



香港賽馬會  
The Hong Kong Jockey Club

# **Hong Kong Equestrian Performance Plan Youth Development Programme 2024/25**

## **SELECTION POLICY**

## Hong Kong Equestrian Performance Plan - Youth Development Programme 2024/25

### SELECTION POLICY

#### **Youth Development Programme Mission**

To provide a developmental pathway that supports junior and young riders to make the transition to international FEI competition and ultimately become successful senior riders who represent Hong Kong, China on the world stage.

#### **Aim of Selection Policy**

The specific aim of the selection policy is to select athletes on to the 2024-2025 Children's Squad, Youth Squads (Hong Kong, Overseas and Mainland) that have the perceived ability to go on and represent Hong Kong, China in international competitions in the future.

#### **Youth Development Programme Background**

All four squads will run from 1 September 2024 until 31 August 2025.

#### **Children's Squad**

Designed to support children, aged 10 - 14 years, who are showing early talent and residing full time in Hong Kong. The squad is designed to nurture those who show potential for progression to the Youth Squad. Regular coaching in all disciplines, stable management sessions and an annual camp will be offered plus advice and guidance to parents as well as opportunities to compete.

#### **Youth Squad (Hong Kong)**

Designed to support young talented athletes, aged 12 – 25 years, residing full time in Hong Kong with regular coaching, competition mentoring, an annual overseas camp and use of facilities and expertise at HKSI.

#### **Youth Squad (Overseas)**

Designed to support young talented athletes, aged 12 – 25, who would benefit from the Youth Development Programme but who are residing full time overseas. Support offered includes funded lessons, mentoring from the Performance Managers and support with competition planning.

#### **Youth Squad (Mainland)**

Designed to support young talented athletes, aged 10 – 25, who would benefit from the Youth Development Programme but who are residing full time in Mainland China. Support offered includes funded lessons, mentoring from the Performance Managers and support with competition planning.

To enable Hong Kong to develop talent in each of the FEI Olympic disciplines, the 2024-2025 squads will include the disciplines of show jumping, eventing and dressage. Therefore, the following places will be available:

**Children's Squad – 12 places, not discipline specific. Athletes will receive training in all three Olympic disciplines.**

**Youth Squad (Hong Kong) – 10 places; Show Jumping (4), Eventing (3), Dressage (3); places will be allocated according to demand.**

**Youth Squad (Overseas) – 5 places; places will be allocated according to demand.**

**Youth Squad (Mainland) – 10 places; places will be allocated according to demand.**

In the event there are not enough athletes of the required level to fill the above discipline places, they ~~may~~will be distributed to the other disciplines, dependent on demand.

If the selection panel deem that the applicants are not at the sufficient level for the squad they have applied for, the panel may select an overall lower number of athletes onto a particular squad, with the prior agreement of HKJC management and EFHKC.

Athletes can apply for more than one discipline, but must submit separate applications, per discipline. Athletes will only be accepted on to one discipline, so if they have a preference, it must be stated on the application.

Athletes on all Youth Squads (Hong Kong, Overseas and Mainland) will focus their training on the discipline that they have been selected for, although during the course of the year, there may be opportunities to develop skills in the other disciplines. However, please note that an athlete cannot request to switch disciplines during the course of the squad year.

### **Application Process**

Athletes interested in applying for one of the squads will be asked to submit an application form which must include the information detailed in Annex A.

Athlete application forms must be sent by one of the following methods:

- email to: [hkepp@hkjc.org.hk](mailto:hkepp@hkjc.org.hk)
- registered mail to Ms. Natasha Rose, Equestrian Affairs Department, Hong Kong Jockey Club, 8/F Central Complex, Shatin Racecourse, Shatin, N.T, Hong Kong.
- online application at <https://corporate.hkjc.com/corporate/english/jc-news-and-activities/jc-equestrian-development/hkjc-equestrian-development/hkjc-squadapp.aspx>

**Applications must be submitted by Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 17:00 (Hong Kong time). Late applications will not be considered.**

### **Advanced notice for minimum criteria requirements in 2025/26 application process:**

To be eligible for selection in 2025/26 please note that:

- Children Squad applicants must have a minimum of Pony Club test D+ (age 10 – 12) and Pony Club test C (age 13 - 14)
- Youth Squad (Hong Kong only) applicants must have a minimum of BHS stage 1 (both riding and care) and/or the BHS Gold Challenge Award.

- In 2025/26 the age ranges applied to the minimum criteria will change as follows:
  - From 10 to 17 to 10 to 15 years old
  - From 12 to 17 to 12 to 15 years old
  - From 18+ to 16+.

