



A Guide to JRA Racing

KING OF SPORTS



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Japan Racing Association Slogans

The JRA will keep running:

With Customers

We endeavor to provide the best possible service to our customers who are our top priority.

With Thrill and Emotion

We will enhance the appeal of thoroughbred racing, which combines the vigor of the race, beauty of its horses, and thrill of predicting a winner, and provide our racing fans with an unforgettable experience.

With Trust

We will conduct fair and sound racing that everyone can trust, in a pleasant and safe environment.

With Community

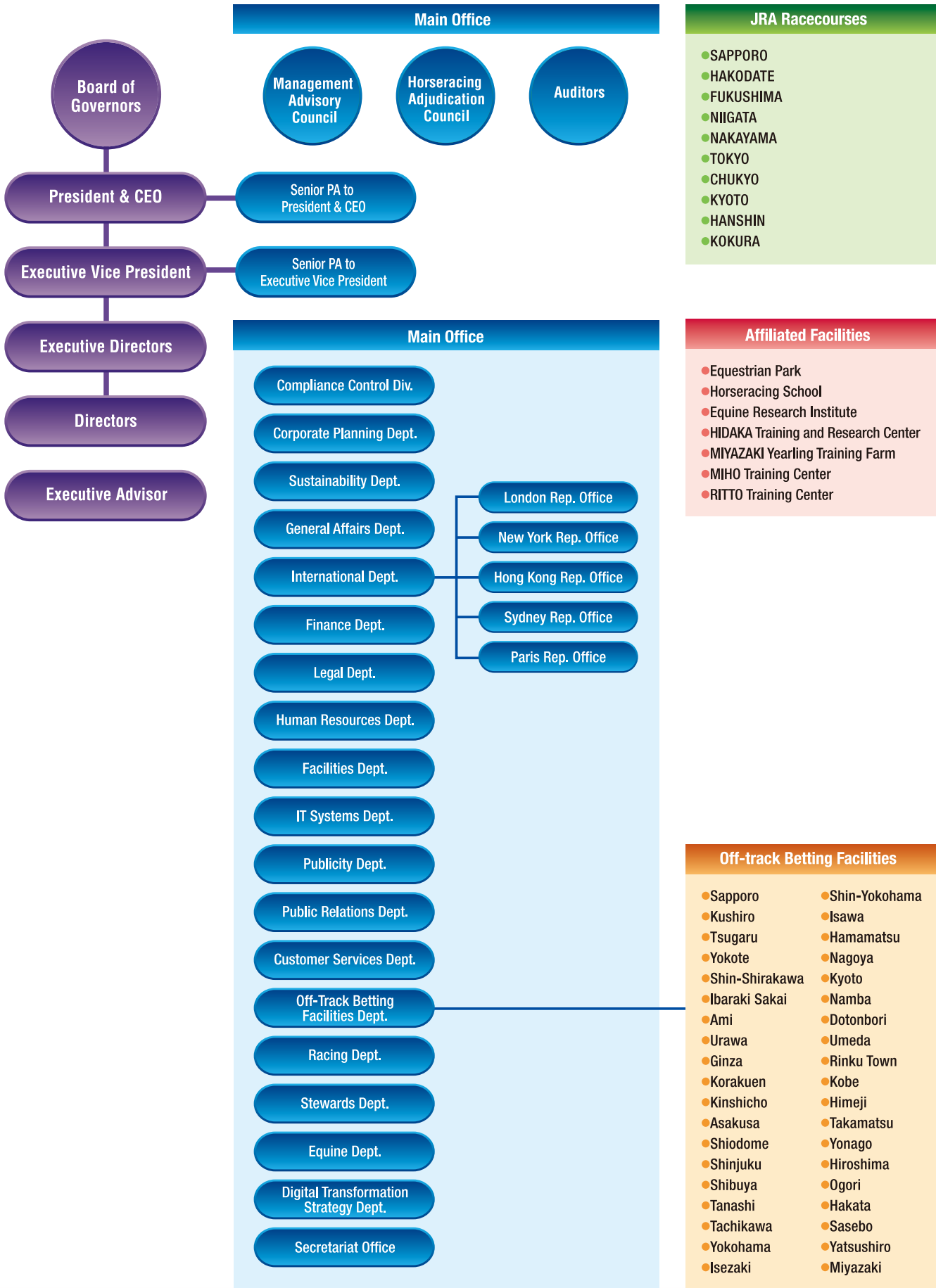
We will conduct horse racing that can be enjoyed by all ages in order to fulfill our social responsibilities. Also, we will contribute to the realization of a sustainable society. We will always stay close to horses to develop equine culture.

