



香港賽馬會  
The Hong Kong  
Jockey Club

# **Hong Kong Equestrian Performance Plan Youth Development Programme 2026/27**

## **SELECTION POLICY**

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## **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.

### **Purpose of this Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Outline the actions to be taken by The Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) and the Equestrian Federation of Hong Kong China (EFHKC) in the selection of athletes to the Youth Development Programme;
- uphold the principles of impartiality;
- promote the values of equal opportunities and fair competition; and
- ensure a consistent and transparent approach.

### **Aim of Selection Policy**

The specific aim of the selection policy is to select athletes on to the 2026/27 Children's Squad and Youth Squads (Hong Kong / Overseas / Mainland) that show potential ability to go on and represent Hong Kong, China in international competitions in the future.

## **Youth Development Programme Background**

All squads will run from 1 September 2026 until 31 August 2027.

### **Children's Squad**

Designed to support children, aged 10 - 12 years, who are showing early talent and residing full time in Hong Kong. Support offered to athletes includes training and education clinics, visits from the Performance Manager, and an annual overseas camp. The squad is designed to nurture those who show potential for progression to the Youth Squad.

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

Designed to support young talented athletes, aged 13 - 21 years, residing full time in Hong Kong. Support offered to athletes includes training and education clinics, opportunities to compete overseas, visits from the Performance Manager, an annual overseas camp, opportunities to upskill stable management qualifications, and the ability to use facilities and expertise at the HKSI.

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

Designed to support young talented athletes, aged 13 - 21, residing full time overseas. Support offered to athletes includes training clinics, opportunities to compete overseas, an annual overseas camp, mentoring and home visits from the Performance Manager, and the ability to use facilities and expertise at the HKSI.

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

Designed to support young talented athletes, aged 13 - 21, residing full time in the Chinese Mainland. Support offered to athletes includes training and education clinics, opportunities to compete overseas, mentoring and home visits from the Mainland Performance Coach, opportunities to upskill stable management qualifications, and ability to use facilities and expertise at the HKSI.

The following places will be available on the Youth Development Programme:

**Children's Squad – 10 places, not discipline specific.**

**Youth Squad (Hong Kong) – 10 places, not discipline specific; places will be allocated according to demand.**

**Youth Squad (Overseas) – 7 places, not discipline specific; places will be allocated according to demand.**

**Youth Squad (Mainland) – 10 places, not discipline specific; places will be allocated according to demand.**

The 2026/27 squads will be selected on Selection Criteria based on the disciplines of show jumping, eventing and dressage. In order to enable Hong Kong, China to develop talent in each of the FEI Olympic disciplines, the selection panel will consider the balance of riders between the different disciplines when evaluating applicants for the programme.

In the event there are not enough athletes of the required level to fill the above places on a particular squad, those places may be distributed to other squads, subject to demand.

If the selection panel deems 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 on all squads will receive opportunities to develop skills in all three of the FEI Olympic disciplines.

### **Application Process**

Athletes interested in applying for one of the squads must submit an application form online at the following link:

<https://corporate.hkjc.com/corporate/english/jc-news-and-activities/jc-equestrian-development/hkjc-equestrian-development/hkjc-squadapp.aspx>

For any enquiries, please email: [hkepp@hkjc.org.hk](mailto:hkepp@hkjc.org.hk)

**Applications must be submitted by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 17:00 (Hong Kong time). Late applications will not be considered.**

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

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).

Applicants must also have a minimum of Pony Club test D+. The BHS Bronze Challenge Award will be treated as an equivalent learning level for Pony Club test D+.

Video submission: Applicants must submit two videos demonstrating their riding skills. Riding aids should not be used in video submissions.

Video 1 must demonstrate a video of the applicant riding the EFHKC Inter-school Equestrian Challenge 2026 (Lower Division Final) Ingestre Preliminary Dressage Test 13 (2025). This video can be from the 2026 competition, or can be filmed in a riding school lesson in a 20 x 40m arena setting.

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).

## **Youth Squad (Hong Kong / Overseas / Mainland):**

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.

For the 2026/27 Programme, Youth Squad (Hong Kong) applicants must have a minimum of BHS Stage 1 (both riding and care) and/or the BHS Silver Challenge Award. A Pony Club test C+ will also be accepted as an equivalent learning level for BHS Stage 1.

*Youth Squad (Overseas) and Youth Squad (Mainland) applicants will not be required to have a stable management qualification for the 2026/27 Programme.*

*However, please note that, for the 2027/28 Programme, Youth Squad (Overseas) and Youth Squad (Mainland) applicants must also have a minimum of BHS Stage 1 (both riding and care) and/or the BHS Silver Challenge Award. A Pony Club test C+ will also be accepted as an equivalent learning level for BHS stage 1.*

*For guidance or enquiries on acquiring a BHS Stage 1 or finding a BHS Approved Centre, please email: [hkepp@hkjc.org.hk](mailto:hkepp@hkjc.org.hk). Applicants based in the Chinese Mainland who are unable to acquire the relevant stable management qualification prior to the time of application will be given the opportunity to do so within 6 months' of the programme year starting.*

All Youth Squad applicants (Hong Kong / Overseas / Mainland) must also submit two videos (one video from training and one video from competition) demonstrating specific ridden skills in the application as unlisted YouTube links (or Youku link for the Chinese Mainland). Please do not send large video files via WhatsApp, WeChat or email.

Video submission: Video 1 must be two minutes in duration and demonstrate walk, trot and canter on both reins, showing changes of direction, turns and circles. Video 2 must be from a relevant competition. Riding aids should not be used in video submissions.

