



RACING

BY LOCAL

**RACING
BY LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS**

Racing by Local Governments In Japan 2026

GOVERNMENTS



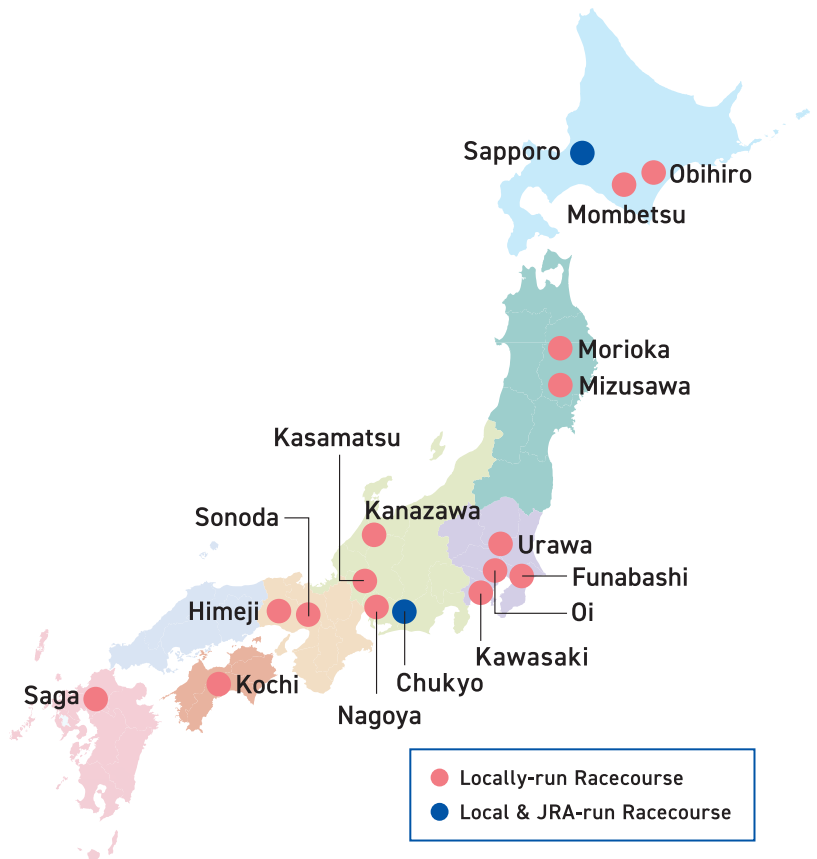
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What is Racing by Local Governments?

Horse racing in Japan is conducted in accordance with the Horse Racing Act, enacted in July 1948. It is broadly divided into two categories depending on the organizer. The first is racing organized by local governments at the prefectural or municipal level, or partial corporatives formed by municipalities. The second is racing conducted by the Japan Racing Association (JRA).

Racing Organizer	Racecourse Name
Obihiro City	Obihiro Racecourse
Hokkaido	Mombetsu Racecourse
	Sapporo Racecourse
Iwate Racing Association	Morioka Racecourse
	Mizusawa Racecourse
Saitama Prefecture Urawa Racing Association	Urawa Racecourse
Chiba Prefecture Horse Racing Cooperative Association	Funabashi Racecourse
Tokyo Metropolitan Racing Association	Oi Racecourse
Kanagawa Prefecture Kawasaki Racing Association	Kawasaki Racecourse
Ishikawa Prefecture	Kanazawa Racecourse
Kanazawa City	
Gifu Prefectural Racing Association	Kasamatsu Racecourse
Aichi Horse Racing Association	Nagoya Racecourse
	Chukyo Racecourse
Hyogo Prefectural Racing Association	Sonoda Racecourse
	Himeji Racecourse
Kochi Racing Association	Kochi Racecourse
Saga Racing Association	Saga Racecourse



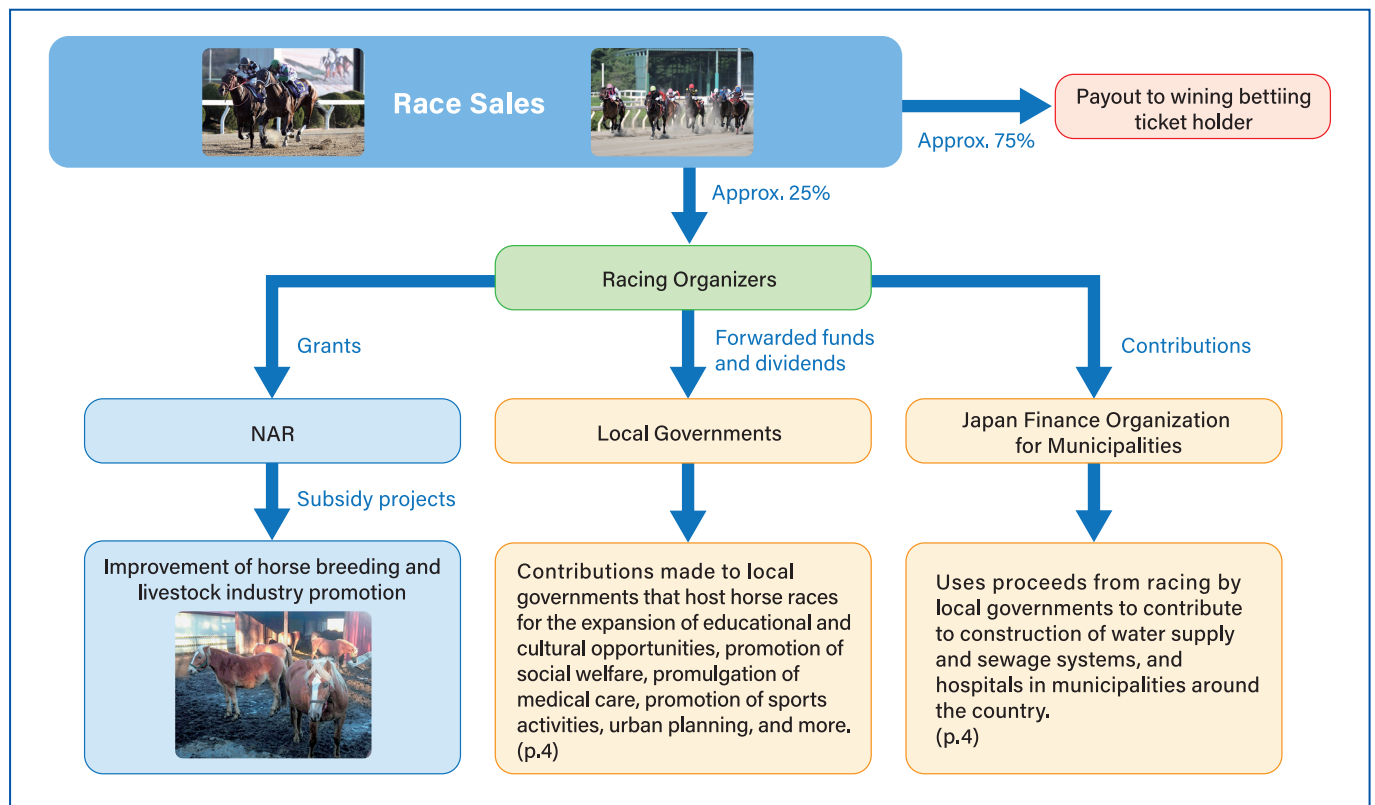
As of February 2025, there are 14 organizers of horse racing by local governments in Japan (2 prefectures, 2 cities, and 10 partial corporatives). They operate 15 racecourses across 12 prefectures excluding Sapporo Racecourse and Chukyo Racecourse.

Races are held almost every day of the year including weekdays, weekends, and holidays. In addition to daytime races, the organizers also offer night race and Ban-ei horse racing (Draft Horse Racing), the world's only form of draft horse racing in which horses compete by pulling sleds.

*Sapporo racecourse has not held racing by local governments since 2009, and Chukyo Racecourse has not held a local government horse race since 2002.

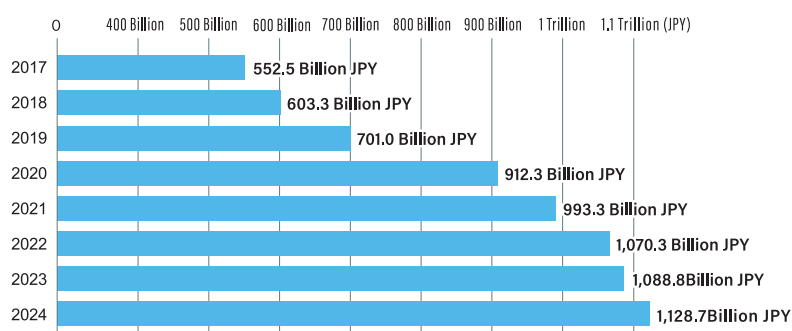
The Purpose and Role of Racing by Local Governments

The purposes of racing by local governments are to contribute to the improvement of horse breeding and the development of the livestock industry, as well as to support local government finances. Grants to the improvement of horse breeding and livestock industry promotion is made by submitting a portion of proceeds to the National Association of Racing (NAR). The improvement of local government finances is achieved through the distribution of profits to local governments that host horse races and through the contributions to the Japan Finance Organization for Municipalities.

