
The Kadanzer Jockey Club

*From original materials by Dave McCombs; revised by Whitney Ware
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So what is the Kadanzer Jockey Club (KJC)? The KJC is a simulation horse racing club that allows Kadanzer Weyr members to maintain and race Pernese runners in the Kadanzer setting. Members operate individual stables of up to twenty active race horses, and a stable of 12 bloodstock for breeding purposes, with all records maintained by the Racing Steward.

To join the KJC, all that is required is that a person be an approved member of Kadanzer Weyr with a properly approved persona that could logically own runners. This includes Lord Holders, minor holders, and coholders, but due to the exigencies of the Pass and the demands of dragon and Weyr, does not include dragonriders. To become a member, all any eligible member has to do is contact the Racing Steward. The initial string of racing runners is free, but any additional runners must be acquired through breeding, trading with other members, or purchasing at the KJC's annual auction, which is announced on the Kadanzer Weyr Message Boards.

To be eligible for entry in a KJC event, all runners are required to be registered with the KJC Racing Steward. This is because the Steward maintains a database for each runner that lists certain important characteristics – such as how fast it can run, how long it can keep it up, and how competitive it is. It is this database that makes the races possible, and these values are also used for runner breeding.

Note: Any reference to money, marks, costs, and purses should not be construed to mean that actual money changes hands. Any such references are intended for role-playing only, and NO actual money or services changes hands in any fashion.

RACES AND COURSES

The goal of the KJC is to hold races every two weeks, with a race card being posted to the KJC@kadanzer.org mailing list for stablemasters. (At this writing, we're not regular yet – but we're working on it, and we hope to set a schedule and stick to it as often as Real Life allows). The races are divided by age groups, as well as by sex, and it is the responsibility of the individual member to ensure that a runner is indeed eligible for the race in which it has been entered. Runners entered in a race they are not eligible for are liable to being scratched without notice by the Racing Steward. The KJC uses the program Stretch Drive, written by Charles Schultz, to run the individual races, and results are posted to the message boards.

There are four different grades of races – C, B, B+, and A. The race grades are a good measure of risk and reward – a higher-grade race costs more to enter, but the purse is also larger. Note that the competition is liable to be harsher as a runner moves up in grade as well. All runners must pay an entry fee based on the grade of race, but purses are paid to win (1st place), place (2nd place), and show (3rd & 4th) runners only. Following is a list of race types, what it costs to enter, and what the payouts are.

A grade A is a stakes race, and is comparable to a major Thoroughbred event such as the Kentucky Derby. The entry fee is 20 marks per runner, and pays 150 marks to win, 75 to place, and 50 to show.

A grade B+ is also a stakes race, but costs less to enter. The competition is also liable to be less steep as well. The entry fee is 15 marks per runner and pays 75 marks to win, 50 to place, and 25 to show.

Grade B races are minor stakes races, and are usually the next step up for a young runner from a grade C race. B races cost 10 marks to enter and pay 50 marks to win, 20 to place, and 10 to show.

Grade C races are analogous to maiden or allowance races. They are not stakes races, and are the usual starting point for young runners on their way up. C races have an entry fee of 5 marks, and pay 25 to win, 10 to place

second, and 5 marks to show in third or fourth. Once a runner has won four grade C races, or has won a major stakes race (Grades B+ or A), it is no longer eligible to run in a Grade C event.

	Entry Fee	Win	Second	3 rd & 4 th
Grade A	20 marks	150	75	50
Grade B+	15 marks	75	50	25
Grade B	10 marks	50	20	10
Grade C	5 marks	25	10	5

Races are held on flat and steeplechase tracks. The KJC does not force a runner to stick with one type of course or the other, but stablemasters should be aware that runners will usually show a preference for one or the other, and plan their entries accordingly. Courses are also graded at the time of the race for track condition -- muddy or dry, hard and fast, or soft and slow – and runners may also show a preference for a particular surface. One runner might like to run in the mud, for instance, but his stable mate might not want to get his feet dirty. Races range from five to twelve furlongs – a furlong is an eighth of a mile -- in length.

Total marks earned are recorded for each stable, and serve two purposes – earned marks are used to track a runner's placement in the Championship points standings, and the total amount earned is used to modify the amount available for a stable to use in the KJC's annual auction, stud fees, or for purchasing horses from other stablemasters. A stable will be allowed to enter its runners in races whether or not it is making money.

Runners may be entered in one and only one race per day's racing.

Once a year, at the end of the Turn's racing season, the KJC has its annual Runner Championships. Runners qualify by running races and earning marks. Total marks earned, after entry fees are deducted, will earn a runner a slot in a Championship race – assuming, of course, it's one of the top money earners. Championship races are held for all ages and all race types, in both sexes, and it is not unusual for a runner to qualify for a slot in more than one Championship race. However, a runner can be entered in only one Championship series.