To the Future

We will endeavor to develop thoroughbred racing, which is steeped in history and tradition, and to create thoroughbred racing as an international sports entertainment.

Structure and Function of the JRA

Structural Chart of the JRA (as of March 1, 2025)





Structure and Function

The legal basis of the JRA lies in the Horseracing Law and the Japan Racing Association Law. The JRA was established in 1954 as a public entity to ensure the integrity of horseracing and the development and improvement in the breeding of racehorses and other livestock. The JRA operates horseracing under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

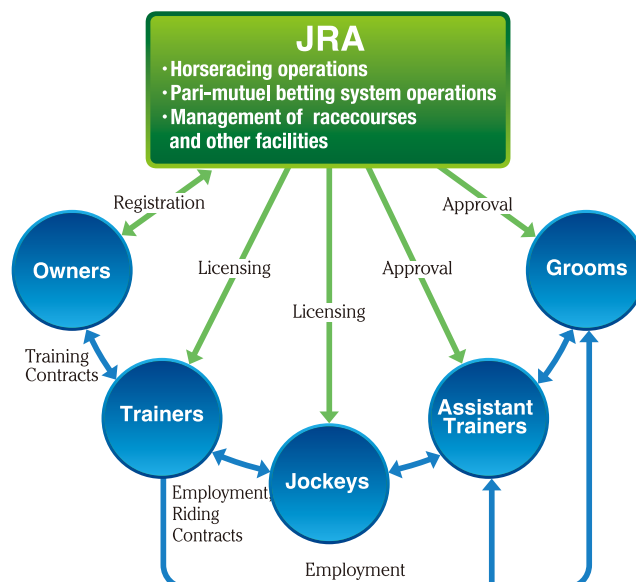
The Board of Governors, comprising of six council members appointed by the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the President & CEO of the JRA, has been in place since 2007. The Board of Governors sets key operation items such as the JRA's basic management policies and makes final decisions on budgets and business planning. It is also involved in supervising the duties of executives. The Management Advisory Council assists the President & CEO, consisting of 10 members drawn from owners, trainers, jockeys and academics appointed by the President & CEO, with the approval of the Minister. It reviews and discusses items of importance to the business management of the JRA.

The Horseracing Adjudication Council meets for official deliberation on the registration of owners, licensing of trainers and jockeys, and appeals filed against racing decisions under the Law of Administrative Tribunals.

The main office of the JRA, which is located in Tokyo, acts as the nerve center for the nationwide network of 10 racecourses, 38 off-track betting facilities called 'WINS' and other JRA related entities, and engages in activities concerning the direct or indirect development and operation of national horseracing.

The JRA contributes 10% of its turnover to the National Treasury, as well as 50% of any surplus profits remaining at the end of the fiscal year. In fiscal 2024, the JRA paid approximately 366,554 million yen (about US\$2,396 million *The currency exchange rate is 1US\$=153yen) into the National Treasury. The use of JRA contributions is specified by law: three-quarters must be designated for improvement of livestock breeding and the remaining one-quarter for public or social welfare.

Outline of JRA Racing



History of Horseracing in Japan



Horseracing event at Kamigamo Shrine in Kyoto (Edo Period)

History of Horseracing in Japan

The history of horseracing in Japan can be traced to the beginning of the eighth century. Originally held as a religious ceremony for the Imperial Court, horseracing flourished and spread throughout the country, to the point where races were held at nearly all major shrines and temples.

These events between the samurai of that time attracted countless fans among the commoners and began to appear frequently in the historical journals and literature of that era. Every year since then, horseracing has been held each May at the Kamigamo Shrine in Kyoto. Its style and tradition have remained nearly intact since the 11th century, lasting through the aristocratic and feudal eras of Japan, for more than 900 years.

In 1862, when Japan was about to move from the feudal system into the era of the Meiji Restoration, foreign residents

living in Yokohama, predominantly British, introduced the first Western-style horseracing by establishing the Yokohama Race Club in Japan.

Western style horseracing was held in foreign enclaves, and hence, unfortunately, very little is known or recorded about the initial era in Japan's modern horseracing history. At about the same time that the name of the Japanese central city was changed from Edo to Tokyo, Western-style horseracing began to be found in the major metropolitan areas across the country.

In 1906, the government embarked on a policy which tacitly allowed people to bet. This led to the introduction of modern horseracing with betting in Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka and other metropolitan areas, from which most racing operations benefited.

However, this profitable system was short lived; two years later, the government prohibited betting and instituted a system of paying direct subsidies for prize money and other horseracing expenses.