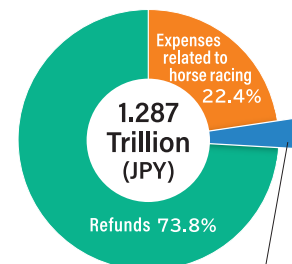


Racing by local governments is conducted with the objective of contributing to the improvement of horse breeding and the livestock industry through sales, as well as contributing to local finances. Of the total sales from betting tickets purchased by the viewing public, the organizer refunds a set percentage (around 70–80%) to all winning betters for each betting formula. Following this, the remaining amount (approx. 25%) is first used to cover expenses related to horse racing, including prize money, before being allocated to grants to NAR (National Association of Racing) and payments to the Japan Finance Organization for Municipalities. The remaining amount is then treated as the organizer's earnings.

Sales Breakdown by Year

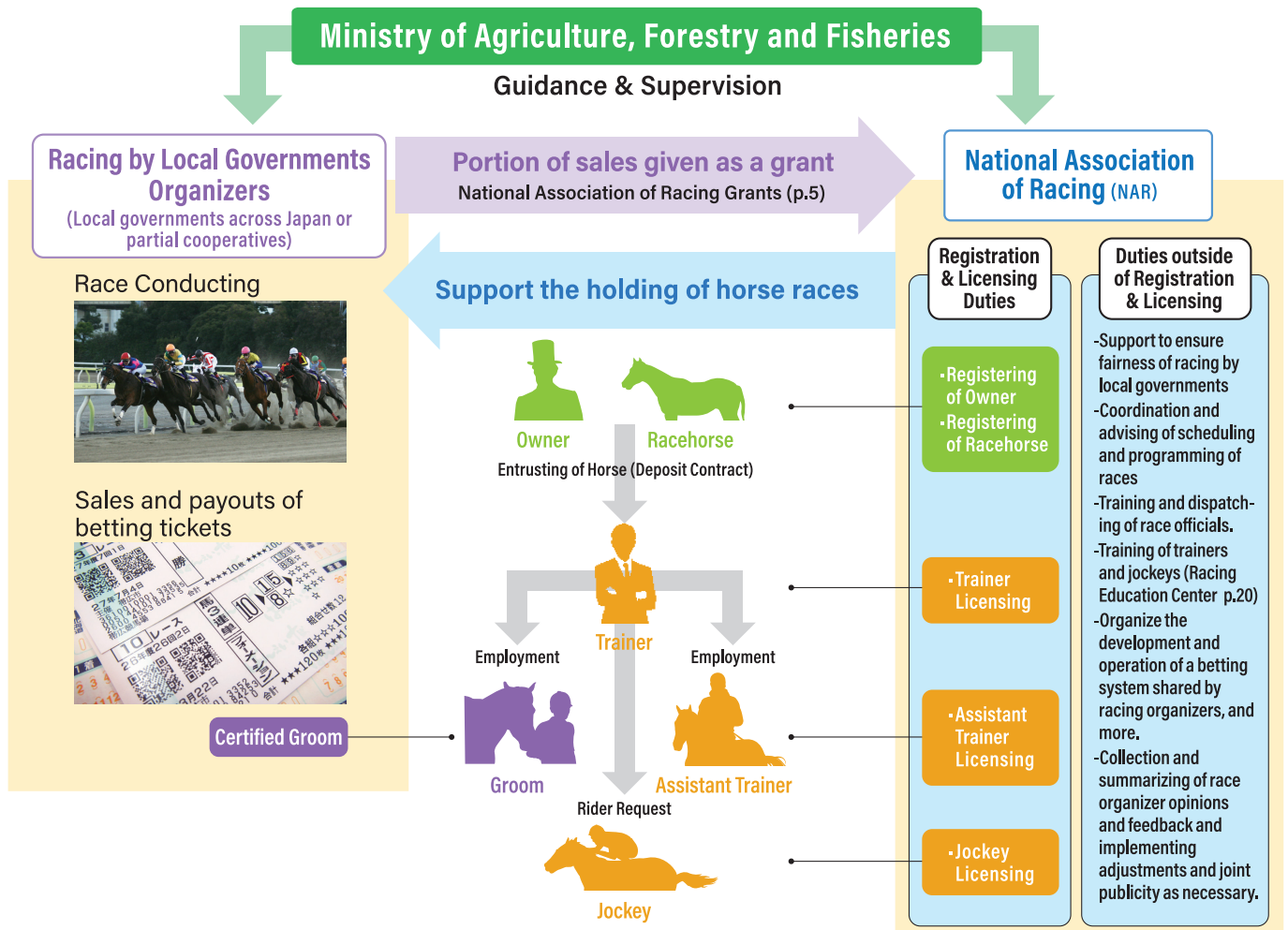


Breakdown of Sales Use (2023)



- Payment of government-controlled gambling sports: 5.38 billion JPY
- Grants paid to the NAR: 15.58 billion JPY
- Racing organizer's earnings: 22.06 billion JPY

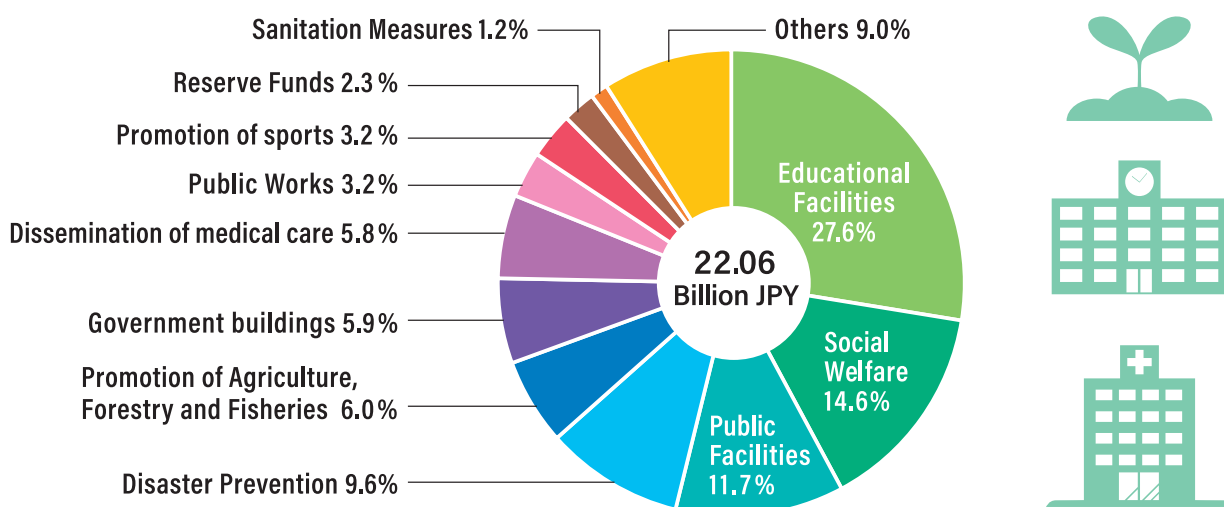
Racing by local governments is conducted by racing organizers under the guidance and supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. NAR facilitates and supports races by registering owners and their horses, licensing trainers and jockeys, and dispatching race officials. NAR is funded through a portion of the sales revenue from each racing organizer.



Owners	Racehorses must be deposited with and entrusted to a trainer before they are allowed to participate in races. Individuals who wish to become owners must apply to NAR to be registered as horse owners. There are three types of horse owners: individual owners, association owners, and corporate owners. Each type of ownership has a different set of rules and conditions for registration. There were 6105 owners registered for racing by local governments as of the end of January 2026.
Trainers	Trainers are entrusted with racehorses from the owner. They are responsible for their care and training to ensure they are in the best possible condition to compete in races. Due to variations in training methods and individual differences among racehorses, advanced expertise and skills are essential. To become a trainer, individuals must successfully pass a licensing exam administered by NAR and obtain a license. As of February 2026, there were 427 licensed trainers in NAR.
Assistant trainers	Assistant Trainers belong to a single stable and work under a trainer. Not only do they assist with racehorse training but also support the trainer in various aspects of stable management. To become an assistant trainer, individuals must successfully pass a licensing exam administered by NAR and obtain a license. As of February 2026, there were 40 licensed assistant trainers in NAR.
Jockeys	At the request of racehorse owners, jockeys are responsible not only for riding racehorses in races but also for exercising and training horses in their own stables as well as those belonging to other stables. Jockeys are generally affiliated with specific racecourses and primarily ride there; however, they may also participate in inter-track races held at other local racecourses. To become a jockey, individuals must successfully pass a licensing exam administered by NAR and obtain a license. As of February 2026, there were 275 licensed jockeys in NAR.
Grooms	Grooms are employed by trainers and are responsible for the daily care and health management of racehorses in a stable. To become a groom, individuals must be certified by a racing organizer to ensure fairness. As of February 2026, there were 2,440 certified grooms in NAR.
Breeding farms	Breeding farms are facilities where racehorses are bred. Breeding farms are distributed across Japan from Hokkaido to Kyushu. In particular, the Hidaka region in Hokkaido is the largest breeding ground for racehorses, as it accounts for approximately 80% of Japan's racehorse production.

