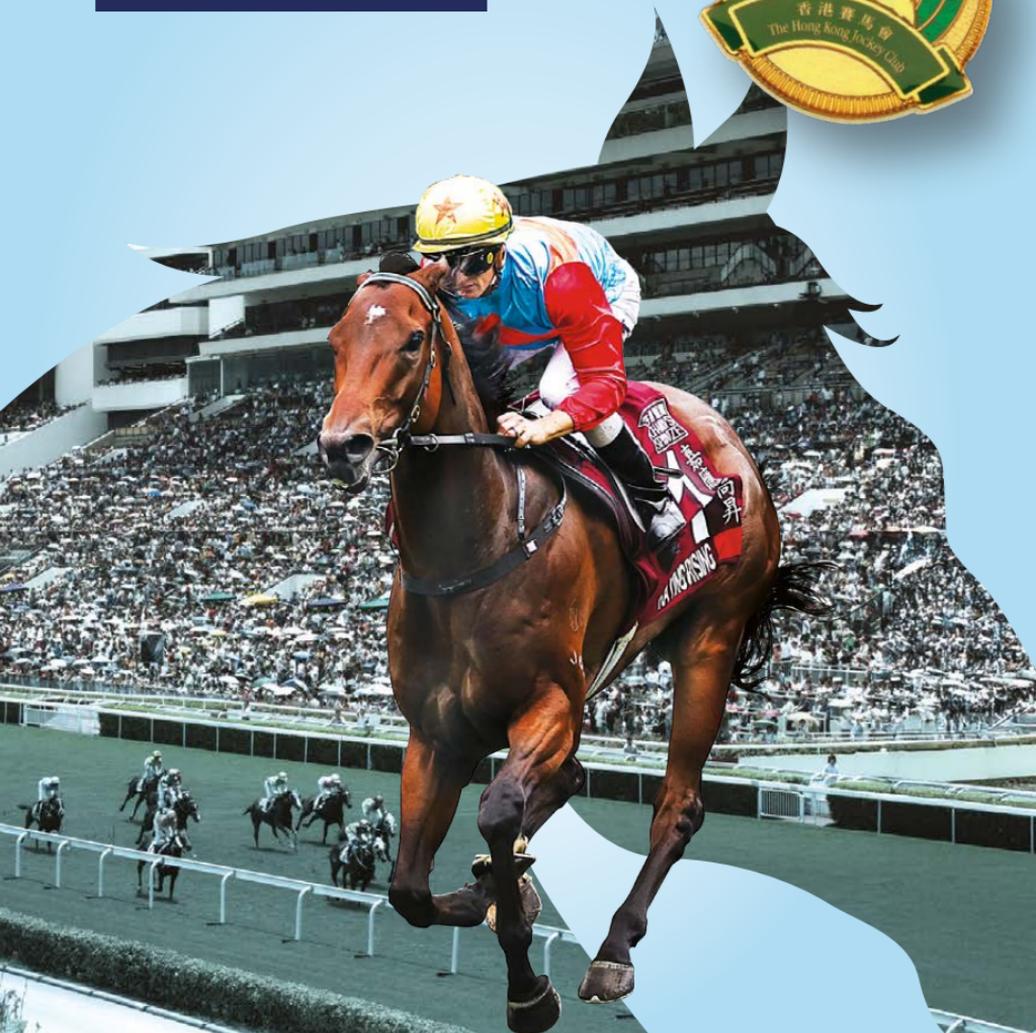


OWNERS' HANDBOOK

2025-2026





8 September 2025

All Owners

OWNERS' HANDBOOK

1. Your attention is drawn to the following important changes from last season's Handbook. For ease of reference, all changes in this Handbook are shown in italics.

- a. **Section 1d – Restrictions on Ownership**

An owner can own no more than seven (7) horses at any one time.

- b. **Section 2b – Ownership Control**

This section has been updated.

- c. **Section 9 – Trackwork and Training**

This section has been revised.

- d. **Section 10 – Barrier Trials and Stalls Tests**

This section has been revised.



e. **Section 12 – Entries**

Publishing time has been revised at 2:30 pm on days of entries.

f. **Section 14 – Terms Races**

This section has been updated.

g. **Section 23 – Prize Money**

This section has been revised.

h. **Section 24 – Livery and Veterinary Charges**

Monthly livery fee for keeping a horse in spelling stables at Conghua is \$30,000.

i. **Section 25 – Trainer’s Fee**

Trainer’s fees for Hong Kong and Conghua based racehorses have been revised.

j. **Section 26 – Stable Visits**

This section has been updated.

k. **Section 32 – Retirement of Horses**

This section has been updated.



2. Other than the above, only minor editorial changes have been made to the Handbook which hopefully you will find useful.

3. In this Handbook, the singular shall include the plural and vice versa and the masculine shall include the feminine and/or neuter and vice versa.

4. If you have any queries regarding this Handbook please refer them to the Executive Manager, Racing Registry or to a member of the Racing Registry staff.

Greg Carpenter
Head of Racing Product



PREFACE

The contents of this booklet are advisory in nature. Whilst every care has been taken in its preparation, the Club's Rules of Racing and Instructions by the Stewards and the Club's Bye-laws remain the sole authorities for the provisions which are explained.

Complete sets of the Club's Rules of Racing and Instructions by the Stewards and Bye-laws are available for inspection in all dining rooms, membership and recreation offices, and the Members' badge offices at the racecourses.

Andrew Harding
Executive Director, Racing



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OWNERSHIP OBLIGATIONS AND PRIVILEGES

1. Obligations

- a. Ownership brings with it both privileges and obligations. The regulations surrounding horse ownership are contained in the Club's Ownership Bye-laws. The following regulations are extracted from the Bye-laws for your attention:

Change of Ownership

It should be noted that no alterations to ownership arrangements are normally permitted with the exceptions of the death of an Owner or the inclusion of the Owner's spouse and/or children.

Once the horse has arrived it will be the Owner's responsibility until it is retired from racing. It should also be noted that an Owner is not allowed to sell his/her horse except with the approval of the Club; this is normally only given in exceptional circumstances.

- b. Handling of accounts

- (i) Hang Seng manages all Members' accounts and Syndicates' accounts. All account holders must settle the accounts in accordance with the Standard Terms and Conditions specified by Hang Seng. If an Owner fails to settle his/her account and has become an account defaulter, his/her horse will not be allowed to be entered for or start in any race.



(ii) Hang Seng will inform the Club of any Owner whose account remains unpaid by the period prescribed by Hang Seng, and the Owner's membership will be suspended in accordance with *Bye-law 12.2 of the General Bye-laws*. Consequently, disciplinary proceedings will be convened by the Club and *the owner shall ipso facto cease to be a Member under Article 96 of the Club's Articles of Association*.

c. Category of Ownership

There are four types of horse ownership in Hong Kong. They are:

- (i) Sole Owners.
- (ii) Partnerships - May comprise two, three or four partners.
- (iii) Syndicates - Must comprise not less than five and not more than fifty members.
- (iv) Racing Club - Solely owned by The Racing Club.

d. Restrictions on Ownership

No person shall at any one time own more than seven (7) horses, either as a Sole Owner, a member of a Partnership or a Manager of a Syndicate. Ordinary membership of a Syndicate does not constitute ownership for such purpose.



OWNERSHIP REGULATIONS

2. Ownership Control

- a. Owning a racehorse registered by the Hong Kong Jockey Club (“Club”) is a privilege as there are many more aspiring Owners than there are horses available. It is incumbent upon all Owners to understand and abide by the Club’s Rules regarding ownership, and to exercise proper control over their own horses.
- b. Ownership must be absolute and shall not be subject to any arrangement that grants a third party any present or future interest in the horse. This includes, but is not limited to, holding the horse or any share thereof on behalf of another person, credit or deferred payment arrangements, entitlements to prize money, lease-back agreements, repurchase options, or any provision for the horse to be returned to the original owner or any third party upon retirement from racing.*
- c. When a Member submits an application to import a horse or a griffin he/she undertakes to be responsible for the management of that horse during its racing life. The Owner is required to delegate certain responsibilities to his/her Trainer as the “Authorised Agent” under the “Authority-to-Act Rule” (Rule 163 and Rule Definitions) so that the trainer can enter the horse for races and engage a jockey. The Owner may not wish to be consulted in these processes, but he/she would be breaking the Rules if he/she allowed any person other than the trainer to make or control entries or engage a jockey unless he/she has received approval for the appointment of that person as his/her “Authorised Representative” under Rule 44. It is the Owner’s responsibility, under the Rules of Racing, to ensure that his/her trainer instructs the jockey to ride the horse in such a manner as to obtain the best possible placing. This is done by means of a



written instruction to the trainer in the Authority-to-Act form which every Owner must sign.

