INTRODUCTION to JRA RACING

GO! RACING

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Guide to JRA Horseracing
Welcome to the Racecourse!

When you visit a JRA racecourse, first head straight for the grandstand. 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 grandstand also gives a great view of the races. Some of the seats 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 family 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!

A Day at the Races
There are usually 12 races in a day.

- 9am Gates open
- 10am First race starts
- Midday Lunch break
- 3.30pm Main race time
- 4pm Last race starts
- 5pm Gates close

*All times are approximate.

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

There’s even a convenience store.

Please see “How to bet” for information on different types of bets and instructions on using betting slips.
Parade Ring (Paddock)

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

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

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

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

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

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. (2 mins before post time)

**Win, Place, Bracket Quinella Odds screen**

These are the odds for a “Win” bet. The odds for horse No.2 are 1.9, so a bet of ¥100 will pay out ¥190. The lower the odds, the more people have bet on that horse.

These are the odds for a “Place” bet. The payout on these odds depends on the combination of horses finishing 1st to 3rd. If horse No.2 finishes in first three places, a bet of ¥100 will pay out between ¥110 and ¥130.

**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 1-2, a bet of ¥100 will pay out ¥1,600.

**Win, Quinella, Quinella Trio, Exacta, Trifecta Odds screen**

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

**Trio, Trifecta**

On this screen, we see that a “Trio” (first three horses in any order) bet of ¥100 on 2-10-12 will pay out ¥1,710, and a “Trifecta” (first three horses in exact order) bet of ¥100 on 2-14-12 will pay out ¥5,180.

**Odds Tickets**

Using a “UMA Port” information query terminal, you can print out updated odds for the race that interests you. “Odds Tickets,” which enable you to print out odds twice with a single ticket, are available for purchase at the information counter and other locations within the facility for 100 yen for a set of 10 tickets.

Use a “UMA Port” to scan the QR code printed on your Odds Ticket and print out the odds that you need to know.
Placing a bet

A "betting slip" is convenient to place your bet. There are three types of betting slip - green, red and blue. The green one can be used to place all types of bets, and are therefore most convenient for those without betting experience.

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. Highlighters and oil-based pens that mark through to the other side may also cause errors.

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 racetracks.

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

There are eight different types of bet.
Race

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

Racing silks (colours) jockeys wear in the race 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 (Paddock)
- The runners appear in the Parade Ring (Paddock) about half an hour before a race begins.

Post Parade
- The horses follow the lead pony onto the track.

Warming up
- Horses canter to warm up before a race.

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

Start
- A fanfare sounds, and the race gets underway.

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!

A “photo finish” is used to decide the winner when the finish is too close to call.

Payout amounts are shown once the official order of placing has been decided.

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.

Winning bets are paid for 60 days.

Red lump: Official placings decided
Blue lump: Stewards’ inquiry in progress

The blue “Inquiry” lamp on the placing display board means that an incident during the race is being investigated. The final placings may change as a result, so don’t throw your betting tickets away just yet! When the red “official” lamp goes on, it means that the order of placing has been officially decided. Now you can cash in your winning bets. Payouts are indicated as the amount paid for a ¥100 bet. They can be checked via Turf Vision, on-track monitors and through on-track announcements.
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.

Type of Races

Race structure

Races are divided into different grades according to the runners' ages and the number of wins gained. 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), Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) and Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger), all limited to three-year-olds, and the Oka Sho (1000 Guineas) and Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks), limited to three-year-old fillies, are known as the Classic Races. They were originally modeled after the British racing system.

GI, GII and GIII races are known collectively as graded races.
JRA 10 Racecourses around Japan

There are 10 JRA racecourses in Japan, from Hokkaido in the north to Kyushu in the south. Among these, race meetings and higher-grade races are held most frequently at the Tokyo, Nakayama, Kyoto and Hanshin Racecourse. Tokyo Racecourse hosts the most representative G1 races, including the Japanese Derby and the Japan Cup. Its turf course has a circumference of 2.083.1 meters, while the horse stretch from the final corner to the finishing post measures 525.9 meters. This also includes a long upward slope. Tokyo Racecourse is fully equipped with special facilities to enhance spectators’ enjoyment. These include a giant multiscreen. Turf Vision, one of the largest in the world, and Horse Preview closer look at the riders and the horses before and after the races.

