



香港賽馬會
The Hong Kong Jockey Club

26 July 2024

BARRIER TRIALS REGULATIONS 2024/2025 SEASON

BARRIER TRIALS - Sha Tin, Happy Valley and Conghua Racecourse (“CRC”)

<u>Trials</u>	<u>Dates</u> <small>(Note 1,2)</small>	<u>Available Distances</u>	<u>Eligibility, Restrictions and others</u>
Sha Tin - Large All Weather Track	08:15 on Tuesdays and Fridays <small>(Note 3)</small>	1050M and 1200M	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No restrictions but limited to 4 batches.• Trainer(s) with the most number of horses entered may be required to reduce their number of entries to accommodate this restriction.
Sha Tin Turf Trials	07:00 on designated Tuesdays (06:30 in the event of 11 or more batches)	800M, 1000M, and 1600M	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maximum of 12 batches (including AWT) of 12 runners per trial.• Sha Tin Turf Trials Number Restrictions apply.• In the event of a ballot being required, Single-site trainers are subjected to the same balloting criteria as Dual-site trainers.
Happy Valley Turf Trials	07:00 on designated Fridays/Saturdays	1000M, 1200M, and 1700M (limited to 2 batches and a ballot will be conducted if necessary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should the total number of entries on any given Happy Valley trial date exceed 72 horses, Sha Tin turf trials number restrictions will apply with excess entries being balloted out until the maximum number is reached.• In the event of a ballot being required, Single-site trainers are subjected to the same balloting criteria as Dual-site trainers.• Saddle cloths bearing respective barrier number are worn instead of brand number cloths.
CRC - Large All Weather Track	Starts at 07:45/08:00 on Thursdays depending on the number of batches	1200M	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No restrictions but limited to 7 batches.• Restrictions may apply to the number of horses which are permitted to participate in individual batches.• Trainer(s) with the most number of horses entered may be required to

			reduce their number of entries to accommodate this restriction.
CRC – Turf/Mixed Trials	07:30 on designated Mondays (Turf trials only)	1000M Turf (winning post in the back straight) and 1600M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should the total number of entries on any given Conghua turf trial date exceed 90 horses or 10 batches, Conghua turf trials number restrictions will apply with excess entries being balloted out until the maximum number is reached.
	07:30 on designated Thursdays or Fridays (Turf and AWT trials)	800M Turf (winning post in the back straight) and 1200M Turf and AWT (winning post in the home straight)	

Notes:

- Dates and amendments in relation to turf trials will be announced by tracks department during the course of the season.*
- Sha Tin and CRC barrier trials are not held on the respective general holidays in Hong Kong and China.*
- If CRC barrier trials, which involve jockeys participation, are scheduled for a Tuesday or Friday, the Sha Tin barrier trials will be moved to a different day*

Sha Tin Turf Trials Number Restrictions

The following restrictions on the number of entries for Sha Tin turf trials will apply:

Dual-site Trainers

No. of horses at Sha Tin	No. of horses allowed
Up to and including 25	2
26 to 30	3
31 or above	4

Single-site Trainers

No. of horses at Sha Tin	No. of horses allowed
Up to and including 25	3
26 to 35	4
36 to 45	5
46 or above	6

For Sha Tin turf trials, each trainer may enter one (1) horse in excess of the aforementioned quota restrictions on condition that the additional entry is ridden by a trainee apprentice jockey who has been approved to ride in such barrier trials.

The following conditions will also apply to the entry of an additional horse for turf trials at Sha Tin:-

- Not more than two (2) trainee apprentice jockeys will be permitted to ride in any one individual batch.
- Trainers must nominate the additional horse and the trainee apprentice jockey who has been engaged to ride the horse at the time of entries.
- In the event that the trainee apprentice jockey is subsequently unable to ride the additional entry for any reason, such horse will be withdrawn from the barrier trial. However, the Stipendiary Stewards will allow a substitute trainee apprentice jockey to ride the horse(s) if a suitable one is so available.
- The additional entry will be allocated a barrier position the Stipendiary Stewards consider appropriate given the experience of the relevant trainee apprentice jockey and the overall entries for the barrier trial under review.
- Should the number of additional horses be entered exceed the number of batches to be conducted during the relevant session, the number of excess entries will be balloted out in accordance with established practice. Those trainers who have had additional horses compete in barrier trials will be automatically balloted out for subsequent trials as needs be in favour of those trainers who have not previously had an additional entry compete.
- Additional horses will not be permitted to be entered for special barrier trials which are arranged in instances such as horses preparing to compete in an overseas race or in advance of principal races conducted by the Club.

