



**RACING
BY LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS**

Racing by Local Governments In Japan 2024



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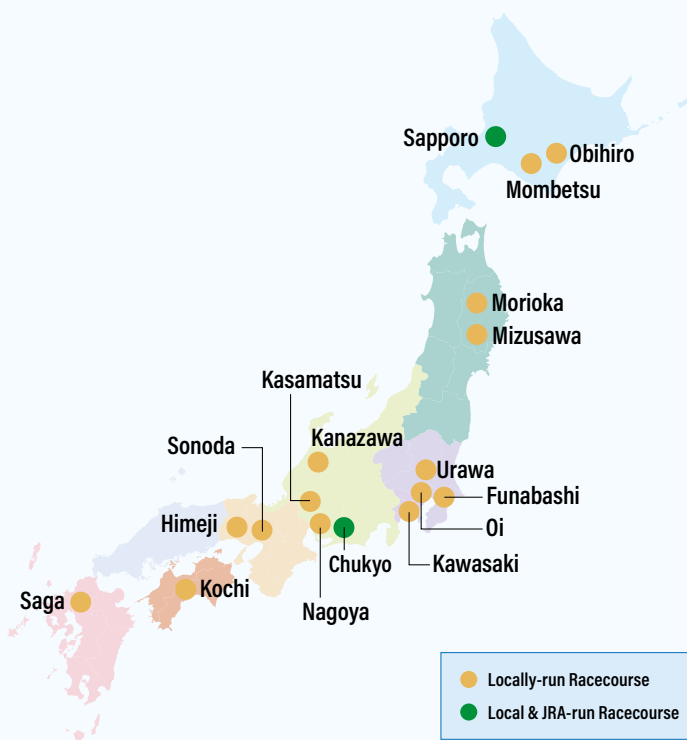
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What is Racing by Local Governments?

Horse racing in Japan is conducted in accordance with the Horse Racing Act which was enacted in July 1948. There are two types of horse races in Japan depending on the racing organizer of the race. The first is racing by local governments where races are organized by local governments on the prefectural and municipal level or partial-affairs associations comprised of local municipalities. The second type is racing conducted by the Japan Racing Association (hereinafter referred to as 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

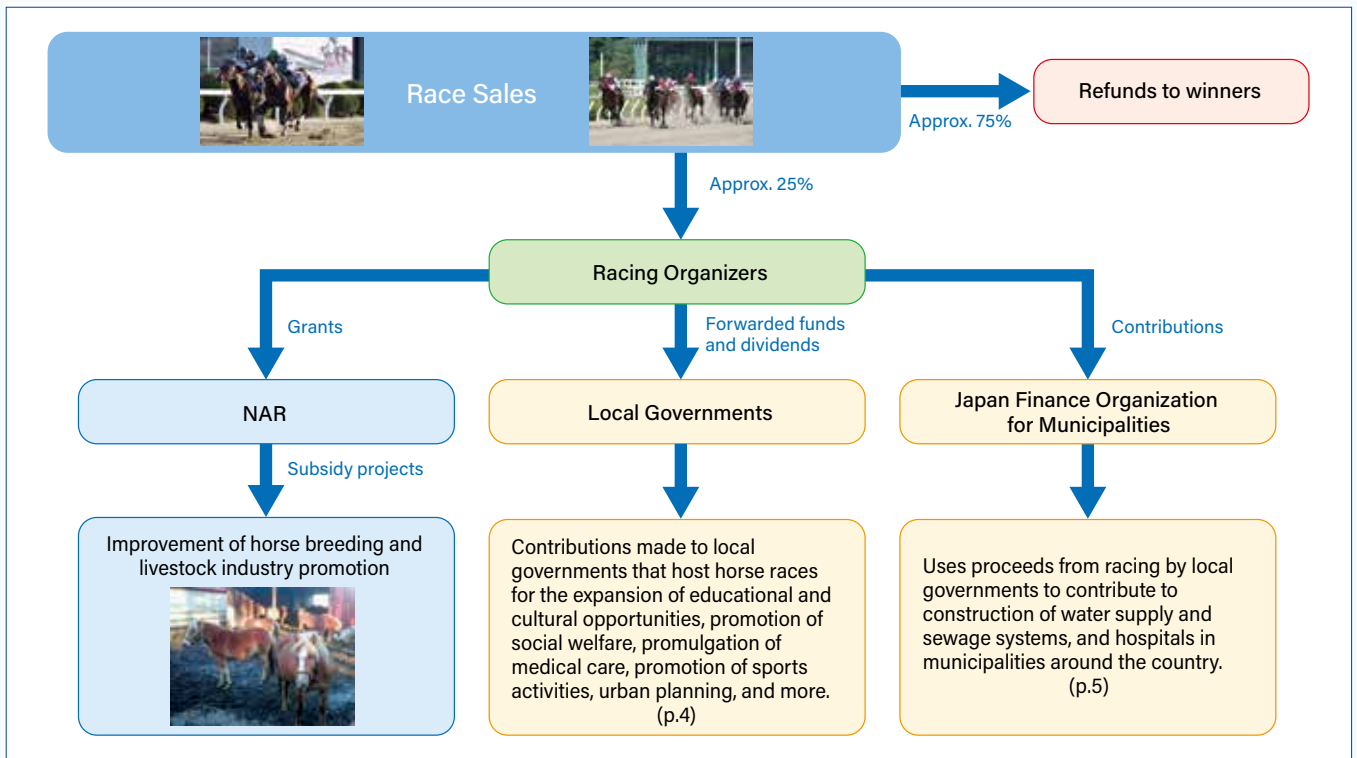


There are 14 organizers (2 prefectures, 2 cities, and 10 partial-affairs associations) of local government races in Japan as of February 2024, that oversee 15 racecourses (excluding the Sapporo and Chukyo racecourses) across 12 prefectures in Japan. Races are held almost every day of the year including weekdays, weekends, and holidays. In addition to daytime races, races by local governments offer unique races such as night races and the world's only *Ban-ei* horse race (Draft Horse Racing), where horses compete by strength by pulling sleds behind them.