Please note this does not apply for the application process for 2024/25 and is only serving as advanced notification for eligibility for selection and minimum criteria for the following year (2025/26).

### **Current Eligibility for Selection and Minimum Criteria**

In order to ensure that the Youth Development Programme focuses on nurturing talented athletes who demonstrate an ability to progress on into FEI International competition, the following minimum criteria and video submission of specified ridden skills are required to be eligible for the squads:

**Children’s Squad:** Applicants should have experience of training and competing in any of the Olympic disciplines (any relevant competition results will be considered, including online competitions).

**Video submission:** Applicants must submit two videos demonstrating their riding skills. Video 1 must demonstrate walk, trot, canter on both reins showing a change of direction, turns and circles. Video 2 must either demonstrate a video of the applicant competing in a show jumping competition OR riding a course of jumps (minimum 6 fences), and show a forward seat over poles in canter. Videos must be linked in the application as unlisted YouTube links (please do not send large video files via WhatsApp, WeChat or email).

Please note that for applicants who have access to BREC “pool” horses or private riding school “competition team” horses, one of your videos must not be on such horses and must be on a regular riding school horse.

### **Youth Squad (Hong Kong):**

All applicants must be training and competing at the relevant level (see below). Relevant and recent competition results should be submitted with the application. More details can be found at Annex A. In addition, two videos (one video from training and one video from competition) demonstrating specific ridden skills must be submitted in the application as unlisted YouTube links (please do not send large video files via WhatsApp, WeChat or email).

**Show Jumping** Athletes must be competing and training regularly and be able to demonstrate ability at the following show jumping level:

12 – 17 years old: competing at 1.0m or above in a ranking (affiliated) competition or FEI International competition and achieving one clear round and one round of 4 faults or less on at least 2 occasions.

18 years and over: competing at 1.10m or above in a ranking (affiliated) competition or FEI International competition and achieving one clear round and one round of 4 faults or less on at least 2 occasions.

## **Eventing**

Athletes must be competing and training regularly and able to demonstrate ability at the following eventing level:

12 - 17 years old: competing at the level of 80cm competition standard (as detailed below) or above in a ranking (affiliated) competition or FEI International competition on at least 2 occasions:

XC: 80cm

Jumping: 80cm

Dressage: preliminary

Minimum Criteria - Dressage – 38 penalties or less, Cross Country - Clear at obstacles and Jumping – 8 penalties or less.

18 years old and above: competing at a level of 1.0m competition standard (as detailed below) or above in a ranking (affiliated) competition or FEI International competition on at least 2 occasions:

XC: 1.0m

Jumping: 1.0m

Dressage: novice

Minimum Criteria - Dressage – 38 penalties or less, Cross Country - Clear at obstacles and Jumping – 8 penalties or less.

## **Dressage**

Athletes must be competing and training regularly and able to demonstrate ability at the following dressage level:

12 - 17 years old: Competing at Elementary level achieving scores of 65% or more in a ranking (affiliated) competition, or FEI International competition, on at least 2 occasions.

18 years and over: Competing at Medium level achieving scores of 65% or more in ranking (affiliated) competition, or FEI International competition, on at least 2 occasions.

**Video submission:** Applicants must submit two videos demonstrating their riding skills. Video 1 must demonstrate walk, trot and canter on both reins, showing changes of direction, turns and circles. Video 2 must be

from a relevant competition, demonstrating skills related to the discipline applied for.

Please note that for applicants who have access to BREC “pool” horses or private riding school “competition team” horses, one of your videos must not be on such horses and must be on a regular riding school horse.

### **Overseas Results**

In all disciplines, results gained from competing overseas will be considered but only when it is achieved in an affiliated / graded / ranking competition recognised by the relevant National Federation (NF). Proof of results from the NF must be submitted with the application.

### **Youth Squad (Overseas):**

All applicants must have access to horsepower at the relevant level and have ~~competition results in either been placed in the top one third of~~ a graded (ranking / affiliated) or international competition at the relevant level (see below). In addition, two videos demonstrating specific ridden skills must be submitted in the application as unlisted YouTube links (please do not send large video files via WhatsApp, WeChat or email).

### **Show Jumping**

Athletes must be achieving recent, consistent results, training regularly and able to demonstrate ability at the following show jumping level:

12 – 17 years old: results / training at 1.10m or above and achieving one clear round and one round of 4 faults or less in affiliated or international competitions on a minimum of 2 occasions.

18 years and over: results / training at 1.20m or above and achieving one clear round and one round of 4 faults or less in affiliated or international competitions on a minimum of 2 occasions.