The Championships are series of three races of varying lengths, and all are Grade A races. If a runner wins two of the three races in its series, it is crowned Champion. If it wins all three races in the series, it is crowned Grand Champion.

NEW AND OLD RUNNERS

A stable owner can obtain new racing runners by several methods. The most common way is to obtain one from another member. The KJC also sponsors a runner auction twice a year, consisting of animals that are usually donated by KJC members but in some cases are obtained from elsewhere. Members with bloodstock are also able to breed their own. Please note again that all new runners must be registered with the KJC Racing Steward to ensure accuracy in the club's records.

Members can have only 20 active racers and up to 12 active breeding stock at any one time. Surplus horses must be retired, sold, traded off, or donated to the KJC. The first 12 horses registered as breeding stock are free – but all new bloodstock after the first 12 must either be retired from your racers, gotten at auction, or from another stablemaster.

The runner auction is held twice a year, in January and again in June. Auctions will be held as online events; stablemasters who cannot participate in the live chatroom RP may enter silent bids with the Racing Steward.

Breeding runners can be done at the will of the members, as long as the bloodstock being used has been registered with the KJC Racing Steward. (Whether or not a stud fee is charged by the stallion's owner is up to the member in question.) Active racers must be retired to before they can be bred. Arrangements to use another member's bloodstock – a stallion, for instance – can be made privately between stablemasters. New foals must be registered with the KJC Steward using the following format:

RAW CHARM

Sex/Age: 3TOF (3 Turn Old Filly)

Foaled: 2855

Died: tbd

Sire: Rawhide

Dam: Salted

Description: buckskin, solid

Breeder: Crackbone Creek Cothold

Owner: Cotholder Rayan

KJC Number: CCC27

The Racing Steward will assign a database key code to your runners at the time their data files are created. The names of the horses MUST reflect Pernese language trends – names that are too “Earthy” will not be accepted. If you have any questions, ask the Racing Steward.

Descriptions need to be kept brief and realistic. Note: the most common colors for racers are bay, chestnut, and brown.

The Race Steward only needs to know the Turn of birth, since runners officially age one Turn on the first day of all consecutive Turns. For instance, if one colt is foaled on 2850.01.01. and another is foaled on 2850. 13.28., both runners will be one Turn old on 2851. 01.01. Granted, this is an extreme example, but for racing purposes, this is the way things are done.

Runners may begin racing at age two on all types of courses. Subject to the restrictions above, they may race until they drop, should the owner wish – but keep one thing in mind. Sooner or later, all runners will pass their racing peak. This age is determined randomly at the time the database file is created and is not given out – it can only be determined through race results. Nearly all runners will be past their prime at five Turns of age (though a very few may last longer) due to the fact that Pernese runners generally have shorter lives than their Terran counterparts and consequently usually have shorter racing careers.

The Racing Steward only wants to know the name of sires & dams if they are registered KJC breeding stock. The names of unregistered sires & dams are left blank.

Male runners also have the option of remaining full stallions or being gelded. Such a choice is left up to the individual owner, and it is usually done between two and three Turns of age. Gelded males usually perform better than they did before they were gelded, and have a longer useful racing career, but they cannot be used for breeding purposes afterwards.

“Breeder” is the name of the hold or stable where an animal was bred/foaled. “Owner” is the name of the current Stablemaster who owns the animal. (Technically, all racers in the stables of a minor hold or cothold belong to the Lord Holder, but the stablemaster will be the one responsible for a racing stable's valuable livestock.

The KJC Number will be assigned to you by the stablemaster when you create your stables, purchase your horses, or breed new racers.

Stablemasters are not required to retire their runners. However, they are encouraged to do so since it will free up space on their racing string. Older runners that continue as active racers also generally make less money, cost more in entry fees for races they don't win, and suffer a heavy penalty in the breeding barn if and when they find their way into an owner's bloodstock.

Some common sense rules apply with runners:

- You cannot unretire a runner and bring it back to active racing status.
- You cannot bring a horse declared dead back to life.
- You cannot ungeld a male horse and have it reproduce.
- A mare can only have one foal per Turn.
- Mares gestate (are pregnant) for 11 months.
- Pernese runners are past breeding prime at age 15.
- Pernese runners are not long lived -- 20 Turns is usually the max.

FINAL NOTE

The Kadanzer Jockey wishes to express our grateful acknowledgments to its spiritual predecessor, the Jockey Club of Pern, and to Charles Schultz, without whose programming work the Jockey Clubs would not have existed, at least in their final forms. Thanks are also due to Dave McCombs, who started the KJC at this club.