Contributing to Local Government Finances through Racing Organizer Earnings

Racing organizer's earnings in 2024 were approximately 22.06 billion JPY. These earnings are used for the expansion of educational and cultural opportunities, promotion of social welfare, promulgation of medical care, promotion of sports activities, urban planning, maintenance of public facilities, and more, and are used to enrich the lives of those living locally.



Payment System of Government-controlled Gambling Sports

Through the system which requires a portion of profits made via government-controlled gambling sports to be paid to the Japan Finance Organization for Municipalities, a total of roughly 5.38 billion JPY remitted by racing organizers nationwide for the fiscal year (FY) 2024. Furthermore, a cumulative total amount of approximately 20.45 billion JPY was paid to the organization for FY 2020 to 2024. The funds are used to reduce the interest burden on public enterprise bonds and general account bonds issued by local governments for water supply and sewage treatment facilities, hospitals, transportation, and others.

In essence, this means that the profits generated from racing by local governments contribute broadly to society, as the funds are not only returned to municipalities that host the races, but also given to other municipalities through a wide variety of methods.

*The Japan Finance Organization for Municipalities: The primary public financial institution for providing long-term and low-cost financing to local governments, and it is a preferred lender to local governments for basic infrastructure-related funding.



Contributes not just to racecourse towns,
but to everyone's daily life.

Livestock Industry Promotion Subsidy Projects & Racehorse Breeding Subsidy Projects

The National Association of Racing Grants

In accordance with the Horse Racing Act, racing organizers pay a portion of their earnings to the NAR (approximately 15.58 billion JPY in FY 2024). These funds are then divided into two types of grants based on their purpose. The grant one is used for projects aimed at the improvement of horse breeding and the promotion of the livestock industry. The grant two is used for projects to ensure the fair and smooth implementation of racing by local governments, such as the registration of horse owners and horses, the licensing of trainers and jockeys, and the training of jockeys and other racing personnel.

NAR also uses the grant one as a base fund to subsidize livestock promotion projects. Projects which qualify for these subsidies include dairy farms, beef cattle farms, and small-to-medium livestock production farms, among others. This subsidy is also available for projects designed to improve the distribution of livestock and livestock products, as well as projects aimed at improving the breeding environment for livestock. In addition, since FY 2005, NAR has combined its grants with those received from JRA to subsidize racehorse production promotion projects, including the introduction of stallions, the introduction of broodmares, a pedigree registration programs and more, as part of a racehorse breeding initiative.

NAR uses the grant one as a base for livestock industry promotion and racehorse breeding initiatives stood at 6.47 billion JPY in FY 2024. With the addition of the FY 2024 grants, the total amount granted over all time stands at over 220 billion JPY.

*This does not include grants received from JRA.

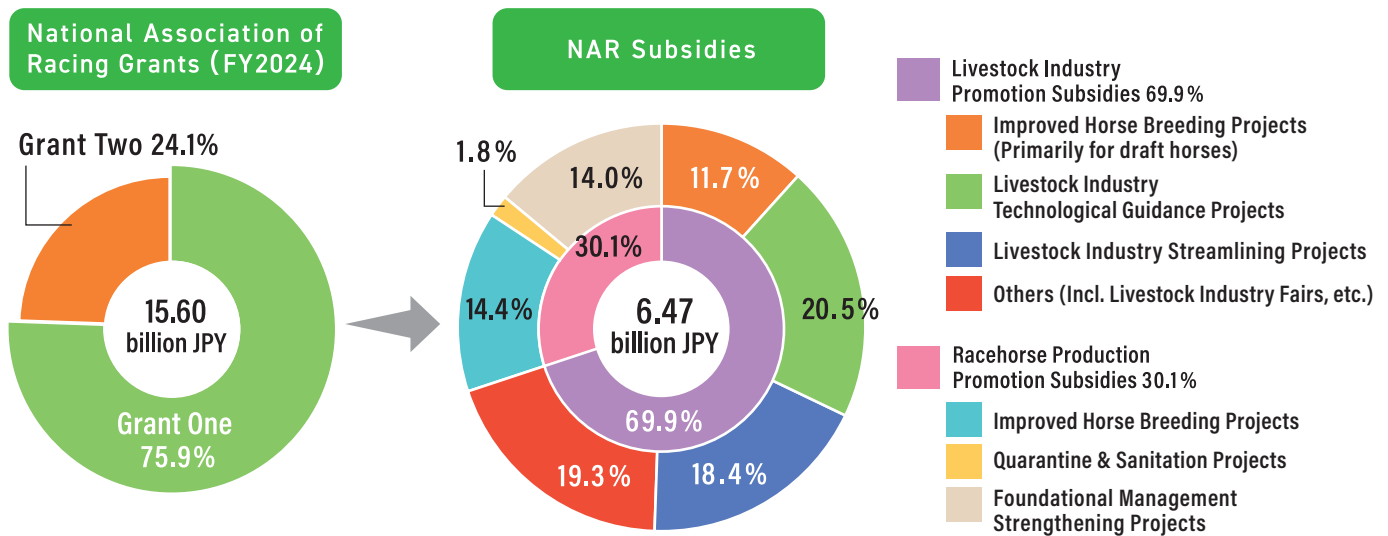


Photo taken at a Livestock Industry Fair

There are 14 organizers (2 prefectures, 2 cities, and 10 partial cooperatives) of racing by local governments with races held almost every day of the year somewhere in Japan. In addition to daytime races, some racecourses offer night races through cooperation with local residents.



Race day information can be found on each organizer's website or on the "Information Website of racing by local governments." See the following URL for more information.

English

Racing by Local Governments

<https://www.goracing.jp/english/>



French

Courses hippiques des collectivités locales

<https://www.goracing.jp/french/>



Chinese

地方赛马信息网站

<https://www.goracing.jp/chinese/>



Korean

지방 경마 정보 사이트

<https://www.goracing.jp/korea/>



Types of Betting Tickets for a racing by local government race

- Win** Bet to win if your horse finishes first.
- Place** Bet to win if your horse finishes in top three*
- Exacta** Bet to win by picking the first and second finishers by bracket-number in exact order.
- Quinella** Bet to win by picking the first and second finishers by horse-number in either order.
- Bracket Exacta**** Bet to win by picking the first and second finishers by bracket-number in exact order.
- Bracket Quinella** Bet to win by picking the first and second finishers by bracket-number for the brackets in which the horses are coupled.
- Quinella Place** Bet to win by picking two horses by horse-number and your horses finish in the top three.
- Trifecta** Bet to win by picking the first, second and third finishers by horse-number in exact order.
- Trio** Bet to win by picking the first, second and third finishers by horse-number in any order.

In racing by local governments, betting tickets above are available for purchase:

In addition to the above formats, multiple-race*** betting tickets are available for online purchase.

Pick Five : Bet to win by selecting all winners of five designated races on the same day.

Pick Seven : Bet to win by selecting all winners of seven designated races on the same day.

Triple Exacta : Bet to win by picking the first and second finishers by horse-number in exact order for three applicable races on the same day.

*When there are seven or less horses in a race, this format is limited to first and second place.

**Bracket exacta is not available for purchase for some horse races.

***The types of betting tickets available for purchase may vary based on the racecourse. Please also note not all races will offer multiple-race betting tickets for sale.

Pursuant to Article 28 of the Horse Racing Act, individuals under the age of 20 are forbidden from purchasing betting tickets and/or receiving (being transferred) them from others.

Online Betting

If you have an internet connection, you can purchase betting tickets wherever you are without visiting a racecourse or an off-track betting [OTB]. Online bets may be purchased through the following four services.