- d. Owners are responsible for meeting all livery and training charges themselves. To permit another individual to pay these charges would indicate that control had been passed to that party.
- e. An Owner may seek the advice and assistance of his/her trainer, his/her jockey or his/her friends in the purchase and import of his/her horse. Thereafter, the responsibility for the horse's general control and management rests squarely with the individual Owner himself. Partners are regarded as though they were Sole Owners - they share equal responsibility. In the case of a Syndicate, every syndicate manager is held to be responsible.

3. Race Tips and Inside Information

a. By a Trainer

(i) The Rules do not prohibit an Owner from seeking tips from his/her own or, indeed, from any trainer in respect of any runners in any race. However, an Owner has no entitlement to "inside information" about any horse, except his/her own, and it is entirely up to the trainer whether or not he provides information about other horses. A trainer has a right, and a duty, to maintain confidentiality regarding the performance of other Owners' horses in his stable. "Inside information" means any information about:

- (1) any condition, abnormality, injury, or sickness or other matter affecting a horse's ability to train or race; or
- (2) the likely performance of a horse in a race,

which is not publicly available.



Information is publicly available if it:

- (1) consists of a matter that is readily observable or known by the public; or
- (2) has been disclosed or made known or made available in a manner that would bring it to the attention of the public.

(ii) The Rules prohibit an Owner from offering any reward, including an interest in a bet, to induce a trainer to give him/her tips concerning horses other than his/her own.

(iii) The Club *considers* it improper for an Owner to try to obtain inside information by means of any threat, such as the removal of a horse from the stable.

b. By a Jockey

(i) The giving of tips by jockeys is a very different matter.

(ii) Naturally, each Owner will be interested in the state of fitness of his/her own horse as well as its chances in any race in which it is to run. The Owner of a horse is fully entitled to ask the jockey who has been riding the horse in work about its state of fitness and about its race chances; if a different jockey is to ride the horse in the race the Owner is of course also entitled to ask the race jockey.



(iii) It is equally permissible for a jockey, like any other individual, to express his general views and opinions on the chances of any horse in any race. However, that is very different from passing inside information privately to an individual, and this is not permitted. It must be appreciated that a jockey will frequently be in possession of inside information about horses, and he is explicitly forbidden by the Rules to pass on any such information to anybody except the Owners and trainers of those horses. This means that no person, Owner or otherwise, should try to persuade or even ask a jockey to provide tips or inside information, except for the Owner of the horse which the jockey has been riding or is about to ride. If a jockey provides such tips or inside information in breach of the Rules, he is liable to disciplinary action and so is the person who persuaded the jockey to divulge such information, whether for reward or otherwise. All jockeys have been warned about this and have been told that they should refer any such requests to the trainer.

4. Betting

a. By a Trainer

A trainer is allowed to bet and to have an interest in a bet, provided that the bet is placed with licensed operators and such interest is not by way of inducement. However, the placing of a bet on a horse to lose a race or to be beaten by any other horse or horses in a race is strictly prohibited.

b. By a Jockey

- (i) Jockeys are not allowed to bet nor are they allowed to have any interest in a bet under any circumstances. All



jockeys are fully aware of such prohibition and that they will be subject to disciplinary action, which may lead to disqualification, if they breach this Rule. Any person who places a bet on behalf of a jockey also commits an offence under the Rules.

- (ii) The reason why jockeys are more tightly controlled than trainers is very simple. If a jockey bets in a race or passes on inside information, he is more likely to be tempted or pressurised into riding according to his bets or tips rather than on the merits of his horse and the risk of the jockey engaging in a dishonest and corrupt manner is higher.

RACING YOUR HORSE

5. Pre-Import Veterinary Examination



Every racehorse is required to undergo a pre-import veterinary examination prior to export to Hong Kong to confirm, within the confines and limitations of the examination(s) performed and findings reported, that no apparent disease, defect or condition exists that would render a horse unsuitable for racing in Hong Kong. This examination must be carried out by a suitably qualified veterinary surgeon selected by the Owner or Prospective Owner during the 30 days prior to the horse entering pre-export quarantine.



The process by which horses are approved for importation is multilayered. First, the examining veterinary surgeon must complete an examination in accordance with the Hong Kong Jockey Club Veterinary Pre-Import Examination Protocol. Second, the documentation and all associated diagnostic images must be assessed by a Club nominated veterinary surgeon. And thirdly, the examining and nominated veterinary surgeon reports must be forwarded to the Hong Kong Jockey Club's Veterinary Departments for final review, classification and approval.

The details of the Pre-Import Examination Protocol can be referred to the below from HKJC website: <https://member.hkjc.com/member/common/images/horse-owner/ownership-journey/Veterinary-Pre-Import-Exam-Protocol.pdf>.

Prospective Owners (or Agents) are advised not to make any commitment to purchase a horse until they have been informed, in writing, of the veterinary classification of the horse by Hong Kong Jockey Club Dual Site Stables Operations Department.

The HKJC reserves the right to refuse the importation of any horse deemed to be unsuitable.

Bisphosphonates

- a. With effect on and from 1 August 2019, any bisphosphonate is not to be administered to a horse:
 - (i) aged under three years and six months (as determined by its recorded date of birth) at any time; and
 - (ii) aged three years and six months or over (as determined by its recorded date of birth) within 30 days of the day on which it has been declared to race (i.e. race day) or participating in a barrier trial.



- b. Where any bisphosphonate product is administered to a horse aged three years and six months or over (as determined by its recorded date of birth):
- (i) that product must be approved by the Club for use in horses under its control, and be administered in accordance with the label instructions;
 - (ii) there must be a diagnosis determined by a Veterinary Surgeon that supports the use of a bisphosphonate as an appropriate treatment, and such treatment must be administered with the approval of the Veterinary Surgeon.

Owners must ensure that a horse is eligible for import in accordance with the provisions above, and pre-purchase testing for bisphosphonates is strongly advised prior to any purchase being finalised. Compulsory bisphosphonate testing conducted by the HKJC Racing Laboratory is a pre-requisite as part of the Veterinary Pre-Import Examination Protocol.

Objectives of the Pre-Import Veterinary Examination

The objectives of the Hong Kong Jockey Club pre-import examination are to direct and support the thorough examination of racehorses in an effort to identify and assess aspects of a veterinary nature that may affect a horse during training and racing in Hong Kong.

The examination protocol has evolved over time, and is aimed at providing Prospective Owners and Owners with a multilayered veterinary evaluation of each horse.

Despite thorough clinical examination, diagnostic imaging and testing, it will never be possible to detect all defects, abnormalities or potential problems. For this reason, the



import examination in no way represents a guarantee that a horse will remain free of health issues or that it will have competitive success as a racehorse.

The certificates of examination provide information on the suitability of a horse on the day of examination. This veterinary information should form only part of the information that must be considered – along with other aspects such as performance, appearance and the opinions of other professionals, such as trainers – before deciding whether or not to purchase or import any horse into Hong Kong.

The HKJC does not recommend, accredit or endorse any examining veterinarians and as a result, cannot accept responsibility for the services performed or the accuracy, completeness or opinions offered by them (or their employees). Accordingly, Prospective Owners and Owners should choose an examining veterinary surgeon either known or recommended to them, and must satisfy themselves that the veterinarian they select has the necessary skills, knowledge and experience in the examination of Thoroughbred racehorses (intended to race in Hong Kong).

While every effort has been taken to cover common aspects of the veterinary examination of racehorses, the HKJC examination protocol is only a guideline, and each examining veterinarian must rely on his or her professional knowledge and judgment in the examination and assessment of any individual horse.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club and their nominated veterinarians serve to provide Prospective Owners, Owners and the Club with an independent, balanced professional opinion as to whether any condition or aspects identified during the examination process may affect the suitability or preclude a horse's entry into Hong Kong as a racehorse.



The final certification/interpretation offered by the Club is provided as a free service to assist Prospective Owners and Owners in reaching an informed decision. Accordingly, the Club cannot be held liable for any loss, damage, cost or expense arising out of, or in connection with, the purchase or importation of a horse.

