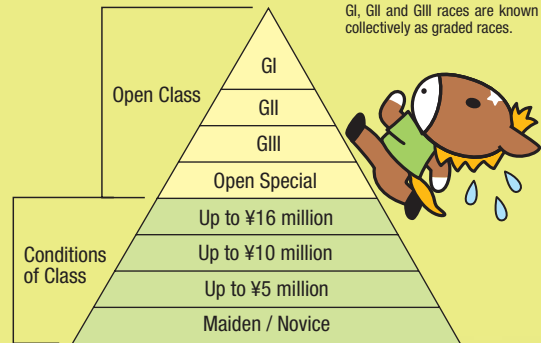


Type of Race

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.



Japanese Derby

GI Race Schedule

February	February Stakes	Tokyo (Dirt) 1,600m 4yo&up			Sprinters Stakes	Nakayama (Turf) 1,200m 3yo&up
March	Takamatsunomiya Kinen	Chukyo (Turf) 1,200m 4yo&up			Shuka Sho	Kyoto (Turf) 2,000m 3yo fillies
April	Oka Sho (1000 Guineas)	Hanshin (Turf) 1,600m 3yo fillies			Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger)	Kyoto (Turf) 3,000m 3yo colts & fillies
	Nakayama Grand Jump	Nakayama (Turf) 4,250m 4yo&up			Tenno Sho (Autumn)	Tokyo (Turf) 2,000m 3yo&up
May	Satsuki Sho (2000 Guineas)	Nakayama (Turf) 2,000m 3yo colts & fillies			Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Cup	Kyoto (Turf) 2,200m 3yo&up fillies & mares
	Tenno Sho (Spring)	Kyoto (Turf) 3,200m 4yo&up			Mile Championship	Kyoto (Turf) 1,600m 3yo&up
June	NHK Mile Cup	Tokyo (Turf) 1,600m 3yo colts & fillies			Japan Cup	Tokyo (Turf) 2,400m 3yo&up
	Victoria Mile	Tokyo (Turf) 1,600m 4yo&up fillies & mares			Japan Cup Dirt	Hanshin (Dirt) 1,800m 3yo&up
November	Japanese Oaks	Tokyo (Turf) 2,400m 3yo fillies			Hanshin Juvenile Fillies	Hanshin (Turf) 1,600m 2yo fillies
	Japanese Derby	Tokyo (Turf) 2,400m 3yo colts & fillies			Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes	Nakayama (Turf) 1,600m 2yo colts & fillies
December	Yasuda Kinen	Tokyo (Turf) 1,600m 3yo&up			Nakayama Daishogai	Nakayama (Turf) 4,100m 3yo&up
	Takarazuka Kinen	Hanshin (Turf) 2,200m 3yo&up			Arima Kinen	Nakayama (Turf) 2,500m 3yo&up

