



## Number of Race Days and Meetings

The JRA holds a total of 36 race meetings consisting of 288 days and operates 3,456 races annually at the 10 JRA racecourses nationwide as authorized by law.

JRA racing days are in principle conducted on Saturday and Sunday, with several exceptions for national holidays. Also, special provisions exist for the JRA to hold racing during the weekdays in emergency circumstances.

## Types of Races

The JRA conducts flat and jump racing. The conditions for race categories are based on grouping by ability set up to ensure that horses of similar levels compete against each other. Horses are assigned to categories according to prize money earned, age and sex. There are also handicap races, in which relative differences in the abilities of runners are balanced out by the weights to be carried by each horse in the race. The highest level of these races is the open races, among which the most valuable category is called Graded races. In order to promote the broad recognition of the role and importance of grading the races and to provide a benchmark for the breeding industry, the Graded race structure was implemented in 1984. The JRA's grading system is monitored and approved by the Japanese Graded Stakes Committee. The JRA conducts 129 Graded races: G1 (24 races), G2 (38 races) and G3 (67 races). Also, there are ten Graded Jump races: J-G1 (2 races), J-G2 (3 races) and J-G3 (5 races).

## Distribution of Prize Money

The purse for JRA races is awarded to the first five finishers. There is, depending on the race, other incentive money paid to runners finishing from sixth to tenth place. In addition, stakes money, or declaration fee borne by horse owners, is distributed among the top three finishers where applicable.



1,000m straightaway course at Niigata Racecourse



Nakayama Daishogai



Multi-screen "Turf Vision" at Kyoto Racecourse

## International Development of JRA Races

The internationalization of Japanese horseracing began in 1981 with the inauguration of the Japan Cup as an international invitation race. In 1993, the Yasuda Kinen was also opened to horses trained outside of Japan, and since then, the number of international races has gradually increased.

Japan had traditionally ranked in the top class internationally, with evident records in terms of the number of total starters and the amount of prize money, but because it continued to conduct restricted racing, Japan had been designated a Part II country. In order to gain true international recognition, the JRA gradually increased the number of flat races that were open to overseas horses, and since 2007, Japan became the 16th Part I country to be recognized by the International Cataloguing Standards Committee. Japanese thoroughbreds and horseracing are recognized to rank among the finest in the world, and there are high expectations for the further development of Japanese racing, including improvement of race quality and growth in the export of Japanese-bred horses.

Beginning in 2009, the JRA began accepting applications for ownership registrations for non-residents of Japan. In 2010, all JRA Graded races (flat races) were opened to horses trained outside of Japan.

## Japan Cup

The inauguration of the Japan Cup in 1981 opened doors for overseas trained horses to compete against Japanese horses for the first time. The creation of the Japan Cup was aimed to improve the level of Japanese thoroughbreds competing at international level, and it played an important role in the international development of horseracing in Japan. The Japan Cup was awarded international G1 status in 1992.

Throughout the history of the Japan Cup, winners of such great races as the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, the Epsom Derby and the Breeders' Cup Turf have been drawn to this race. The Japan Cup has also become one of the most important races in the world in terms of prize money and quality.

### 2024 JRA Grade 1 Races & J-G1 Jump Races

|                              | Race                                | Racecourse | Distance     | Condition     | Total Prize Money (JP¥) |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Flat Race                    | February Stakes                     | Tokyo      | 1,600m, Dirt | 4yo&up        | 259,200,000             |
|                              | Takamatsunomiya Kinen               | Chukyo     | 1,200m       | 4yo&up        | 368,200,000             |
|                              | Osaka Hai                           | Hanshin    | 2,000m       | 4yo&up        | 432,000,000             |
|                              | Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas)     | Hanshin    | 1,600m       | 3yo, F        | 302,400,000             |
|                              | Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas) | Nakayama   | 2,000m       | 3yo, C&F      | 432,000,000             |
|                              | Tenno Sho (Spring)                  | Kyoto      | 3,200m       | 4yo&up        | 475,200,000             |
|                              | NHK Mile Cup                        | Tokyo      | 1,600m       | 3yo, C&F      | 281,800,000             |
|                              | Victoria Mile                       | Tokyo      | 1,600m       | 4yo&up, F&M   | 281,800,000             |
|                              | Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks)        | Tokyo      | 2,400m       | 3yo, F        | 325,000,000             |
|                              | Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby)       | Tokyo      | 2,400m       | 3yo, C&F      | 648,000,000             |
|                              | Yasuda Kinen                        | Tokyo      | 1,600m       | 3yo&up        | 388,800,000             |
|                              | Takarazuka Kinen                    | Kyoto      | 2,200m       | 3yo&up        | 475,200,000             |
|                              | Sprinters Stakes                    | Nakayama   | 1,200m       | 3yo&up        | 368,200,000             |
|                              | Shuka Sho                           | Kyoto      | 2,000m       | 3yo, F        | 238,600,000             |
|                              | Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger)     | Kyoto      | 3,000m       | 3yo, C&F      | 432,000,000             |
|                              | Tenno Sho (Autumn)                  | Tokyo      | 2,000m       | 3yo&up        | 475,200,000             |
|                              | Queen Elizabeth II Cup              | Kyoto      | 2,200m       | 3yo&up, F&M   | 281,800,000             |
|                              | Mile Championship                   | Kyoto      | 1,600m       | 3yo&up        | 388,800,000             |
|                              | Japan Cup                           | Tokyo      | 2,400m       | 3yo&up        | 1,085,000,000           |
|                              | Champions Cup                       | Chukyo     | 1,800m, Dirt | 3yo&up        | 259,200,000             |
| Hanshin Juvenile Fillies     | Kyoto                               | 1,600m     | 2yo, F       | 140,200,000   |                         |
| Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes    | Kyoto                               | 1,600m     | 2yo, C&F     | 152,200,000   |                         |
| Arima Kinen (The Grand Prix) | Nakayama                            | 2,500m     | 3yo&up       | 1,085,000,000 |                         |
| Hopeful Stakes               | Nakayama                            | 2,000m     | 2yo, C&F     | 152,200,000   |                         |
| Jump Race                    | Nakayama Grand Jump                 | Nakayama   | 4,250m       | 4yo&up        | 142,660,000             |
|                              | Nakayama Daishogai                  | Nakayama   | 4,100m       | 3yo&up        | 142,660,000             |