The purchase and importation of any horse involves risk and at best, the Hong Kong Jockey Club pre-import examination process will help to identify, assess and quantify that risk.



6. Arrival Procedures

Prior to arrival in Hong Kong, all horses must undergo a 21 days pre-export quarantine in their home country. Note, if an Owner intends to import a horse from South Africa, it is advised that the Owner shall liaise with the Club to ascertain the applicable importation protocol and estimated shipping cost.



After arrival, all horses must complete a minimum period of 14 days post-arrival quarantine in Hong Kong before being placed with trainers at Sha Tin. These periods may be extended for veterinary reasons. Each Owner should nominate the trainer of his/her choice prior to his/her horse's arrival in Hong Kong.

Upon arrival, an import administration fee of \$1,150 will be levied. Also, a fee of \$1,005 per horse for the 2025/2026 season will be charged to register authority for trainer to act generally on Owner's behalf. This fee will cover the horse during a racing career provided there is no change of stables.



7. Declaration Form on Purchase of a Horse

An owner must on application for registration of the horse declare in a specified form the following:-

- (i) Where a horse is acquired by way of gift, the owner must provide such information or document as required to satisfy the Club that the ownership of the horse is absolute pursuant to Rule 40(1).

Acquiring a horse by way of gift (which means transfer of a horse without any purchase consideration, for nominal consideration or for discharge of any debt or obligation owed by the donor to the owner) is not allowed except:-

- (a) when the transferor is an immediate family member(s) (including a parent, spouse, child, sibling, grandparent or grandchild of the owner, or a parent or sibling of the spouse of the owner);
 - (b) when the horse is acquired directly from a vendor or agent as a replacement horse within a reasonable period of time from the retirement of the horse previously sold to the owner by the same vendor or agent; or
 - (c) in other circumstances where the Club *considers* fit in their sole discretion.
- (ii) Where a horse is purchased with contingencies, the existence and nature of such contingencies.

8. Declaration on Agent

An owner must declare the identity of any agent involved in the purchase of the horse. Agent means any consignor, bloodstock agent, racing or stud manager or any other person or entity who advises and/or represents a principal in the sale or purchase of



bloodstock, whether or not such agent is paid by way of retainer, commission or other forms of remuneration or as part of on-going or future financial arrangements. The owner shall use his best endeavours to procure the agent to complete a declaration of interest form and return the completed form with the application for registration of the horse.

9. Trackwork *and* Training

Horses are normally stabled and trained at Sha Tin and Conghua. It is at the sole discretion of the dual site trainer to arrange horses under his care where a particular horse will be stabled and trained.

Morning trackwork at Sha Tin starts every morning at 4:45 am and is normally completed by around 8:45 am. Owners may watch their horses from the trainers' stand, situated on the edge of the main training track. Owners attending must wear their owner badges and obtain visitor badges for accompanying guests from the security post at the track entrance gate.



Trackwork hours at Conghua Racecourse are from 4:45 am to 8:45 am.

Owners must always consult with their trainer if they have any special request in respect to the manner in which the horse is trained or cared for, or any special treatment they may wish the horse to receive. The approval of any such request will be at the sole discretion of the trainer, who has strict obligations of compliance under the Rules of Racing.



10. Barrier Trials and Stalls Tests

- a. In addition to morning track work, Owners may also attend barrier trials. These trials are normally run on the large all-weather track at Sha Tin on Tuesdays and Fridays at 8:15 am.





All-weather barrier trials are held at 8:15 am on *designated* Thursdays at Conghua Racecourse. Owners watching from the trainers' stand must wear their owner badges and obtain visitor badges for accompanying guests from the security post at the track entrance gate. Grass trials at Sha Tin are held on designated Tuesdays, starting at 7:00 am (or at 6:30 am in the event of 11 or more batches) and grass trials at Conghua Racecourse are held on designated Mondays, *Tuesdays* or Fridays at 7:15 / 7:30 am (*depending on the number of batches*). There are also barrier trials at Happy Valley on designated Fridays or Saturdays. Notice of all grass trials is published well in advance, please consult your trainer for the specific date and time of your horse's trial.

- b. Stalls tests are held to show that a horse has been schooled by the trainer to load into, stand in and jump out of starting stalls and is therefore ready to race. These are held on Mondays and Thursdays (except public holidays) at the 1800 metres chute at 7:30 am. If a general holiday falls on a Monday / *Thursday*, stalls tests may be moved to *the following day* if necessary. Stall tests at Conghua Racecourse are held on Tuesdays at 7:30 am. Each griffin must pass a stall test and a barrier trial before it can be entered to run.
- c. Barrier trials are conducted both as an aid to training and as an official means of testing a horse's tractability, soundness and suitability to race or continue to race. For example, both





griffins and privately purchased horses (those that have raced overseas before being imported) must pass one barrier trial before being entered to run in a race.

Note: For safety reasons, access to the sand mounting area is restricted to licensed persons, stables staff, accredited guests and HKJC officials. Owners wishing to enter the area must be accompanied by a stable representative. Children under 12 years of age are prohibited from entering the sand mounting area at all time.

11. Authorised Representatives

- a. An Owner may seek the approval of the Club to the appointment of an Authorised Representative to represent the Owner when the Owner is to be absent from Hong Kong and during any such absences the Authorised Representative may exercise all rights with respect to the Owner's horse in all dealings with the Owner's Authorised Agent.
- b. If an Owner is unable to manage his/her horse, his/her Authorised Representative must be a member, or a body corporate which, having previously been approved by the Club.

12. Entries

- a. To facilitate entries and planning, the monthly programme will be published about two months in advance. It includes such information as prize money, distance, rating band, names of cups, etc. for each meeting. A prospectus for each meeting carrying the latest details will be issued normally two weeks in advance.

To participate in a race a horse must first be "entered". Entries for Saturday/Sunday meetings normally close at 10:00 am on Monday. Entries for Wednesday meetings normally close at 10:00 am on Thursday in the preceding week. In the event



that races are re-opened due to insufficient entries, entries for those races will close at 11:30 am on the same day. Handicaps are usually published by 2:30 pm on entries closing days.

- b. Horses are entered to run and those entered cannot be withdrawn except under the following circumstances:
- (i) On veterinary grounds. (Veterinary Surgeon's confirmation is required).
 - (ii) If the race entered is a terms race (except griffin races).
 - (iii) If they are set to carry 7 lbs or more out of the handicap before declarations.
 - (iv) If the race conditions allow the withdrawal of entered horses.
 - (v) Stable change.
 - (vi) With the permission of the Stipendiary Stewards.
 - (vii) If the horse is promoted from the standby reserve list after being entered for the subsequent race meeting, the trainer may elect for such a horse to be withdrawn prior to the closing time of declarations for the subsequent race meeting. After the closing time of declarations for the subsequent race meeting, horses may only be withdrawn in accordance with the provisions as detailed above in (i), (v) and (vi).
- c. A trainer is allowed to indicate on the entry form an order of preference for his horses entered in the same race. He also has the option to indicate, in each race meeting, up to two of his first preference horses which should be given priority to run, i.e. trump cards.



d. Priority to run (Protection) will be granted to horses ranked as 1st preference by the Trainers provided that in their last entry in the current season they were:

- Declared starters of an abandoned race; OR
- Standby declared starters published at the time of declaration which subsequently failed to obtain a run; OR
- Ranked as 1st preference but were balloted out and could not obtain a run.

In the event of a horse failing to obtain a start or being a standby declared starter in a race in which priority to run is determined by special conditions, this race entry will not be taken into account in respect of the horse's priority to run status at its subsequent race entry. Rather, its priority to run status shall be determined as that which it held following its race entry which immediately preceded the special conditions race entry.

e. In general, priority to run is determined in the following order:

- 1st: horses with protection and balloted out in their previous entry with protection (double protection)
- 2nd: horses with protection and trump card
- 3rd: horses with protection
- 4th: horses with trump card
- 5th: horses indicated as trainers' 1st preference
- 6th: horses indicated as trainers' 2nd preference
- 7th: horses indicated as trainers' 3rd preference and so on

Balloting will take place, if necessary, for horses of equal status. However, for horses of equal status entering for Class 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and Griffin races, priority will be given to horses which have:

- (i) won their last start in the current season.



- (ii) placed 2nd, 3rd or 4th in their last start in the current season in that order and within 45 days of this race.