Samurai horseracing at Yokohama Racecourse in 1865



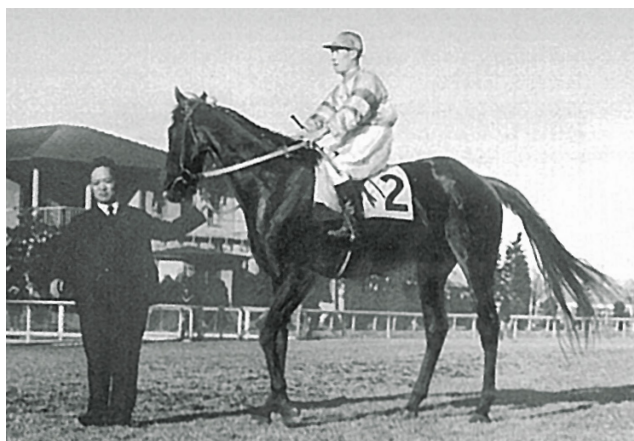
The first Japanese Derby held at Meguro Racecourse (Tokyo) in 1932

During this subsequent period of government-subsidized horseracing, prominent legislators, businessmen, as well as breeders, began active efforts to introduce a horseracing law. Eventually the government began to take a proactive position to promote horseracing in order to expand breeding in Japan and to improve the quality of Japanese horses. In 1923, horseracing legislation, so greatly desired by the horseracing industry, was enacted and led to the formation of 11 racing clubs. Horseracing accompanied by legal betting was thus established. Shortly thereafter, the Imperial Racing Society was established as a horseracing authority of 11 racing clubs, and was responsible for the rules of racing, which served as a model for the rules of the individual racing clubs.

The Imperial Racing Society defined the registration of racing colors and the licensing of trainers and jockeys, among its other horseracing functions.

The Horseracing Law underwent a major revision in 1936, which saw the formation of the Japan Racing Society, which legally merged the 11 racing clubs and the Imperial Racing Society in their entirety, including their facilities and horseracing functions.

This reform brought about dramatic changes and improvements to horse racing in Japan, such as the establishment of JRA classic races like the Japanese Derby. There were also dramatic increases in turnover as well as attendance, marking the birth of modern horseracing in Japan as it exists today.



Saint Lite became the first Triple Crown winner in 1941.

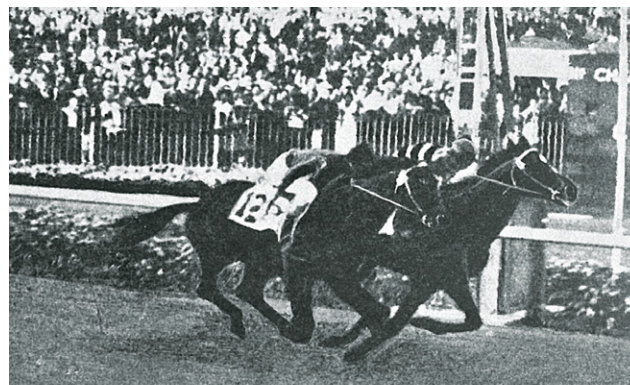
However, during the latter part of World War II, the racecourses were forced to suspend operations and the most historic of the modern racecourses, Yokohama, was commanded by the government for military use.

The termination of hostilities saw an immediate resumption of horseracing, when in 1946, Tokyo and Kyoto began holding race meetings. Also, 1947 brought a new type of betting, Quinella for the first time in Japan. In 1948, a new Horseracing Law was introduced, whereby the Japan Racing Society was abolished and under the new law, the government (the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) took total control



The JRA was established in 1954, the same year as the running of 21st Japanese Derby which Golden Wave won.

of horseracing. Although this “government horseracing” continued much the same as before, the turnover did not increase throughout this extremely difficult period. In 1954, the Horseracing Law was amended again, to enact the Japan Racing Association Law. This established the Japan Racing Association (JRA), which took over all horseracing functions and operations of government horseracing. These laws not only provided for “national racing” in Japan, but also for the legalization and operation of regional public racing as a separate system to that of national racing.



Hakuchikara won Washington's Birthday Handicap at Santa Anita, USA in 1959



The first Japan Cup was held in 1981. Mairzy Doates (USA), with C. Asmussen on board, took the crown.



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 (68 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.