### **Eventing**

Athletes must be achieving recent, consistent results, training regularly and able to demonstrate ability at the following eventing level:

12 - 17 years old: completing competitions and training at 1.0m or above achieving *minimum criteria* (as detailed below) in affiliated or international competitions on a minimum of 2 occasions.

18 years old and above: completing competitions and training at FEI CCI1\* or Affiliated Novice level events and achieving *minimum criteria* (as detailed below) on a minimum of 2 occasions.

Minimum Criteria - Dressage – 38 penalties or less, Cross Country - Clear at obstacles and Jumping – 8 penalties or less

### **Dressage**

Athletes must be achieving recent, consistent results, training regularly and able to demonstrate ability at the following dressage level:

12 - 17 years old: Competing at Medium level (or above) achieving scores of 65% or more in ranking (affiliated) competition, or FEI International competition, on at least 2 occasions.

18 years and over: Competing at Advanced-Medium level (or above) achieving scores of 65% or more in ranking (affiliated) competition, or FEI International competition, on at least 2 occasions.

Video submission: Applicants must submit two videos demonstrating their riding skills. Video 1 must demonstrate walk, trot, canter on both reins, showing changes of direction, turns and circles. Video 2 must be from a relevant competition, demonstrating skills related to the discipline applied for.

### **Youth Squad (Mainland):**

All applicants must have access to horsepower at the relevant level and have competition results in either been placed in the top one third of a graded (affiliated) or international competition. In addition, two videos demonstrating specific ridden skills must be submitted in the application as unlisted YouTube links (or Youku link for the Mainland). Please do not send large video files via WhatsApp, WeChat or email.

### **Show Jumping**

Athletes must be achieving recent, consistent results, training regularly and able to demonstrate ability at the following show jumping level:

10 – 17 years old: results at 1.10m or above and achieving one clear round and one round of 4 faults or less in affiliated or international competitions on a minimum of 2 occasions.

18 years and over: results at 1.20m or above and achieving one clear round and one round of 4 faults or less in affiliated or international competitions on a minimum of 2 occasions.

**Eventing**

Athletes must be achieving recent, consistent results and be training regularly and able to demonstrate ability at the following eventing level:

10 - 17 years old: results at the level of 80cm competition standard or above on a minimum of 2 occasions (as detailed below):

XC: 80cm

Jumping: 80cm

Dressage: preliminary

Minimum Criteria - Dressage – 38 penalties or less, Cross Country - Clear at obstacles and Jumping – 8 penalties or less.

18 years old and above: results at a level of 1.0m competition standard or above on a minimum of 2 occasions (as detailed below):

XC: 1.0m

Jumping: 1.0m

Dressage: novice

Minimum Criteria - Dressage – 38 penalties or less, Cross Country - Clear at obstacles and Jumping – 8 penalties or less.

**Dressage**

Athletes must be achieving recent, consistent results and be training regularly and able to demonstrate ability at the following dressage level:

10 - 17 years old: Competing at Elementary level (or above) achieving scores of 65% or more in ranking (affiliated) competition, or FEI International competition, on at least 2 occasions.

18 years and over: Competing at Medium level (or above) achieving scores of 65% or more in ranking (affiliated) competition, or FEI International competition, on at least 2 occasions.

**Removal from the squad:**

The athlete must maintain an average attendance of 70% in their ridden training sessions and also 70% in any theory and/or practical training sessions. Attendance will be monitored on a regular basis and failure to maintain an average of 70% (without extenuating circumstances) for more than three months consecutively may lead to being removed from the squad.

**Athlete selected to represent Team Hong Kong, China:**

If an athlete is selected to represent Team Hong Kong, China in a Championship during the course of the squad year (1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025), and, at the time of selection is not part of any Youth Development Programme Squad, the athlete will be eligible to apply for a Youth Development Programme Squad (excluding the Children's



Squad) provided they have the relevant results that meet the criteria and subject to available budget and necessary resources at the time of application.

### **Additional Criteria**

*N.B. Ages are as at start of programme – 1 September 2024*

In addition, all athletes are required to meet all of the following criteria:

1. All athletes must either be Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passport holders or have an application for naturalization as a Chinese National approved by the Immigration Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Documentation of approval is required.
2. Athletes must be between the ages of ten (10) and twenty-five years old (25) for the relevant squad at the start of the programme (1 September 2024).
3. Athletes must be a Hong Kong resident for the Children's Squad and the Youth Squad. If your school or university requires you to be located outside of Hong Kong (either overseas or based in Mainland China) for one or more of your school years, you will not be eligible for any Hong Kong based squad during the time you are not permanently based in Hong Kong. Athletes must be an overseas resident (i.e., not based in Hong Kong) for the Overseas Youth Squad. Athletes must be a Mainland China resident for the Mainland Squad.
4. Athletes must be registered with the Equestrian Federation Hong Kong, China and eligible to ride for Hong Kong in all competitions.
5. Athletes currently serving a ban from FEI or national competition as a result of an equine or human doping or equine medication violation will not be eligible for selection. Athletes returning from a ban will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
6. For the Overseas Youth/ Mainland Squad, athletes must continue to have access to horsepower able to continue to compete and train at the level of the relevant qualification results. If access to horsepower at the level of the relevant qualification result is not maintained, the athlete may be suspended from the programme until such time that horsepower has been sourced.