Conghua Turf Trials Number Restrictions

The following restrictions on the number of entries for Conghua turf trials will apply if the total number exceed the restriction:

<u>No. of horses at Conghua</u>	<u>No. of horses allowed</u>
Up to and including 20	5
21 or above	6

General

1. For large all weather track trials conducted at Sha Tin, all horses must proceed to the starting gates via the entrance ramp situated near the trainers' stand. This will allow for the necessary checking by the Duty Stipendiary Steward. Any horse which goes to the gates via the exit ramp will not be allowed to participate in its intended trial. For turf trials, all horses must proceed to the starting gates via the gate situated near the sand yard. The exit point for turf trials will be via the same gate. All horses participating in the first heat must be present in the sand yard no later than **10** minutes prior to the advertised starting time. Any horse which is not present in the sand yard by the required time may be withdrawn and will not be re-allocated to subsequent batches. Horses which are to participate in subsequent batches are required to be in the sand yard by the conclusion of the prior batch.
2. For large all weather track trials conducted at CRC, all horses must proceed to the starting gates via the tunnel system. This will allow for the necessary checking by the Duty Stipendiary Steward/Racing Control CRC Senior Delegate. Any horse which proceeds to the gates via any other means will not be allowed to participate in its intended trial. For turf trials, all horses must enter and exit through the track via the ramp gate adjacent to the trainers' pavilion or via the ramp next to the equine hospital.
3. Turf trials may be transferred between Sha Tin and Happy Valley should the necessity arise.
4. Horses participating in barrier trials at Sha Tin and Happy Valley must be ridden by jockeys, apprentice jockeys or trainee apprentice jockeys as approved by the Stipendiary Stewards, unless approval is granted for a senior work rider to ride in a barrier trial at Sha Tin in exceptional circumstances. Horses participating in barrier trials at Happy Valley must be ridden by jockeys, apprentice jockeys or trainee apprentice jockeys as approved by the Stipendiary Stewards. The Stipendiary Stewards/Racing Control CRC Senior Delegate may approve additional suitably qualified riders to participate in barrier trials conducted at CRC.
5. Trainers should enter their horses by e-form by not later than 9:30 am on the business day preceding the trials. If the preceding day is a general holiday, then the business day before will be used (Saturdays and Sundays are not counted as business days). Late entries or alterations may not be accepted and no horses can be reallocated to a different batch after 4:00 pm on the day of entry. It is a requirement for a horse to be physically present in either Hong Kong or at CRC in order to enter for a barrier trial at the respective location.
6. Barrier trial dates and alterations in relation to the barrier trial schedule will be announced by tracks department during the course of the season.

7. Any application for barrier trials to be conducted outside of those included in these regulations must be forwarded directly to the tracks department for consideration.
8. The following horses must pass a barrier trial:
 - (a) PPGs (second trial to qualify to be entered to race).
 - (b) PPs (prior to entry for their first Hong Kong race).
 - (c) Horses required to pass a barrier trial by the Racing Stewards.
 - (d) Horses whose veterinary history requires such a test by the Racing/Stipendiary Stewards and/or the Veterinary Officers.

Horses which are not included in the above categories but which trainers wish to enter may participate.

