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Guide to JRA Horseracing

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Welcome to the Racecourse!

When you go to a JRA racecourse, first head straight for the stand. You’ll be overwhelmed by the sheer size of the place. Feel refreshed by the brilliant green of the turf and the pleasant breeze. The stand also gives a great view of the races. Some of the stands are unreserved and cost nothing. Others can be reserved for a fee. If you’re hungry, there’s a selection of places serving delicious food, including fast food, cafés, and restaurants. Play area and attractions are available for families with children. Of course, there are also kiosks for placing bets and plenty of shops selling souvenirs and merchandise. It’s a place where you can stay all day and never get bored – welcome to the racecourse!

Buy your ticket, and in you go. Tickets cost ¥100, or ¥150 at some courses.

Staff at the Information Desk will tell you all you need to know.

Please see “How to Bet” for information on different types of betting and instructions on using betting slips.

A Day at the Races
There are usually 12 races in a day.
9am Gates open
10am First race starts
11am Lunch break
3:30pm Main race time
4pm Last race starts
5pm Gates close
*All times are approximate.

A Flow of a Race
See the horses in the Parade Ring
Check the odds
Decide how you want to bet
Mark your betting slip
Place your bet
Watch the race!
Official placings, payouts

A Day at the Races

Turf Course
Dirt Course

Stand
Finishing Post

Reserved seats – watch the races in comfort!

Plenty of souvenirs, including “Turfy” cuddly toy

Lots of eating options, from fast food to restaurants.
Parade Ring

About half an hour before a race begins, the runners start to appear in the Parade Ring. This is where you can check the state of the horses and decide which one to go for. Have a good long look before making your choice!

Gait Check!
A horse that walks purposefully and shows spirit is thought to be in a positive mood for the race.

Rear Check!
A well-rounded, taut rear end is a sign of a good runner.

Body Check!
A horse in good form will puff out its body and make itself look large.

Neck Check!
A healthy horse holds its neck straight and walks with vigorous, straight strides.

Sweat Check!
If a horse is sweating or agitated before a race, it could be using up all its stamina.

For a lot of people, seeing the horses at close quarters in the Parade Ring can be quite a thrill. The Thoroughbred has been called “the most beautiful animal on earth.” Five pointers shown above can be used as indicators to check the condition of the horses. Of course, you can just use your own intuition – it’s up to you! But please note – no flash photography (including mobile phones) is allowed in the Parade Ring. We don’t want to startle the horses and cause an accident. Also, please try not to raise your voice, for the same reason. Manners and courtesy are important, even when we’re having fun!
"Odds" show the likely payouts on winning bets. Lower odds means that the horse is favored by many people and your return is lower. Higher odds brings you higher payouts. Odds change constantly until the cut-off time for placing bets.

Win, Place, Bracket Quinella Odds screen

These are the odds for a "Win" bet. The odds for horse No. 4 are 8.7, so a bet of ¥100 will pay out ¥870. The lower the odds, the more people have bet on that horse.

Place

These are the odds for a "Place" bet. The payout on these bets depends on the combination of horses finishing 1st to 3rd. If horse No. 4 finishes in first three places, a bet of ¥100 will pay out between ¥250 and ¥360.

Bracket Quinella

You can work the odds on a Bracket Quinella bet by combining the numbers at the top with the numbers listed below them. In the case of 2-3, a bet of ¥100 will pay out ¥2,670.

Win, Trio, Trifecta Odds screen

A "Place" bet on this race will pay out if the horse finishes 1st, 2nd or 3rd.

Trio, Trifecta

From this screen, we see that a "Trio" (first three horses in any order) bet of ¥100 on 4-13-14 will pay out ¥2,780, and a "Trifecta" (first three horses in exact order) bet of ¥100 on 14-15-14 will pay out ¥11,410.

Win, Quinella, Quinella Place Odds screen

Odds can be checked on monitors inside the racecourse.

Win, Exacta Odds screen

Use the monitors to check the odds for the bet you want to place.

Odds box

The odds box can be used to print out the latest odds on a race that interests you. Odds print costs ¥10 each. The odds for all bets from "Win" to "Trio" and some "Trifecta" bets can be printed out on one card.

TURFY

Odds cards
¥100 (10 units) to ¥1,000 (115 units)
Placing a bet is easy when you use the automatic vending machines. Just insert your money and betting slips.

But first – please check to make sure your slips are marked correctly. If the marks on the slips are unclear (e.g. marks crossing into neighboring sections or those which are circled) the machine cannot read them. Luminous pen and oil-based pens that mark through to the other side may also cause errors.

1. Put money in first.
2. Insert the completed betting slips.
3. Confirm the details shown, then press the "PAYMENT" button.
4. Retrieve your betting tickets and change.

Insert betting slips here
Insert coins here
Insert notes here
Display screen
Retrieve betting tickets here
Change (coins)
Change (notes)

Cut-off time for placing bets is two minutes before the post time.

Please see “How to Bet” for information on different types of bet and instructions on using betting slips. “How to Bet” is distributed at all racecourses.

“How to Bet” is available in English, Korean and Chinese (both traditional and simplified characters).

There are eight different types of bet.
Race

A fanfare sounds to signal the start of the race. Now’s your moment to cheer on your horse!

Racing colours differ from owner to owner, with designs combined from a standard set of patterns and colours. During a race, horses can be distinguished by their jockeys’ colours and designated cap colours (post colours).

