

- **When does the HKEPP programme run?**

The Programme for the Elite Senior Squad, the Potential Squad, and the Para Equestrian Squad run between 1 January and 31 December each year.

On the other hand, squads within the Youth Development Programme (i.e. Children's Squad, Youth Squad (HK), Youth Squad (Overseas) and Youth Squad (Mainland)) run between 1 September and 31 August each year.

- **When do applications open?**

The application period for the Elite Senior Squad, the Potential Squad, and the Para Equestrian Squad normally opens in early November each year.

The application period for squads within the Youth Development Programme (i.e. Children's Squad, Youth Squad (HK), Youth Squad (Overseas) and Youth Squad (Mainland)) normally opens in mid-May each year.

Announcements will be made on the Equestrian Federation of Hong Kong, China website, as well as The Hong Kong Jockey Club's.

In the lead up to each application period, a selection policy specific to the various squads will be released. These policies set out the minimum criteria required to be eligible for each squad.

- **What eligibility requirements are there for being accepted onto the programme?**

While there are multiple eligibility requirements for the HKEPP, fundamentally, riders 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 in order to be eligible for the programme.

Various other requirements with regard to the age, residence, competition results, and horsepower of riders also need to be met. These requirements will be set out in the relevant selection policy.

- **If I am not based in Hong Kong, can I still apply for the programme?**

Applicants for the Elite Senior Squad, the Potential Squad, and the Para Equestrian Squad do not need to be based in Hong Kong.

However, for the Children's Squad and the Youth Squad (Hong Kong), riders must be a Hong Kong resident. Riders not based in Hong Kong will not be eligible for these squads.

Instead, youth riders based outside of Hong Kong should apply for either the Youth Squad (Overseas) or the Youth Squad (Mainland). Riders must be an overseas resident (i.e., not based in Hong Kong) for the Youth Squad (Overseas), while riders must be a Mainland China resident for the Youth Squad (Mainland).

- **What are the age ranges for the various squads?**

There are no specific age ranges for the Elite Senior Squad, the Potential Squad, and the Para Equestrian Squad.

The age ranges for the various Youth Development Programme squads are as follows:

Children's Squad: 10 – 14 years old  
Youth Squad (Hong Kong): 12 – 25 years old  
Youth Squad (Overseas): 12 – 25 years old  
Youth Squad (Mainland): 10 – 25 years old

To be eligible for a given squad, riders must be between the relevant age ranges for the respective squads at the start of the programme (i.e. 1 September of the given year).

- **Can I apply for multiple squads / can I submit multiple applications?**

Should a rider be eligible for multiple squads, and meet all relevant age and residence requirements, applications can be made for multiple squads. However, if the rider is accepted onto the programme, they will only be accepted onto one squad and not multiple.

Multiple applications can also be made for different disciplines (i.e. dressage / jumping / eventing).

- **Do I need to have an Equestrian Federation of Hong Kong, China membership to apply for the programme?**

Riders must be registered with the Equestrian Federation of Hong Kong, China and eligible to ride for Hong Kong in order to be eligible to apply for the programme.

- **Are there any other requirements I should be aware of?**

Starting from 2025/26, the Youth Development Programme will introduce several new minimum criteria requirements, set out below. Advance notice of these changes were set out in the 2024/25 Youth Development Programme Selection Policy.

- 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.\*\*
- The age ranges applied to the minimum criteria will also change as follows starting in 2025/26:
  - From 10 to 17 to 10 to 15 years old
  - From 12 to 17 to 12 to 15 years old
  - From 18+ to 16+.

\*The BHS Bronze Challenge Award will be treated as equivalent to the Pony Club D+ test, while the BHS Silver Challenge Award will be treated as equivalent to the Pony Club C test.

**\*\*In accordance with the BHS' guidance, riders who hold a Pony Club C+ test can apply for direct entry into the BHS stage 2 qualifications. Consequently, HKEPP will accept a Pony Club C+ qualification as an equivalent learning level for BHS stage 1.**