

## Elite Training Grant Criteria 2025-2026

**The Direct Financial Support (DFS) Schemes' grant levels and funding criteria are subject to change, pending the outcome of the DFS Scheme review being conducted.**

*Pre-Requisite: Asian and/or Olympic Games disciplines*

### SENIOR CATEGORY (for OG Disciplines)

Athletes' Categories	Elite A+		Elite A				Elite B+				Elite B				Elite C				Senior Squad			
	Full Time		Full Time		Part Time		Full Time		Part Time		Full Time		Part Time		Full Time		Part Time		Full Time		Part Time	
	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced
Monthly Grant	\$44,500	\$50,000	\$32,730	\$38,540	\$10,070	\$16,760	\$22,820	\$26,960	\$7,550	\$12,540	\$16,220	\$19,180	\$5,420	\$9,040	\$11,520	\$13,550	\$3,880	\$6,460	\$7,130	\$8,390	\$2,530	\$4,200
Olympic Games	Medallist (minus-one rule)		4th – 8th (minus-one rule)				9th – 16th (minus-one rule)				Top 2/3				Qualified for Olympic Games according to required standard (not including wild card participation)				Minimum requirement : Top 2/3 positions at International Senior events, or higher, according to the requirement of respective NSAs  OR  Current JA/JB recipients promoted to senior category for the first year.			
World Champs World Cup (Finals)	Medallist (minus-one rule)		4th – 8th (minus-one rule)				9th – 16th (minus-one rule)															
Asian Games			Medallist (minus-one rule)				4th – 8th and top 1/3								4th – 8th and top 1/2							
Asian Championships National Games World Universities Games							Medallist and top 1/3				4th – 8th and top 1/3				1st – 8th and top 1/2							
World Universities Championships Asian Cup (Finals) World Cup Series											1st - 8th and top 1/3											
Asian Cup Series Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games National Championships															Medallist and top 1/3							

Remarks: "Minus-one rule" means the athlete/team must have beaten one competitor/team in the event.

## Elite Training Grant Criteria 2025-2026

*Pre-Requisite: Asian Games disciplines*

### **SENIOR CATEGORY (for Non-OG Disciplines)**

Athletes' Categories	Elite A				Elite B+				Elite B				Elite C				Senior Squad			
	Full Time		Part Time		Full Time		Part Time		Full Time		Part Time		Full Time		Part Time		Full Time		Part Time	
	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced
Monthly Grant	\$32,730	\$38,540	\$10,070	\$16,760	\$22,820	\$26,960	\$7,550	\$12,540	\$16,220	\$19,180	\$5,420	\$9,040	\$11,520	\$13,550	\$3,880	\$6,460	\$7,130	\$8,390	\$2,530	\$4,200
World Champs World Cup (Finals)	Medallist (minus-one rule)				4th – 8th (minus-one rule)				9th – 16th (minus-one rule)								Minimum requirement: Top 2/3 positions at International <u>Senior</u> events, or higher, according to the requirement of respective NSAs  OR  Current JA/JB recipients promoted to senior category for the first year.			
Asian Games	Medallist (minus-one rule)				4th – 8th and top 1/3								4th – 8th and top 1/2							
Asian Championships National Games World Universities Games					Medallist and top 1/3				4th – 8th and top 1/3				1st – 8th and top 1/2							
World Universities Championships Asian Cup (Finals) World Cup Series									1st - 8th and top 1/3											
Asian Cup Series Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games National Championships													Medallist and top 1/3							

Remarks: "Minus-one rule" means the athlete/team must have beaten one competitor/team in the event.

## Elite Training Grant Criteria 2025-2026

*Pre-Requisite: Asian and/or Olympic Games disciplines*

Athlete Category		Secondary Student Athlete A		Junior A		Secondary Student Athlete B		Junior B		Secondary Student Athlete Squad		Junior Squad	
		Category 1	Category 2	Full-Time	Part-Time	Category 1	Category 2	Full-Time	Part-Time	Category 1	Category 2	Full-Time	Part-Time
Monthly Grant	Standard	\$7,130	\$2,530	\$7,130	\$2,530	\$5,270	Training Allowance	\$5,270	Training Allowance	\$3,300	Training Allowance	\$3,300	Training Allowance
	Enhanced	\$8,390	\$4,200	\$8,390	\$4,200	\$6,210	\$1,940	\$6,210	\$1,940	\$3,880	\$660	\$3,880	\$660
World Youth Champs		1 <sup>st</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> and top 1/3				1 <sup>st</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> and top 1/2				Minimum requirement: Top 1/3 positions at local <u>Junior</u> events, or higher, according to the requirement of respective National Sports Associations			
World Youth Cup (Finals)													
Youth Olympic Games													
Asian Youth Games													
Asian Youth Champs		Medallist and top 1/3				4 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> and top 1/3							
National Student (Youth) Games (Open Category)													
Asian Youth Cup (Finals)													
World Youth Cup Series													
Asian Youth Cup Series		Medallist and top 1/3											
Asian Age Group Champs													
National Youth Champs													

## ETG Operation Guideline

ETG applications are made on an annual basis. Applications must be endorsed by the respective National Sports Association (NSA) and submitted to the HKSI before the deadline.