2025 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	260,400,000
	Takamatsunomiya Kinen	Chukyo	1,200m	4yo&up	369,900,000
	Osaka Hai	Hanshin	2,000m	4yo&up	651,000,000
	Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas)	Hanshin	1,600m	3yo, F	303,800,000
	Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas)	Nakayama	2,000m	3yo, C&F	434,000,000
	Tenno Sho (Spring)	Kyoto	3,200m	4yo&up	651,000,000
	NHK Mile Cup	Tokyo	1,600m	3yo, C&F	283,100,000
	Victoria Mile	Tokyo	1,600m	4yo&up, F&M	283,100,000
	Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks)	Tokyo	2,400m	3yo, F	326,500,000
	Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby)	Tokyo	2,400m	3yo, C&F	651,000,000
	Yasuda Kinen	Tokyo	1,600m	3yo&up	390,600,000
	Takarazuka Kinen	Hanshin	2,200m	3yo&up	651,000,000
	Sprinters Stakes	Nakayama	1,200m	3yo&up	369,900,000
	Shuka Sho	Kyoto	2,000m	3yo, F	239,700,000
	Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger)	Kyoto	3,000m	3yo, C&F	434,000,000
	Tenno Sho (Autumn)	Tokyo	2,000m	3yo&up	651,000,000
	Queen Elizabeth II Cup	Kyoto	2,200m	3yo&up, F&M	283,100,000
	Mile Championship	Kyoto	1,600m	3yo&up	390,600,000
	Japan Cup	Tokyo	2,400m	3yo&up	1,090,000,000
	Champions Cup	Chukyo	1,800m, Dirt	3yo&up	260,400,000
	Hanshin Juvenile Fillies	Hanshin	1,600m	2yo, F	140,850,000
	Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes	Hanshin	1,600m	2yo, C&F	152,900,000
	Hopeful Stakes	Nakayama	2,000m	2yo, C&F	152,900,000
	Arima Kinen (The Grand Prix)	Nakayama	2,500m	3yo&up	1,090,000,000
Jump Race	Nakayama Grand Jump	Nakayama	4,260m	4yo&up	152,900,000
	Nakayama Daishogai	Nakayama	4,100m	3yo&up	152,900,000

Pari-Mutuel Betting

Types of Betting

The JRA organizes pari-mutuel betting only and features nine different types of betting: Win, Place, Bracket Quinella, Quinella, Exacta, Quinella Place, Trio, Trifecta and Pick 5 (WIN 5).

Betting tickets can be purchased in 100 yen increments, up to two minutes prior to the post time.

The betting turnover deduction rates are between 20% and 30% depending on the bet type. In 2008, the “JRA Premium” was introduced, in which 5% is added to the regular pay-outs on designated races and bet types. The “JRA Plus 10” adds 10 yen when the original payout is 100 yen in principle.

The JRA has been permitted to organize pari-mutuel wagering on the races conducted in Japan only. In 2015, Racing Law was reformed to allow JRA to offer pari-mutuel betting on the designated overseas races, and JRA commenced its first overseas simulcasting with the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in 2016.



“The Avenue” in Fuji View Stand at Tokyo Racecourse



Reserved Seating area at WINS Shin-Yokohama

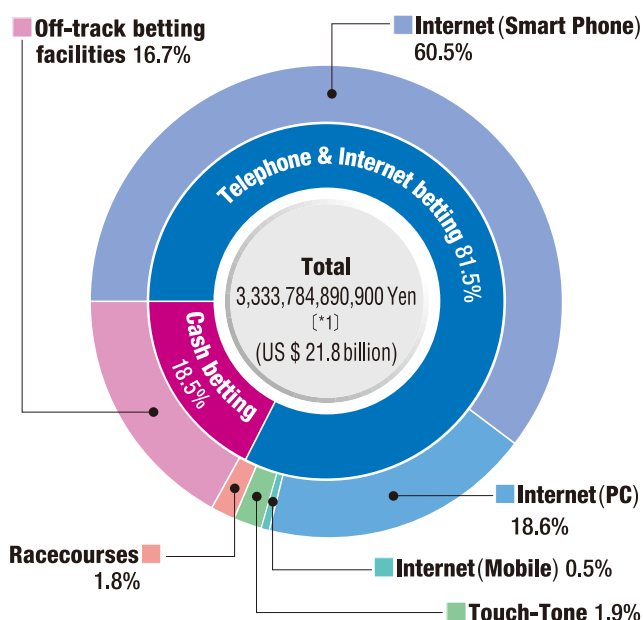
Off-Track and On-Line Betting

The percentage of telephone and internet betting has been increasing in Japan year by year. In 2024, the volume of betting through telephone and internet was about 81.5% of the total turnover. Furthermore, the total number of people participating in JRA races was over 199 million.

