



British Youth Sailing Programme

Guidelines for Selection

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Author(s):	John Derbyshire and Stuart Childerley
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GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out the selection policy, practice, process, criteria and the responsibilities of individuals involved in the selection process for the RYA British Youth Sailing Programmes.
- 1.2 This document is supplemented by specific selection notices that are prepared annually for each RYA squad programme. The guidelines contained apply to all selection unless explicitly amended by an RYA class specific selection notice. It consists of the following sections:
 2. Selection policy
 3. Eligibility
 4. Section practice
 5. Selection process
 6. Selection criteria
 7. Appeals
 8. Roles
 9. Status

2 SELECTION POLICY

- 2.1 The overall aim of the RYA British Youth Sailing programme is:

Develop the Best Young Racing Sailors in the World

In order to achieve the above, we aim to select those individuals and teams who are most likely to excel at dinghy and windsurf racing to receive additional coaching and support from the RYA and thereby:

“Make Winning Inevitable” as they progress into Olympic Class Sailing
Accelerate individuals/team development,
Optimally feed the GBR Olympic, Paralympic and other Senior Development Squads,
Make best use of RYA, funding partner and sponsor support.

- 2.2 To establish carefully the selection programme so as to achieve the objectives while minimising the resources expended on selection both in terms of manpower and costs.
- 2.3 To appoint a Chair of Selectors – British Youth Sailing. The chair has a two-year renewable tenure with a maximum of two consecutive tenures.
- 2.4 To appoint a committee of selectors for Youth Classes and ISAF/EUROSF teams. This committee would normally consist of:
 - Chair of Selectors – British Youth Sailing
 - RYA Performance Director
 - RYA Youth Racing Manager
 - RYA Single-handed Pathway Manager
 - RYA Double-handed Pathway Manager
- 2.5 To appoint a committee of selectors for each of the junior classes.
 - 2.5.1 Each selection committee to have a one year renewable tenure and be appointed in partnership with each Class Association.

- 2.5.2 Each selection committee to have individual from the Junior Class Association having a representative on their own committee and thereby be in a position to satisfy their membership that the correct process is followed.
 - 2.5.3 Each Junior Class Selection Committee to be chaired by the relevant single or double-handed programme manager.
- 2.6 To ensure that selectors have expert and current knowledge of the World Class British Youth Sailing Programme and the classes to which they are appointed and who are seen to have independence.
- 2.7 To offer to reimburse reasonable travel and living costs.

3 ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 Be U21 in the year of selection, or exceptionally U21 on the 1st September in the year of selection. This age may be reduced by the specific squad, team or class selection policy.
- 3.2 To be eligible for selection sailors must be eligible to compete for Great Britain at an ISAF sanctioned event as defined in ISAF Regulation 19.
- 3.3 In exceptional circumstances, sailors who do not comply with 3.2 may nevertheless be eligible if expressly confirmed by the RYA Racing Manager. Such sailors will be required to carry GBR on their sails and may be required to sign a written declaration of intent to comply with 3.2

4 SELECTION PRACTICE

- 4.1 The selection practice is to lay down certain selection criteria, and to appoint suitable individuals as selectors as described in section 2, allowing them the discretion to apportion different weighting to different criteria and the right to alter that weighting in making their decisions.
- 4.2 The selection criteria is listed in section 6.
- 4.3 Selectors therefore have the discretion to determine:
 - 4.3.1 The size of the squad, taking into account the target size.
 - 4.3.2 Which of the criteria to take into account.
 - 4.3.3 How much weighting (if any) to give to criteria they do take into account.
 - 4.3.4 Who to select.
- 4.4 In making their decisions and exercising their discretions Selectors are expected to:
 - 4.4.1 Use their own expertise and experience.
 - 4.4.2 Rely on their own observations of the competitors, together with the observations made by other individuals, such as class coaches and class representatives.
- 4.5 The practicalities of the indicator series and of the decision making process may require the Selector to make decisions which are based on less than complete information.
- 4.6 By entering an event or activity that is part of a selection series the competitors agree that the Selectors have such discretions.