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

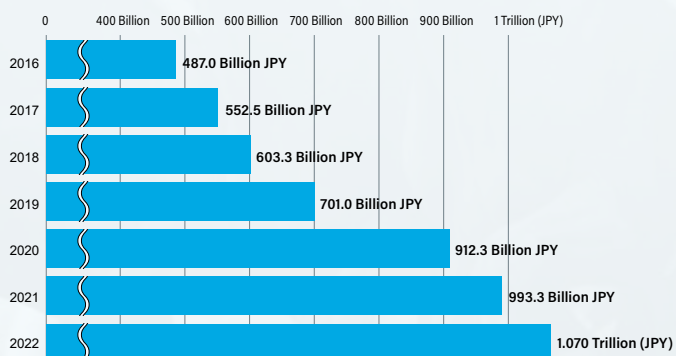
The Purpose and Role of Racing by Local Governments

The purpose of racing by local governments is twofold. The first is to contribute to the improvement of horse breeding and livestock industry promotion, and the second is to improve local government finances. Contributions 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 made through a sharing of distributed profits to local governments that host horse races and contributions to the Japan Finance Organization for Municipalities.

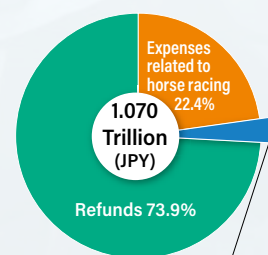


Racing by local governments carefully adheres to its goals of contributing to the improvement of horse breeding and livestock industry promotion through sales as well as contributing to local government finances through proceeds. Of the total sales raised through betting tickets purchased by the viewing public, the organizer refunds a set percentage (around 70-80%) out to the winner of each betting formula. Following this, the remaining amount (approx 25%) is first used to cover expenses as they relate to horse racing, including prize money, before then issuing grants to the NAR (National Association of Racing Grants), payments to the Japan Finance Organization for Municipalities (Payment of government-controlled gambling sports). The remaining amount is then treated as the organizer's earnings.

Sales Breakdown by Year



Breakdown of Sales Use (2022)

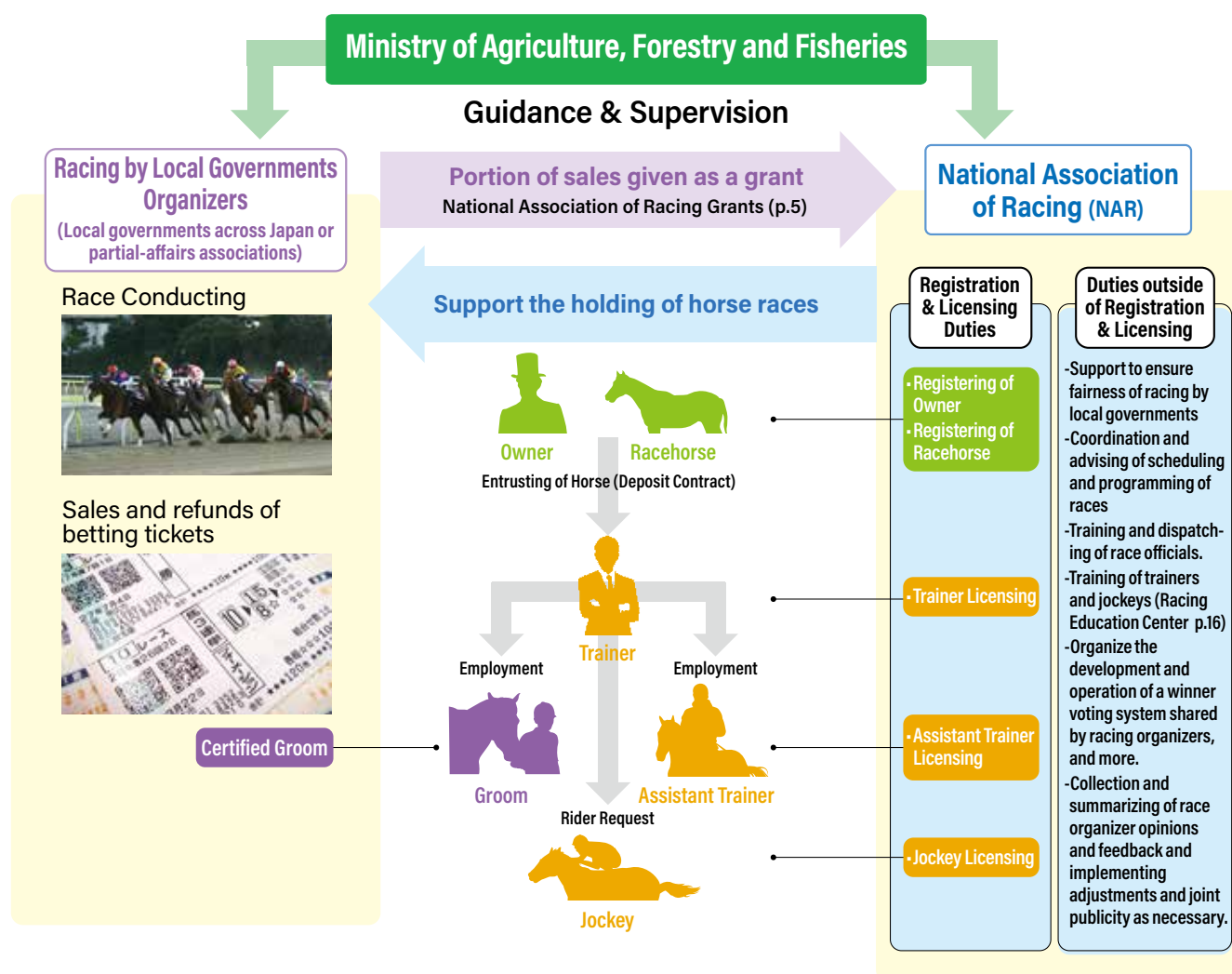


- Payment of government-controlled gambling sports: 4.23 billion Yen
- Grants paid to the NAR: 14.78 billion Yen
- Racing organizer's earnings: 20.21 billion Yen



Framework of Racing by Local Governments

Racing by local governments is hosted 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 of trainers and jockeys, and dispatching of race officials. The NAR is funded through a portion of the sales from each racing organizer.