### **Selection Procedure**

Selection for the Youth Development Programme 2024-2025 will be performance and skill based, to be determined by:

- Competition results in the preceding year 2023 (online show results will be considered for children squad only).
- Attendance record for Children and/or Youth Squad practical and theory lessons in 2023/2024 (if applicable).

- The selection team will contact the applicants' coach directly to complete a coach safety declaration form that each rider is safe and competent to rider at the level being applied for.
- Video submissions demonstrating the applicants ridden skills for specified movements.

Current form and improving form will also be considered where an athlete is similar in the competition performances to another.

### **Selection Timeline**

Applications Open	Monday 27 May 2024
Applications Deadline	Monday 24 June 2024 at 17:00 hours
Final selection decisions made and athletes informed	Thursday 1 August 2024
Programme commences / ends	1 September 2024 / 31 August 2025

### **Selection Panel**

The selection panel will comprise of:

- Corinne Bracken – Performance Manager (Jumping and Para Dressage)
- Nick Burton – Performance Manager (Dressage & Eventing)
- Sarah Corner – Hong Kong Sports Institute Equestrian Programme Coordinator

Selectors are required to be free from all vested interests / conflicts of interest, in so far as is possible. A register of conflicts of interests will be kept and all selectors will declare any potential or perceived conflicts as soon as they arise.

### **General**

#### **Post Selection Response**

All athletes will be informed in writing by Thursday 1 August 2024 whether or not they have been successfully accepted on to the programme.

#### **Changes in policy**

The Head of Equestrian Affairs (HoEA), in consultation with the senior management of the HKJC and HKEF have the right to amend or change this selection policy where necessary at any time in order to fulfil the objectives of the policy, as long as these changes are clearly communicated to all parties, via the HKEF website.

[Updates to the 2024/25 policy were made on 24 July 2024 as approved by HKJC management and EFHKC \(as shown by tracked changes\).](#)

**Anti-doping and Medication Control**

All athletes must comply with the current Equine and Human Anti-doping rules as per FEI competition, regarding the use of medications and banned substances. For further information or advice visit <https://inside.fei.org/content/anti-doping-rules>

**Point of Contact**

Enquiries about this selection policy should be made in writing to Amanda Bond, HOEA of the HKJC at [amanda.j.bond@hkjc.org.hk](mailto:amanda.j.bond@hkjc.org.hk).

**Appeals Process**

Athletes have the right to appeal against the decision of the selectors. Appeals must be made in writing within 48 hours of the announcements. Appeals must be sent to the Secretary General of the Equestrian Federation of Hong Kong China. Appeals will be considered by the HKEF Training and Selection Sub-Committee whose decision will be final.

**HKJC's Privacy Policy**

The Hong Kong Jockey Club is committed to ensuring the privacy and security of the personal data it holds and will collect and use personal data in accordance with the Club's Privacy Statement, which can be found here: [https://www.hkjc.com/home/english/corporate/corp\\_privacy.aspx](https://www.hkjc.com/home/english/corporate/corp_privacy.aspx)

**Annex A – Youth Development Programme Application Form (see attached separate file).  
Please submit the required documentation ONLY.**

Athletes may submit their application on the attached application file OR online at <https://corporate.hkjc.com/corporate/english/jc-news-and-activities/jc-equestrian-development/hkjc-equestrian-development/hkjc-squadapp.aspx>

**Annex B – Nationality Requirements for the Youth Development Programme Selection**

To be eligible for consideration for the programme, all athletes must meet the following criteria:

1. All athletes must either be Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passport holders or have an application for naturalization as a Chinese National approved by the Immigration Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (copies of approval documentation and a receipt detailing the application reference will be required).
2. Furthermore, athletes will be required to commit to renounce any foreign nationality to enable them to claim a Hong Kong Special Administration passport prior to their acceptance on to the Squad or any long-list for a team representing Hong Kong in competition that requires a HKSAR passport (including but not limited to Youth Olympic Games, Youth National Games, China National Games and Asian Games).