



Notice of Selection

RYA Laser 4.7 UK Junior Squad 2014/15

(Winter Squad: commencing October 2014)

Introduction

Normally, up to twelve Laser 4.7 UK Junior squad places will be offered, however this number may vary at the discretion of the selection committee according to the ability of competitors taking part in the indicator series. Normally we would aim to award at least three of these places to girls and three to boys. The first six places will normally be offered to the six highest ranked sailors, to include a minimum of two girls and two boys aged under 15 on the 31st of December 2014, on completion of the indicator series.

The remaining Laser 4.7 UK Junior Squad places will be offered at the discretion of the Selection Committee to helms who in their opinion have demonstrated the best prospects of progressing to the RYA UK Youth Squads and the most potential to win medals for RYA Team GBR at major international competitions in the subsequent years.

The selectors expect sailors to make every endeavour to attend the indicator events in order that they can make objective decisions having seen sailors compete against each other at the key events.

Support

Sailors selected to be part of the 2014/15 (Winter Squad) RYA Laser 4.7 UK Junior Squad will normally receive the following support:

- Invitation to subsidised race training weekends and half term camps. These take place at a number of venues around the UK and are delivered by the RYA Laser 4.7 UK Head Coach and other additional specialists and coaches.
- Benefit from a specific needs based training programme.
- Have the opportunity to access remote coaching support from the UK Squad Coaches.
- The opportunity to purchase discounted UK Junior Squad clothing.
- Receive transition advice regarding progression into Youth Sailing from the UK Junior Squad Coach and RYA Single-Handed Pathway Manager.

Whilst the RYA Laser 4.7 UK Junior Squad programme is heavily subsidised by the RYA, some parental contribution towards the costs of coaching, venues, coach boats, accommodation and food is required.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for the RYA Laser 4.7 UK Junior Squad 2014/15, sailors shall normally be aged under 15 on the 31st December 2014. However in exceptional circumstances, sailors who do not meet the age criteria may be invited at the discretion of the Selection Committee (given the nature of the girls' single-handed pathway). If offered, these places will usually (but not exclusively), be offered to girls.

In addition Laser 4.7 UK Junior Squad sailors must be resident in Great Britain, hold or be eligible to hold a British passport and eligible to represent Great Britain in the ISAF Youth Sailing World Championships.

Helms may not accept a Laser 4.7 UK Junior Squad place if they have accepted a place in another RYA Squad.



Selection Criteria and Procedure

Normally six of the 2014/15 Laser 4.7 UK Junior Squad places will be allocated according to a ranking system using the results from the following indicator events:

- **UKLA 4.7 Ladder event** 30th- 31st August 2014
Datchet SC
- **RYA South Zone Championships 2014** 27th – 28th September 2014
WPNSA

Members of the Selection Committee (or their appointed representatives) will normally be attending some of the above events, in order to make discretionary selections based upon the matrix of criteria listed below.

Exceptional Circumstances/failure to attend Indicator events

The selectors expect sailors to make every endeavour to attend the indicator events in order that they can make objective decisions having seen sailors compete against each other at key events.

Where this is **impossible** sailors may take the opportunity to notify the selectors of the reasons why and seek dispensation which will only be granted (retrospectively) in exceptional circumstances. Some examples of exceptional circumstances are: illness or injury which precludes sailing (medical diagnosis should be provided), bereavement or non-transferable academic commitments which directly impact on the grade of a nationally recognised qualification that sailors will be awarded. Gear failure, breakage or the actions of another competitor are not considered exceptional, where appropriate, sailors should seek retribution via the normal processes of the racing rules of sailing.

Sending in a discretionary request does not imply acceptance of the reasons or the granting of dispensation by the selectors. By electing not to attend an event sailors accept the likelihood of this negatively impacting on their selection. Sailors are encouraged to seek medical advice and exercise common sense around competing with an illness or injury.