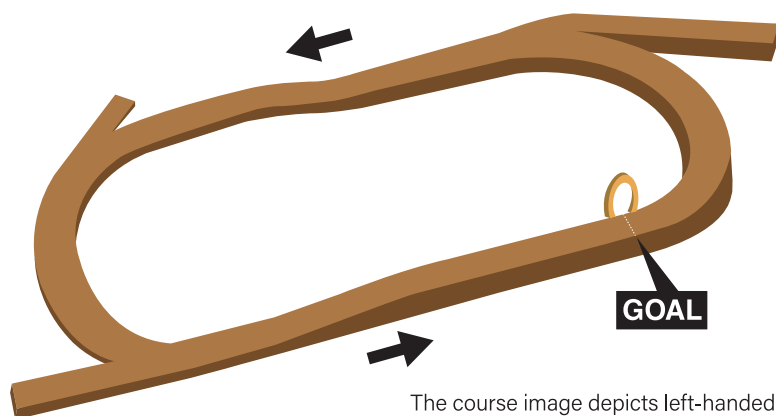
Initiatives for Tackling Addictions including Gambling

Pursuant to the Problem Gambling Basic Countermeasure Act enacted in October 2018, the government was required to formulate and promote a basic plan to combat gambling and other addictions (hereinafter referred to as "Basic Plan") with the aim being to comprehensively and systemically promote measures against addictions including gambling.

Following the establishment of the Basic Plan, organizers of racing by local governments and the NAR have undertaken various initiatives which include the establishment of a consultation and help service, creating social media accounts to share and disseminate awareness of these issues, and strengthening restrictions for racecourse admission and internet-based betting.

Flat Races

The most common type of racing is known as "Flat race" where thoroughbreds compete by speed on courses that are roughly 1000 to 1600 meters long per lap. Unlike JRA -run racecourses, locally-run racecourses have shorter lap and steeper curves. Utilizing those characteristics, unique races like short-distance races with two corners are held by race organizers.



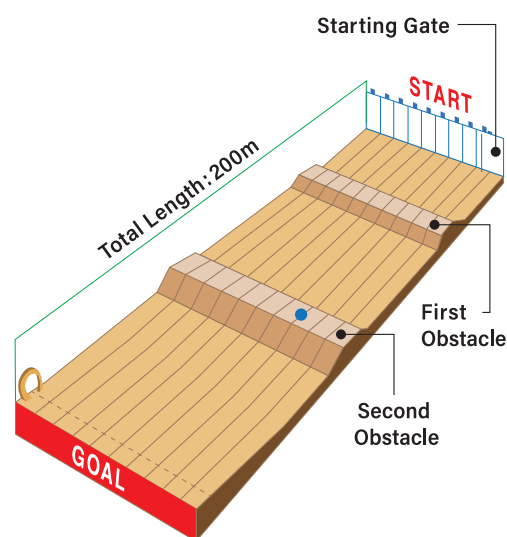
The course image depicts left-handed race.



Ban-ei Races

Ban-ei racing is a one-of-a-kind form of horse racing held only at the Obihiro Racecourse. Draft horses weighing around one ton (approximately double that of a Thoroughbred) pull iron sleds behind them as they compete in a show of strength. Ban-ei races feature two obstacles (hump-shaped masses) on a separate 200-meter straight course that horses race over.

Ban-ei horse racing shares a deep connection to the pioneering days of Hokkaido and originated from festival events where the strength of agricultural horses used in the development of Hokkaido was tested. While the order of winners in flat races is determined by the tips of their noses as they pass the finish line, in Ban-ei races the finishing order is determined by the moment when the rear end of the sled crosses the finish line. The sight of these 1 ton horses climbing the second obstacle (1.6 meters high) is breathtaking.



There are 15 racecourses across 12 prefectures (excluding the Sapporo and Chukyo racecourses) for races, and an exciting, intense race, either day or night, is held almost every day of the year including weekdays, weekends, and holidays at one of these racecourses.

Obihiro Racecourse

Organizer: Obihiro City
Address: 9-1 Minami, Nishi-13-jo, Obihiro-shi,
Hokkaido 080-0023 Japan



Ban-ei racing is a form of racing where horses weighing more than 1-tonne compete by strength and speed while pulling heavy iron sleds behind them. It began during the Meiji Era (1868-1912) as a form to test the strength of agricultural horses during a festival known as the "Banba Festival." Since 2007, *Ban-ei* races have been held exclusively by Obihiro City and with horses descended from the original ones which lived through the pioneering period of Hokkaido. They continue to inspire people as Hokkaido Heritage.

Mombetsu Racecourse

Organizer: Hokkaido
Address: 76-1 Tomikawa-Komaoka, Hidaka-cho,
Saru-gun, Hokkaido 055-0008 Japan



Pass through the entrance gates to quickly arrive at the Tonekko Plaza. Just beyond it are the paddocks, and three sets of guest seating including the Tonekko Lounge, making for a very compact yet succinct racecourse. The grounds are fully equipped with cuisine options from soba noodles, curry, and ramen, all the way to Genghis Khan-style barbecue, letting guests dine as they enjoy the races.

Urawa Racecourse

Organizer: Saitama Prefecture Urawa Racing
Association
Address: 1-8-42 Oyaba, Minami-ku, Saitama-shi,
Saitama 336-0016 Japan



The Urawa Racecourse is in Saitama city, an important prefectural transportation hub, offering excellent access from within the prefecture, neighboring prefectures, and Central Tokyo. One of the features of this racecourse is close distance to horses, which enables visitors to observe horses so closely in the paddock, and to watch races up close for an exciting experience.

Funabashi Racecourse

Organizer: Chiba Prefecture Horse Racing
Cooperative Association
Address: 1-2-1 Wakamatsu, Funabashi-shi,
Chiba 273-0013 Japan.



The Funabashi Racecourse used to be in Kashiwa City but was relocated and opened following WWII to Funabashi. In its early days, the racecourse also had an auto racing track. The course has produced many historically famous horses including Abukuma Poro, Adjudi Mitsuo, Furioso and more, and it has produced many a famous trainer and jockey. There's a large shopping mall and large furniture store nearby, allowing guests to enjoy a full day at the Funabashi Racecourse and its surroundings.

Kanazawa Racecourse

Organizer: Ishikawa Prefecture, Kanazawa City
Address: 1 Nishi, Hattai-machi, Kanazawa-shi,
Ishikawa 920-3105 Japan



Located on the Sea of Japan's coastline, the location couldn't be more perfect with its offerings of views of the Hakusan mountain range on the course side and views of Kahokugata Lagoon just beyond the paddocks. The racecourse is also surrounded by rice paddies, delighting with verdant views in summer and amber views in autumn. In addition, there are many wonderful places including a sushi restaurant offering fresh catches from the Sea of Japan.

Kasamatsu Racecourse

Organizer: Gifu Prefectural Racing Association
Address: 12 Wakaba-cho, Kasamatsu-cho,
Hashima-gun, Gifu 501-6036 Japan



The Kasamatsu Racecourse is located on the banks of the Kiso River, and looking beyond the racecourse, guests can enjoy views of Meitetsu Railway trains crossing the red railway bridge in the distance. The river embankments erupt in a sea of pink in the spring when the cherry blossoms are in full bloom, causing the 1400m starting point to turn a bright pink color. The grounds also feature a bronze statue of Oguri Cap, a famous horse which debuted at the Kasamatsu Racecourse before going on to compete in races held by JRA.

Himeji Racecourse

Organizer: Hyogo Prefectural Racing
Association
Address: 2-7-80 Hiromine, Himeji-shi, Hyogo
670-0882 Japan



Located approximately 2 km north of the world heritage site, Himeji Castle, the Himeji Racecourse directly faces Mt. Hiromine and Mt. Masui. The stadium reopened in April 2019 with new seating, an astroturf soccer field which serves as a flood control pond, and ping-pong tables inside the stands. On weekdays, the racecourse primarily serves as a place for off-track sales for races by local governments, while Saturdays and Sundays are for JRA sales. In January 2020, the Himeji main track resumed holding races for the first time in seven and a half years.

Kochi Racecourse

Organizer: Kochi Racing Association
Address: 2000 Nagahama-Miyata, Kochi-shi,
Kochi 781-0271 Japan



Located near the Katsurahama Beaches, this is the only horse racecourse in all of Chugoku and Shikoku to offer views of the ocean. In Spring, Summer, and Autumn, races are held on Saturdays and Sundays. In Winter, they are held on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Races held are the night race known as the Yosakoi Night Race and are held throughout the year. The grounds offer a women-only lounge and the Bababa Park perfect for guests with children. The racecourse also has free Wi-Fi, allowing for the purchase of electronic bets for an even more enjoyable experience. There are a bright variety of races including the All Japan King of Rookies Championship race in January, the Kurofune Sho in March, and the Fukunaga Yoichi Kinen which marks the history of the legendary jockey of the same name.

Morioka Racecourse

Organizer: Iwate Racing Association
Address: 10 Kamiyagita, Aza, Shinjo,
Morioka-shi, Iwate 020-0803 Japan



Two generations ago, the Morioka Racecourse was in the Ueda District of Morioka City. Back then, it was sometimes referred to as the "Golden Racecourse" due to the golden freshwater spring that gushed out near the racecourse. Following its relocation from the Takamatsu racecourse, it was renamed "ORO Park" with "oro" meaning "gold" in Spanish.