5 SELECTION PROCESS

5.1 Youth Sailing ISAF World Championship Team

- 5.1.1 Selection to the Great Britain Team will be at the discretion of the selectors appointed by the YSG as per section 2.

The aim of the selection process is to maximise the individual and team medal winning potential of the British Team and the effective development of sailing talent and knowledge for future major international regattas and the Olympic Games.

In selecting the representative from each class, the selectors will select the sailors they feel will best represent Great Britain at the ISAF Youth World Sailing Championships.

- 5.1.2 Selection is gained primarily through performing in the primary indicator event.

5.1.2.1 The selection event to select the team should take place as close as practically possible to the event to give the best indication of those sailors best placed to win medals. This is considered vital since we recognise that young competitors develop quickly and often performance improvements are made in spurts during the key phase of preparation in the early season.

5.1.2.2 When the ISAF YWC is to be held in the Summer period (ie April-Sept) then this would normally be the RYA UK Youth National Championships.

5.1.2.3 When the ISAF YWC is to be held in the Winter period (ie Oct-Mar) then this would normally be a invitational only selection event held on the August bank holiday weekend.

5.1.2.4 If there is not a clear winner or conditions at the event are unsatisfactory, the selectors are able to also consider performances in nominated secondary indicator events. The events described are used as a selection trial since that environment creates pressures that are akin to the Worlds event itself.

5.2 Youth Sailing EUROSAF European Championship Team

- 5.2.1 Selection to the Great Britain Team will be at the discretion of the selectors appointed by the YSG as per section 2.

The aim of the selection process is to maximise the individual and team medal winning potential of the British Team and the effective development of sailing talent and knowledge for future major international regattas and the Olympic Games.

In selecting the representative from each class, the selectors will select the sailors they feel will best represent Great Britain at the EUROSAF Youth European Sailing Championships.

- 5.2.2 Selection is gained primarily through performing in the primary indicator event.

5.2.2.1 The selection event to select the team should take place as close as practically possible to the event to give the best indication of those sailors best placed to win medals. This is considered vital since we recognise that young competitors develop quickly and often

performance improvements are made in spurts during the key phase of preparation in the early season.

5.2.2.2 This would normally be the RYA UK Youth National Championships.

5.2.2.3 If there is not a clear winner or conditions at the event are unsatisfactory, the selectors are able to also consider performances in nominated secondary indicator events. The RYA UK Youth National Championships are used as a selection trial since that environment creates pressures that are akin to the European event itself.

5.3 Youth International Competition Support

5.3.1 In selecting competitors to receive international competition support, selectors appointed by the YSG as per section 2.

The selectors will select competitors, who in their opinion, will have:

- The best prospects to medal at the event; or,
- The potential to medal at similar international events in the future.

5.3.2 Normally, sailors chosen to receive support for international events will be identified using a combination of results and also on a predominantly discretionary basis at the RYA UK Youth National Championships. Selectors may also take into account performances at secondary indicator events or nominated squad reviews when making their decisions.

5.4 RYA UK Youth Transition 2 Squad (T2)

5.4.1 Selection of the sailors will be determined by independent Selectors consisting of:

Chair of Selectors – British Youth Sailing
RYA Performance Director
RYA Youth Racing Manager
RYA Single-handed Pathway Manager
RYA Double-handed Pathway Manager
RYA Podium Potential Manager

5.5 RYA UK Youth Squad (UKYS)

5.5.1 Selection of the sailors will be determined by independent Selectors who are appointed by the RYA Youth Steering Group (YSG) as per section 2. Their remit is to select those sailors, who in their opinion have a combination of:

1. The best prospects of winning medals at World and European Championships now and in the future,
2. The best prospects of winning medals at the ISAF Youth Sailing World Championships,
3. The best prospects of successfully following an Olympic pathway.

5.5.2 Selection of members for the youth squads will be partly on the basis of the results at the primary indicator events, and partly at the discretion of the selectors.

