

JRA Racing

Races

JRA holds thoroughbred flat races and jump races in Japan, with about half of the racing schedule for flat races is held on turf and half on dirt courses.

Racing Calendar

JRA is allowed to hold 36 meetings annually. A race meeting is a maximum of 12 days, with racing held 288 days a year. As a general rule, race meetings must have a maximum of 12 races a day.

JRA racing days are in principle limited to weekends, on both Saturday and Sunday, with several exceptions for national holidays. Special provisions exist for JRA to hold racing during the weekdays in emergency circumstances.

2013 JRA Races	3,454
Flat races	3,324 (1,654 dirt/1,670 turf)
Jump races	130



Types of Races

JRA racing is divided into two categories: flat and jump racing. The conditions are set up to ensure that horses of similar levels compete against each other. Horses are assigned in the categories according to the prize money value of the races. There are also handicap races, in which relative differences in the abilities of runners are leveled by increasing or decreasing the weights to be carried of horses. In some cases, competing horses are limited by sex, but in all cases the amount of prize money earned is the standard, and

levels of ability are always determined according to that measure.

The highest level of these races is the open races, among which high-value races are considered graded races. In order to promote the broad recognition of the role and importance of grading the races and provide a benchmark for the breeding industry, graded race structure was implemented in 1984. In 2007, Japan was promoted to Part I country of the International Cataloging Standards, and ever since, the number of Japanese graded races gaining international recognition increased by the year, and in 2010, all Japanese graded races were recognized as international graded races and became open to foreign-trained horses. JRA also introduced a grading system to jump races in 1999, and there are now 10 graded Jump Races: J-GI (2 races), J-GII (3 races) and J-GIII (5 races).

Number of JRA Races by Class in 2013

Classes	No.of races (share %)
Graded	124 (3.7)
Open	108 (3.3)
3-win	176 (5.3)
2-win	423 (12.7)
1-win	1,080 (32.5)
Newcomer	285 (8.6)
Maiden	1,128 (33.9)

Race Distance

The distance for two-year-old flat races must be 800 meters or longer, while the distance for three-year-olds and up must be 1,000 meters or longer. Race distance is gradually extended between horses making their debut as two-years old and the spring of their three-year-old season, taking into account factors such as the horse's growth and racing experience, so that by the time three-year-olds start competing against older horses, they can experience racing distances up to 2,400 meters or more.

In mixed races for three-years-olds and older horses, race structure is created to appeal to the racing fans with variety of distances, so that individual racehorses can fully bring out their ability in speed and stamina.

The racing distance for two-year-olds ranges from 1,000 meters to 2,000 meters. Majority of two-year-old races are

1,400 meters to a mile, accounting for 39%. Sprint races between 1,000 meters and 1,300 meters account for the second largest proportion, 30.7% of the total, followed by races over 1,800 meters. For three-year-olds, the distance is set from the shortest at 1,000 meters up to 3,000 meters, with 48% of these races set at Intermediate and the next largest proportion in Mile. Lastly, the distance for three-year-olds and up ranges from 1,000 meters up to 3,600 meters, with 45% of these races set at Intermediate. Next in order of numerical percentage by distance are Sprint and Mile.

Number of JRA Races by Distance on Turf in 2013

Total flat races on turf	1,670 races	
1,000–1,200 m	369 races	22.1%
1,400–1,600 m	497 races	29.8%
1,700–2,200 m	691 races	41.3%
2,300 m and over	113 races	6.8%

Prize Money

The purse for JRA races are awarded to the first five finishers. Depending on the races, there are other incentive monies paid to the runners finishing from sixth to tenth place, and stakes money, registration fees borne by horse owners, which is distributed among the top three finishers where applicable.

The largest first-place purse is ¥250 million for the Japan Cup, and the smallest is the ¥5 million for events held for winless three-year-olds and two-year-olds. The total prize money provided by JRA in 2013 was ¥74 billion.

Trainer, Jockey, Groom Incomes

Trainers chiefly derive their income from owner-paid contract fees and 10% of the prize money. Jockey income consists of riding fees, 5% of the prize money, contract training fees and salaries if they are directly employed by trainers. Grooms are paid a salary by trainers and about 5% of the prize money.



Licenses and Registration

Trainer Licenses

One must pass the JRA license examination to obtain a trainer's license in JRA racing. A trainer's license is valid for one year and license renewal examinations are held annually. One must be 28 years of age or older to be eligible to take the test. Examination categories include racing regulations, hippology, tests on academic subjects, along with tests of equestrian skills, among other topics. Trainer's examinations are generally taken after experience has been gained as a jockey or stable hand. Trainers are required to be knowledgeable about the training and supervision of racehorses. They must also possess a variety of expertise pertaining to the education of young stable hands, jockeys, stable operations and so forth.