The Turf Course at Nakayama racecourse has a circumference of 1,839.7 meters (outer course) and a home stretch of 310 meters. With a famously steep slope waiting just before the finishing line, this has been the scene of some truly dramatic finishes. Divided between inner and outer tracks, the Turf Course offers all the excitement of a supreme sporting contest. The steepelschase course, the most difficult in Japan, is also a must-see for racegoers. Kyoto Racecourse which has 1,894.3 meters’ circumference (outer turf course) with 403.7 meters’ home stretch (outer turf course) is famous for its unique landscape with a big pond inside the track and the up-and-down hill at the third corner. The outer course, in particular, has a downward slope with a height of 4 meter, so that the horses can clearly be seen going up and down, even from the safe distance of the grandstand.

**Tokyo Racecourse (Clockwise)**

1.1 Minakami-chi, Fuchu-shi, Tokyo 183-8501, Japan

Access:
- 2 minutes on foot from JR Fuku-Line Fuku-Line Station
- 10 minutes by bus from JR Tokyo Line Station

Admission: [Details]

**Nakayama Racecourse (Clockwise)**

1.1 Minakami-chi, Fuchu-shi, Tokyo 183-8501, Japan

Access:
- 2 minutes on foot from JR Naka-Line Nakayama Station
- 10 minutes by bus from JR Fuku-Line Station

Admission: [Details]

**Kyoto Racecourse (Clockwise)**

1.1 Minakami-chi, Fuchu-shi, Tokyo 183-8501, Japan

Access:
- 2 minutes on foot from JR Kyoto Line Station

Admission: [Details]

**Hanshin Racecourse (Clockwise)**

1.1 Minakami-chi, Fuchu-shi, Tokyo 183-8501, Japan

Access:
- 5 minutes on foot from Hanshin Railway Line Station

Admission: [Details]
The turf course at Hanshin Racecourse is 2.089 meters (outer course) in circumference with a home stretch of 473.6 meters (outer course). The grandstand is distinctive in appearance, as a large roof covers both its parade ring and grandstand. An underpass link with nearby Nigawa Station allows spectators to enjoy the races in comfort even in bad weather.

Chukyo Racecourse, venue for the Takamatsumoniya Kinen, is almost completely flat and has a relatively short home stretch. Compared to the previous five courses, Sapporo, Hakodate, Fukushima, Nigata and Kokura Racecourse, are attractive with their distinctive structures. Nigata Racecourse is the only racecourse in Japan that also has a “straight-line course” and the country’s longest home stretch [658.7 meters (outer course)].

Hakodate Racecourse is located in the historic city on the southern tip of Hokkaido over looking the ocean. Sapporo Racecourse holds race meetings in the summer. Some tour operators even offer tours that combine sightseeing with a visit to the races. Why not give it a try!

Kokura Racecourse, an area well-known for its seafood and holds race meetings in both winter and summer. Fukushima Racecourse is near a famous hot spring resort. While the track width is generally narrower in these racecourses, the grandstand is closer to the track. This brings the excitement of the races directly to the spectators.
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 racetrack? 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

WINS KUSHIRO

WINS TSUGARU

WINS KINSHICHO

WINS ASAKUSA

WINS SHIODOME

WINS YOKOTE

WINS SHIN-SHIRAKAWA

EXCEL IBARAKI SAKAI

WINS SHINJUKU

WINS SHIBUYA

WINS TACHIKAWA

WINS GINZA

WINS KORAKUEN

EXCEL TANASHI

WINS SHIN-YOKOHAMA

WINS YOKOHAMA

**Note:** The information on this page is subject to change due to renovations. Check the latest information at the WINS website or at your local WINS facility.

*Images courtesy of WINS.*