5.5.3 The overall objective of the Youth programme is to provide a constant stream of talented sailors into the Olympic Programme and therefore it is expected that there will be a breadth of ages within each squad.

5.6 Junior International Competition Support

- 5.6.1 Junior International Competition Support may be delivered individually or to a whole team at the discretion of the YRM. If delivered to a team, the terms and conditions of the support shall be agreed between the YRM and the Class Steering Group.
- 5.6.2 In selecting competitors to receive individual international competition support, the YRM and the other members of the Selection Committee shall select competitors, who in their opinion, will have:
- The best prospects to medal at the event; or,
 - The potential to medal at the event in the future; or
 - The potential to achieve success in the Youth Pathway,
 - Any other criteria listed in the class specific selection notice
- 5.6.3 Sailors chosen to receive support for international events will normally be identified on a discretionary basis through performance at a specified indicator event or series of events specifically chosen for this purpose.
- 5.6.4 The receipt of Junior International Competition Support from the RYA is normally conditional upon selected sailors acknowledging the need to progress into the Youth Pathway whilst they are U16.

5.7 RYA UK Junior Squad (UKJS)

- 5.7.1 Selections for the NJS will normally be made by selectors using a combination of results, which will be used to identify top performers and also their own observations and experience to make discretionary selections of the sailors, who in their opinion, will have the best prospects of:
- Representing GBR at the Class Junior Worlds or Europeans.
 - Successfully following a Youth pathway.
- 5.7.2 Primary selection shall normally be gained through performance in an indicator series consisting usually of the National Class Championships and at least two other events agreed with the class association that shall take place as close as practically possible by the end of main competitive season in September.
- 5.7.3 Sailors may also, at the discretion of the selection committee, gain selection to the national junior squads via performances in other significant domestic or international regattas.
- 5.7.4 Selection of members for national junior squads will be at the discretion of the YRM, and the other members of the individual class Selection Committee.

5.8 Zone Squad (ZS)

- 5.8.1 Selection of sailors will be determined by Selectors appointed by the RYA High Performance Manager who will look to identify the sailors, who in their opinion, will have the best prospects of progressing to the National Junior Squad and subsequently into the Youth Pathway in the future.
- 5.8.2 Primary selection may normally be gained through performance at:
- An RYA Zone Championship.

- A regional class association regatta
- A class association organised open training session.

5.8.3 Sailors may also be subsequently invited to participate in Zone Squad Training via:

- Performance in Open Training.
- Performance in Class National Junior Squad Indicator Events
- Other significant events taking place within their class/zone.

5.9 **Suspension and Termination**

5.9.1 Continued membership of any squad will normally be dependent upon:

- Continued funding of our squad programmes by the Lottery Sports Fund.
- Satisfactory performance.
- Achieving the relevant physiological benchmarks
- Conformance with the codes of conduct that are laid down or recognised from time to time.
- Conformance with programmes, training requirements, policies and procedures, and other reasonable requests.
- Continuing to gain selection in future squad selections.

5.9.2 Performance and conformance will be reviewed on a regular basis.

5.9.3 Squad membership may be suspended or terminated at any time and for any reason.

6 **SELECTION CRITERIA**

6.1 The selection criteria are:

- Performance at the appropriate RYA Championships.
- Performance at identified significant domestic regatta.
- Performance at a significant international regatta(s).
- Past performance at national and international events.
- Factors affecting results.
- Class ranking lists.
- Age, height and weight.
- Goals and aspirations.
- Future potential.
- Attitude and behaviour at the events in the series and during previous training.
- Any other factors the selectors consider appropriate.
- Achieving the relevant physiological benchmarks

6.2 Squad Selection and international competition support selection would normally involve a broader use of the above criteria.

7 **APPEALS**

7.1 The policy and process for appeals is contained within the RYA Racing Appeals Policy Document.

8 ROLES

8.1 YSG

- 8.1.1 To appoint a chair of selectors and monitor their performance.
- 8.1.2 To appoint suitable class selectors with the assistance of the chair of selectors and the Performance Directorate.
- 8.1.3 To ensure that the annual selection programme is prepared and agreed by January each year.
- 8.1.4 To receive reports and approve an annual report prepared by the chair of selectors with input from each class selector.
- 8.1.5 To review these guidelines for selection annually.