STALLS TESTS

1. Stalls tests are held at Sha Tin on Mondays and Thursdays at the 1800 Metre chute commencing at 7:30 am. If the time is required to be amended for whatever reason, such information will be published at time of entries. No stalls tests will be held on general holidays in Hong Kong. If a general holiday falls on a Monday, stalls tests may be moved to the following Tuesday if necessary provided no turf barrier trials are scheduled to be conducted on that day.
2. Stalls tests at CRC are held on Tuesdays at the back straight 2000M chute commencing at 7:30 am. If the time is required to be amended for whatever reason, such information will be published at time of entries. No stalls tests will be held on general holidays in China.
3. Horses to be tested must be ridden by jockeys, apprentice jockeys, senior work riders, work rider I, expert work riders or such other persons as approved by the Stipendiary Stewards/Racing Control CRC Senior Delegate.
4. Trainers should enter their horses by e-form by not later than 9:30 am on the business day preceding the stalls tests. If the preceding day is a general holiday, then the business day before will be used (Saturdays and Sundays are not counted as business days). Late alterations and entries will not be accepted. No riders' names are required at time of entry. It is a requirement for a horse to be physically present in either Hong Kong or at CRC in order to enter for a stalls test at the respective location.
5. Trainers, assistant trainers, or head lads **must** be present when their stable has a horse to be tested, otherwise the horse will not be subjected to testing.
6. Trainers are required to inform the starting gate team of any withdrawal of entries for stalls tests as soon as possible.
7. The following horses must pass a stalls test:
 - (a) PPGs (first trial).
 - (b) Horses required to pass a stalls test by the Racing Stewards.
 - (c) Test for permission to use blinkers or visor. (Note: There is no requirement for horses to be tested again if the trainer wishes to interchange these pieces of equipment.)

BARRIER TRIALS AND STALLS TESTS REGULATIONS

1. Correct entry procedures must be followed. Every horse entered for a barrier trial must have a nominated eligible rider and the preferred distance must be stated at time of entry.
2. Any trainer who enters a horse for an official test which is unbranded may be penalised. No horse may be entered for or take part in a barrier trial unless such horse is branded and has a registered name.
3. Declared starters and standby declared starters cannot be entered for a barrier trial. Trainers should take particular note of their horses' reserve status on the published entries' reserve list because they may be included in the race field or be included as standby declared starters.
4. Trainers entering horses for an equipment test must declare on the e-form the type of gear it is being tested for, i.e. blinkers and visor. All equipment must comply with the approved gear as notified in the Club's "Equipment Register (Equine and Human) of HKJC" https://racing.hkjc.com/racing/english/racing-info/reg_approved_gear.aspx
5. Trainers must notify the Duty Stipendiary Steward/Racing Control CRC Senior Delegate/Starter if a horse is carrying ear plugs in a barrier trial/stalls test irrespective of whether the horse is entered for the purpose of testing. The string attached to the ear plugs must be of a bright colour that is easily identifiable. Ear plugs are not permitted to be worn under a hood.
6. Barrier trials will be cancelled if there are less than 4 horses entered at the prescribed time of close of entry.
7. Correct racing colours must be worn.
8. Any horse that is required to pass a barrier trial, stalls test or official veterinary examination for any reason must do so free of prohibited substances, unless a particular substance has been specifically exempted by the Stipendiary Stewards or the Department of Veterinary Regulation, Welfare & Biosecurity Policy.
9. Horses are not permitted to participate in a barrier trial/stalls test if the horse has had administered to it any treatment within the recommended "Fast Work Restriction Period" as advised by the Department of Veterinary Clinical Services. In addition, horses are not permitted to participate in a barrier trial/stalls test if it has received extra-corporeal shockwave treatment within **5 clear days** of the intended barrier trial/stalls test.

10. Horses are permitted to participate in a barrier trial conducted on the large all weather track unshod behind provided that any horse which is being subject to testing must be fully shod. Further, any horse using the turf tracks at Sha Tin, Happy Valley or CRC, whether in a barrier trial, test or work, must be fully shod.
11. Alterations to “entries” for barrier trials (i.e., change of equipment or rider or withdrawal) must be made to the Duty Stipendiary Steward/Racing Control CRC Senior Delegate or the Starter as early as possible and in any case no later than the time at which the horses which are competing in the trial being presented for such trial.
12. A horse that has not raced in Hong Kong shall not be ridden in a barrier trial or stalls test by a trainee apprentice jockey. The Stipendiary Stewards will have at their sole discretion the right to refuse any trainee apprentice jockey/apprentice jockey to ride a horse they deem inappropriate.