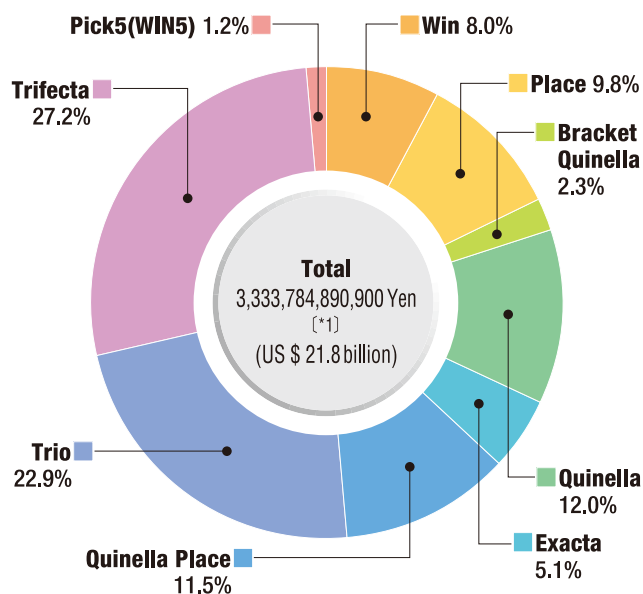
The majority of off-track cash betting is conducted at the 38 off-track betting facilities (WINS). JRA racecourses are also used as off-track betting facilities on non-racing days.

Also, JRA's betting is offered at some local government operated off-track betting facilities. (J-PLACE)

Sales ratio of betting outlets (2024)



Sales ratio by the type of bet (2024)



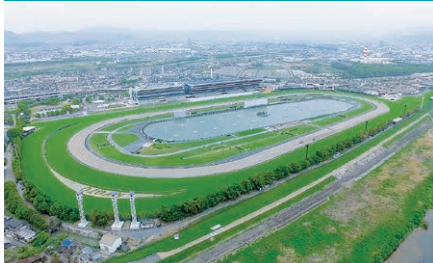
*The currency exchange rate is 1US\$=153yen.

[*1] This figure excludes the turnover for simulcast betting.

Racecourses & Affiliated Facilities

Racecourses

Kyoto Racecourse



Built in 1925, Kyoto Racecourse is the premier racecourse of Western Japan. In 2007, a multi-screen Turf Vision on the same scale as the one in Tokyo was installed. Swans resting their feathers in the pond inside the courses are the trademark of Kyoto Racecourse. The recent renovation was completed in 2023.

[Record attendance] 143,606(1995 Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Cup)

[Major races] Tenno Sho(Spring)(G1), Kikuka Sho(Japanese St. Leger)(G1), Mile Championship(G1), Queen Elizabeth II Cup(G1), Shuka Sho(G1)

Niigata Racecourse



Niigata Racecourse is located in Niigata City alongside the coast of the Japan Sea. The racecourse was moved to its current location in 1965. The most recent renovation was completed in 2001. This racecourse is the only one in Japan to feature a 1,000m straightaway course.

[Record attendance] 35,135(1991 Yukyuzan Tokubetsu)

[Major races] Sekiya Kinen(G3), Niigata Kinen(G3), Niigata Daishoten(G3), Ibis Summer Dash(G3), Niigata Nisai Stakes(G3), Leopard Stakes(G3)

Hakodate Racecourse



Located by the ocean in Hakodate City in Hokkaido, Hakodate Racecourse was opened in 1896 and is the oldest of the existing racecourses in Japan. The racecourse only has race meetings in summer, like Sapporo Racecourse. The recent renovation was completed in 2010.

[Record attendance] 29,757(1974 Hakodate Sansai Stakes)

[Major races] Hakodate Kinen(G3), Hakodate Sprint Stakes(G3), Hakodate Nisai Stakes(G3)

Hanshin Racecourse



First built on its present location in 1948, Hanshin Racecourse joins Kyoto Racecourse as the second of the two feature racecourses in Western Japan. Its racing calendar is comparable with that of Kyoto, and these two racecourses hold race meetings alternately. The recent renovation was completed in 2025.