8.2 Chair of Selectors (or their nominated representative normally the YRM)

- 8.2.1 To fulfil YSG selection policy.
- 8.2.2 To assist the RYA YRM in preparing the selection programme for the following year.
- 8.2.3 To help prepare the Selection Notices.
- 8.2.4 To establish and brief a team of selectors with the assistance of the RYA Performance Directorate.
- 8.2.5 To lead and support the team of class selectors at each stage of the selection process.
- 8.2.6 To oversee the selection of squad members in all classes.
- 8.2.7 To oversee, where appropriate, the selection of sailors for international competition support.
- 8.2.8 To select the team (in conjunction with the selectors) to represent GBR at the Youth Sailing ISAF World Championships.
- 8.2.9 To select the team (in conjunction with the selectors) to represent GBR at the Youth Sailing EUROSAF European Championships
- 8.2.10 To assist the Class Selectors in dealing with selection issues and appeals.
- 8.2.11 To make reports to the YSG.

8.3 Class Selectors

- 8.3.1 To work with the Chair of Selectors and the RYA Pathway Managers to plan the programme of selection and indicator events for the class.
- 8.3.2 To assist the Chair of Selectors to prepare the Selection Notices for the Class.
- 8.3.3 To arrange any RIB(s) they require to observe and assess sailors.
- 8.3.4 To attend all or part of the indicator events to observe and assess competitors, and record the conditions and factors affecting races.
- 8.3.5 To work with the chair of selectors to nominate members for the class squad and international competition support to the RYA Performance Directorate.
- 8.3.6 To deal with all selection enquiries, issues and appeals in liaison with the Performance Directorate.
- 8.3.7 To ensure the relevant administrator makes contact with squad members who are unsuccessful in maintaining their squad place.
- 8.3.8 To review squad membership and subsequently recommend sailors to be de-selected or gain selection to squads to the RYA Performance Directorate.

8.4 RYA Performance Directorate

- 8.4.1 To work with the chair of selectors and class committees to determine the annual selection programme and draft a plan and budget for the coming year by the end of November.
- 8.4.2 To assist the chair of selectors in identifying and recruiting selectors.

- 8.4.3 To determine the target sizes for youth squads.
- 8.4.4 To support the team of selectors as is necessary.
- 8.4.5 To ratify all selection recommendations from the chair of selectors and class selectors.
- 8.4.6 To provides financial information as necessary for budgets and reports.

9 STATUS

9.1 The RYA 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.

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

Document Data:

Version and Amendment History:			
No.	Author & Date	Pages	Remarks
1.0	Steve Joel July 2001	4 A4	First version.
3.0	Steve Joel Jan 2003	7 A4	Major update. International Competition Support section added. Primary Youth Squad selection changed to September with Selectors becoming fully responsible for all Selections. Appointment of National Junior Squad selection chair added. Transition training and Zone Junior Squad selection process updated to reflect recent changes.
3.2 /3.3	Steve Joel Jan2004	8 A4	Inclusion of eligibility policy, the purpose of selection for each squad and minor amendments to the responsibilities of the Selectors.
4.2	Roger Wilson April 2006	8 A4	Major update to stop document being year specific, and make selectors not class specific.
4.6	Roger Wilson May 2006		updated to reflect changes in Junior and Transition Selection process and reducing term of Chair of selectors
4.7	Duncan Truswell, March 2009		Updated to reflect changes regarding NYS, International Competition support and ISAF Youth Worlds Selection, effective as of March 2009.
5.0	October 2012 – Duncan Truswell		General update
8.0	February 2015 – Mark Nicholls		Major Update, remove transition programme, include T2 programme and EUROSAF event

Distribution List:		
Name/Team	Title	Date
RYA Youth Programme Staff		
Youth Steering Group		