Please note that for Youth Squad (Hong Kong) 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 or a thoroughbred livery.

## **Show Jumping**

Athletes must be achieving recent, consistent results, training regularly and able to demonstrate ability at the following show jumping level. All results should have been obtained between July 2025 to June 2026:

13 – 15 years old: Competing at 1.0m or above in a ranking (affiliated) competition or FEI International competition and achieving one clear round on at least 2 occasions and one round of 4 faults or less on at least 2 occasions.

16 – 21 years old: Competing at 1.10m or above in a ranking (affiliated) competition or FEI International competition and achieving one clear round on at least 2 occasions and one round of 4 faults or less on at least 2 occasions.

## **Eventing**

Athletes must be achieving recent, consistent results, training regularly and able to demonstrate ability at the following eventing level. All results should have been obtained between July 2025 to June 2026:

13 – 15 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.

Additionally, athletes must also submit the following:

- 2 Dressage results at Preliminary level achieving scores of 63% or more in a ranking (affiliated) competition, or FEI International competition; **or** 1 Dressage result at Novice

- level achieving scores of 60% or more in a ranking (affiliated) competition, or FEI International competition; **and**
- 1 Show Jumping result at 90cm or above in a ranking (affiliated) competition or FEI International competition, achieving one round of 4 faults or less.

16 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.

Additionally, athletes must also submit the following:

- 2 Dressage results at Novice level achieving scores of 63% or more in a ranking (affiliated) competition, or FEI International competition; **or** 1 Dressage result at Elementary level achieving scores of 60% or more in a ranking (affiliated) competition, or FEI International competition; **and**
- 1 Show Jumping result at 1.10m or above in a ranking (affiliated) competition or FEI International

## **Dressage**

Athletes must be achieving recent, consistent results, training regularly and able to demonstrate ability at the following dressage level. All results should have been obtained between July 2025 to June 2026:

13 - 15 years old: Competing at Elementary level (or above) achieving scores of 65% or more in a ranking (affiliated) competition, or FEI International competition, on at least 2 occasions.

16 - 21 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.

**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.

### **Removal from the squad:**

Athletes must maintain an average attendance of 70% in all squad activity (squad sessions, clinics, education 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.

### **Additional Criteria**

*N.B. Ages are as at start of programme – 1 September 2026*

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-one years old (21) for the relevant squad at the start of the programme (1 September 2026).
3. Athletes must be a Hong Kong resident for the Children's Squad and the Youth Squad (Hong Kong). If your school or university requires you to be located outside of Hong Kong (either overseas or based in the Chinese Mainland) 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 Youth Squad (Overseas). Athletes must be a Chinese Mainland resident for the Youth Squad (Mainland).
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. 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 2026/27 will be performance and skill based, to be determined by:

- Competition results, obtained between July 2025 to 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.

## **Selection Timeline**

Applications Open	Monday 15 June 2026 at 09:00 hours (HK Time)
Applications Deadline	Monday 6 July 2026 at 17:00 hours (HK Time)
Final selection decisions made and athletes informed	Friday 7 August 2026
Programme commences / ends	1 September 2026 / 31 August 2027

## **Selection Panel**

The selection panel will comprise of:

- Corinne Bracken
- Sarah Corner
- Possum Richards

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 Friday 7 August 2026 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 EFHKC 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 EFHKC website.

### **Retention of documents**

All documents relating to this selection process, including scores, results, meeting minutes, selection related emails, reasoning for decisions, appeal records etc. shall be retained by the HKJC for 7 years following completion of the selection.

### **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 but only on the grounds that the Selectors have failed to comply with this Policy, or that insufficient or inadequate information or documents were used during the decision-making process, leading to inaccurate decisions being made, or any other applicable grounds of appeal. Appeals must be made in writing (either email or letter), complete with any supporting documents that prove the appeal eligibility, any evidence that can be cross-validated by a witness and / or contact information of any witness(es). Appeals must be sent to the Executive Director of the EFHKC within 48 hours of the selection announcement.

The Executive Director of EFHKC shall acknowledge receipt of the appeal within 24 hours and will inform the Training and Selection Sub Committee Chairman that an appeal has been received. Generally, the Executive Director will manage communication between the parties and is available to answer any questions the appellant may have on the process.

Appeals will be considered by the EFHKC Training and Selection Sub-Committee, less any members who have been involved in the original selection decision (if any). An appeal hearing may be held if required, which may be held virtually or in person dependent on the circumstances. Where held, the Athlete and his/her one representative will have an opportunity to present evidence as to the basis of their appeal. Additional accompanying attendance is subject to approval by the Appeal Panel. The proceedings should mainly be conducted in English. If either party wishes to address the Appeal Panel in Chinese or another language, the Appeal Panel must be advised in advance for arrangement. During the hearing, no photography, sound recording or video-taking is allowed without the prior approval of the Appeal Panel.

The Appeal Panel aims to make decisions that are not only fair and well-reasoned, but also speedy and timely. If appropriate, the Appeal Panel may make an oral decision at the end of the hearing with written explanation to be given to the appellant afterwards. In some cases, the Appeal Panel will need further time to consider the matter and will "reserve" its decision. This means it will let the parties know its decision at a later date.

The Appeal Panel shall always release a written decision, which includes an explanation of the reasons for the decision, to the appellant, the Board and the HKJC.

### **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 Online Application Form. Please submit the required documentation ONLY.**

Athletes may submit their application 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).