The following criteria apply in respect of trainee apprentice jockeys being permitted to participate in barrier trials and stalls tests:

<u>No. of trials</u>	<u>Not allowed to ride in the following category</u>
1 – 20	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
21- 40	1, 2, 3, 4

Category:

1. PPG, less than 3 starts
2. PP, unraced in Hong Kong
3. Trialing for veterinary reasons (bled, lame, heart irregularity)
4. Difficult horses (hang/over race/barrier issues)
5. Trialing for gear test (i.e. blinkers)

The Stipendiary Stewards may approve for a trainee apprentice jockey who has ridden in more than 40 barrier trials to ride a horse which falls within any of these categories on application. The Stipendiary Stewards will have regard to the suitability of the trainee apprentice jockey and the horse(s) involved when deciding whether approval will be given.

13. Any horse required to pass a barrier trial/stalls test to be approved to race, for conduct at the barrier or during the running of a race must race at its next start in the same equipment that it has passed that barrier trial/stalls test with. If the equipment is blinkers or a visor, they are treated as the same piece of equipment. This instruction does not apply to griffins which are having their first test.
14. Any horse which is required to pass a barrier trial and fails such trial must pass the same category of trial.

15. The Starter and the Duty Stipendiary Steward/Racing Control CRC Senior Delegate may require any horse to pass a barrier trial or stalls test if in their opinion the horse has misbehaved on the way to the start, behind, inside or after leaving the barrier stalls, irrespective of whether the horse has been entered in a barrier trial/stalls test for the purpose of testing.
16. The final trial for a griffin must be a barrier trial. Any griffin with a barrier certificate issued by a recognised racing authority will only be required to pass one barrier trial.
17. Barrier trials will not be held on the morning of a race meeting if there is a race meeting to be held at the same race course.
18. Trainers or their allocated assistant trainers are permitted to be present at the start of a barrier trial to observe the behaviour of horses trained by them. Provided that:-
 - They shall not enter the track on which the barrier trial is being conducted.
 - They shall not direct any comments to the Starter or any member of the Starting Gate Team relating to the manner in which they should handle the relevant horse at the start.
 - They shall not have any physical contact with any horse at the start.

Permission to be present at the start of barrier trials does not extend to any other member of the trainer's stable staff other than the assistant trainer.

19. Barrier trials/stalls tests at all venues will be cancelled under Typhoon No. 8, Black Rainstorm Signal or extreme conditions according to the Standard Operating Procedures for inclement weather in conjunction with announcements made by the relevant local authorities.

CONDITIONS FOR PASSING A STALLS TEST

A horse required to pass a stalls test must:-

- (a) Load into the starting stalls to the satisfaction of the Starter or his duly authorised representative. Assistance by a maximum of two handlers will be permitted.
- (b) Stand inside the starting stalls to the satisfaction of the Starter or his duly authorised representative. Horses may be required to stand in the starting stalls for a period of time if a delay for whatever reason is caused to a start at a barrier trial.
- (c) Leave the starting stalls within a reasonable amount of time after the front gates of the starting stalls open. (*not applicable to a PPG's first trial*)

No whips may be used other than an approved padded jockey's whip which must be carried by the rider.

CONDITIONS FOR PASSING A BARRIER TRIAL

All of the above conditions with the addition of the horse being able to begin, compete and finish with the majority of the field to the satisfaction of the Starter and the Duty Stipendiary Steward/Racing Control CRC Senior Delegate. This particularly applies to griffins which are having their final trial before being permitted to enter to race and those horses that are required to trial competitively to the satisfaction of the Stipendiary Stewards.

OFFICIAL VETERINARY EXAMINATIONS

Horses withdrawn from a race on veterinary grounds or found to have an injury or ailment following a race or at any time during training may not necessarily be required to pass a barrier trial before they can be entered to race again, but such horses may be required to pass a pre-entry official veterinary examination which will include a track gallop in addition to the standard pre-race veterinary inspection. This examination must be arranged by the trainer in direct liaison with the Department of Veterinary Regulation, Welfare & Biosecurity Policy. On occasions, horses withdrawn on veterinary grounds may still be required to pass a barrier trial together with an official veterinary examination. In both cases the trainer will be notified accordingly.

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