[Record attendance] 92,986(1997 Takarazuka Kinen)

[Major races] Takarazuka Kinen(G1), Oka Sho(Japanese 1000 Guineas)(G1), Hanshin Juvenile Fillies(G1), Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes(G1), Osaka Hai(G1)

Kokura Racecourse

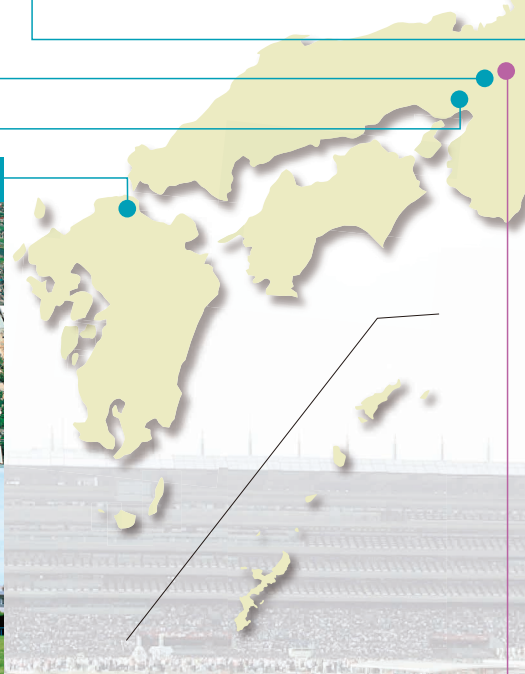


Located in the foremost industrial city of Kitakyushu on the island of Kyushu, Kokura Racecourse was opened in 1931 and its most recent renovation was completed in 1999.

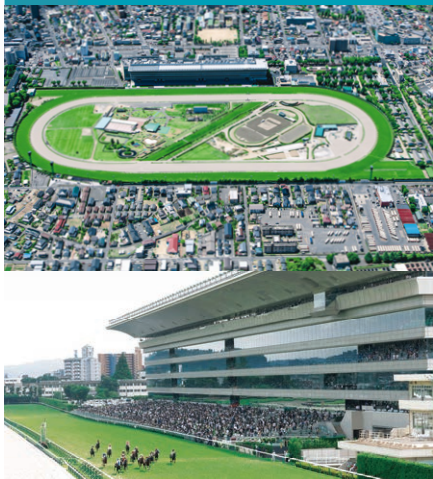
[Record attendance] 40,196(2018 Kokura Kinen)

[Major races] Kitakyushu Kinen(G3), Kokura Kinen(G3), Kokura Nisai Stakes(G3), Kokura Daishoten(G3)

Ritto Training Center



Fukushima Racecourse



Located in Fukushima City in northern Honshu, Fukushima Racecourse was opened in 1918. The paddock can be found uniquely on the second floor in the grandstand.

[Record attendance] 47,391(1993 Tanabata Sho)

[Major races] Fukushima Himba Stakes(G3), Tanabata Sho (G3), Radio Nikkei Sho(G3), Fukushima Kinen(G3)

Sapporo Racecourse



Sapporo Racecourse is located in Sapporo City, the largest city on the northern island of Hokkaido. Race meetings here are held only during summer. This racecourse was built in 1907 and the recent renovation works for the grandstand was completed in 2014.

[Record attendance] 60,549(1976 Sapporo Kinen)

[Major races] Sapporo Kinen(G2), Queen Stakes(G3), Elm Stakes(G3), Keeneland Cup(G3), Sapporo Nisai Stakes(G3)

Horseracing School

Miho Training Center

Nakayama Racecourse



Nakayama Racecourse, established in 1920, joins Tokyo Racecourse as one of the feature racecourses in the capital area. Its racing calendar is comparable with that of Tokyo, and these two racecourses hold race meetings alternately. There are unique courses such as the X-line steeplechase courses, and both of the two J-G1 Jump races are held at this course. The Arima Kinen, also known as the Grand Prix, is the last big event in the year. The top ten horses, on the vote of racing fans, have priority to enter the race.

[Record attendance] 177,779(1990 Arima Kinen)

[Major races] Arima Kinen(G1), Satsuki Sho(Japanese 2000 Guineas)(G1), Sprinters Stakes(G1), Hopeful Stakes(G1), Nakayama Grand Jump(J-G1), Nakayama Daishogai(J-G1)

Chukyo Racecourse



Located in Nagoya district, the largest metropolitan area between Tokyo and Osaka, Chukyo Racecourse was opened in 1953. The recent renovation of both grandstand and track was completed in 2012.