In respect of a previously abandoned race(s), for horses with same protection status, priority to run will be given to the declared starters first and then the two standby declared starters of such abandoned race(s).

- f. Protection, trump cards and preferences will not be applicable to races in which priority to run is determined by special conditions published in a relevant prospectus or notice.

In the event that a race is re-opened for a further period, priority to run will be given to entries received prior to the original advertised time of close of entry, except for races *for which priority to start is determined by the selection panel.*

- g. An entry fee is levied on all entries. The entry fee for a race is calculated on a percentage basis of prize money; the current rate is 0.3%. Subject to the race conditions, entries on the standby reserve list not getting a run will get a refund. Further, entries in a subsequently abandoned race will also get a refund. Entry fee is exempted for races open to overseas runners but a declaration fee will be levied as specified in the Race Prospectus.
- h. The details of every race are contained in a race meeting prospectus which is normally produced two weeks in advance of the race by the Racing Registry. All trainers receive copies of the prospectus for each meeting and Owners, who may want their own copies, may obtain them free of charge from the Racing Registry.



13. Handicaps

a. About 97 per cent of all races in Hong Kong are handicaps. A handicap is one in which the weights are adjusted by the Handicapper in order to equalise horses' chances of winning.

b. Handicap races are currently divided into five race classes from Class 1 down to Class 5. In addition, all Group 3 and some Group 2 races in Hong Kong are handicaps. In Hong Kong each horse is allocated a handicap rating as soon as practicable. This is simply the expression in lbs (weight) of the Handicapper's assessment of a horse's relative ability. Horses are continually reassessed during the season.



c. In all handicaps, the maximum allocated weight shall be 135 lbs and the minimum allocated weight shall be not less than 115 lbs.

d. 2-year-olds will receive a 5lb weight-for-age allowance in all handicaps, where applicable.



14. Terms Races

- a. A Terms Race is one in which weights are allocated according to a horse's age and sex, and/or according to his racing record. All Group 1 and some Group 2 races are terms races. Terms Races for the 2025/2026 season are:

Group One



LONGINES Hong Kong Cup



LONGINES Hong Kong Mile



LONGINES Hong Kong Sprint



LONGINES Hong Kong Vase



FWD QEII Cup



FWD Champions Mile



Chairman's Sprint Prize



Stewards' Cup



Citi Hong Kong Gold Cup



Standard Chartered Champions &
Chater Cup



Centenary Sprint Cup



Queen's Silver Jubilee Cup



Group Two

Chairman's Trophy

BOCHK Jockey Club Cup

BOCHK *Private Wealth* Jockey Club Mile

BOCHK Private Banking Jockey Club Sprint

Sprint Cup

4-Y-O Classic Series

BMW Hong Kong Derby 2026

Hong Kong Classic Cup

Hong Kong Classic Mile

Other Races

Griffin races

- b. A chart showing the Hong Kong Scale of Weight-for-Age is contained in the Rules of Racing.

15. Jockeys and Apprentice Jockeys

- a. There are five different categories of jockey: freelance jockeys, stable retained jockeys, Club retained jockeys, visiting jockeys and apprentice jockeys. A trainer will normally advise an Owner and make arrangements for his/her horse to be ridden by a particular jockey.
- b. Some Trainers, with larger number of horses, may have a stable retained jockey who is contracted to ride for that stable; 85% Owners with those trainers are required to support the stable retained jockey. A stable retained jockey may not normally be declared to ride outside his retaining stable if his retaining stable has a runner ridden by another stable's retained jockey. The Stewards may, however, give such permission in exceptional



circumstances. Freelance jockeys ride on a freelance basis. For more information, please refer to *Instruction 41 of the Rules of Racing and Instructions*.

- c. The Club may employ Club retained jockeys. These jockeys are primarily available to trainers and Owners without a retained jockey.
- d. An apprentice jockey, normally referred to as an apprentice, is a young “learner jockey” indentured to the Club and allocated to a trainer. The current apprentice jockey allowance to claim in any flat races on the sliding scale are shown below:-

If he has not ridden 20 winners	- 10 lbs
If he has ridden 20 winners but has not ridden 45 winners	- 7 lbs
If he has ridden 45 winners but has not ridden 70 winners	- 5 lbs
If he has ridden 70 winners but has not ridden 95 winners	- 3 lbs
If he has ridden 95 winners	- 2 lbs

- e. Freelance jockeys can claim weight allowances to compensate for their lack of experience on a downwards sliding scale dependent upon the number of wins they achieve. The current allowances applicable in Hong Kong are shown below:-

If he has not ridden 20 winners	- 10 lbs
If he has ridden 20 winners but has not ridden 45 winners	- 7 lbs
If he has ridden 45 winners but has not ridden 70 winners	- 5 lbs



If he has ridden 70 winners but has not ridden 95 winners	- 3 lbs
If he has ridden 95 winners but has not ridden 250 winners	- 2 lbs

16. Official Pre-Race Veterinary Inspection

- a. All horses, which are entered for a race, must pass an official veterinary inspection before they race. The objectives of this inspection are to protect horse and rider safety, to provide for the welfare and humane treatment of racehorses and to assist in maintaining consistent racing performances. A Veterinary Officer from the Department of Veterinary Regulation, Welfare and Biosecurity Policy will perform these inspections in the morning on the day before racing and the decision of this Department will be final.



- b. The inspection requires the horse to be trotted in-hand free of any bandages, rugs, etc. on a firm flat surface away from and back towards the Veterinary Officer. The Veterinary Officer may then perform any other procedures at his discretion, which are required to assist him in making a decision on a horse's veterinary suitability to race.



17. Veterinary Clinical Services

A complete level of veterinary care in Hong Kong and at Conghua Racecourse is provided through dedicated Veterinary Hospitals that offer extensive diagnostic and therapeutic facilities, operating theatres and rehabilitation services. In addition, a fully-stocked pharmacy and a clinical laboratory ensure comprehensive medical care and management of horses.

As well as performing conventional investigative examinations using radiography and ultrasound, advanced modalities such as MRI, Ultrasound Tissue Characterization and Nuclear Scintigraphy are also employed in Hong Kong. In Conghua, the Rehabilitation Centre is equipped with a range of technologies including chilled salt-water spas, an aqua treadmill and therapeutic LASER which are all valuable in maintaining optimal equine health and aid in recovery from injury.

Prompt communication is an essential part of the relationship between veterinarians, trainers and owners. Clinical reports are emailed directly to owners within 48hrs of the examination and owners who wish to receive clinical reports electronically are encouraged to update through Membership their email addresses.

Should there be any queries, please feel free to call Membership Hotline at 1812.



18. Declarations

Declarations normally take place two or three days before a race. Declarations normally do not incur any fee or charge except otherwise specified in the Prospectus. Once the horse has been declared it may not be withdrawn unless under exceptional circumstances, or for veterinary reasons only. For example, a horse may become lame or suffer an illness or injury in the period between close of declarations and the running of the race. If this were to happen, the trainer would inform one of the Club's Veterinary Officers who would then examine the horse and if found to be not suitable to race, would advise the Stewards to withdraw it.

19. Anti-doping Measures

- a. On the day a horse races, its urine (or blood if it does not produce a urine sample in time) will be analysed for prohibited substances prior to taking part in the race, by the Club's Racing Laboratory. Additional samples may be taken at any time, as required. Horses that do not provide a urine sample pre-race will be required to provide urine and blood samples after the race. This procedure has proved to be a highly effective deterrent against doping. A horse placed either first or second in its race will have further urine and blood samples taken for analysis immediately after the race. Should a horse's performance be unusual in comparison with previous races, it may be selected, at the discretion of the Stipendiary Stewards, for further urine and blood sample analysis immediately after its race. These horses may also be selected for official post-race veterinary inspections by a Veterinary Officer of the Club.



- b. Samples may be taken for analysis at any time from any horse registered in training. This is to ensure that horses receive only those medications prescribed by the Club's Veterinary Surgeons.

20. The Race and Paddock Procedures

- a. All runners are brought, already saddled, into the parade ring prior to each race. This provides an opportunity for Owners to meet their trainers and jockeys, to assess prospects for the race, to judge a horse's condition and, importantly, to discuss the riding instructions and anticipated tactics. *Instruction*



29 of the Rules of Racing and Instructions covers these points in detail and it is reproduced below, in full. An Owner should be familiar with its contents even though he/she will have signed an Authority-to-Act form instructing his/her trainer to comply with the Instruction's provisions (See Item 2).

