

Youth Racing Communique 15/02

Information for parents & sailors regarding an update to the ages for selection for ISAF World Youth Championships

RYA staff and Youth Steering Group (YSG) have been debating for some time the difficulties and challenges around the ISAF Youth World Championships (ISAFYWC) whenever it is held in the winter period (IE Dec/Jan and normally therefore a southern hemisphere country). The conflicts for older sailors who in that period would also be starting University, beginning their first jobs or would be at least three to four months into their Olympic sailing program meant that those sailors would inevitably have to make some significant compromise in some area.

As a result of this the decision was taken to reduce the selection age by 9 months to prevent sailors being selected and then being asked to make such a significant compromise. This policy would apply whenever the ISAF YWC was in the winter period (Dec/Jan) and would revert to the full age when it was held in the summer period.

This policy has been agreed by YSG, ratified by Racing Committee and widely communicated.

After further consideration and discussion the realisation that in the case of two classes the original rationale has a weakness.

In the case of **Radial Girls and RS:X Girls** those sailors are already sailing their Olympic Classes and as such there is no conflict or compromise between the ISAF YWC in the winter and their Olympic programme. In fact quite the contrary in terms of Olympic sailing they are very much aligned for those two groups of sailors (RS:X Girls & Radial Girls).

As a result YSG have reviewed this position and modified the ages for selection for ISAF YWC to allow full age girls to be selected in both the Laser Radial Class and the RS:X Class. This has been ratified by Racing Committee and is now policy.

The updated ages are as below:

For Laser radial Girls and RS:X Girls

Competitors shall be under the age of 19 years on 31 December 2015 (born after 31 December 1996).

For all other Classes

Competitors shall be under the age of 18 years on the 31 December 2015 or 18 years of age and born between 1st September and 31st December inclusive, in the year of competition (born on or after 1 September 1997)