ETG recipients will be granted the status of “HKSI Sports Scholarship Athletes” who are entitled to full support and services at HKSI.

For details of support and services, please refer to the HKSI website:

<https://www.hksi.org.hk/support-to-athletes/sports-scholarship-scheme/>

### A. Athletes Categories

Athletes Category		Tier A Sports	IASS*
Senior	Elite A+	✓	✓
	Elite A	✓	✓
	Elite B+	✓	✓
	Elite B	✓	✓
	Elite C	✓	✓
	Senior Squad	✓	
Junior / Secondary Student Athlete	Junior A/ Secondary Student Athlete A	✓	✓
	Junior B/ Secondary Student Athlete B	✓	✓
	Junior Squad/ Secondary Student Athlete Squad	✓	
Potential	Individual Athletes	✓	

\*IASS (“Individual Athlete Support Scheme”): Athletes of Olympic/Asian Games Sports, who are not supported under Tier A Sports but meet the IASS funding criteria, are eligible for ETG support.

### B. Definition of Senior / Junior / Secondary Student Athletes

Senior Athlete	Athletes who have attained results in senior events
Junior Athlete	Athletes who have attained results in junior events
Secondary Student Athlete	Athletes who are current secondary school students and attained results in junior events

### C. Eligibility Criteria and Guidelines

1. Elite A+/A/B+/B/C, and Junior A/B/Secondary Student Athlete A/B  
Categories of grants will be based on the performance of the applicant in the previous two calendar years, if the result has not been used for previous grant eligibility criteria.
2. Senior Squad/Junior Squad/Secondary Student Athlete Squad (for Tier A Sports only)  
Categories of grants will be based on the criterion performance of the applicant in the past calendar year.

In order to provide timely support to athletes who have achieved eligible result after the annual application deadline, new recruits to Senior Squad / Junior Squad / Secondary Student Athlete Squad can be admitted to receive ETG support anytime during the current year.

3. Potential (for Tier A Sports only)

Athletes with talent and potential can be recommended to receive local training at HKSI. Additional support is subject to special approval.

4. Definition of Full-time and Part-time Athletes

Full-time Athletes

- a) Athletes have to follow the elite training and competitions requirements as their first priority.
- b) Athletes do not have full-time job nor engage in full-time study programmes, except where temporary deferment of the full-time study programme has been approved by the school, or arrangements have been made by the school to reduce the contact hours to the equivalent of a normal part-time programme (i.e. not more than 10 hours per week on average). Documentation issued by the school / employer is required under these circumstances.
- c) A minimum of 5 days and 25 hours of supervised training per week
- d) Athletes taking up part-time job/studies must be approved by Head Coaches/NSAs.

Part-time Athletes

A minimum of 4 days and 15 hours supervised training per week.

5. Definition of Secondary Student Athletes

Category 1

- a) Athletes are current secondary school students;
- b) Athletes have written confirmation from their respective schools to support their elite training programme arrangements;
- c) A minimum of 5 days and 25 hours of supervised training per week

Category 2

- a) Athletes are current secondary school students;
- b) A minimum of 4 days and 15 hours of supervised training per week

6. Athletes receiving grants should meet the three-year residency policy and hold a valid Hong Kong Identity Card.

7. Results should be achieved by athletes of National Sports Associations (NSAs) which are affiliated members of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC).

8. Results should be achieved by athletes who were representing Hong Kong at international events with a minimum entry of four countries/regions, except for the Senior Squad category where the minimum entry criterion does not apply. For the Junior Squad category, if results were achieved at local closed competitions, the Hong Kong representative team criterion does not apply.
9. Results achieved from demonstration events would not be considered.
10. “Minus-one” rule will be applied to results achieved at Olympic Games, Senior World Championships and World-level events which require qualification (e.g. World Cup Finals).
11. For athletes not fully meeting the required level of performance, but fulfilling either one of the following three conditions, the same results could be considered for support for a further 12-month period maximum:
  - 11.1 Documented injuries, illness, and/or pregnancy, preventing training or competitions
  - 11.2 Lack of equivalent events due to the intervals of the relevant major competitions (i.e. Olympic Games, Asian Games, Youth Olympic Games, Asian Youth Games, World Championships, Asian Championships, World Junior Championships, Asian Junior Championships), on the condition that athletes must have taken part in at least one other competition during the year
  - 11.3 Athletes fulfilling ALL the following considerations:
    - (a) Pre-requisite: Recommended by the relevant National Sports Association and Head Coach
    - (b) Current full-time athletes
    - (c) Athletes with track record (meet either one of the following):
      - (i) Achieved top eight positions in the Asian Championships/ equivalent events in the previous calendar year
      - (ii) Achieved top ten Asian ranking/top 30 world ranking in the previous calendar year