- b. Each trainer is required to instruct the jockey of any horse for which he is responsible to ride that horse in such a manner as to ensure that the best possible placing is obtained. Each Owner who wishes to give additional tactical instructions to his jockey should do so through the trainer. Should an inquiry be held involving the running and/or riding of a horse the trainer and the Owner will be asked to repeat their respective riding instructions.



21. Winning

The crowning moment of every Owner's hopes and dreams comes when his/her horse wins a race. The winner is taken to the Winners' Enclosure to allow the Owner to lead in his/her horse and to pose for photographs with the trainer and jockey. The maximum number of guests a winning Owner can bring to take a winning photo is 50. Should an Owner be lucky enough to win a trophy, then this is usually presented in the unsaddling enclosure immediately after the jockey has weighed in.

22. Owners Presence at Objection Hearings

In the event that an objection is being lodged, Owners of the concerned horses are allowed, if they so wish, to be present at the objection hearing. If the horses in question have more than one Owner, only one of them is allowed to be present at this hearing. When Owners wish to exercise the above right of attendance, it is their sole responsibility to ensure that they present themselves in time at the inquiry room for the hearing in order not to cause delay in the conduct of the race meeting.



23. Prize Money

a. The distribution of prize money is as follows:

PRIZE MONEY

CLASS 1 (1600m-2400m).....	\$4,075,000
CLASS 1 (1000m-1400m).....	\$3,720,000
CLASS 2 (1600m-2400m).....	\$3,120,000
CLASS 2 (1000m-1400m).....	\$2,840,000
CLASS 3 (1600m-2400m).....	\$2,050,000
CLASS 3 (1000m-1400m).....	\$1,860,000
CLASS 4.....	\$1,170,000
CLASS 5.....	\$875,000
GRIFFINS	\$950,000

GROUP RACES

Group One

LONGINES Hong Kong Cup.....	\$40,000,000
LONGINES Hong Kong Mile	\$36,000,000
FWD QEII Cup	\$30,000,000
LONGINES Hong Kong Sprint.....	\$28,000,000
LONGINES Hong Kong Vase.....	\$26,000,000
FWD Champions Mile.....	\$24,000,000
@ Chairman's Sprint Prize.....	\$24,000,000
* Stewards' Cup	\$13,000,000
* Citi Hong Kong Gold Cup	\$13,000,000
* Standard Chartered Champions & Chater Cup ...	\$13,000,000
@ Centenary Sprint Cup.....	\$13,000,000
@ Queen's Silver Jubilee Cup	\$13,000,000

Group Two

Chairman's Trophy	\$5,350,000
BOCHK Jockey Club Cup.....	\$5,350,000
BOCHK <i>Private Wealth</i> Jockey Club Mile	\$5,350,000
BOCHK Private Banking Jockey Club Sprint	\$5,350,000
Premier Bowl	\$5,350,000



Sha Tin Trophy	\$5,350,000
Sprint Cup	\$5,350,000

Group Three

Bauhinia Sprint Trophy.....	\$4,200,000
Celebration Cup	\$4,200,000
Centenary Vase	\$4,200,000
Chinese Club Challenge Cup.....	\$4,200,000
January Cup.....	\$4,200,000
Sa Sa Ladies' Purse	\$4,200,000
Lion Rock Trophy.....	\$4,200,000
National Day Cup	\$4,200,000
Premier Cup	\$4,200,000
Premier Plate.....	\$4,200,000
Queen Mother Memorial Cup	\$4,200,000
Sha Tin Vase	\$4,200,000

4-Y-O Classic Series

BMW Hong Kong Derby 2026.....	\$26,000,000
Hong Kong Classic Cup	\$13,000,000
Hong Kong Classic Mile.....	\$13,000,000

SPECIAL BONUS

* Triple Crown	\$10,000,000
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@ Hong Kong Speed Series	\$5,000,000
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DBS x Manulife Million Challenge.....	\$1,500,000
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PP BONUS

Any PP that achieves a first win in Class 3 when rated 60 or higher before reaching 5 years of age\$1,500,000

(PPs which have won the Class 3 bonus can earn an additional \$1,500,000 bonus for a first win in Class 2 or above when rated 80 or higher during the same period.)



Any PP that achieves its first-ever Hong Kong win in Class 2 or above when rated 80 or higher before reaching 5 years of age during the eligible timeframe can earn a bonus.... \$3,000,000
 (If a PP that achieves its first-ever Hong Kong win in Class 2 when rated below 80, it will receive a \$1,500,000 bonus and remain eligible for a \$1,500,000 top up during the relevant timeframe.)

PPG BONUS

Any PPG that achieves a first win in Class 2 or above when rated 80 or higher before reaching 5 years of age..... \$1,000,000

All horses are eligible for bonus schemes until the end of their 4-year-old year while Northern Hemisphere / South American PPs and PPGs rated 80 or higher remain eligible for a Class 2 or above bonus until 16 July of their 5-year-old season.

All PPs with a rating of 70 or higher at the time of import are eligible for a \$1,500,000 bonus when they record a first win in Class 3 when rated 60 or higher within two years from the date of import.

ISG BONUS

Owners of ISGs that are successful for the first time in Class 3 when rated 60 or higher before the end of their first full season..... \$1,000,000

b. The normal distribution of prize money is:

1st	56%	4th	6%
2nd	21%	5th	3.5%
3rd	11.5%	6th	2%

c. From the prize money won by the first six placed horses, the Club will deduct payments for trainers, jockeys and stable staff as shown below.

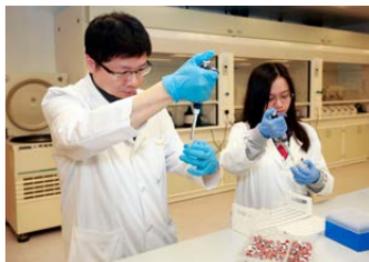
Trainer	9.2%
Hong Kong Assistant trainer & Hong Kong stable staff	10.8%
Jockey	10% for a winning horse, 5% for a placed horse (2nd-6th)



In other words, the Owner(s) will receive 70% of the prize money for a winning horse and 75% for a placed horse (2nd-6th).

d. Riding fees are as follows:

- Jockey (Except for stable retained jockey)..... \$2,300 per ride (of which \$1,000 is payable to the Club)
- Stable retained jockey riding for supporting Owner & horses trained by other trainers..... \$2,300 per ride (of which \$1,000 as contribution towards the retainership of the concerned Stable Jockey)
- Stable retained jockey riding for non-supporting Owner in the stable \$6,300 per ride (of which \$5,000 as contribution towards the retainership of the concerned Stable Jockey)
- Apprentice Jockey.....\$1,250 per ride (of which \$600 payable to the Club)



- e. The Club shall render, subject to a laboratory test clearance issued by the Head of Racing Laboratory, an account within three weeks after each meeting and pay over all prize and added money, after deduction of any overdue payments in the account, to the persons entitled unless there is a protest/objection pending.
- f. Owners can choose to receive all prize money and added money at their designated bank account by auto-pay. This arrangement is more convenient and can expedite the payment process. If you want to enjoy this service, please complete the “Stakes Money Direct Credit Authorization Form” and return the completed form to the Club’s Accounts Payable Section. The form can be downloaded from the Club’s website: <https://member.hkjc.com/member/english/horse-owner/owners-information/download-forms.aspx>



MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

24. Livery and Veterinary Charges

The current livery fee for keeping a horse in a racing stable at Sha Tin and Conghua is \$30,000 per month. In addition to this, during the first four months after the arrival of a new horse import, the basic monthly livery fee will be further reduced by HK\$5,000 to HK\$25,000. The livery fee for keeping a horse in spelling stable at Conghua is \$30,000. There can be veterinary charges if a horse becomes sick or injured and for any additional supplement or procedure that the trainer requests. There are also charges for bedding, horse feeds and miscellaneous items plus compulsory vaccinations, de-wormings, farriery and dental care. The Club is able to keep these charges relatively low since it employs its own veterinary surgeons.

The Club has entered into a General Liability Insurance policy on the Owners' behalf covering liability claims arising out of their race horses. It is to indemnify the Owners shall they become legally liable for injury to third parties or other race horses and damage to third parties' properties caused by their race horses. The indemnity is limited to HK\$10 million for any one occurrence arising out of each horse and the insurance cost, currently HK\$50 per horse per month, has been incorporated in the basic monthly livery fee.