Sailors wishing to notify the selectors should do so in writing, together with any diagnosis or reasons via the Youth Racing Senior Administrator, at Louise.Petropoulos@rya.org.uk

Scoring

The ranking system will be compiled by adding together the individual race scores (including all competitors) from the indicator events.

There will normally be up to 12 races:

10 races or more	3 discards
7-9 races	2 discards
4-6 races	1 discard
3 races or less	0 discards

Discretionary Places

Discretionary places will be determined by the Selection Committee and may be offered to sailors who:

- In their opinion have demonstrated the best prospects of progressing to the RYA UK Youth Squads and the most potential to win medals for RYA Team GBR at international competitions in the subsequent years.
- Fall outside the age criteria.



- Fail to achieve automatic selection, possibly (but not exclusively) because they are new to the class, injured or could not attend all indicator events.

When allocating discretionary places the Selection Committee may take into consideration the following factors:

- Age and potential.
- Factors affecting results.
- Performance in the Indicator series.
- Attitude and behaviour throughout the series and during previous training.
- Class ranking list.
- Performance in other events.
- Goals and aspirations.
- Height and weight.
- Other factors the selection committee considers appropriate.

The Selection Committee may extend the selection process beyond the indicator series.

Selection Practice

For all squad places, selectors therefore have the discretion to determine:

- The size of the squad, taking into account the target size.
- Which of the criteria to take into account.
- Who to select.

In making their decisions and exercising their discretions, Selectors are expected to:

- Use their own expertise and experience.
- Rely on their own observations of the competitors, together with the observations made by other individuals, such as class coaches and class representatives.

By entering an event or activity that is part of this selection series, the competitors agree that the Selectors have such discretions.

Additional Sailors

Additional talented sailors may be invited to train alongside any of the above squads later in the training programme at the discretion of the selection committee. This may be because existing squad sailors are unable to attend a specific session, or if talented sailors emerge from other programmes later in the process.

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will be made up of the Laser 4.7 Class Steering Team (or their appointed representatives) which currently consists of:

- RYA Single-handed Pathway Manager
- UKLA Laser 4.7 Representative
- Chair of RYA Youth Selectors
- RYA Laser 4.7 UK Junior Squad Head Coach
- RYA Youth Manager



Application, Entry Fees and Measurement

Sailors must be members of the UK Laser Association and should be members of the RYA. Applications for the 2014/15 Laser 4.7 UK Junior Squad should be submitted on-line at www.ryaracingevents.org.uk which will open on the 1st of June 2014. Once you have reached the racing events page click on 'RYA Squad Applications'. All applications must be submitted before the last indicator event.

There will be no additional entry fee for the Laser 4.7 UK Junior Squad indicator Series. All boats must conform to the Class Association rules and measurements. Further details of the RYA selection policy is published on the website.

Notification

Applicants will be notified in writing by mail as soon as is practically possible after the completion of the final indicator event (usually within 14 days). Successful sailor's names will be published on the RYA website once all attendance confirmation forms/contracts have been returned to the office – it is not our policy to publish this information before this time.

Appeals

There will be no appeals against the published selection criteria or the actions of the Selectors, provided they follow the selection criteria. By entering the selection process sailors agree to this condition.

The grounds for appeal are limited to allegations of:

- I. failure to follow due process.
- II. bias/undue influence.
- III. some other misconduct.

The criteria for appeal may not include any alleged error of judgement of the Selectors. Should an appeal still arise then it should be submitted to the Racing Manager within five days of the selection being announced. The full Appeals document is available on request from the RYA Racing Operations Manager.

Sailors who feel they may meet the eligibility criteria for Paralympic competition

The RYA endeavours to keep those sailors who feel they may ultimately be eligible for the Paralympics within mainstream race and race training programmes for as long as is practically possible, as we consider this the most effective way to facilitate development. Sailors are then either transferred across to the Olympic programme or the Paralympic programme, or invited to participate in both of them in parallel should this be considered most effective. Sailors or parents who would like further advice or feel they may meet the relevant criteria are encouraged to discuss in more detail with the relevant RYA Manager.