Mizusawa Racecourse

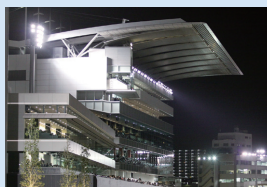
Organizer: Iwate Racing Association
Address: 1-2 Akudo, Anetai-cho, Mizusawa,
Oshu-shi, Iwate 023-0831 Japan



The Mizusawa Racecourse maintains its retro-like atmosphere with its grandstand and paddocks. The racecourse uses a handwritten board to confirm running horses to this very day. In Spring, 150 Somei Yoshino cherry blossom trees adjacent to the course burst into bloom and are open to the public.

Oi Racecourse

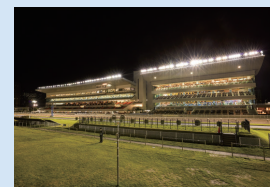
Organizer: Tokyo Metropolitan Racing
Association
Address: 2-1-2 Katsushima, Shinagawa-ku,
Tokyo 140-0012 Japan



From spring to the end of the year, the Oi Racecourse hosts Japan's oldest night race, the "Twinkle Race." Once the sun sets, illuminations throughout the grounds light up, creating a dazzling experience one would not expect to see at a horse racecourse. The racecourse is also said to be home to the pinnacle of dirt horse racing with the Triple Crown of Dirt Racing including Haneda Hai, Tokyo Derby, Japan Dirt Classic, and the Teio Sho, Tokyo Daishoten, an intermediate distance race for 3YO+ horses.

Kawasaki Racecourse

Organizer: Kanagawa Prefecture Kawasaki
Racing Association
Address: 1-5-1 Fujimi, Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki-shi,
Kanagawa 210-0011 Japan



The Kawasaki Racecourse is incredibly accessible with a 15-minute walk from JR Kawasaki Station or a 3-minute walk from Minatocho Station on the Keikyu-Daishi Line. Enjoy exciting races from the spectator area located close to the track. The grounds have a grassy area with playground equipment allowing guests with children to enjoy the races with peace of mind.

Nagoya Racecourse

Organizer: Aichi Racing Association
Address: 1 Komano-cho, Yatomi-shi, Aichi
498-0065 Japan



The Nagoya Racecourse grandstand boasts 574 spacious seats contained within a three-story building with a building area of 2,700 m² and a total floor area of 5,400 m². The stands offer a variety of general spectator seats, and the addition of private room seats have made the experience even more comfortable. Views from the terrace offer views overlooking the paddocks and an indoor view of the Horse View Corridor. The stands offer plazas giving the racecourse an accessible, park-like setting.

Sonoda Racecourse

Organizer: Hyogo Prefectural Racing
Association
Address: 2-1-1 Tanou, Amagasaki-shi, Hyogo
661-0951 Japan



The Sonoda Racecourse runs the Sonokin Night Race every Friday from May until October (Summer Day races are held as well). The racecourse has a variety of seating choices from special seats (starting at 1,500 yen), reserved, one-coin (500 yen) seats, free seats in a live feed hall, as well as a relaxing, shoe-free betting area.

Saga Racecourse

Organizer: Saga Racing Association
Address: 3256-228 Nishitani, Aza, Ejima-machi,
Tosu-shi, Saga 841-0073 Japan



The Saga Racecourse is located near the Tosu interchange, a major crosspoint in Kyushu transportation, has a large, free parking lot, and is adored by local fans as a leisure facility with lush greenery. The racecourse is home to various races associated with Kyushu and include the Kirishima Sho and Tanpopo Sho, two exchange races held between the JRA and NAR focusing on Kyushu-bred horses, and the Satogaeri Jockey's Cup, an invitational NAR event for jockeys from Kyushu.

Dirt Principal Races are prestigious races designed to foster exchanges between racing by local governments and JRA, and to provide opportunities for top-tier horses with a talent for dirt racing, regardless of their affiliations. These races have significantly contributed to the development of dirt racing in Japan.

In recent years, the quality and importance of these races have been increasing, with Forever Young and Ushuba Tesoro winning major overseas races after stepping up from dirt principal races in racing by local governments. Since Japan became a Part I country in 2007, the system for accommodating foreign horses has not been fully established. Consequently, the majority of dirt principal races in racing by local governments have not been conducted as international races.

Currently, 46 dirt principal races are held annually at various racetracks in racing by local governments. These include prestigious events such as the Tokyo Daishoten, regarded as the pinnacle of these races, and JBC, a celebrated festival of racing by local governments. JBC features four dirt principal races (JBC Classic, JBC Sprint, JBC Ladies Classic, and JBC Nisai Yushun) held on a single day at rotating racecourses. JBC is hosted at a different racecourse each year, featuring highly competitive races with top-tier horses.

NAR aims to further advance dirt horse racing and enhance Japanese horse racing overall by creating venues where high-caliber horses can showcase their talents, organizing compelling races, and promoting initiatives toward the internationalization of racing by local governments.

Graded Race by Local Governments in 2025

No.	Race name	Racecourse	Date	Race cond.	Surface & Distance(m)	Assigning Weights	1st purse (JPY)	Total purse (JPY)	Winner	Turnover (JPY)
1	Tokyo Daishoten	Oi	Dec. 29	3up	D2000	Weight for Age	100,000,000	170,000,000	Diktaean	9,950,171,600
total							100,000,000	170,000,000		9,950,171,600