25. Trainer's Fee

The trainer's fee for a Hong Kong based racehorse is \$1,200 per horse per month. The trainer's fee for a Conghua based racehorse is \$1,800 per horse per month.





26. Stable Visits

- a. All Owners are required to sign a stable visit disclaimer prior to their first visit to the stables. *By visiting the stables (whether in Hong Kong or Conghua), Owners and visitors are deemed to have read and accepted the Terms and Conditions for Stable Visits and such other rules of the Club. Owners shall be responsible for the conduct of their guests during stable visits. An Owner may be subject to disciplinary action for any misconduct or breach of the Terms and Conditions for Stable Visits or other rules of the Club by himself or his guests.*
- b. Visiting horses subject to isolation/quarantine requirement is strictly prohibited. Owners are not permitted to enter the quarantine stables in Hong Kong.
- c. Owners can visit their horses at stables compound while their horses are in training but they are requested to wear their Owner badge and obtain visitor badges for accompanying guests from the security post at the stables entrance gate. They should only visit their own horse(s) and, may visit the stables of other trainers by invitation.

Opening hours of the Sha Tin stables compound for stable visits:

All Days (except race days)	Opening Hours
Mondays to Sundays	5:30am - 9:30am and 1:30pm - 5:30pm

- d. Members who do not own horses or who have not been authorised by an Owner to look after their interests during periods of absence, may not visit the stables unless accompanied by an Owner or with the permission of the Head of Dual Site Stables Operations or his delegate.



Stable Biosecurity

Equine diseases can be easily carried on people's clothing, hands, shoes, hats and hair. Accordingly, all visitors must shower and change into clean clothes footwear prior to entering the stables and must not enter within 24 hours of visiting any Mainland China horse facility / horse facility outside of Hong Kong or coming into contact within any Mainland China horse.

Visit to Conghua

Prior registration is required at least one working day before an Owner visits the Conghua Racecourse. Please contact the Owners Services Team at 3507 7758 or ownersengagement@hkjc.org.hk. Booking for cross border transportation and hotel accommodation can be arranged by the Owners Engagement Team.

Opening hours of the Conghua stables compound for stable visits:

All Days (except race days)	Opening Hours
Mondays to Sundays	6:30am - 9:00am and 1:30pm - 3:30pm

e. Safety Reminders for *Owners and their guests*

- (i) You should always be accompanied by your Trainer or his representative during a visit.
- (ii) You are required to acknowledge and agree to the terms and conditions for stable visit before entering the stables compound.

https://members.hkjc.com/-/media/Sites/JCEW/member/image/2025/Tnc_for_stable_visits-1.pdf

- (iii) *Owners are responsible for the safety of their guests in the stables compound.*



(iv) Visitors are strictly prohibited from taking any foodstuffs, including sweets or drinks into the *Sha Tin and Conghua Racecourse Stables* compound. If you wish to feed your horse a titbit / treat, in the interest of your horse's safety, please ask the stable to provide you with food that is safe for racehorse consumption. If you visit your horse on the day before racing, please refrain from feeding it anything at all.

(v) You should always follow the safety rules below when feeding and handling your horse:

Proper Way To Approach a Horse

Always speak to your horse with a gentle voice before approaching.

It is safest to approach your horse from the left side of its shoulder.

Always try to position yourself on the same side of the horse as the handler.

Never approach the horse from the back or stand right in front of it.

Never stand close to its flanks or hindquarters as the horse can cow-kick that may injure you.

Don't make any sudden movements or noise as the horse is sensitive to it and may become restless.

Try not to enter any horse stall to watch or touch your horse as it is not recommended.





f. Conducting any commercial or sale activities, or soliciting money or other contributions or donations (whether commercial, political, charitable or otherwise) is strictly prohibited in the stables compound unless with prior written approval of the Club.

g. Prior consent from the Trainer/the Club is mandatory for any video or photography within the Stables Compound. Images or footage captured must not be used for advertising or commercial purposes and shall not negatively impact the Club's reputation.

Feeding a Horse with Titbit

Put a titbit, i.e. piece of carrot etc., on the palm of your hand. The horse will pick up the titbit from your hands by moving its upper and lower lips.

Don't close your hand when the horse is nipping the food. This will minimise the risk of your fingers being bitten.



27. Gratuities

There is no requirement for Owners to give gratuities to Trainers, Jockeys or any members of Club staff and the Club does not encourage the same. Solicitation of gratuities is strictly forbidden. Owners are strongly advised to notify the Club of any solicitation of gratuities by Trainers, Jockeys or Club staff.

The Club is a public body under the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance ("POBO"). Employees of the Club are considered as public servants under the POBO and no advantages may be given to Club employees except with express permission of the Club.



The Club has put in place a clear policy on acceptance of gratuities and other advantages by its employees. Owners who wish to give laises or gratuities to any Club staff should refer to the written guidelines and exemptions issued by the Club to all Members before doing so (the “Guidelines”). Only staff working at Clubhouses, Racecourses, Kau Sai Chau Golf Course and Riding schools are allowed to accept laisee in the first 15 days of Chinese New Year. During this period, staff are permitted to keep laisee valued at HKD/RMB 500 or below from each Owner per occasion without the need to report or seek for approval. Insofar as racing and stable operations are concerned, only designated Stable Staff are permitted to accept laises and gratuities from Owners on designated occasions, the details of which are set out in the Guidelines. Examples of occasions on which laises or gratuities are permitted to be given to designated staff working at stables are the first 15 days of Chinese New Year, after the Owner’s horse has won a race or at season end.

For the purpose of this section, designated Stable Staff include all Club staff working in the Stable Department:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| (i) Assistant Trainers | (vii) All staff working in the Quarantine Stables |
| (ii) Head Lads | (viii) Travelling Grooms |
| (iii) Work Riders | (ix) Fodder Delivery Assistants |
| (iv) Expert Work Riders | (x) Saddlers |
| (v) Stable Assistants | |
| (vi) Stable Service Assistants | |

Designated Stable Staff do not include any Club staff from Veterinary Departments (Veterinary Regulation, Welfare and Biosecurity Policy and Veterinary Clinical Services), Racing Laboratory, Equestrian Affairs Department, Racing Talent Training Centre, Farriers, or the Tracks and Racing Facilities Department.



Every time after gratuity (except laises given during the first 15 days of Chinese New Year in accordance with the Guidelines) has been given to any such designated Stable Staff or to Trainers for distribution to such staff, the relevant Owner is required to submit a payment record form to the Head of Dual Site Stables Operations. The Declaration for Gratuities to Stable Staff form can be obtained from Dual Site Stables Operations at 2966 7253 or, the Trainer's Office and can be downloaded from the Club's website: <https://member.hkjc.com/member/english/horse-owner/owners-information/download-forms.aspx>.

While Trainers and Jockeys (excluding Apprentice Jockeys employed by the Club) are not employees of the Club, they may be considered as agents of the Club under the POBO when performing their duties as contemplated under their service contracts with the Club:-

- Trainers are likely to be considered as agents of the Club when carrying out their duties as a Trainer for the Club, for example when conducting horse training, track work, managing stables, training facilities and staff allocated by the Club, providing training to the Club's assigned Assistant Trainer(s), providing assistance in the Club's Apprentice Jockey training programme by arranging track work rides and race rides to Apprentice Jockeys allocated to them, and participating in or carrying out promotional and other activities as required by the Club. Trainers may not be considered as an agent for the Club when carrying out activities that are unrelated to his services to the Club and not under the direction of the Club, for example when acting as bloodstock agents for Owners.
- Jockeys are likely to be considered as agents of the Club when conducting work rides and race rides for the Club, and participating in or carrying out promotional and other activities as required by the Club.



The Club has put in place a clear policy on acceptance of gratuities and other advantages by Trainers and Jockeys. Owners who wish to give lisees or gratuities to any Trainers or Jockeys should refer to the Guidelines. In summary, a Trainer or a Jockey is only permitted to accept lisees and gratuities from an Owner in limited circumstances when carrying out their duties as Trainers or Jockeys for the Club, for example, in relation to the performance of the relevant horse(s) of that Owner which that Trainer trains/ is to train or that Jockey rides/is to ride, or in relation to activities that are not related to the Club's services and operations such as acting as bloodstock agents for Owners.

