

Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby Comprehensive Rules 2023-2024

The top five finishers in the designated Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby races will all receive points that will accumulate over the course of the series.

Immediately after the conclusion of the final race, regardless of nomination status, the top four horses will be contacted to determine if they wish to accept an invite to the Kentucky derby.

Should there be any ties in the points earned, they will be broken by most prize money earned.

Horses not nominated after the conclusion of the final race in the series will have until the closing of the second nomination period to nominate if they choose to accept the invitation.

Should the horse with the most points decline the invite, regardless of nomination status, we will then contact the horse with the second highest number of points.

Should the horse with the second highest number of points decline the invite, regardless of nomination status, we will then contact the horse with the third highest number of points.

Should the horse with the third highest number of points decline the invite, regardless of nomination status, we will then contact the horse with the fourth highest number of points.

Should all four of the top point earners decline their invitation to the Kentucky Derby, then Churchill Downs reserves the right to invite one horse who has shown exceptional talent in domestic and/or international graded stakes races in the past twelve months.

Japanese trained horses who are not on the Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby leaderboard will not be added to it should they earn points in overseas races. Overseas earned points will only be shown on the general Road to the Kentucky Derby leaderboard.

Japanese trained horses who already have points on the Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby leaderboard and who win a race overseas that qualifies them for the Kentucky Derby (i.e. a 100pt race, including the UAE Derby), will be removed from the Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby leaderboard.

Should a Japanese trained racehorse who already has points on the Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby leaderboard earn points overseas those points will not be added to their existing points on the Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby leaderboard. Overseas earned points will only appear on the general Road to the Kentucky Derby leaderboard.