Listed Races by Local Governments in 2025

No.	Race name	Racecourse	Date	Race cond.	Surface & Distance(m)	Assigning Weights	1st purse (JPY)	Total purse (JPY)	Winner	Turnover (JPY)
1	Bluebird Cup	Funabashi	Jan. 22	3yo	D1800	Special Weight	24,000,000	40,800,000	Melchior	882,044,100
2	Saga Kinen	Saga	Feb. 6	4up	D2000	Special Weight	30,000,000	51,000,000	Meisho Funjin	1,229,336,500
3	Queen Sho	Funabashi	Feb. 11	4up f/m	D1800	Handicap	30,000,000	51,000,000	Awesome Result	745,467,300
4	Kumotori Sho	Oi	Feb. 19	3yo	D1800	Special Weight	24,000,000	40,800,000	Janadriyah	763,055,700
5	Kakitsubata Kinen	Nagoya	Feb. 24	4up	D1500	Special Weight	30,000,000	54,000,000	Lord Fons	1,035,274,700
6	Diolite Kinen	Funabashi	Mar. 12	4up	D2400	Special Weight	45,000,000	76,500,000	Seraphic Call	1,111,402,400
7	Kurofune Sho	Kochi	Mar. 25	4up	D1400	Special Weight	30,000,000	54,000,000	Shamal	785,600,800
8	Keihin Hai	Oi	Mar. 26	3yo	D1700	Weight for Age	30,000,000	51,000,000	Natural Rise	1,190,759,400
9	Hyogo Jo-o Hai	Sonoda	Apr. 3	4up f/m	D1870	Special Weight	30,000,000	57,000,000	Tenka Jo	501,945,600
10	Kawasaki Kinen	Kawasaki	Apr. 9	4up	D2100	Weight for Age	100,000,000	170,000,000	Meisho Hario	2,016,614,600
11	Tokyo Sprint	Oi	Apr. 16	4up	D1200	Special Weight	30,000,000	51,000,000	A Tracks	1,446,521,400
12	Haneda Hai	Oi	Apr. 29	3yo c/f	D1800	Weight for Age	50,000,000	85,000,000	Natural Rise	2,155,039,600
13	Hyogo Championship	Sonoda	May. 1	3yo	D1400	Weight for Age	50,000,000	95,000,000	Matenro Command	696,061,600
14	Kashiwa Kinen	Funabashi	May. 5	4up	D1600	Weight for Age	80,000,000	136,000,000	Shamal	2,356,028,200
15	Nagoya Grand Prix	Nagoya	May. 6	4up	D2100	Special Weight	40,000,000	72,000,000	Sunrise Zipangu	1,115,594,100
16	Empress Hai	Kawasaki	May. 14	4up f/m	D2100	Weight for Age	40,000,000	68,000,000	Tenka Jo	1,159,547,300
17	Tokyo Derby	Oi	Jun. 11	3yo c/f	D2000	Weight for Age	100,000,000	170,000,000	Natural Rise	2,554,885,700
18	Kanto Oaks	Kawasaki	Jun. 18	3yo f	D2100	Weight for Age	35,000,000	59,500,000	Memoria Cafe	1,413,147,100
19	Sakitama Hai	Urawa	Jun. 25	3up	D1400	Weight for Age	80,000,000	136,000,000	Shamal	1,871,594,900
20	Teio Sho	Oi	Jul. 2	4up	D2000	Weight for Age	80,000,000	136,000,000	Mikki Fight	4,272,421,700
21	Sparkling Lady Cup	Kawasaki	Jul. 9	3up f/m	D1600	Special Weight	30,000,000	51,000,000	Fee Blanche	1,283,376,500
22	Mercury Cup	Morioka	Jul. 11	3up	D2000	Special Weight	30,000,000	52,500,000	Kazu Tanja	1,312,294,800
23	Cluster Cup	Morioka	Aug. 21	3up	D1200	Special Weight	30,000,000	52,500,000	Sunrise Amour	1,115,660,300
24	Hokkaido Sprint Cup	Mombetsu	Aug. 14	3yo	D1200	Special Weight	24,000,000	40,800,000	Yamanin Cerchi	579,243,100
25	Breeders' Gold Cup	Mombetsu	Aug. 28	3up f/m	D2000	Special Weight	31,000,000	52,700,000	Riot Grrrl	815,415,900
26	Kozukata Sho	Morioka	Sep. 2	3yo	D2000	Weight for Age	40,000,000	70,000,000	Narukami	752,287,900
27	Summer Champion	Saga	Sep. 4	3up	D1400	Handicap	30,000,000	51,000,000	Yamanin Cerchi	929,132,800
28	Tele Tama Hai Oval Sprint	Urawa	Sep. 23	3up	D1400	Special Weight	30,000,000	51,000,000	Sunrise Flame	1,193,915,700
29	Hakusan Daishoten	Kanazawa	Sep. 30	3up	D2100	Special Weight	30,000,000	51,000,000	Jasper Robusto	645,683,700
30	Nippon TV Hai	Funabashi	Oct. 1	3up	D1800	Special Weight	40,000,000	68,000,000	Forever Young	1,272,962,800
31	Marine Cup	Funabashi	Oct. 2	3yo f	D1800	Weight for Age	30,000,000	51,000,000	Proud Fleur	920,380,800
32	Ladies' Prelude	Oi	Oct. 7	3up f/m	D1800	Special Weight	40,000,000	68,000,000	Beyond the Valley	1,092,125,100
33	Japan Dirt Classic	Oi	Oct. 8	3yo c/f	D2000	Weight for Age	70,000,000	119,000,000	Narukami	2,713,101,800
34	Tokyo Hai	Oi	Oct. 9	3up	D1200	Special Weight	40,000,000	68,000,000	Yamanin Cerchi	1,522,745,800
35	Mei Championship Nambu Hai	Morioka	Oct. 13	3up	D1600	Weight for Age	80,000,000	140,000,000	Wilson Tesoro	2,349,008,500
36	Edelweiss Sho	Mombetsu	Oct. 30	2yo f	D1200	Weight for Age	20,000,000	34,000,000	Ryuno Flight	562,744,800
37	JBC Ladies' Classic	Funabashi	Nov. 3	3up f/m	D1800	Weight for Age	60,000,000	102,000,000	Ammothylla	1,447,057,800
38	JBC Sprint	Funabashi	Nov. 3	3up	D1000	Weight for Age	80,000,000	136,000,000	Fern Hill	1,943,213,400
39	JBC Classic	Funabashi	Nov. 3	3up	D1800	Weight for Age	100,000,000	170,000,000	Mikki Fight	3,049,658,300
40	JBC Nisai Yushun	Mombetsu	Nov. 3	2yo	D1800	Weight for Age	35,000,000	59,500,000	Tamamo Freesia	997,539,900
41	Urawa Kinen	Urawa	Nov. 26	3up	D2000	Special Weight	40,000,000	68,000,000	Ho O Roulette	977,373,200
42	Hyogo Junior Grand Prix	Sonoda	Nov. 27	2yo	D1400	Weight for Age	30,000,000	57,000,000	Tokai Ma Cherie	468,468,900
43	Zen-Nippon Nisai Yushun	Kawasaki	Dec. 17	2yo	D1600	Weight for Age	42,000,000	71,400,000	Pyromancer	1,511,805,600
44	Nagoya Daishoten	Nagoya	Dec. 24	3up	D2000	Handicap	30,000,000	54,000,000	Appealing Look	951,372,600
45	Hyogo Gold Trophy	Sonoda	Dec. 25	3up	D1400	Handicap	30,000,000	57,000,000	Happy Man	715,543,000
total							2,000,000,000	3,450,000,000		60,946,101,700



Grandame-Japan

Fillies and Mares - only principal races held throughout Japan are organized based on generation, and points are awarded based on race results. Bonus prize money is also awarded to the top-point earning horses in the two-year-old, three-year-old, the 3yo+-Spring, and 3yo+-Autumn categories. The goals are two-fold. The first is to expand the stage for exceptionally performing mares from racing by local governments, and the second is to facilitate exchange while improving the appeal of mare races.



Mirai Yushun

Established in 2008, the aim was to feature two-year-old races held across various parts of Japan as successful two-year-olds would move up to dirt principal races, before aiming to compete in three-year-old Classic races. Starting in 2023, the newly-established "Next Star" (designated principal-rank races), was added to the Mirai Yushun Series to help further promote two-year-old races as well as expand and round out the current racing system.



3YO Sprint Series

Starting in 2024, the 3YO Sprint Series was established as a short-distance dirt race where three-year olds would compete for the title of champion. The series took promising horses that competed in the four races as part of the three-year-old Spring Next Star races (designated principal-rank races) and created a new pinnacle for three-year-old, short-distance races and has them gather to compete in a Hyogo Championship.



Jockeys' Championship

Leading jockeys from all over Japan gather to compete in this hot battle to become the number one jockey in racing by local governments. The winner of this race, will go on to be selected as the representative jockey for the World All-Star Jockeys (An international jockey invitational race) held by JRA.



Young Jockeys Series

In this series, young jockeys from both JRA and racing by local governments compete for the title of number one young jockey. Jockeys battle it out in trial rounds at racecourses across Japan, and only the top 16 jockeys (8 from JRA and 8 from NAR) will advance to the finals where they will each compete for the crown in hot matches at JRA and racecourses of racing by local governments.



NAR Grand Prix

NAR holds the "NAR Grand Prix" to honor horses and individuals who have achieved outstanding results in racing by local governments, as well as those who have made significant contributions to the development of racing by local governments.

Previous NAR Grand Prix Horses of the Year

Year	Horse Name	Affiliation
1990	Daiko Galdan	Oi
1991	Daiko Galdan	Oi
1992	Grade Shori	Oi
1993	White Silver	Oi
1994	Tochino Minefuji *Anglo-Arabian	Oi
1995	Raiden Leader	Kasamatsu
1996	Keiesu Yoshizen *Anglo-Arabian	Hyogo
1997	Abukuma Poro	Funabashi
1998	Abukuma Poro	Funabashi
1999	Meisei Opera	Iwate
2000	Belle-Ami Lord	Tochigi
2001	Toho Emperor	Iwate
2002	Toho Emperor	Iwate
2003	Name Value	Funabashi
2004	Cosmo Bulk	Hokkaido
2005	Adjudi Mitsuo	Funabashi
2006	Adjudi Mitsuo	Funabashi
2007	Furioso	Funabashi

Year	Horse Name	Affiliation
2008	Furioso	Funabashi
2009	Love Michan	Kasamatsu
2010	Furioso	Funabashi
2011	Furioso	Funabashi
2012	Love Michan	Kasamatsu
2013	Happy Sprint	Hokkaido
2014	Summit Stone	Funabashi
2015	Happy Sprint	Oi
2016	Sorte	Oi
2017	Higashi Will Win	Funabashi
2018	Kitatan Mikazuki	Funabashi
2019	Bulldog Boss	Urawa
2020	Sabuno Junior	Oi
2021	Mutually	Funabashi
2022	Igniter	Hyogo
2023	Igniter	Hyogo
2024	Light Warrior	Kawasaki
2025	Diktaean	Oi

Many famous horses are being born throughout Japan, so please come and witness future winners.

Winning horses for 1990-1993 are thoroughbred horses that won the NAR grand prix.

Igniter



Sex & Date of Birth: Male, Born 2018

Sire: Espoir City **Dam:** Bianco

Broodmare Sire: Warning

Affiliation: Hyogo

Breeding Farm: Haruki Farm

Owner: Yoshiki Noda

Record: 25 Starts, 12 Wins (Racing by Local Governments: 22 Starts, 11 Wins, JRA: 3 Starts, 1 Wins) *As of December 31, 2023.

Major Victories: 2022: Kurofune Sho, Kakitsubata Kinen
2023: Sakitama Hai, JBC Sprint

Won the Kurofune Sho and Kakitsubata Kinen at four-years-old, and both the Sakitama Hai and JBC Sprint at five. NAR Grand Prix winning representative horse of the year for two consecutive years.

Throughout the long history of local government races (Racing by Local Governments), a substantial number of famous horses have appeared. In this section, we will introduce a few of the most famous horses. Future great horses fiercely compete each day to surpass the horses of years past.