An Owner who offers or provides gratuities or advantages to the employees or the agents of the Club otherwise than in accordance with the Guidelines may be subject to disciplinary action and may commit an offence under the POBO.

28. Allocation of Rating

Allocation of ratings for the 2025/2026 imports will be as follows:

Privately Raced Horses (PPs)

Ratings will be allocated based on The Hong Kong Jockey Club Handicappers' assessment of overseas performance.

Privately Purchased Griffins (PPG) and International Sale Griffins (ISG)

- a. PPG and ISG which are 3 years old on 31st December will be allocated an initial rating of 52 (male) or 48 (female) on arrival.
- b. PPG and ISG which are 2 years old on 31st December will be eligible to race in Griffin races.
- c. From 1st January, Northern Hemisphere-bred PPG and ISG which were 2 years old on 31st December will also be eligible



to be entered for standard class handicaps. A rating will be allocated to any such horse at the time of entry; unraced males will be rated 52, unraced females will be rated 48, while the rating allocated to a horse which has raced will be at the discretion of the Handicapper.

- d. A trainer may request that a rating be allocated to the winner of a Griffin race.
- e. A winner of two Griffin races will be allocated a rating immediately.
- f. No horse allocated a rating will be eligible for Griffin races unless otherwise specified in the conditions of the Griffin race.
- g. The minimum initial rating allocated to a Griffin winner will be 57.
- h. The maximum initial rating for a maiden Griffin which has been placed second, third or fourth will be 57, and that for a raced but unplaced Griffin will be 52.
- i. All unrated Griffins will be allocated an initial rating at the end of the season.
- j. Griffins which are unraced at the end of the season will be allocated an initial rating of 52 (male) or 48 (female).

29. Movement of Horses between Trainers

- a. Owners are strongly discouraged from moving their horses to another trainer unless they have good and proper grounds for doing so. It has been suggested to the Stewards that some Owners may have removed horses from a trainer for reasons connected entirely with betting losses on those particular horses. The Stewards deplore such action which is totally contrary to the interests of horse racing. The Stewards may therefore require Owners to explain and justify their reasons for wishing to change their trainers.



- b. An explanation of the system contained in *Instruction 33 of the Rules of Racing and Instructions*. “Transfers” is shown below:
- (i) The transfer of a horse will not be allowed without the written permission of, and following an examination by, the Veterinary Surgeon. A sample of a horse’s urine will be collected immediately prior to its transfer.
 - (ii) Unless it is under any other restriction, a horse is entitled to resume racing after the expiration of 14 days of the date of the official notification of its transfer.
 - (iii) No horse may be transferred without the prior written approval of the Stewards at which time any existing entry to race, other than an early closing entry, will be cancelled and the horse will not be permitted to run until new Authority-to-Act forms are completed.
 - (iv) A horse that is subject to a request for stables transfer will be barred from using any training facility until written approval to the change is issued.
 - (v) A fee to be determined by the Club shall be payable upon stables transfer.
- c. An Owner who wishes to have his/her horse transferred to another stable needs to fill in a “Request for Stables Transfer” form, which is obtainable from the Dual Site Stables Operations Department. Under normal conditions, approval for transfer will be granted within two working days after submitting the duly completed form. A re-registration of Authority-to-Act following a change of stable will be charged at \$3,605 per horse for the 2025/2026 season.

30. Rehabilitation Station

Rehabilitation therapies are available for horses at Conghua Racecourse as an extension of services offered by the DVCS.



Trainers can request ad hoc therapies (e.g. chilled salt water spa, aqua treadmill, laser or ultrasound therapy) for horses that remain in training or they can request that horses are referred for more intensive therapy on a “holistic plan”, where a programme will be devised specifically for each horse by the Rehabilitation Manager. Horses that are enrolled on a holistic plan will be officially declared as “undergoing Rehabilitation”. No horse shall be declared to run within 14 days of its return from the rehabilitation stables.

31. Spelling Station

The spelling station at *Conghua* is capable of accommodating up to 20 horses at any one time and the maximum period of stay is three weeks. The spelling station is intended to provide horses with a short break from the Sha Tin routine. No horse shall be entitled to resume racing within 14 days of its return from the spelling stables.



32. Retirement of Horses

a. Compulsory retirement criteria for horses are determined by the Club. Current criteria include:

(i) All horses which have reached the age of 11 years.

(ii) All horses rated 25 or below at the end of each racing season.

(iii) All horses whose veterinary histories indicate that, in the opinion of the Veterinary Officer, they are no longer sound and/or safe racing propositions. This includes horses with one eye or blind of an eye, horses that have been reported to have bled from one or both nostrils on two occasions and horses that have been reported on three occasions to have had



an irregular heart rhythm. Please note, if a horse bleeds severely, even for the first time, the Head of Veterinary Regulation, Welfare and Biosecurity Policy, or Veterinary Officer may recommend compulsory retirement on welfare and safety grounds. In the event that a horse is assessed to be no longer a sound and/or safe racing proposition, an Owner may request via the trainer that a review of the horse's suitability to continue in training and racing be conducted by the Club's Equine Soundness and Welfare Assessment Panel (ESWAP).



(iv) All horses foaled in the Southern Hemisphere which will be an 8-year old at the season end and any horse foaled in the Northern Hemisphere which will be a 9-year old at the season end will be required to have a full veterinary examination to determine its suitability to remain in training for the coming season.

(v) All horses which has not raced 12 months or more will be required to pass an official barrier trial and official veterinary examination before it is entered for a race. Unless otherwise permitted by the Stipendiary Stewards in exceptional circumstances, the official barrier trial and official veterinary examination must be conducted jointly as part of the same process.

(vi) Any horse which is unruly and which, in the Stewards' opinion, is unsafe to continue to race.

(vii) Any horse whose continued participation in racing may, in the Stewards' opinion, be prejudicial to the interests, integrity, proper conduct and/or good reputation of the Club and/or horse racing.

b. Horses may be voluntarily retired by their Owners regardless of their age and rating.

c. *On retirement, owners may choose to export their horses to an overseas facility. In doing so, they must ensure their horses receive appropriate veterinary care as needed and that proper stable*



management practices are consistently maintained while the horse remains under their ownership. If a horse changes ownership overseas, owners are required to notify the Club.

For owners who do not wish to retain ownership, suitable horses may be enrolled into the Club's Retired Racehorse Programme, where they can be retrained for use as pleasure or equestrian horses. All horses will be subject to veterinary assessment and the Club will notify owners if their horses are not suitable for export or the retraining programme.

RESTART the Club's racehorse aftercare programme, is designed to support racehorses in retirement. The **RESTART** guidebook outlines the retirement procedure and lists reputable international facilities for the care of retired racehorses. It is available at: <https://racing.hkjc.com/racing/english/restart/RacehorseRetirementGuide/index.aspx?lang=EN#1> or by emailing: ownersinfo@hkjc.org.hk



- d. Some retired racehorses may be selected for export to Jockey Club approved establishments overseas.

33. Replacement Permit

a. Replacement of the Original Permit

Any Owner whose horse is retired from racing in its first 24 months and has not raced more than 10 starts in HKJC races may apply for a replacement of the original permit under which such horse was imported.

b. Normal Replacement Permit (for a Normal Privately Purchased Horse)

An Owner may apply for a Normal Replacement Permit



provided that the retired racehorse to be replaced fulfils the following conditions:

- It was NOT imported under a Normal or Special Replacement Permit;
- It was retired within 24 months upon arrival in Hong Kong; and
- It did not have more than 15 starts in HKJC races.

If approved, the Owner is allowed to import a Previously Raced Horse (“PP”) which must have a confirmed Hong Kong rating of 63 or higher at time of import.

(i) Age and Starts Conditions

- Horses must be imported into Hong Kong before they turn five years old.
- Restrictions on the maximum number of starts for different age groups are detailed in the following table:

Age(at time of arrival)	2-year-olds	3-year-olds		4-year-olds		
		As a 2yo	As a 3yo	As a 2yo	As a 3yo	As a 4yo
Maximum No. of Starts	10	10	15	10	15	15
Maximum Career Starts	10	17		17		

(Note: Horses aged five (5) or above will not be permitted to be imported into HK.)