- Owner**

The owner of the racehorse. Racehorses are deposited and entrusted with a trainer, before they are allowed to participate in races. Individuals who wish to become an owner must apply with the NAR to become a registered horse owner. There are three different types of horse owners: individual owners, association owners, and corporate owners. Each type of ownership has a different set of rules and conditions they must obey. There were 5,606 owners registered for racing by local governments as of the end of January 2024.
- Trainer**

A trainer is entrusted with a racehorse from the owner. They oversee training and raising of the horse to ensure it is in the best possible condition to compete. The methods for doing so vary from trainer to trainer, and as individual racehorses vary among each other, they require a high level of knowledge and skill to manage. To become a trainer, individuals must successfully pass a licensing exam administered by NAR and obtain a license. As of February 2024, there were 417 licensed trainers in the industry.
- Assistant Trainer**

Assistant Trainers belong to a single stable and work as an assistant to a trainer. Their duties go beyond training racehorses to include the performing of various administrative tasks as they relate to stable management. To become an assistant trainer, individuals must successfully pass a licensing exam administered by NAR and obtain a license. As of February 2024, there were 50 assistant trainers in the industry.
- Jockey**

Through requests made by horse owners, jockeys ride racehorses in races in addition to training and riding racehorses that belong to their stable and those that belong to other stables. Jockeys are affiliated with racecourses and will primarily only race on that one track, but they are permitted to participate in exchange races held at racecourses throughout Japan. To become a jockey, individuals must successfully pass a licensing exam administered by NAR and obtain a license. As of February 2024, there were 272 jockeys in the industry.
- Groom**

Grooms are directly employed by a trainer and are personally responsible for the daily care and health management of racehorses in a stable. To become a groom, one must be designated by a racing organizer to ensure fairness. As of February 2024, there were 2,342 grooms in the industry.
- Breeding farms**

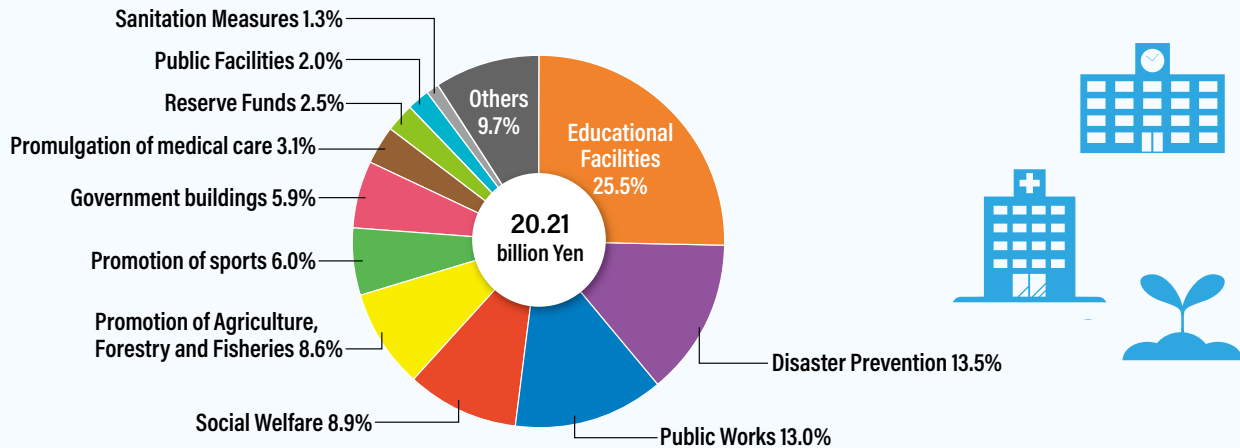
Places where racehorses are bred. Breeding farms stretch across Japan from Hokkaido to Kyushu. Especially, the Hidaka area in Hokkaido is the largest breeding ground for these horses as it accounts for approximately 80% of all racehorses produced in Japan.



The Impact Racing by Local Governments Has on Daily Life

Contributing to Local Government Finances via Racing Organizer Earnings

Racing organizer's earnings in 2022 were approximately 20.21 billion Yen. 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 4.23 billion JPY was submitted by racing organizers nationwide for the 2022 fiscal year. Furthermore, a cumulative total amount of approximately 12.12 billion JPY was submitted to the organization for the fiscal years 2018 to 2022. The funds are used to reduce interest owed on authority bonds and general account bonds which were issued by local governing authorities for water supply and sewage treatment facilities, hospitals, transportation, and others.

In essence, this means that the profits generated from racing by local governments widely contribute to society as a whole, as the funds are not only returned to municipalities which hold the races, but also given to other municipalities via 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.



Contributing to municipalities beyond those racecourses call home.



Racing by Local Governments & Livestock Industry Promotion

Livestock Industry Promotion Subsidy Projects & Racehorse Breeding Subsidy Projects

The National Association of Racing Grants

In accordance with the Horse Racing Act, racing organizers grant a portion of their earnings to the NAR (14.78 billion Yen in FY 2022). These funds are then divided into two pools based on their purpose. The first pool is used for improvement of horse breeding projects and general livestock industry promotion projects. The second pool is used for projects to ensure the fair and smooth implementation of racing by local governments such as registering horse owners and horses, licensing of trainers and jockeys, training of jockeys and other members, and more.

NAR also uses the first pool of money 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 distribution of livestock and livestock products and projects aimed at improving environments for raising livestock.

In addition to this, the NAR began combining grants collected with those received from JRA in 2005 to subsidize the introductions of stallions, broodmare, a pedigree registry, and more, as part of a racehorse breeding initiative.

NAR grants for livestock industry promotion and racehorse breeding initiatives stood at 3.89 billion Yen in FY 2022. With the addition of the FY 2022 grants, the total amount granted over all time stands at over 210 billion yen. *This does not include grants received from JRA.