Furioso



Sex & Date of Birth: Male, Born 2004
Sire: Brian's Time **Dam:** Fursa **Broodmare Sire:** Mr. Prospector
Affiliation: Funabashi
Breeding Farm: Hashimoto Farm
Owner: Darley Japan Farm Co. Ltd.
Record: 39 Starts, 11 Wins (Racing by Local Governments: 34 Starts, 11 Wins, JRA: 5 Starts, 0 Wins)
Major Victories: 2006: Zen-Nippon Nisai Yushun
2007: Japan Dirt Derby 2008, 2010: Teio Sho
2011: Kawasaki Kinen, Kashiwa Kinen

Achieved six victories of principal races throughout his racing career and was the NAR Grand Prix horse of the year for four years total. Following retirement, he became a breeding stallion, and his offspring made its debut in 2016.

Love Michan



Sex & Date of Birth: Female, Born 2007
Sire: South Vigorous **Dam:** Dashing Honey
Broodmare Sire: Assatis
Affiliation: Kasamatsu
Breeding Farm: Grand Stud
Owner: Sachiaki Kobayashi
Record: 34 Starts, 18 Wins (Racing by Local Governments: 31 Starts, 17 Wins, JRA: 3 Starts, 1 Win)
Major Victories: 2009: Zen-Nippon Nisai Yushun, Hyogo Junior Grand Prix
2012: Tokyo Hai

Seized victories in the Zen-Nippon Nisai Yushun and Hyogo Junior Grand Prix at age two and became the first two-year-old horse in history to become the NAR Grand Prix horse of the year.

Meisei Opera



Sex & Date of Birth: Male, Born 1994
Sire: Grand Opera **Dam:** Tiramisu
Broodmare Sire: Takelamagan
Affiliation: Iwate
Breeding Farm: Hiraku Takahashi
Owner: Meisei Shouji Y.K.
Record: 35 Starts, 23 Wins (Racing by Local Governments: 33 Starts, 22 Wins, JRA: 2 Starts, 1 Win)
Major Victories: 1998: Mile Championship Nambu Hai
1999: February Stakes, Teio Sho

As a horse registered with NAR, he was the first to win a JRA pinnacle race. Following retirement, he became a breeding stallion, traveled to South Korea, and sired Classic Horse.

If you're a fan of horse racing, you may have dreamed of becoming an owner yourself. Racehorse ownership offers a level of excitement and emotion found only in the world of horse racing.

How to Become a Registered Owner

1. Financial Requirements for Becoming a Registered Owner

In addition to satisfying the requirements below, the screening process will also assess whether the applicant is capable of continuously owning a racehorse and entrusting it to a trainer.

(1) For Individuals

In principle, an individual must have earned income of at least 5 million JPY in the most recent year (this refers to income after deductions, not total revenue).

(2) For Corporations

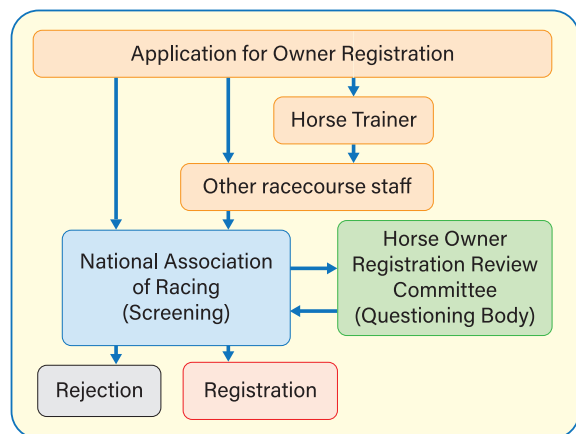
1. The total amount of paid-in capital or completed capital contributions must be at least 3 million JPY.
2. The financial statements for the two most recent fiscal years must not both show a deficit.
3. The most recent financial statements must not indicate negative net assets (excess liabilities).
4. The representative of the corporation must meet the same income requirement as an individual owner.

(3) For Associations

1. The association must have a time deposit of at least 3 million JPY registered under the association's name (including the name of the representative).
2. In principle, each member of the association must have earned income of at least 3 million JPY in the most recent year (this refers to income after deductions, not total revenue).

Note : Income considered temporary or extraordinary, such as gains from the sale of real estate or stocks, dividends from racehorse investment funds, or prize money from JRA, will not be included when calculating income. Please be careful.

2. Registering to Become an Owner



Once an application has been submitted, the screening process begins. After the screening is completed, NAR seeks the opinion of the Horse Owner Registration Review Committee—an advisory body—regarding the suitability of the applicant before making the final decision.

The Review Committee meets five times a year in March, May, July, October, and December. The standard time for processing an application takes approximately five months.

However, the review process may take longer if the application is missing or lacking documentation, if a large number of applications are received at the same time. Please note there is a registration fee of 10,000 JPY once registration is approved.

3. For Individuals Wishing to Register as Owners from Outside of Japan.

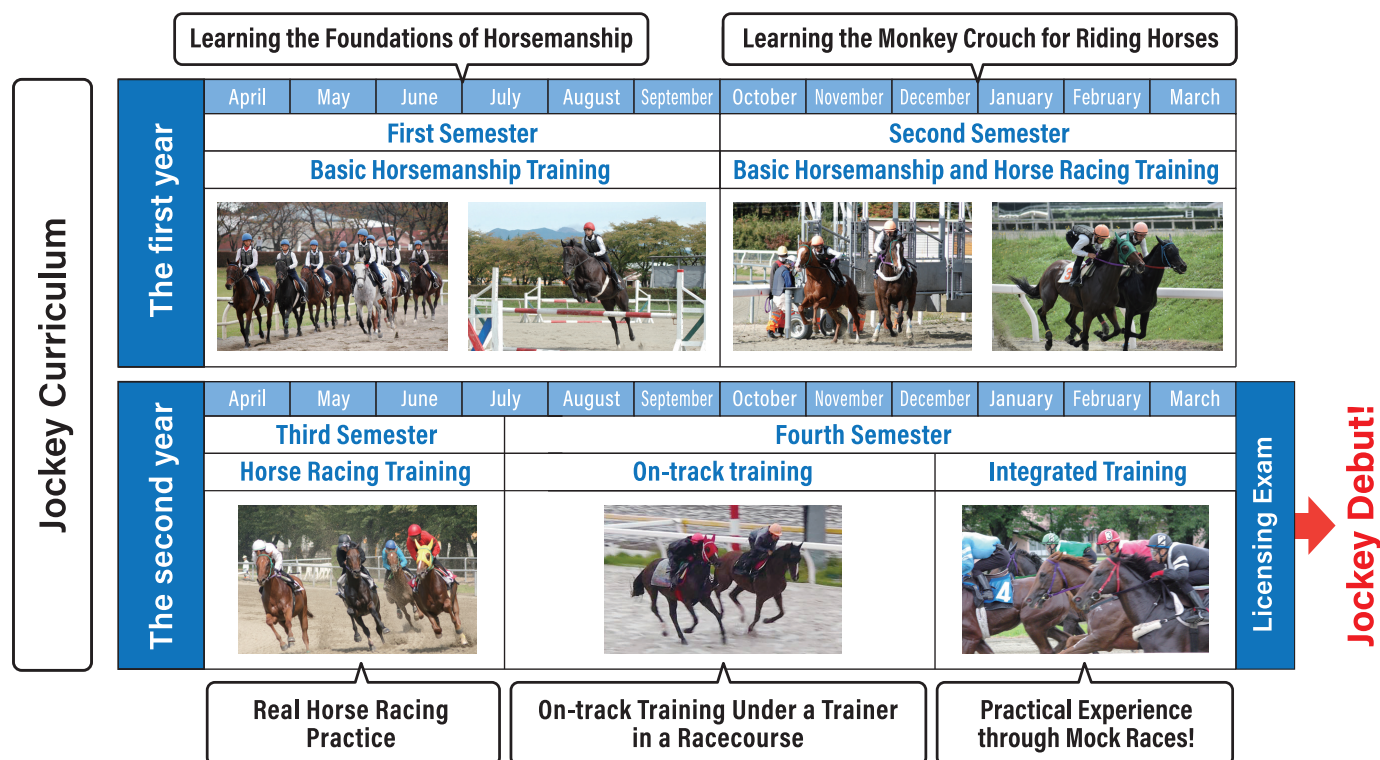
NAR accepts applications from horse owners who wish to race their horses at racecourses (15 in total) throughout Japan. NAR began accepting applications from individuals residing outside Japan in April 2013. To apply, an individual must be registered as an owner with an overseas horse racing authority and have both actively owned and raced horses for at least one year. In addition, a liaison officer (an individual who will handle administrative matters on behalf of the owner) must be appointed and must live in Japan. All procedures related to the application will be handled by this person.