(ii) Import Countries

- a) PPs may be qualified and imported from the following countries:

Argentina	Germany	*Peru
Australia	Great Britain	#South Africa
*Brazil	Ireland	United Arab Emirates
Canada	Italy	United States of America
*Chile	Japan	*Uruguay
France	New Zealand	



- b) If a Permit Holder is considering obtaining a PP from one of the countries marked (*), please consult the Club first regarding importation procedures, as there are no protocols to permit the direct importation of equines into Hong Kong.
- c) Please note that there may be restrictions on the importation of horses from certain countries for varying periods due to disease outbreaks and at the time of publication the country marked (#) is subject to such a restriction.
- d) Importation of horses via a country not listed in paragraph a) above requires prior approval of the Club, which may accept or reject such application or impose such conditions on approval at its sole discretion.

Hong Kong Ratings are provided by the Racing Product Department of the Club upon request by Permit Holders and/or Trainers. Ratings supplied and/or published by foreign racing jurisdictions do not determine qualification for import.

Permit Holders and/or Trainers must obtain prior written confirmation from the Racing Product Department that a horse is qualified for import in accordance with the Import Criteria. Any confirmation thus issued is subject to all circumstances remaining unchanged in respect of the horse and will be automatically revoked when circumstances do change (e.g. age change or the horse racing again.) In that case, re-confirmation of qualification for import is required. It is the sole responsibility of the Permit Holder to ensure that the horse satisfies the Import Criteria and all other requirements for import into Hong Kong.



c. Special Replacement Permit

In addition to the above policy on Normal Replacement Permit, current Owners are allowed, if they so wish, to retire one of their existing horses in any season and apply for a Special Replacement Permit. If approved, the Owner is allowed to import a replacement horse that can fulfill the following import criteria:

(i) Age and Starts Conditions

- Horses must be imported into Hong Kong before they turn five years old.
- Restrictions on the maximum number of starts for different age groups are detailed in the table below:

Age(at time of arrival)	2-year-olds	3-year-olds		4-year-olds		
Maximum No. of Starts	10	As a 2yo 10	As a 3yo 15	As a 2yo 10	As a 3yo 15	As a 4yo 15
Maximum Career Starts	10	17		17		

(Note: Horses aged five (5) or above will not be permitted to be imported into HK.)

(ii) Performance Qualifications (Special Replacement Permit)

To be eligible, a Previously Raced horse (PP) aged 2, 3 or 4 (at time of arrival) must:

- have a confirmed Hong Kong rating of 70 or higher at the time of import;
- And have won a race or been placed 2nd or 3rd in a Group or Listed race;
- And be qualified and imported from one of the countries listed in paragraph 33.b.ii.

Hong Kong Ratings are provided by the Racing Product Department upon request by Permit Holders and/or Trainers. Ratings supplied and/or published by foreign racing jurisdictions do not determine qualification for import.



Permit Holders and/or Trainers must obtain prior written confirmation from the Racing Product Department that a horse is qualified for import in accordance with the Import Criteria. Any confirmation thus issued is subject to all circumstances remaining unchanged in respect of the horse and will be automatically revoked when circumstances do change (e.g. age change or the horse racing again). In that case, re-confirmation of qualification for import is required. It is the sole responsibility of the Permit Holder to ensure that the horse satisfies the Import Criteria and all other requirements for import into Hong Kong.

Racing Product Department representatives can be reached at hrp.enquiry@hkjc.org.hk or +852 2966 8215

Please note that Special Replacement Permit holders may, subject to meeting the Purchaser Eligibility listed in the Sale Catalogue, bid at the Hong Kong International Sale and retain their purchase in Hong Kong to race.

- d. The successful applicant of all Replacement Permit is also required to export the original horse at his/her own costs, unless such horse is certified by the Club's Veterinary Surgeons as being unsuitable for export.
- e. Granting of a Replacement Permit is at the sole discretion of the Club based on the merits of each application. All Replacement Permits will be valid for 12 months from the date of issue.
- f. A horse which was imported into Hong Kong under a Replacement Permit can, subject to fulfilling the prerequisite replacement requirements, be replaced for one more time only.



34. Contributions to Retired Racehorse Programme

An import fee of HK\$100,000 will be collected from Owners on the arrival of their new horses as a contribution towards the funding of the retired racehorse programme. Whilst this is substantially less than would be required to fund the total cost of the retired racehorse programme, the level of the import fee has been set at this level to assist Owners. The fee will also apply to Owners who successfully purchase a horse at the 2026 Hong Kong International Sales and retain it to race in Hong Kong. Nevertheless, Owners can apply for a travel subsidy from the Club up to the amount contributed by them to the Retired Racehorse programme upon arrival of the concerned retired horse in Hong Kong, or the actual shipping cost, whichever is the lower, when they export the retired horse provided that the horse in question is imported under this scheme.

35. Travel Subsidy for Export of Retired Racehorse

An Owner may apply to the Club to export his/her retired racehorse. The standard procedure for such an application is available from the Racing Registry. Successful applicants may, subject to the approval of the Club, be granted a travel subsidy of up to the amount contributed by them to the Retired Racehorse programme upon arrival of the concerned retired horse in Hong Kong. For horses retired in the 2025/2026 season, Owners will also receive an additional payment of HK\$50,000 towards the cost of exporting their horses. Total entitlement will be the sum of the two subsidies or the actual shipping cost, whichever is lower.

36. Rules and Instructions for Sale of Horses

- a. The following extracts from the Ownership Bye-laws and the Horse Ballot Bye-laws are quoted for ease of reference:



- (i) “Each Member, and whether in his own right or as a member of a partnership or syndicate, who has drawn a SG or has imported a PP or PPG pursuant to an Import Permit shall be deemed to have given an express undertaking to the Club to keep that horse in training throughout its natural racing career.”
- (ii) “Any proposal for any change in the ownership of any category of horse must be submitted in writing, with reasons, for the approval of the Stewards of the Jockey Club, whose determination of such application shall be final and binding on the applicant. The Stewards of the Jockey Club shall not be obliged to give any reason for refusing any such application.”
- (iii) “Application to sell will not normally be granted unless for one or more of the following reasons:
- (1) the death of an owner;
 - (2) by express permission of the Stewards of the Jockey Club which will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.”
- (iv) “The disposal of horses through sale by tender will render the selling Member, partnership or syndicate ineligible to take part in further draws for Import Permits or SGs unless the Stewards of the Jockey Club, in their absolute discretion, shall determine otherwise.”
- b. (i) All horses proposed for sale by tender must undergo a thorough veterinary examination which includes a testing gallop to assess their suitability for sale. As a result of this examination it may be determined that a horse whilst suitable for continued racing under current Ownership in Hong Kong is not fit for sale to another Owner.
- (ii) Horses passed fit for sale may well have existing health problems; a prospective purchaser must take thorough note of these problems before submitting a tender.



37. Racing Publications

- a. The following official racing publications are available on sale from the Racing Registry:

Racing Calendar (a quarterly summary of racing information)
\$160

Annual Record (an annual summary of races in the season)
\$460

List of Horses (for identifying horses in training at morning trackwork)
\$100

Race Results Book (including comments on running and racing incidents)
\$60

- b. The official programme (race card), which displays racing colours, costs \$15. It is on sale at selected Off-Course Betting Branches and at both racecourses during race meetings.

38. Trainer Syndicate

Trainer Syndicate is administered by the Trainer who initiates the Trainer Syndicate and the responsibilities include but are not limited to assisting the keeping of the register of members and accounts, making contribution calls, liaising with the Club, horse(s) purchase, related affairs and taking minutes.

Each Trainer is entitled to two Trainer Syndicate horses each season provided the trainer has a minimum of two years of age eligibility remaining within the Club's guidelines. If the first



Trainer Syndicate horse is PPG, the second Trainer Syndicate horse must be PP or ISG. If the first Trainer Syndicate horse is PP or ISG, the second Trainer Syndicate horse can be PP, PPG or ISG.

Stable transfers must be approved by a 75% share of votes from all Trainer Syndicate members and a transfer may only take place after a minimum of two years from date of import.

A Club Member can be a member of only **one** Trainer Syndicate at any one time.

Each Trainer Syndicate will follow the same policy as normal syndicate ownership with regard to the number of members, percentage of ownership and requirement of nominated managers. Trainers and their immediate family members are not allowed to have beneficiary interests in the Trainer Syndicate horse.

Full details of the Trainer Syndicate are included in the Syndicate Agreement which must be submitted to the Club for approval before the horse import permit is granted.

8 September 2025

**Enquiries for Racing Matters and Horse Ownership,
please dial 2966 8349 or 2966 7540**