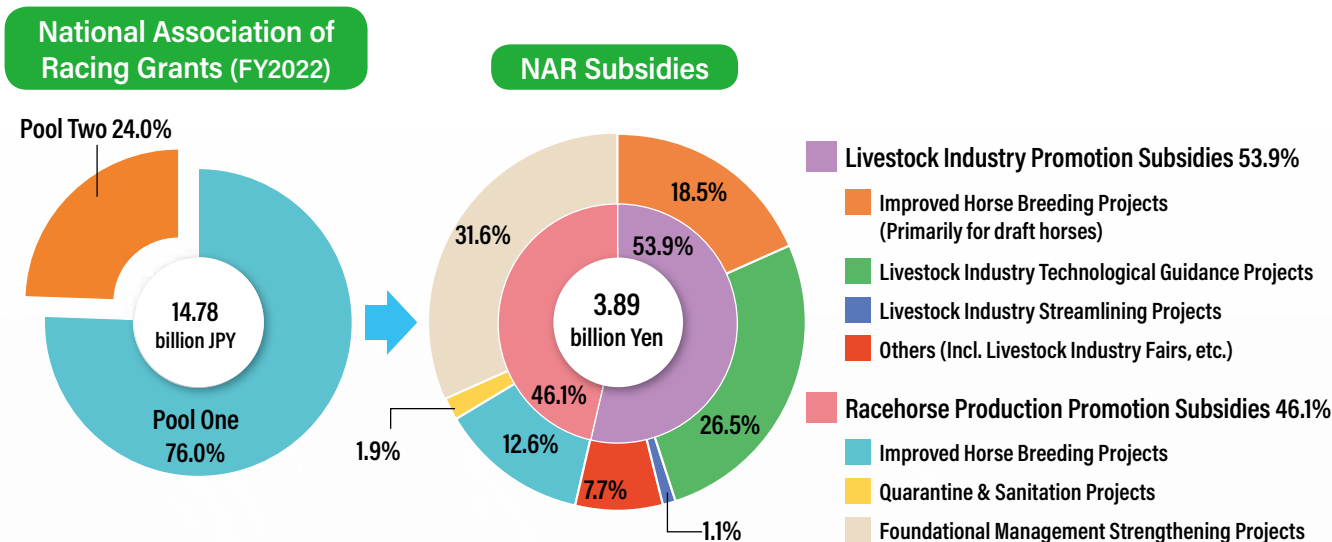


Photo taken at a Livestock Industry Fair



How to Enjoy Racing by Local Governments

There are 14 organizers (2 prefectures, 2 cities, and 10 partial-affairs associations) 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.



Naturally, betting tickets are available for purchase at racecourses, but they are also available for purchase at 76 different, off-track sales locations throughout Japan (as of March 31, 2024). Betting tickets can be conveniently purchased from the comfort of your own home via the internet using a computer, or via a smartphone or cell phone should you be away from home.

For more information on upcoming races by local governments, please check the racing organizer's website 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/>





Betting on Racing by Local Governments

How to purchase a betting ticket 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, then you can purchase betting tickets from the comfort of wherever you are without visiting a racecourse or an off-track sales location.

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.

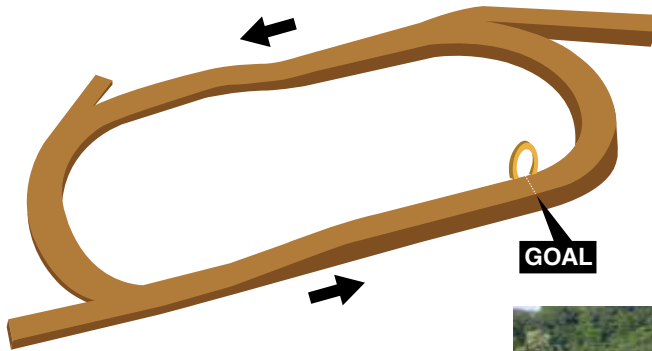
Following the establishment of the Basic Plan, organizers of racing by local governments and the NAR have undertaken various initiatives which include the establishment of a consultation and help service, creating social media accounts to share and disseminate awareness of these issues, and strengthening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



Types of Races

Flat Race

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.

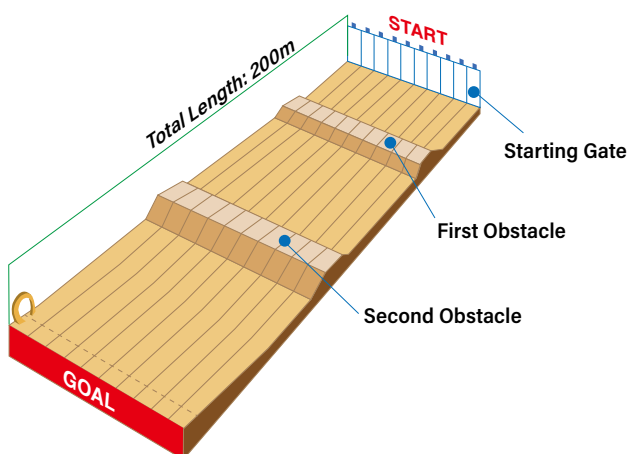


The course image depicts left-handed race.

Ban-ei Races

Ban-ei racing is one-of-a-kind racing held only at the Obihiro racecourse. In it, draft horses weighing around one tonne (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 was developed for festivals as a contest of strength between agricultural horses that helped in the development of Hokkaido. While the order of winners in flat races are determined by the tips of their noses as they pass the finish line, in *Ban-ei* races, horses are placed in a winning order based on the moment the final part of their sled crosses the finish line, as draft horses compete to test their speed and ability to carry a load. The sight of watching these 1-tonne horses racing up over the second obstacle (1.6 meters high), is nothing short of breath-taking.





Racecourses for Racing by Local Governments

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
TEL 0155-34-0825

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
TEL 01456-2-4110

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
TEL 048-881-1551

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.
TEL 047-431-2156

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, Hattamachi, Kanazawa-shi, Ishikawa 920-3105 Japan
TEL 076-258-5761

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 nigiri-zushi 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
TEL 058-387-3278

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
TEL 079-282-5181

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
TEL 088-841-5123

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
TEL 019-651-2999

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
TEL 0197-23-2999

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
TEL 03-3763-2151

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 3Y0+ horses.