Jockey Licenses

Only licensed jockeys may ride horses entered in races in Japan and one must pass the JRA license examination to obtain a jockey's license to become a professional. A jockey's license is valid for one year, and license renewal examinations are held annually. One must be 16 years old or older to be eligible to take the test. Examination categories include racing regulations, hippology and other academic subjects along with a test of practical skills of the jockey's techniques. There is also a short-term license, limited to three months, issued to superior foreign jockeys to ride in Japan. JRA and NAR operate jockey training schools to train jockeys, and the majority of currently active jockeys have attended those schools. (Please refer to P19 for details on the JRA Horse Racing School and requirements to enter the school)

Horse Owner Registration

As a general rule, a person aspiring to become a racehorse owner in Japan, must first be a resident of Japan (in the case of non-Japanese, a resident alien), not have a criminal record for imprisonable offenses.

Applicants must also demonstrate sufficient assets and income to possess a racehorse. Individuals, corporations and private groups (syndicates) may own racehorses. It is notable that the number enrolled in membership corporations has been increasing recently. Also, trainers, trainer's assistants, jockeys, stable hands and others who have direct contact with racing operations and racehorses may not become horse owners while retaining their training, jockey, or stable hand status.

JRA began accepting applications for owner registration for foreign persons who are non-Japanese residents in 2009. Further, details on this process are available at <http://japanracing.jp/en/jpn-racing/jra/owner.html>.

Ensuring Integrity

1. Horses entering races

Horses must be stabled either at a training center or at the racecourse stables 10 to 15 days before a race to ensure integrity in horse racing and proper quarantine measures. Stabling horses for a certain period until the day of the race and managing them is necessary to gain the credibility of racing fans.

2. Jockeys

After their mounts have been declared on the day before the race, jockeys are obliged to remain in the jockeys' quarters or jockey's room until they mount their assigned horses. These facilities are at racecourses, or training centers, and are equipped so that jockeys can prepare themselves mentally and physically to demonstrate their utmost abilities during races. Furthermore, having jockeys under supervised custody in these facilities from the time their mounts have been declared until after a race has finished also has the merit of preventing undesirable incidents that might affect race outcomes.



Jockey's quarters

3. Restricted entry in operational areas

Racetracks strictly restrict anyone who might pose a risk of interfering with the safe running of races or the maintenance of good order inside the track. Additionally, from the perspective of ensuring horses' safety, training centers and other facilities affiliated with racing also strictly limit admittance to only those who have obtained prior permission from racing authorities.

4. Limitations on offering/purchasing bets

Only authorized racing authorities are permitted to offer bets under Japanese law, so when anyone other than a racing authority offers bets, not only the seller, but also any person who has purchased wagers from the illegal sellers will be severely punished. Moreover, anyone who offers bets via the Internet from an overseas location, as well as anyone who purchases bets from such a concern, is similarly subject to severe punishment.

5. Stewards' offices

Stewards' offices have been set up at both training centers and serve as bases for stable personnel and racehorses, and there are several stewards on duty there around the clock. The stewards are in constant communication with stable personnel and patrol the training centers' premises as needed in an effort to ensure the safety of horses and personnel.

We are well aware that what is of the utmost importance in the development and maintaining the support of many horse racing fans is the need to sustain a track environment that is sound and impartial, i.e. one that ensures integrity.



Racing official in monitor towers



Steward surveillance of the race

International Relations

Japan's horse racing industry has for many years imported superior thoroughbreds from overseas for racing and breeding purposes as part of its efforts to improve horses bred in Japan and to enhance their racing stamina.

JRA established the Japan Cup, an international invitational race, in 1981 in an attempt to verify the results of efforts to improve horses bred in Japan and to inject new vitality into Japanese horse racing. This race, pitting champion horses from four continents against each other, has gained acceptance as an event to determine the world's turf champion and has subsequently served as a model of how to establish international invitational races in various countries. Japan's horse racing industry has rapidly absorbed the expertise of advanced horse racing nations through the Japan Cup and has managed to join their ranks. The race is highly rated around the world and the International Cataloguing Standard Committee conferred a Part 1 race rating on the Japan Cup in 1992.

JRA graded races that have systematically been opening up to foreign-trained horses since 1993 have steadily obtained Part 1 ratings. The GI 1,200-meter Takamatsunomiya Kinen and the GI 1,200-meter Sprinters Stakes became legs of the Global Sprint Challenge series. The International



2013 World Super Jockeys Series



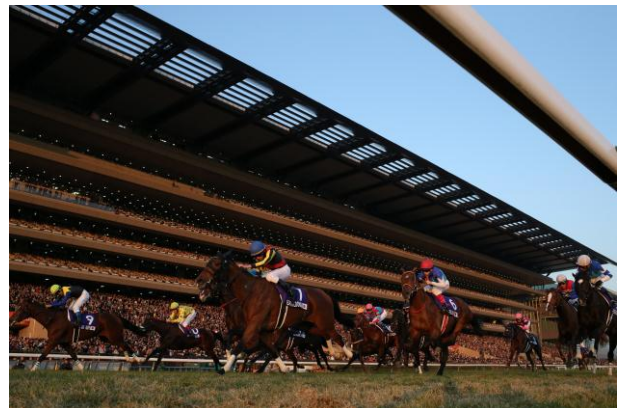
2014 Yasuda Kinen (winner: JUSTA WAY)