[Record attendance] 74,201(1996 Takamatsunomiya Hai)

[Major races] Takamatsunomiya Kinen(G1), Champions Cup(G1), Tokai Stakes(G2), Kinko Sho(G2), Chukyo Kinen (G3), CBC Sho(G3), Aichi Hai(G3), Falcon Stakes(G3), Chunchi Shimbun Hai(G3), Procyon Stakes(G3)

Tokyo Racecourse

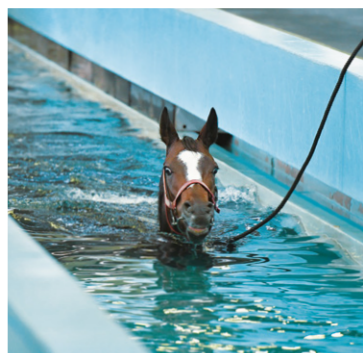


Tokyo Racecourse, located in Fuchu city, was built in 1933. A grand re-opening was held in 2007 after the completion of seven years renovation work for the grandstand named "Fuji View Stand". This racecourse has become emblematic of JRA racecourses with multi-screen Turf Vision (width 66.4 meters, height 11.2 meters) which displays sharp, powerful images and a wealth of information on its three high-definition screens.

[Record attendance] 196,517(1990 Tokyo Yushun)

[Major races] Japan Cup(G1), Tokyo Yushun(Japanese Derby)(G1), Tenno Sho (Autumn)(G1), Yasuda Kinen(G1), Yushun Himba(Japanese Oaks)(G1), February Stakes(G1), NHK Mile Cup(G1), Victoria Mile(G1)

Training Centers



All JRA-registered racehorses must be registered and trained at Ritto Training Center or Miho Training Center. Horses are required to stay at one of these training centers for at least 10 days (15 days for the first time starters) prior to their scheduled start so that they can be evaluated by veterinarians, starters, handicappers and the press. In general, horses running in a race are transported from respective training centers to the racecourse by horse van, and are returned to the training center after the race. JRA racecourses have stables to accommodate the visiting horses.

Ritto Training Center

Opened in 1969 as Japan's first training center, Ritto Training Center has a variety of training facilities. There is an oval course of 2,200m (turf, dirt, woodchip and New Polytrack courses), an uphill course of 1,085m and a racehorse swimming pool. Ritto Training Center stables about 2,000 horses, and the number of residents (trainers, jockeys, stable staffs, etc.) is about 2,000.



Miho Training Center

Miho Training Center was opened in 1978. It has two oval training tracks (1,800m and 2,000m) with various track surfaces (turf, dirt, woodchip and New Polytrack courses), an indoor swimming pool, a water treadmill, an uphill course of 1,200m, and a cross-country promenade course. Miho Training Center stables about 2,000 horses, and the number of residents (trainers, jockeys, stable staffs, etc.) is about 5,000.



Racehorse Hospitals

Ritto and Miho Training Centers each has a racehorse hospital staffed by approximately 30 JRA veterinarians. The major tasks for the racehorse hospital are: (1) to provide medical services through the latest technology and scientific evidence, (2) to provide recent findings to trainers and their staff which will aid in racing injury prevention and health management, (3) to provide sports science advice and consulting to improve fitness, (4) to operate anti-doping activities, and (5) to conduct epidemic and hygiene control.



O-arm® system can provide 3 dimensional images

Implantation for superficial digital flexor tendinitis



A farriery facility is also equipped with JRA farriers to promote horseshoeing research and to provide the latest technology to deal with refractory cases.



JRA farriers

Equine Research Institute

The Equine Research Institute (ERI) was established in 1959 under the name "Equine Health Laboratory" for the purposes of maintaining racehorse resources and preventing racehorse accidents to ensure the smooth operation of horseracing. "Equine Health Laboratory" has been enhanced its functions and changed its name as the Equine Research Institute in 1977. Since the establishment, the ERI, the only institute in Japan which specializes for equine, not only thoroughbred, related research, has researched wide variety fields including sports science, equine infectious diseases, feeding and training for over several decades.

At present, the ERI consists of 1 section and 5 divisions. (i.e. General Affairs Section, Research Planning & Coordination Division, Sports Science Division, Clinical Veterinary Medicine Division, Microbiology Division and Molecular Biology Division) Also, the ERI has two branches: Rehabilitation Research Center (Joban Branch) and Equine Science Division at Hidaka Training & Research Center dealing with training and breeding research. The primary function of the Institute's Rehabilitation Research Center is to provide a rehabilitation facilities which include balneotherapy and physiotherapy.



Inoculation of equine influenza virus into embryonated eggs



Hot springs recuperation (Rehabilitation Research Center)

Horseracing School

The JRA Horseracing School was established in Shiroy City, Chiba Prefecture in 1982, amidst the increasing internationalization of horseracing, with the aim of educating jockeys and stable staff with the knowledge and skills needed to be better horsemen. The current curriculum features a three-year program for jockeys, and a six-month program for stable employees. Prospective students are required to pass an entrance examination for enrollment in either program. After completion of the prerequisite program, the prospective jockeys may take the jockey's license examination and the stable employees are eligible, with JRA approval, to be employed by trainers licensed by the JRA. The Horseracing School also serves as the quarantine facility designated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for horses trained outside of Japan competing in JRA races.