Kawasaki Racecourse

Organizer: Kanagawa Prefecture Kawasaki
Racing Association
Address: 1-5-1 Fujimi, Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki-shi,
Kanagawa 210-0011 Japan
TEL 044-233-6701

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
TEL 0567-68-2211

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
TEL 06-6491-0601

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
TEL 0942-83-4538

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.



Principal Races

In racing by local governments, many principal races are held throughout the country where horses with superior aptitude for dirt races are given the opportunity to showcase their abilities and gain recognition.

Some of the major races include the Tokyo Daishoten, the Zen-Nippon Nisai Yushun, a championship race for two-year-old horses, and JBC Day, where major races across four categories are held on the same day and is colloquially known as the "dirt track horse racing festival". In 2023, 40 major races that qualified as black-type races International Cataloguing Standards Book (blue book) were held across Japan.

In recent years, the quality and importance of races for racing by local governments has only grown day by day thanks in part to horses such as Marche Lorraine, Ushba Tesoro, Derma Sotogake, Forever Young, going beyond these races by local governments to winning major overseas races.

At the same time, Japan became a Part 1 country in 2007. Yet despite this, racing by local governments has failed to establish a system for accepting horses which have been trained outside out Japan. As a result, 38 of the 40 races which are a part of it have been unable to qualify as international races, and races for racing by local governments struggle to raise their international reputation despite the high quality demonstrated.

In order to land a decisive blow to this situation, NAR has implemented a policy to begin internationalizing principal races for racing by local governments and developing a racing system starting in 2022. Through the advancement of these initiatives, we aim to raise Japan's dirt racing to even greater heights.

Graded Race by Local Governments in 2023

No.	Race name	Racecourse	Date	Race Cond.	Surface & Distance(m)	Assigning Weights	1st purse (yen)	Total purse (yen)	Winner	Turnover (yen)
1	Tokyo Daishoten (G1)	Oi	29-Dec	3yo+	D2000	Weight for Age	100,000,000	170,000,000	Ushba Tesoro*	8,290,546,100
Total							100,000,000	170,000,000		8,290,546,100

Listed Races by Local Governments in 2023

No.	Race name	Racecourse	Date	Race Cond.	Surface & Distance(m)	Assigning Weights	1st purse (yen)	Total purse (yen)	Winner	Turnover (yen)
1	Zen-Nippon Nisai Yushun	Kawasaki	13-Dec	2yo	D1600	Weight for Age	42,000,000	71,400,000	Forever Young*	1,378,945,900
Total							42,000,000	71,400,000		1,378,945,900

Black-Type Races by Local Governments in 2023

No.	Race name	Racecourse	Date	Race Cond.	Surface & Distance(m)	Assigning Weights	1st purse (yen)	Total purse (yen)	Winner	Turnover (yen)
1	TCK Jo-o Hai	Oi	25-Jan	4yo+ f&m	D1800	Special Weight	22,000,000	37,400,000	Grand Bridge*	900,794,800
2	Kawasaki Kinen	Kawasaki	01-Feb	4yo+	D2100	Weight for Age	80,000,000	136,000,000	Ushba Tesoro*	1,953,221,500
3	Saga Kinen	Saga	09-Feb	4yo+	D2000	Special Weight	30,000,000	48,000,000	Badenweiler*	747,190,500
4	Empress Hai	Kawasaki	01-Mar	4yo+ f&m	D2100	Special Weight	40,000,000	68,000,000	Grand Bridge*	1,019,612,200
5	Kurufune Sho	Kochi	14-Mar	4yo+	D1400	Special Weight	30,000,000	51,000,000	Shamal*	713,086,700
6	Diolite Kinen	Funabashi	15-Mar	4yo+	D2400	Weight for Age	40,000,000	68,000,000	Gloria Mundi*	1,195,374,100
7	Nagoya Daishoten	Nagoya	16-Mar	4yo+	D2000	Special Weight	25,000,000	43,750,000	Hagino Alegrias*	749,086,700
8	Marine Cup	Funabashi	12-Apr	3yo+ f&m	D1600	Special Weight	30,000,000	51,000,000	Per Aa*	850,696,200
9	Tokyo Sprint	Oi	19-Apr	4yo+	D1200	Special Weight	27,000,000	45,900,000	Ryuno Yukina*	1,260,652,200
10	Kakitsubata Kinen	Nagoya	02-May	4yo+	D1500	Handicap	28,000,000	50,400,000	Wilson Tesoro*	837,305,600
11	Hyogo Championship	Sonoda	03-May	3yo	D1870	Weight for Age	35,000,000	66,500,000	Mitono O*	783,933,000
12	Kashiwa Kinen	Funabashi	04-May	4yo+	D1600	Weight for Age	80,000,000	136,000,000	Meisho Hario*	2,074,043,500
13	Sakitama Hai	Urawa	31-May	4yo+	D1400	Special Weight	40,000,000	68,000,000	Igniter	1,075,420,500
14	Hokkaido Sprint Cup	Mombetsu	01-Jun	3yo+	D1200	Special Weight	22,000,000	37,400,000	Keiai Dorie*	733,199,100
15	Kanto Oaks	Kawasaki	14-Jun	3yo f	D2100	Weight for Age	35,000,000	59,500,000	Paraiba Tourmaline*	1,140,807,700
16	Teio Sho	Oi	28-Jun	4yo+	D2000	Weight for Age	80,000,000	136,000,000	Meisho Hario*	4,408,810,600
17	Sparkling Lady Cup	Kawasaki	05-Jul	3yo+ f&m	D1600	Special Weight	25,000,000	42,500,000	Ladybug*	1,245,851,900
18	Japan Dirt Derby	Oi	12-Jul	3yo	D2000	Weight for Age	60,000,000	102,000,000	Mick Fire	3,026,698,400
19	Mercury Cup	Morioka	17-Jul	3yo+	D2000	Special Weight	30,000,000	52,500,000	Wilson Tesoro*	1,289,336,200
20	Cluster Cup	Morioka	15-Aug	3yo+	D1200	Special Weight	30,000,000	52,500,000	Remake*	1,077,132,500
21	Breeders' Gold Cup	Mombetsu	17-Aug	3yo+ f&m	D2000	Special Weight	31,000,000	52,700,000	Teleos Bell*	645,106,600
22	Summer Champion	Saga	31-Aug	3yo+	D1400	Handicap	30,000,000	51,000,000	Sunrise Hawk*	790,808,900
23	Tele Tama Hai Oval Sprint	Urawa	20-Sep	3yo+	D1400	Special Weight	30,000,000	51,000,000	Dry Stout*	673,367,800
24	Hakusan Daishoten	Kanazawa	26-Sep	3yo+	D2100	Special Weight	25,000,000	42,500,000	Wilson Tesoro*	612,645,600
25	Nippon TV Hai	Funabashi	27-Sep	3yo+	D1800	Special Weight	40,000,000	68,000,000	Ushba Tesoro*	1,253,942,700
26	Tokyo Hai	Oi	04-Oct	3yo+	D1200	Special Weight	35,000,000	59,500,000	Don Frankie*	1,288,088,700
27	Ladies' Prelude	Oi	05-Oct	3yo+ f&m	D1800	Special Weight	31,000,000	52,700,000	Ater Astraea*	1,241,944,200
28	Mile Championship Nambu Hai	Morioka	09-Oct	3yo+	D1600	Weight for Age	70,000,000	122,500,000	Lemon Pop*	2,170,932,700
29	Edelweiss Sho	Mombetsu	01-Nov	2yo f	D1200	Weight for Age	20,000,000	34,000,000	Mozu Miqikataagari	537,783,400
30	JBC Classic	Oi	03-Nov	3yo+	D2000	Weight for Age	100,000,000	170,000,000	King's Sword*	2,660,832,500
31	JBC Sprint	Oi	03-Nov	3yo+	D1200	Weight for Age	80,000,000	136,000,000	Igniter	1,893,263,600
32	JBC Ladies' Classic	Oi	03-Nov	3yo+ f&m	D1800	Weight for Age	60,000,000	102,000,000	Icon Tailor*	1,470,877,700
33	JBC Nisai Yushun	Mombetsu	03-Nov	2yo	D1800	Weight for Age	35,000,000	59,500,000	Forever Young*	1,008,753,000
34	Hyogo Junior Grand Prix	Sonoda	22-Nov	2yo	D1400	Weight for Age	30,000,000	57,000,000	Aigle Noir*	433,706,800
35	Urawa Kinen	Urawa	23-Nov	3yo+	D2000	Special Weight	40,000,000	68,000,000	Diktaean*	1,188,850,400
36	Queen Sho	Funabashi	29-Nov	3yo+ f&m	D1800	Handicap	30,000,000	51,000,000	Riot Grrr!*	873,525,700
37	Hyogo Gold Trophy	Sonoda	20-Dec	3yo+	D1400	Handicap	30,000,000	57,000,000	Sunrise Hawk*	610,542,700
38	Nagoya Grand Prix	Nagoya	21-Dec	3yo+	D2100	Special Weight	38,000,000	68,400,000	Diktaean*	944,907,000
Total							1,544,000,000	2,655,150,000		47,382,133,900

