants are permitted in the ring to encourage horses to go forward so that their paces can be properly seen.

1. You can then walk your horse in hand around a triangle of approx 20m x 20m x 20m in a clockwise direction (foals will be loose at their dam's sides). The walk should be brisk and forward.
2. When the evaluators say, trot your horse around the same triangle in a clockwise direction. They may ask to see walk or trot more than once and foals will be loose. Please watch video on how to trot your horse in hand – on <http://www.horsehero.com/buying-and-breeding/28273/46106> where Carsten Sandrock shows you how. Proper presentation really helps.
3. The evaluators will then ask you to stand still and square for conformation assessment. Please practice this at home. You may also be asked to back up your horse a few steps. Please practice this as well

4. When the evaluators say, yearlings, two year olds and three year olds will then be turned loose in order to fully assess their paces and athleticism. Foals may be held at one side of the arena and the dam walked away, then the foal turned loose, in order to be able to assess any pace/s not already seen.

Three year old mares with foals at foot can be evaluated but only in the dressage section, mares with foals at foot may not be loose jumped.

5. Three year old show jumpers and eventers will also be loose jumped down a lane of three fences as will sports ponies destined for a showjumping or eventing career. During this stage they may wear **front boots only**, so please bring them with you into the arena but do not put them on until the loose jumping phase. Horses must have been prepared for this phase. Please enlist the help of a knowledgeable person to help you introduce your horse to a jumping lane. Please use the following, which is what you will find on the day, as a guideline to practice.

There will be a cross pole, a vertical and an oxer.

The distance from the wall/corner to the first fence (cross pole) will be 6m. From the cross pole to the second fence (vertical) will be 6.6m. From the vertical to the third fence (oxer) will be 7.10m for ponies and 7.65m for horses.

FOUR passes down the lane are allowed. There is a maximum time limit of six minutes for the four passes. In the event that you cannot catch your horse or they persistently decline to go down the lane, regrettably we will not be able to score the loose jumping assessment.

- Fence heights will start with one pass down the lane with all the poles on the ground.
- On the second pass the cross pole will be 60cm in the centre, the vertical will be 60cm and the parallel will be 60cm high and 80cm wide.
- On the third pass the cross pole and the vertical will remain at 60cm and the oxer will be 80cm high and 80cm wide.
- On the fourth pass the cross pole and the vertical will be 60cm and the oxer will be 1m high and 80cm wide. These heights may be reduced for ponies but often there is no need because a talented pony is every bit as athletic as a talented horse.

*Source of dimensions: KWPN*

Once the horse has completed the loose schooling and/or loose jumping section, please catch your horse (please bring a bucket of food with you) and wait to receive your feedback and score which will be either:

**Elite Premium** – marks 9 or above. There is a separate Factsheet for what these Premiums mean.

**Higher First Premium** – marks 8.50 – 8.99

**First Premium** – marks 8 to 8.49. More horses gain a first premium than any other and the majority of first premium sport horses may have very successful careers as national level performance horses which, in fact, is where the largest proportion of the sport horse buying market lies.

**Second Premium** – marks 7.5 to 7.99

**Third Premium** – marks 7 to 7.49

Please collect your score sheet from the event office later, before you leave.

Full results will be available online shortly after the event.

### **Recognition**

Score rankings by age, venue, discipline, year, sire and dam are shown and updated after every event on the Futurity entry site.

All entries will receive a 'gold' leaf parchment premium certificate some time after the event which is suitable for framing. Dams of offspring scoring an upper first premium or elite premium will receive a broodmare certificate.

The top two scores in each age group and each discipline and at each venue will receive an extra high score rosette. Please collect this before you depart.

We are in discussion with the Breeders' Dinner Committee as to how we can better recognise the top scoring Futurity horses and their sires and dams. We will let you know the detail relating to the Breeders Dinner to be held in January 2011.

Discipline specific finals are being discussed. The eventing final is confirmed for the Lycetts British Eventing Young Horse Championships at Osberton from 1-3 October 2010. We hope to be able to mirror this calibre of event with the remaining disciplines either this year or next. Whatever we put in place for finals will be carefully considered and intended to be for the long term, in line with the feedback you have given us.

### **Important information**

Scores will be recorded on the National Equine Database (NED) and we may involve certain academic establishments in research into the development of the Futurity at any venue and by permitting them to analyse the results. Certain venues may be filmed for research and promotional purposes, the results from which will ultimately be made available for the improvement and promotion of British breeding.

Futurity photographer Colin Greenlees ([www.greenlees-equine.com](http://www.greenlees-equine.com)) or a colleague will be present at all venues

Certain venues may be filmed by TV or internet TV companies. You must let us know if you do not wish to feature.

A specialist PR company will be covering all the evaluations this year and may well contact some participants in advance of or following the evaluation for comments and profiles. Please make the most of the opportunities we have created for you to promote your stud or breeding programme.

Results from the Futurity will ultimately be used for a model for developing Estimated Breeding Values for event, dressage and show jumping sires, EBVs will ultimately be available through NED.

### **What do I (and any of my helpers) wear?**

A hard hat is **strongly recommended** for both vetting and evaluation phases.

White or cream trowsers. White tops. Stud colours are permitted.

Sensible footwear for trotting your horse – long riding boots are not advisable as they may restrict your movement.

Bring a bucket of food to catch your horse

### **What does my horse wear?**

Broodmare – snaffle bridle and lead rein or reins (unless, for safety reasons, another type of bridle is more suitable). Broodmares may wear boots or bandages if required. Broodmares will not be evaluated. In the event of embryo transfer foals we realise that the broodmares will be recipient mares. In the event of orphan foals, any equine companion is allowed to accompany the foal.

Foal – leather foal slip/headcollar and lead rein with a clip that is easy and quick to undo but still safe.

Yearling and two year old – in hand bridle and lead rein. Two year old colts must wear a snaffle bridle. Please use a clip that is easy and quick to undo but still safe.

Three year old – snaffle bridle. Please use a clip that is easy and quick to undo but still safe.

Bridle number – when you enter online you will be given a number. This is the number you **will need to make or buy** to put on your horse's bridle on the day

Please see earlier note about plaiting.

Front boots only for any jumping phase (three year olds only).

**Please do:**

Enjoy yourselves and take the feedback you receive in the spirit in which it is intended. It will be constructive. Not every horse will receive an elite or even a first premium. This does not mean that they are poor horses. But please do be honest with yourself and practice critically evaluating your own horses, using the downloadable score sheet (Factsheets numbered 4), before you go and see if the evaluators agree on the day!

Ask questions – we may be busy but we will always try to help!

Tell your friends with youngstock, share transport, help each other and all benefit from the feedback available from the new and improved Futurity.

Share information with us. The Futurity has grown and developed thanks to your feedback and we carefully consider every piece of information provided to us so please don't stop. The Futurity organising team are very approachable and friendly! Please ask for Jan or Cat.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

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