When the action is on the far side, you can watch the race on a giant "Turf Vision" screen.

Parade Ring
The runners appear in the Parade Ring about half an hour before a race begins.

Track entry
The horses follow the lead pony onto the track.

Warming up
Horses canter to warm up before a race.

Circle
As the start time approaches, the horses gather behind the starting gate.

Start
A fanfare sounds, and the race gets underway.

The race
Even when the horses are far away, you can watch the race on the Turf Vision screen.
Did your horse win? Off you go to collect your winnings!

Manners
Please refrain from raising your voice when horses are in the Parade Ring, entering the track or inside the starting gates, as this could startle them. The same applies to throwing waste paper or loose items near the finishing line. This can seriously hinder the progress of a race.

Payouts are made from automatic payout machines.
All you do is put the winning slip in the slot. The winnings will be calculated and paid out automatically.
Race structure is arranged in a pyramid formation with GI (Grade 1) races at the top. As well as turf and dirt races, flat or steeplechase races, and races at different distances, age and sex. Horses are entered in the type of race that best suits their disposition, and vie to be the very best in their respective classes.

Race structure
Races are divided into different grades according to the runners’ ages and the prize money offered. GI races are the highest grade. A horse moves up one class each time it wins a race.

Classics
Five races – the Satsuki Sho (2000 Guineas), Japanese Derby and Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger), all limited to three-year-olds, and the Oka Sho (1000 Guineas) and Japanese Oaks, limited to three-year-old fillies, are known as the Classic Races. They were originally modeled after the British racing system.
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**Type of Race**

- **Race structure**
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- **Classics**
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**GI Race Schedule**

- **February**
  - February Stakes
    - Tokyo (Dirt) 1,600m 4yo&up

- **March**
  - Takamatsunomiya Kinen
    - Chukyo (Turf) 1,200m 4yo&up
  - Oka Sho (1000 Guineas)
    - Hanahin (Turf) 1,600m 3yo fillies
  - Nakayama Grand Jump
    - Nakayama (Turf) 4,250m 4yo&up
  - Satsuki Sho (2000 Guineas)
    - Nakayama (Turf) 2,000m 3yo fillies & fillies

- **April**
  - Tenno Sho (Spring)
    - Kyoto (Turf) 3,200m 4yo&up
  - NHK Mile Cup
    - Tokyo (Turf) 1,600m 3yo fillies & fillies

- **May**
  - Victoria Mile
    - Tokyo (Turf) 1,600m 4yo fillies & fillies & mares
  - Japanese Oaks
    - Tokyo (Turf) 2,400m 3yo fillies & fillies
  - Japanese Derby
    - Tokyo (Turf) 2,400m 3yo fillies & fillies

- **June**
  - Yasuda Kinen
    - Tokyo (Turf) 1,600m 3yo fillies & fillies
  - Takarazuka Kinen
    - Hanahin (Turf) 2,200m 3yo fillies & fillies

- **October**
  - Sprinters Stakes
    - Nakayama (Turf) 1,200m 3yo&up
  - Shuka Sho
    - Kyoto (Turf) 2,000m 3yo fillies
  - Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger)
    - Kyoto (Turf) 3,000m 3yo fillies & fillies
  - Tenno Sho (Autumn)
    - Tokyo (Turf) 2,000m 3yo&up
  - Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Cup
    - Kyoto (Turf) 2,200m 3yo fillies & fillies & mares

- **November**
  - Mile Championship
    - Kyoto (Turf) 1,600m 3yo&up
  - Japan Cup
    - Tokyo (Turf) 2,400m 3yo&up

- **December**
  - Champions Cup
    - Chukyo (Dirt) 1,300m 3yo&up
  - Hanshin Juvenile Fillies
    - Hanshin (Turf) 1,600m 2yo fillies
  - Nakayama Daishogai
    - Nakayama (Turf) 4,100m 3yo&up
  - Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes
    - Hanahin (Turf) 1,600m 2yo fillies & fillies
  - Arima Kinen
    - Nakayama (Turf) 2,500m 3yo&up
INTRODUCTION to JRA RACING

GO! RACING

http://japanracing.jp/
Racecourses are so much fun!

Various events and activities are held at the different racecourses. They also include areas for spending time with horses, children’s attractions and more. This is a great world of leisure for families and couples!

**EVENTS**

On big race days, famous personalities come to make presentations or take part in talk shows. There are so many fun events to enjoy!

**ATTRACTIONS**

Horse carriages and pony rides give families and children a chance to spend time with horses. There are also other fun things for families to do.
WINS — off-track betting on your doorstep

Did you know that you can place a bet without going to a racecourse? Just pop in to your local WINS off-track betting facility! With branches all over Japan, WINS are also convenient places for meeting spots or just taking a coffee break. Some WINS facilities are set up with comfortable sofas and PC and monitor for your personal use, allowing you to enjoy the whole day at the races! Of course, WINS also make payouts on winning bets.

WINS Sapporo (some pay-seats)

WINS Kushiro

WINS Tsugaru (some pay-seats)

WINS Kinshicho (some pay-seats)

WINS Asakusa (some pay-seats)

WINS Shiodome (some pay-seats)

Light WINS Ami

WINS Ginza

WINS Korakuen (some pay-seats)

Excel Tanashi (membership system, pay-seats only)

WINS Shin-Yokohama (some pay-seats)

WINS Yokohama