An asterisk (*) indicates that the horse is registered with JRA.



Series Races



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 the JRA.



Young Jockeys Series

In this series, young jockeys from both the 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.



Ladies Jockeys Series

Active female jockeys compete for the crown in this series which features women jockeys who compete in racing by local governments. Due to a declining number of them, though, this series was cancelled after the final series in 2011. Then, following the March 2016 Ladies & Young Jockeys Series, the Ladies Victory Round (LVR) was held from Autumn 2016 to 2020 where female and male jockeys would compete in mixed races. However, this was then cancelled as it was officially decided that the Ladies Jockeys Series would make its turn in November 2021 for the first time in ten years. Please look forward to the amazing performances these talented women will put on.





Famous Horses Born via Racing by Local Governments

NAR Grand Prix

NAR holds the "NAR Grand Prix" to honor horses and people who have racked up exceptional achievements in local government races as well as those who have made significant contributions to the development of racing by local government.

List of 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

Year	Horse Name	Affiliation
2007	Furioso	Funabashi
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	Kitasan Mikazuki	Funabashi
2019	Bulldog Boss	Urawa
2020	Sabuno Junior	Oi
2021	Mutually	Funabashi
2022	Igniter	Hyogo
2023	Igniter	Hyogo

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

Took 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 been produced. In this section, we will introduce a few of the most famous horses of the Heisei Era (1989-2019). 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 winning representative 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 winning representative 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 the 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.



What Does It Take to Become an Owner?

If you're a fan of horse racing, then surely you've dreamed about becoming an owner yourself, no? Just imagine all the eyes of the crowd on your beloved horse's paddock as it shoots forth, sprinting down the course as it's bathed in the cheers of fans! Interested in getting a taste of the rush and thrill that you can never experience in any other competitive sport for yourself?

How to Become a Registered Owner

1. Financial Requirements for Becoming a Registered Owner

In addition to satisfying the below requirements, the judging process will pay close attention to whether it will be feasible for an applicant to own and entrust a racehorse to a trainer on a continuous basis.

(1) For Individuals

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

(2) For Corporations

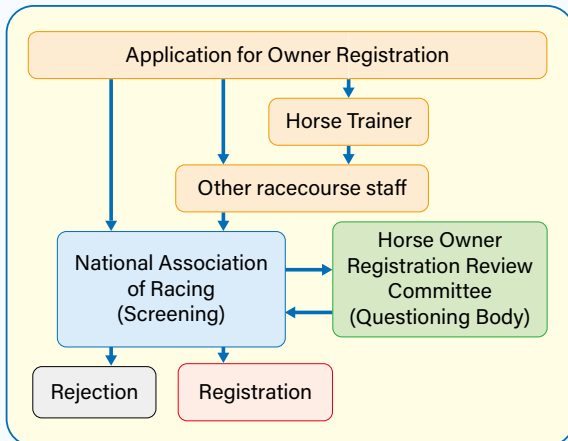
1. The total amount of paid-in capital or completed performance of contributions must be at least 3 million yen.
2. The two most recent years of financial statements must not have been consecutively in the red.
3. The most recent financial statements must not show excess liability.
4. The annual income earned of the representative individual must meet the financial requirements as stated above for individuals.