Because the Review Committee requires time to examine each applicant, the process from application to registration generally takes approximately five months. As of April 2025, there are 12 NAR-registered owners residing outside Japan.

Those wishing to become a jockey must pass a licensing examination administered by NAR. The licensing examination includes a written examination as well as a practical test to assess the skills required for horse racing. NAR provides jockey training at the Racing Education Center.

The Jockey Curriculum at the Racing Education Center

Once admitted to the Racing Education Center, students undergo a two-year training program, during which they live in a dormitory and learn horsemanship step by step, starting with the basics. Anyone is allowed to join, regardless of whether they have riding experience or not. Students learn not only riding techniques but also general education necessary to function as members of society, as well as horse racing regulations and knowledge about horses. As things currently stand, almost all jockeys active in racing by local governments have completed this course. Furthermore, a new building that combined class-rooms, training rooms, and a gymnasium into one building opened in April of 2022.



Licensing for Jockeys Who Are Licensed Overseas

If a jockey who is licensed in another country meets certain criteria, they may undergo an examination, and if they pass, they may be permitted to participate in races organized by local governments. To be eligible for the examination, jockeys must have their win-rate data available, submit various forms of documentation issued by the overseas racing authority that granted their license, arrange for a trainer within Japan to act as their sponsor, and obtain a letter of recommendation, or the equivalent, from the race organizer from the race organizer for the location they wish to compete at.

Upon passing the examination, a jockey will be issued a valid license by the association for a specified period within three months of the date of passing. Beginning with the issuing of the first license in 1994 and continuing until 2025, 28 individuals have been licensed, for a cumulative total of 45 licenses issued. For trainers and jockeys who wish to race horses they manage in international races, a license for each job may be issued after passing a separate examination.

What is the National Association of Racing (NAR)?

NAR was established on August 1, 1962, as a Special Public Institution under the Horse Racing Act. Since January 1, 2008, following an amendment to the Horse Racing Act, it has become a Special Public Organization that conducts business and other activities that are in the common interest of racing organizers by local governments.

The purpose of NAR is “to promote the fair and smooth operation of racing by local governments and to contribute to the improvement and breeding of horses as well as the development of the livestock industry.” NAR also undertakes new responsibilities, such as issuing subsidies for approved revitalization plans and trainer administrative duties, in addition to its existing role of supporting the daily operation of racing by local governments and contributing to the promotion of the livestock industry.

① Owner and Horse Registration

NAR registers racehorses that compete in races by local governments and the owners who wish to enter their horses in such races.

② Licensing of Trainers and Jockeys

NAR conducts licensing examinations for trainers and jockeys wishing to participate in racing by local governments and issues licenses to those who have passed. NAR also cooperates with race organizers in the certification of stable staff (grooms).

③ Education and Training of Trainers and Jockeys

At the Racing Education Center, we provide education and training for trainers and jockeys who will eventually become an integral part of racing by local governments. For jockeys, the curriculum takes two years and careful guidance from instructors teaches them about horsemanship, horse racing regulations and knowledge of horses that they will need to know.

④ Education, Training, and Dispatching of Experts in horse racing

In addition to the above, training is conducted to raise experts in horse racing at the Racing Education Center. We dispatch our experts with highly specialized knowledge and techniques at the request of race organizers in the forms of stewards, judges, starters, and more, to help contribute to fair horse racing.

⑤ Support for Securing Fairness in Racing by Local Governments

Through conferences attended by racing organizers across Japan, NAR supports organizers by providing information and advice necessary to ensure the fairness of racing.

⑥ Coordination and Advice for Race Programs and Race Day Schedules

NAR provides advice for race programs and race day schedules in addition to helping organizers coordinate them all throughout Japan. Through these efforts, NAR promotes an appropriate number of race meetings and a well-structured racing program for racing by local governments as a whole.

⑦ Subsidies for Approved Revitalization Plans by Racing Organizers

NAR grants subsidies for horse racing revitalization projects that aim to strengthen management bases through plans which contribute to regional race revitalization, such as enhancing the appeal of racing by local governments through mutual cooperation between organizers.

⑧ Subsidy Distribution for Livestock Industry Promotion

NAR also grants subsidies for the improvement of horse breeding and livestock industry promotion. Publicizing these efforts helps spread the knowledge that racing by local governments actively contributes to the livestock industry.

⑨ Subsidy Programs for Promoting Racehorse Breeding

To promote both a stable supply of racehorses and ensure the ideal development of racehorse breeding, NAR provides subsidies for projects and initiatives which contribute to the promotion of racehorse breeding

⑩ Honoring Individuals Involved in horse racing

NAR holds the NAR Grand Prix to honor racehorses, trainers, jockeys, and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the development of racing by local governments. NAR also present the Chairperson's Award to individuals involved in horse racing who have achieved outstanding results in major stakes races.

⑪ Advancement of Promotions for Racing by Local Governments

NAR actively advances a wide variety of promotional activities for racing by local governments including surveys and research, PR projects promoting its appeal, support for initiatives by owners to ensure the development of strong racehorses, and system improvements to increase customer convenience and ensure the stable operation of horse racing.



Attendance and Turnover of Racing by Local Governments in 2025

Racecourse		Race Days 2025	Attendance (on-course)			Turnover (on and off-course)		
			Total	Daily Avg	Comparison with 2024/day (%)	Total (JPY thousand)	Comparison with 2024 (%)	
Ban-ei	Obihiro*	139	364,007	2,619	101.2	54,298,599.3	93.9	
Mombetsu		84	61,614	734	105.6	57,105,972.9	105.6	
Iwate	Morioka	65	101,218	1,557	97.2	39,107,914.9	111.6	
	Mizusawa	66	79,030	1,197	91.6	30,413,421.8	96.7	
Iwate Total		131	180,248	1,376	95.2	69,521,336.7	104.6	
Urawa		55	157,468	2,863	116.9	71,601,836.3	104.6	
Funabashi		60	189,319	3,155	119.4	104,119,928.6	103.7	
Oi		98	447,902	4,570	94.0	209,659,844.9	105.4	
Kawasaki		63	246,346	3,910	109.7	101,838,313.6	95.2	
Kanazawa		82	152,655	1,862	99.9	32,003,113.6	92.5	
Kasamatsu		88	104,956	1,193	135.2	45,395,061.2	94.6	
Nagoya		117	87,034	744	90.8	90,048,913.2	104.5	
Hyogo	Sonoda	139	253,688	1,825	95.1	112,701,734.0	106.1	
	Himeji	22	27,109	1,232	116.7	16,835,701.0	83.3	
Hyogo Total		161	280,797	1,744	98.1	129,537,435.0	102.5	
Kochi		108	96,592	894	105.9	105,290,441.0	107.0	
Saga		114	313,947	2,754	101.4	77,051,060.9	103.7	
Grand Total		1,300	2,682,885	2,064	102.8	1,147,471,857.2	102.4	

An asterisk (*) indicates that a racecourse conducts Ban-ei draft races

		Turnover (off-course only)			
Daily Avg (JPY thousand)	Comparison with 2024/day (%)	Including phone and web betting (JPY thousand)	Comparison with 2024/day (%)	Phone and web betting only (JPY thousand)	Comparison with 2024/day (%)
390,637.4	100.6	53,240,609.0	100.7	50,414,307.7	101.8
679,833.0	105.6	56,693,498.4	105.6	53,363,578.0	105.6
601,660.2	103.0	38,361,559.2	103.2	35,416,792.6	104.2
460,809.4	99.7	29,737,285.3	99.9	27,198,151.1	100.7
530,697.2	0.0	68,098,844.5	102.4	62,614,943.7	103.3
1,301,851.6	106.5	69,506,789.6	106.8	62,788,517.4	108.4
1,735,332.1	110.7	102,109,284.0	110.7	94,172,921.5	111.4
2,139,386.2	103.2	201,762,046.9	103.4	184,491,140.0	104.3
1,616,481.2	96.7	98,317,286.3	96.6	90,202,067.9	97.4
390,281.9	102.7	30,354,608.0	103.1	29,249,255.8	103.3
515,853.0	106.5	44,562,855.5	106.6	41,835,030.7	107.4
769,648.8	101.8	89,099,593.7	102.0	84,573,615.0	102.6
810,803.8	102.3	109,065,183.9	102.7	103,195,881.4	103.1
765,259.1	98.5	16,507,205.5	98.3	15,278,139.1	98.3
804,580.3	101.8	125,572,389.4	102.1	118,474,020.5	102.5
974,911.5	108.0	104,510,879.5	108.1	102,210,511.6	108.2
675,886.5	103.7	75,538,127.1	103.9	73,989,170.6	104.8
882,670.7	104.6	1,119,366,811.9	104.7	1,048,379,080.4	105.5



**A portion of sales from racing by
local governments helps support the
regional livestock industry and the
lives of those living there.**



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