Establishment of International Race Series

2005	Establishment of Global Sprint Challenge (GSC) with Racing Victoria, Ascot Racecourse and JRA
	Establishment of Asian Mile Challenge (AMC) with Hong Kong Jockey Club and JRA
2006	Addition of Hong Kong Jockey Club in GSC
	Addition of Melbourne Racing Club (MRC) and Dubai Racing Club (DRC) in AMC
2008	Increase number of GSC races to 8 races

Cataloguing Standard Committee elevated Japan to a Part 1 nation status in 2007 as a result of Japan opening more than half of its graded races to foreign-trained horses. All JRA flat graded races have been opened to foreign-trained horses since 2010. (Please refer to Page 44 “Main Achievements of Japan Trained Horses Abroad (GI Races)”)

The introduction of the world's leading jockeys has also raised the level of JRA racing. The World Super Jockeys Series was inaugurated in 1987 in an attempt to improve the riding skills of Japanese jockeys and to promote international friendship. This series of four races, in which jockeys from four continents, compete for an overall championship, has become a fixture on the global racing calendar. Also, each year, JRA holds trophy exchange races with various racing authorities from foreign countries to deepen international relations and goodwill.



2013 Japan Cup (winner: GENTILDONNA)



2014 Takarazuka Kinen (winner: GOLDSHIP)

2014 JRA Graded I Races (Flat races)

Date	Race	Course	Distance (m)	Age/Sex
Feb. 23	February Stakes (GI)	Tokyo	1,600 / Dirt	4yo & up
Mar. 30	Takamatsunomiya Kinen (GI) (2nd Leg of the Global Sprint Challenge)	Chukyo	1,200 / Turf	4yo & up
Apr. 13	Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas) (GI) (1st leg of fillies' triple crown)	Hanshin	1,600 / Turf	3yo Fillies
Apr. 20	Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas) (GI) (1st leg of triple crown)	Nakayama	2,000 / Turf	3yo No Geldings
May 4	Tenno Sho (Spring)(GI)	Kyoto	3,200 / Turf	4yo & up
May 11	NHK Mile Cup (GI)	Tokyo	1,600 / Turf	3yo No Geldings
May 18	Victoria Mile (GI)	Tokyo	1,600 / Turf	4yo & up Fillies & Mares
May 25	Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks) (GI) (2nd leg of fillies' triple crown)	Tokyo	2,400 / Turf	3yo Fillies
Jun. 1	Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) (GI) (2nd leg of triple crown)	Tokyo	2,400 / Turf	3yo No Geldings
Jun. 8	Yasuda Kinen (GI)	Tokyo	1,600 / Turf	3yo & up
Jun. 29	Takarazuka Kinen (GI)	Hanshin	2,200 / Turf	3yo & up
Oct. 5	Sprinters Stakes (GI) (8th Leg of the Global Sprint Challenge)	Niigata	1,200 / Turf	3yo & up
Oct. 19	Shuka Sho (GI) (Final leg of fillies' triple crown)	Kyoto	2,000 / Turf	3yo Fillies
Oct. 26	Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger) (GI) (Final leg of triple crown)	Kyoto	3,000 / Turf	3yo No Geldings
Nov. 2	Tenno Sho (Autumn) (GI)	Tokyo	2,000 / Turf	3yo & up
Nov. 16	Japan Autumn International Queen Elizabeth II Cup (GI)	Kyoto	2,200 / Turf	3yo & up Fillies & Mares
Nov. 23	Japan Autumn International Mile Championship (GI)	Kyoto	1,600 / Turf	3yo & up
Nov. 30	Japan Autumn International Japan Cup (GI) (International Invitational Race)	Tokyo	2,400 / Turf	3yo & up
Dec. 7	Japan Autumn International Champions Cup (G1)	Chukyo	1,800 / Dirt	3yo & up
Dec. 14	Hanshin Juvenile Fillies (GI)	Hanshin	1,600 / Turf	2yo Fillies
Dec. 21	Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes (GI)	Hanshin	1,600 / Turf	2yo No Geldings
Dec. 28	Arima Kinen (The Grand Prix) (GI)	Nakayama	2,500 / Turf	3yo & up

2014 JRA International Jump Races

Date	Race	Course	Distance (m)	Age/Sex
Mar. 30	Pegasus Jump Stakes	Nakayama	3,350 / Turf	4yo & up
Apr. 19	Nakayama Grand Jump (J-GI)	Nakayama	4,250 / Turf	4yo & up
Dec. 20	Nakayama Daishogai (J-GI)	Nakayama	4,100 / Turf	3yo & up