(3) For Associations

1. The association must have a term deposit totaling 3 million yen or more, which is registered in the name of the association (including the name of the representative individual).
2. In principle, each association member's earned income must be above 3 million yen (refers to income earned, not revenue) for the previous year.

Note: Any income that is temporarily gained, such as gains from the sale of real estate or stocks, dividends from a racehorse fund, or prize money from the JRA, will not be factored in and counted. Please be careful.

2. Registering to Become an Owner



Once an application has been submitted, the overseeing committee will then conduct its screening process. Following this, the NAR will seek the opinion of viability on an application from the questioning body of the Horse Owner Registration Review Committee before making its 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 roughly five months. However, the reviewing process may take longer if the application is missing or lacking documentation, or if there are a large number of applications accepted at once. Please note there is a registration fee of 10,000 Yen once registration is approved.

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

NAR accepts applications for horse owners who can race their own horses on regional racecourses (15 in all) located within Japan.

NAR began accepting individual owner applications for horse ownership for individuals located outside of Japan as of 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 to this, a liaison officer (an individual who will oversee administrative matters on behalf of the owner) is required and must reside within Japan. All procedures related to the application will be handled by this individual.

Due to this matter and the fact that the committee needs time to review the application, it takes approximately five months from application to registration.

Currently, there are 10 NAR registered owners of horses residing outside of Japan as of April 2024.



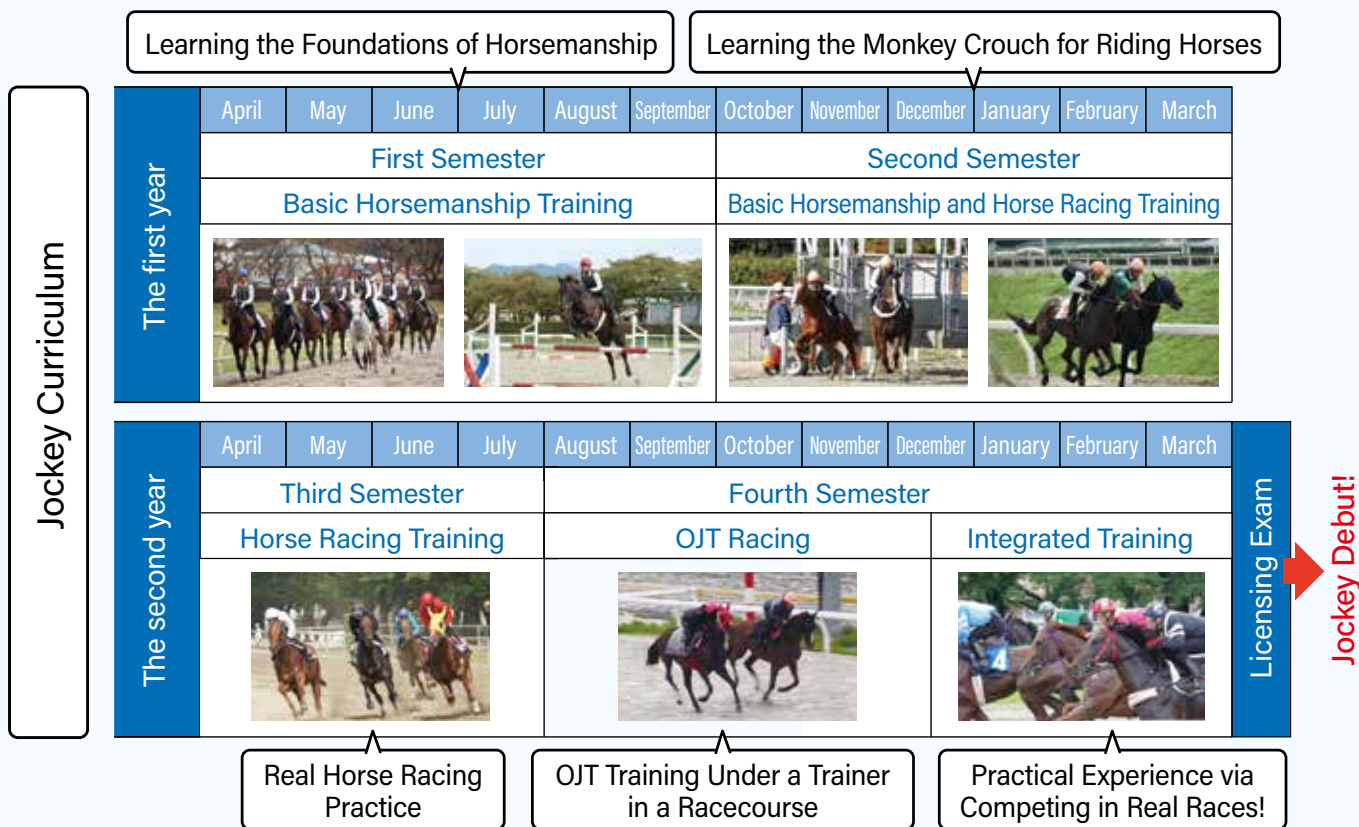
Becoming a Jockey for Racing by Local Governments

Those wishing to become a jockey must pass a licensing examination administered by the National Association of Racing (NAR). The licensing examination includes a written examination in addition to a practical test where individuals will have to demonstrate that they have the skills necessary for horse racing.

The NAR trains and educates jockeys at the Racing Education Center.

The Jockey Curriculum at the Racing Education Center

Once admitted into the Racing Education Center, students undergo a two-year training period, where they live in a dormitory and gradually learn horsemanship from the basics. Anyone is allowed to join, regardless of whether they have riding experience or not. Students will learn more than just horsemanship, as they also receive the necessary education to become a functioning member of society in addition to learning about horse racing regulations and knowledge of horses. As things currently stand, almost all jockeys active in racing by local governments have completed this course. Furthermore, a new building that combined classrooms, 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, can be allowed to participate in local governments races. To be eligible to undergo examination, jockeys must have their win rate set data available, will be required to submit various forms of documentation from the overseas horse racing authority which issued 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 for the location they wish to compete at. Upon successful passing of 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 2023, 28 individuals have been licensed for a total of 42.