*(For the condition 11.3 above, athletes would be granted such approval once in their sporting career and funding for these athletes would be fixed at the standard level, in order to maintain parity within the system.)*
12. Athletes’ result which has marginally missed out the “top one-third” rule by only one entry in the competition, could be considered for support under the related category. However, athletes applying to use this condition would only be granted approval once in their sporting career and funding for these athletes would be fixed at the standard level, in order to maintain parity within the system.
13. For team events (e.g. relays), athletes who have taken part in the competition (any round) are eligible for grants.
14. Full time athletes at EC or above category would be provided with enhanced support ranging from two years to four years. However, they are required to meet the maintenance criteria as follows:

Athletes Category	Support Period	Maintenance Criteria
EA+ (Full-time)	4 Years	Achieve at least an EA result in the first two years of support  <b>AND</b>  Participate in at least one competition every year within the support period
EA (Full-time)	4 Years	Achieve at least an EB+ result in the first two years of support  <b>AND</b>  Participate in at least one competition every year within the support period
EB+ (Full-time)	2 Years	Achieve at least an EB result in the first year of support
EB (Full-time)		Achieve at least an EC result in the first year of support
EC (Full-time)		Achieve at least a Senior Squad result in the first year of support

15. For athletes achieving EC category due to achieving the Olympic Games (OG) qualification, their grant will start from the confirmation of the qualification until the end of the financial year in which the OG is held.
16. If NSAs have developed an Elite Vote Support Scheme (EVSS) sport-specific scoring table with HKSI, the ETG categories of their athletes will follow the agreed levels of competitions and related results as stated in that EVSS table.

#### **D. Adjustment of Grant Levels**

1. To ensure steady grant for athletes in a year, athletes' approved grant categories should remain unchanged throughout the year.
2. All eligible athletes should receive the standard grant as a starting grant. NSAs/Head Coaches could recommend the grant levels for their athletes within the enhanced grant of the respective categories, taking into account the following considerations:

- Past grant levels
- Significant result improvements  
(e.g. Results which qualify athlete for a higher funding category or Multiple medals achieved at respective grant categories)
- Number of years at high performance level  
(For full-time athlete of Senior category only)
- Other considerations, as appropriate

#### **E. Suspension/Forfeiture/Termination of Grants**

1. Head Coaches/NSAs could suspend/forfeit/terminate grants for athletes if:
  - Athletes cannot fulfill training/competition requirements
  - Misconduct/disciplinary problems of the athletes.  
*(Please refer to Annex I, showing an example of Disciplinary Procedures)*
  - Athletes withdraw from the Elite Training Programme
2. One month's notice will be given to the athlete in general, with respective Head Coaches/NSAs' endorsement.

#### **F. Appeal Channel**

##### 1. For Adjustment of ETG Categories

Step 1: In case of queries on the ETG Category, athletes should approach the respective Head Coach / NSA to understand the situation.

Step 2: If athletes wish to make an appeal, it should be applied in writing via the respective NSA to the High Performance Administration Department of the HKSI before the designated deadline. Appeal cases will be reviewed by the HKSIL Board.

Step 3: The decision of the HKSIL Board will be final.

##### 2. For Adjustment of Grant Levels

Step 1: In case of queries on the level of grant, athletes should approach the respective Head Coach / NSA to understand the situation.

Step 2: If necessary, athletes could contact the High Performance Administration Department of the HKSI for further information and assistance.

Step 3: If athletes still wish to make an appeal, they can approach the Director of High Performance Management of the HKSI who will handle the case directly.

Step 4: If athletes are not satisfied with the result of the appeal, they can meet with the Chief Executive of the HKSI to review the case to get a final decision.

#### **G. Athlete Agreement and Performance Assessment**

1. All grant recipients have to sign the Athlete Agreement and complete the Medical Check-up before grants would be released.
2. Performance appraisal reports for all grant recipients have to be submitted twice a year, one interim report in October (for April to September) and a full-year report in the following April.



3. Head Coaches/Coaching Supervisors will complete the standard report form which will be endorsed by the respective NSAs.

## **H. Payment Method**

1. Monthly payment will be made within 7 days of the following month.
2. Grants will be paid to athletes' designated account.

## **I. Administration Procedures and Annual Timetable**

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| October    | - Invite ETG applications from NSAs for the coming financial year                          |
| November   | - Close applications   |
| March      | - HKSIL Board to approve the list of grant recipients                                      |
|            | - Inform NSAs/athletes/Head Coaches of the levels of support for the coming financial year |
|            | - Head Coaches/NSAs to finalize the level of grants for each athlete                       |
|            | - Athletes to sign Athlete Agreement   |
|            | - Deadline for Head Coaches/NSAs to adjust grant levels for athletes, if any               |
| October    | - Interim report   |
| Next April | - Full-year report and overall evaluation  |

*(Updated in September 2024)*

## Example of Disciplinary Procedures