Status

The Royal Yachting Association's (RYA's) policies and procedures are subject to change from time to time, including variations required to comply with Sports Councils' directions on the investment of National Lottery funds.

The RYA reserves the right to amend, supplement and/or discontinue at its absolute discretion, for whatsoever reason, any or all of its policies and procedures.

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Appendix A: Information on International competitions to aspirant Laser 4.7 sailors



Appendix A: Information on International competitions to aspirant Laser 4.7 sailors

At this time of year there are inevitable questions that arise within families as to appropriate events to attend and class pathway decisions to be made and as such, outlined below are some key background and thoughts to inform these decisions. The summer 2015 RYA UKJS policy will outline any RYA support for the 2015 Competition period. The intention of this support is to enable sailors to gain the additional, appropriate experiences (which does not necessarily mean doing the European or World Championships) in order to have the best possible chance of progressing into the Youth programme and achieving success.

Background

The Laser Class is in a unique and enviable position with many accessible European circuits and events that run throughout the year (these events can complement sailor development very effectively in the run up to the ILCA World and European Championships). Sailors are encouraged to use these events in conjunction with European and World Championships as appropriate to optimise their development in the run up to the ILCA World and European Championships. The aim would be to try and get a portfolio of international competition experience, at a range of venues, to enable sailors to build confidence, experience and top level exposure to develop their skills.

A selection of appropriate (Laser 4.7) local events, that are highly recommended as events to broaden international experience and complement the squad training of the sailors includes the United 4 regattas, Laser Europa Cups, local Foreign Youth Nationals – including the Dutch, Irish and Belgium (via Nieuwpoortweek Regatta). Each of these events are 'open entry' i.e. do not need to be pre-qualified for through the UKLA/ILCA system. The ILCA Laser 4.7 European and World Championships are both 'closed entry' (i.e. application and qualification are essential through the ILCA and UKLA).

Which 4.7 or Radial events to attend in the summer?

This will be an individual decision for each sailor, based on their height, weight, experience, goals, aspirations and place within your specific programme. The primary focus should be (within the constraints of education and cost) on attending as many 'internationals' in the summer events as appropriate, in order to gain maximum international event exposure. Please discuss your specific programme with your coach.

Internationals:

United 4's: Four Youth and Junior Class weekend events run in Holland around the IJsselmeer (usually: two in April and two in September, spread around the locations of Workum, Hoorne, Medemblik and Roompot). Classes: 29er, 420, 470, Cadet, Europe, Laser 4.7, Laser Radial, Laser Standard, Optimist, RS Feva and Splash.

For further information: <http://www.united4sailing.org/home.php>.

Europa Cups: These are a series of regattas that take place in various venues throughout Europe over the racing season. They are usually three to four day events that are open to sailors of all ages and rig sizes.

For further information: <http://www.laserinternational.org/europe>.





Relevant European Youth Nationals: see each Laser Association website.

Nieuwpoortweek Regatta: Youth regatta for the following classes: Optimist, Cadet 420 & Laser (3 rigs). For further information: <http://www.nieuwpoortweek.be/>.

ILCA events (European and World Championships): The allocation of places to attend ILCA international events (World and European Championships) and the subsequent selection processes to nominate GBR sailors is the responsibility of the UKLA. The RYA has limited input regarding how the UKLA may choose to structure the indicator series or allocate the places. However, the RYA may choose to support certain sailors who qualify within the UKLA system. The ILCA World and European Championships have moved in the last few years towards a closed entry system and hence the need for pre-qualification. However, numbers often vary and can be large (especially for the European Championships). Other International events are open entry.

Format for gaining a World/European Championship entry:

- application submitted online via ILCA website.
- attendance at UKLA Qualifiers for these events (outlined in UKLA selection policy for World and European Championships).
- UKLA rank the sailors at the culmination of the qualifying series.
- ILCA notify successful sailors (that have applied) of their successful place allocation / entry.
- (lower ranked sailors may still be successful of gaining an entry if ILCA release further allocations nearer to the event).

