

Hong Kong Equestrian Performance Plan Youth Development Programme Frequently Asked Questions

What changes have been made to the Youth Development Programme?

Following a strategic review of the Programme, the Club has implemented several changes to the Programme to ensure closer alignment with its strategic aims to identify talent, develop potential and deliver success. Major changes include the following:

- The revision of age ranges for the Children's Squad to 10-12 years old, and for all Youth Squads (Hong Kong / Mainland / Overseas) to 13-21 years old respectively.
- The standardisation of the Selection Criteria for all Youth Squads to ensure consistency and fairness across the Programme for all applicants (i.e. no longer location specific).
- Upon selection onto the Programme, athletes will no longer be assigned to a specific discipline. Instead, they will be encouraged to ride across all three FEI Olympic disciplines.
- The Programme will no longer provide weekly funded lessons, transitioning instead to a model focused on squad-based sessions and training clinics offered at intervals throughout the year, with a focus on increasing overseas competition and training opportunities, as well as exposure to the Programme's overseas performance support team.

Athletes are encouraged to refer to the Selection Policy and Selection Criteria for more detailed information on the Programme.

Why were changes made to the Programme?

Changes to the Programme have been made in consultation with programme feedback from coaches and stakeholders, which identified opportunities to strengthen the athlete development pathway and provide activities that more effectively make a long-term performance difference in athletes.

How do these changes benefit young athletes?

The updated Programme offers athletes clearer pathways, more inclusive opportunities, and a stronger focus on holistic development for athletes. The Club firmly believes that these changes will result in more rounded and educated athletes in the long term, with a strengthened capacity to represent Hong Kong, China in FEI International competition.

What support can athletes expect upon acceptance onto the Programme?

The Programme will provide athletes with performance coaching; training and education clinics; and overseas training and competition opportunities. Athletes will also be given guidance, support and advice from the Club's Performance Support Team, as well as development opportunities in non-ridden equestrian education (e.g. theory / practical horse care and stable management).

How often will squad sessions and clinics be held?

Squad training sessions and clinics will take place regularly during the Programme year, designed around the specific requirements of each squad and their competition schedules.

What are the age ranges for the Programme?

The age range is 10-12 years old for the Children's Squad, and 13-21 years old for all Youth Squads (Hong Kong / Mainland / Overseas).

Athletes must be between the above age ranges for the respective squads at the start of the Programme year (i.e. 1 September of the given year).

What happens if an athlete ages out of the Children's Squad / Youth Squad?

Subject to athlete progression, athletes completing the Children's Squad age range who show potential to continue developing will be supported in moving into the Youth Squad, ensuring a smooth transition to the next stage of their development. Similarly, athletes completing the Youth Squad age range who show further potential will be guided toward senior pathways, such as the Potential Squad and the Elite Squad, to continue their growth.

How do I apply to join the Programme?

Applications shall be made using the online form, to be returned to the Club by Monday 6th July at 17:00hrs (Hong Kong time). The online form can be found at the following [link](#).

How will athletes be selected?

Athletes will be selected by a Selection Panel, with selection to be performance and skill based. This will be determined by:

- Competition results, obtained between July 2025 and June 2026.
- Video submissions as determined by the Selection Policy.
- Attendance records for Children's and or Youth Squad lessons in 2025/2026 (if applicable).

Each of the above elements will be considered with equal weightings. Current form and improving form will also be considered where an athlete is similar in the competition performances to another.

The selection panel will also 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.

Can I apply for multiple squads / can I submit multiple applications for the Programme?

Athletes should select the squad that fits their age and residence requirements and apply to that squad only.

Are there any other requirements I should be aware of?

Aside from performance-related criteria as set out in the Selection Policy, athletes must also meet the following nationality requirements to be eligible for consideration for the Programme:

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).

If my application is unsuccessful, can I request a review of the decision?

Athletes have the right to appeal against the decision of the selectors within 48 hours of the selection announcement. Athletes are encouraged to refer to the Selection Policy for more information.