Training at the Horseracing School

Equestrian Park

The JRA's Equestrian Park in Setagaya Ward, Tokyo was constructed in 1940 to promote equestrian games and events and for the training of prospective jockeys. Later, the Equestrian Park was privileged to host some of the equestrian events during TOKYO 1964 Olympic Games and TOKYO 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. After the JRA Horseracing School was established, the Equestrian Park stands as one of the centers for equestrian events in Japan. The park's equestrian facilities include an indoor riding hall to host major equestrian events throughout the year. The park also hosted a performance of the Spanish Riding School of Vienna in November 1991, and Le Cadre Noir de Saumur (the French National Equestrian School) in November 1998. Known familiarly as "Horse Park" in the urban area, the park is also open to the public all year round and contributes to the local community. The park occupies an area of 180,000 square meters, including stables, an equestrian competition field, and office buildings.



Horse Competition at Equestrian Park



Andalusian Horse Show at Equestrian Park

Training Yards



Hidaka Bloodhorse Training Facility



1,000m indoor straightaway course at Hidaka Training and Research Center

The JRA owns two training yards — Hidaka Training and Research Center (TRC) in Hokkaido and Miyazaki Yearling Training Farm in Miyazaki Prefecture — and conducts basic training on about 80 yearlings purchased at various sales until the following spring when they are two years old. The JRA started breeding stock with about ten broodmares in Hidaka TRC in 2009. The information, breeding and training data obtained during this period, as well as improved methods, are passed on broadly to breeders and training farms, and used to improve Japan's horse population. After the research in the basic training period, the horses are sold in training sales such as the JRA Breeze Up Sale, and then follow-up research is conducted on how they perform as racehorses and their injuries. As a horseracing organization, the JRA's comprehensive research system involving actual horses is unparalleled anywhere in the world. Hidaka TRC is open for public training.

Breeding in Japan

When Western-style horseracing was first introduced to Japan by the foreign residents of Yokohama during the 1860s, most racehorses were domestic breeds, with some imports from Shanghai and other parts of China. During the 1870s, a few thoroughbreds were imported from the United States for the first time for use as breeding stock.

The breeding industry in Japan began in earnest in 1907 when, with the assistance of the Mitsubishi Conglomerate, a thoroughbred stallion and 20 broodmares were imported from the United Kingdom to stand at Koiwai Farm. With the subsequent authorization of horseracing and the regulation of racing programs and other racing related affairs, horseracing in Japan started to prosper, and the number of domestically bred racehorses increased as the thoroughbred breeding industry developed.



JRA Breeze Up Sale

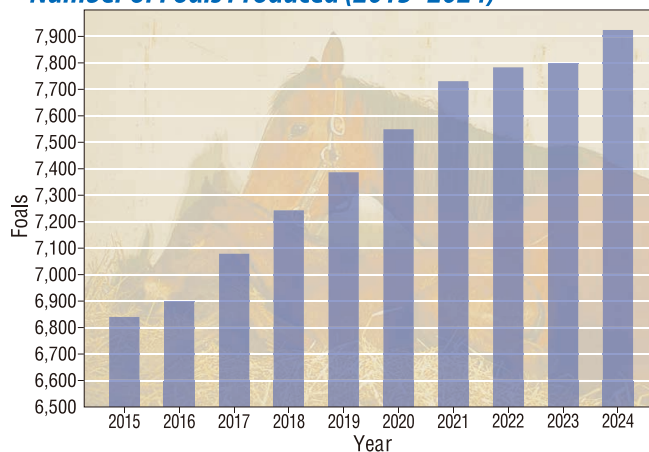
Although the breeding industry suffered a near fatal blow during the closing days of World War II, horseracing along with society started on the long road to recovery after the war ended. As racing activities surpassed their pre-war prosperity, the number of foals bred increased to over 10,000, an unequaled number in the history of horseracing in Japan.

Since 1995, however, the industry has been in a gradual decline. In 1997, the number of thoroughbred foals fell to around 8,000, and its number in 2024 was 7,925.

Bloodstock sales in Japan are conducted by the Japan Bloodhorse Breeders' Association (JBBA) in cooperation with various local breeders' associations, and by the Japan Racing Horse Association (JRHA) who conducts the famous public auction, "JRHA Select Sale".

Although the number of thoroughbreds has decreased, the breeding standards - as well as their expectations for the foals - have been getting higher every year.

Number of Foals Produced (2015–2024)





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