*The RYA are not part of the UKLA/ILCA qualification system. The RYA may choose to give nominated support to RYA Squad sailors at some of these events.

Transitioning:

The 'next step' on the RYA pathway for Laser 4.7 sailors, depending on aspiration, is usually the RYA Transition Training and then the RYA UK Youth Squads (either within the single or double handed pathway classes: Laser Radial, RS:X, 420, 29er & Spitfire).

RYA Transition Training: Phase One: Open training that runs from September to December. These three open weekends and a nominated indicator event (for Radials this is normally the UKLA Inlands), form the prerequisite for selection to the Phase two – RYA Transition Training Squad, that will run from the following January through to the summer internationals.

Full details on the selection policy can be found at:

<http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/youthjunior/squads/transition/Pages/Selection.aspx>.

RYA UK Youth Squad: The main entry point for selection to the RYA UK Youth Squad is September. Subsequently there is a review that occurs in April (post the RYA Youth National Championships and any nominated Qualifiers). Full details on the selection policy can be found within the document 'Notice of Selection – RYA Youth Classes' at:



<http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/youthjunior/squads/youth/Pages/Selection.aspx>

(This policy should be online in the month of March).

Typically in the year in which sailors aim to gain selection for the Youth programme (be that either RYA UK Youth Squad or Transition Training), it has been rare for sailors to attend any UKLA Radial events prior to the Nationals and more often, sailors only attend the Autumn Laser qualifiers.

These Autumn Qualifiers are very important events to attend whether new into the class or not (i.e. aspiring Transition or UK Youth Squad sailors) as they provide the valuable opportunity for high level racing, relatively locally. They also form the basis of September selection for the RYA UK Youth Squad.

RYA Youth National Championships: Sailors of the appropriate age and ability to consider a move into the Laser Radial are encouraged to attend the RYA Youth National Championships with the following caveats:

- sailors and parents need to appreciate that this is not an outcome regatta (i.e. the results for this group of sailors, in most cases, are not an important consideration).
- the principle reason for most Laser 4.7 sailors attending the event would be process, i.e. to experience the event and gain familiarity so when the event and the result is more significant the sailors are more familiar and therefore confident with the scale and processes which are normal at this event.
- therefore, it is not necessary to have much, if any, competitive Radial experience prior to attending but, it is crucial to have sufficient boat handling skills and be physically fit enough (and the appropriate size) to sail the boat in considerable breeze at a Youth level event (safety is less intensive etc.) in order to attend the regatta. Sailors should also be prudent and prepared to sit out windy days as necessary.
- some time spent at your local club or participating in regional or national open training should be sufficient for you to apply the techniques you have learnt within the Laser 4.7 to the Laser Radial. Just bear in mind that the domestic competition will be tougher – less space on start line etc.

Enter on-line (via RYA Racing Events website).

Laser Radial Youth Europeans: Those sailors who are planning to transition and qualify for this event - must be at least 15 (and less than 19) years old in the year of the championship.

- historically from the usual UK allocations one would assume it is relatively unlikely that more than a very small handful of Laser 4.7 sailors be expected to attend/gain selection.

Our recent experience at both Laser 4.7 and Laser Radial International events and results suggest that the Laser 4.7 events are excellent opportunities, which offer GBR sailors really tough competition against mainly older sailors in a rig which is the most appropriate for the majority of our squad given their present physical size and age.

In the view of the RYA Selectors, the Laser 4.7 international events are of real significance and offer an excellent foundation for sailors attempting to gain selection for either UK YS or TT in the autumn of the following year. We are aware that sailors will be ill-prepared for the RYA Youth National Championships in the Laser Radial and therefore are not expecting



great results from them. However, as stressed in most cases, performance at the UK Youth's is not of significant relevance at this stage of a Laser 4.7 sailor's development.