For trainers and jockeys who wish to race horses they manage in international races, a specific license is available to be issued once a separate examination is passed.



What is the National Association of Racing (NAR)?

The National Association of Racing was established on August 1, 1962, as a Special Public Institutions under the Horse Racing Act, and since January 1, 2008, in accordance with the amendment of 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 the NAR is "to promote fair, impartial and smooth operation of racing by local governments and to contribute to promoting the improvement and breeding of horses as well as other aspects of animal husbandry". The NAR became responsible for new roles such as issuing subsidies for approved revitalization plans and trainer administrative duties, in addition to its existing role of offering daily support for racing organizers and general promotion of the livestock industry.

(1) Owner and Horse Registration

The NAR registers horses that are to compete in races and owners who wish to race horses they own on regional racecourses.

(2) Licensing of Trainers and Jockeys

The NAR conducts licensing examinations for trainers and jockeys wishing to participate in races for the racing by local governments, and issues them to successful candidates. We also work in cooperation with race organizers to facilitate the certification of grooms.

(3) Education and Training of Trainers and Jockeys

Racing Education Center, we provide education and training for trainers and jockeys who will eventually become an integral part of local government race. 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 and more that race organizers attend, we work to support organizers through offering advice and providing the necessary information to ensure the fairness of horse races.

(6) Coordination and Advice for Programming Organization and Race Day Schedules

We provide advice for programming organization and race day schedules in addition to helping organizers coordinate them all throughout Japan. We also work to promote the organizing of racing by local governments overall as well as the optimization of available racecourses.

(7) Subsidies for Approved Revitalization Plans by Racing Organizers

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

(8) Subsidy Distribution for Livestock Industry Promotion

We also grant subsidies for the improvement of horse breeding and livestock industry promotion. Publicizing these efforts helps spread the knowledge that racing by local governments is actively contributing to the livestock industry.

(9) Subsidy Programs for Promoting Racehorse Breeding

To promote both a stable supply of racehorses and ensure ideal racehorse breeding, the NAR further distributes subsidies for works and projects which contribute to the promotion of racehorse breeding.

(10) Honoring Individuals Involved in horse racing

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

(11) Advancement of Promotions for Racing by Local Governments

We actively advance 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 ideal racehorse breeding, and system improvements to increase customer convenience and a stable holding of horse races.



Attendance and Turnover of Racing by Local Governments in 2023

Racecourse	Race Days 2023	Attendance (on-course)			Turnover (on and off-course)				Turnover (off-course only)			
		Total	Daily Avg	Comparison with 2022/day (%)	Total (thousand yen)	Comparison with 2022 (%)	Daily Avg (thousand yen)	Comparison with 2022/day (%)	Including phone and web betting (thousand yen)	Comparison with 2022/day (%)	Phone and web betting only (thousand yen)	Comparison with 2022/day (%)
Banei	149	330,569	2,219	125.4	54,823,812.9	98.2	367,945.1	97.6	53,529,772.8	97.3	50,097,046.5	97.2
Mombetsu	82	56,005	683	121.6	51,081,276.3	96.9	622,942.4	100.4	50,684,217.7	100.3	47,596,423.8	99.8
Morioka	66	101,990	1,545	95.0	34,225,286.2	82.4	518,564.9	82.4	33,409,054.3	82.3	30,086,514.0	82.2
Iwate	64	82,601	1,291	91.8	26,169,464.3	104.6	408,897.9	103.0	25,384,289.7	103.4	22,466,619.0	104.4
Iwate Total	130	184,591	1,420	93.5	60,394,750.5	90.7	464,575.0	90.0	58,793,344.0	90.1	52,553,133.0	90.2
Urawa	59	137,846	2,336	120.8	67,856,557.0	97.3	1,150,111.1	97.3	65,580,266.4	96.8	57,378,039.1	96.3
Funabashi	60	127,248	2,121	140.1	94,183,100.4	99.9	1,569,718.3	99.9	92,562,621.5	99.4	83,892,336.7	99.3
Oi	97	434,885	4,483	160.9	205,623,141.6	106.2	2,119,826.2	105.1	198,134,576.4	104.1	178,603,755.9	104.2
Kawasaki	64	205,599	3,212	189.4	106,884,706.1	99.7	1,670,073.5	101.2	103,734,003.1	99.9	93,463,086.2	99.8
Kanazawa	89	163,860	1,841	97.3	30,909,937.3	113.8	347,302.7	111.2	28,904,138.7	112.9	27,649,969.8	113.0
Kasamatsu	97	78,365	808	97.3	43,936,179.9	107.3	452,950.3	102.9	43,048,745.1	103.1	39,732,604.3	102.8
Nagoya	113	99,619	882	66.4	75,183,927.8	108.8	665,344.5	103.9	74,058,583.9	104.6	69,105,228.2	105.4
Sonoda	130	245,995	1,892	102.1	96,133,274.1	89.0	739,486.7	95.2	92,245,993.5	95.1	86,251,934.0	94.9
Hyogo	30	32,107	1,070	102.2	21,176,747.6	138.9	705,891.6	97.2	20,742,303.0	97.1	19,083,372.6	96.3
Hyogo Total	160	278,102	1,738	99.5	117,310,021.7	95.2	733,187.6	95.2	112,988,296.5	95.2	105,335,306.6	94.8
Kochi	109	87,042	799	120.8	95,099,909.5	98.0	872,476.2	98.0	94,213,909.3	97.9	92,063,387.3	97.7
Saga	116	302,936	2,612	109.1	70,193,634.3	103.9	605,117.5	103.9	68,486,617.6	104.3	66,325,014.5	105.3
Grand Total	1,325	2,486,667	1,877	117.4	1,073,480,955.3	100.8	810,174.3	100.0	1,044,719,093.0	99.7	963,795,331.9	99.7





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



地方競馬全国協会
National Association of Racing

43rd Floor, ARK Hills Sengokuyama Mori Tower
1-9-10, Roppongi Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-8639, Japan

For Inquiries Regarding this Pamphlet (International Help Desk)

Phone: +81-3-3583-6849

e-mail: intl@nar.keiba.go.jp