

RYANI Youth Squad Selection Policy

1. Vision

“To develop the best young racing sailors in the world”

2. Selection

For selection, a high percentage of consideration will be determined on the basis of a sailor’s ranking through nominated indicator events. This system will make the selection process more transparent against measurable criteria.

Previous Squad selection will not automatically equal reselection.

Sailors may be invited to attend on a trial basis if selectors are not certain of ability. This does not commit Selectors to appointing a place.

3. Eligibility

A sailor must:

- be a resident of/ born in Northern Ireland and;
- on 31st December in the year of selection meet the age criteria below:

Laser 4.7	Laser Radial and Std	420
Under 16	Under 18	Under 18

RYANI Selectors may decide to involve older sailors within Squad training sailors falling into this category may apply for a discretionary place. Over-age applicants who have already been a member of the squad previously and have elected to remain in the class may be offered a role as a “training partner”.

To ensure sailors to progress at a rate consistent with the maturation of their academic peers in the Radial and in order to help sailing partnerships stay together in the 420, teams where one sailor is over the age of 18, but in their final academic year, are still eligible to apply.

4. Indicative Weight Guidelines for Squad Selection

Laser Radial: 60 – 74 kilos (65 – 73 kilos is the competitive range)
 Laser Standard: 76 – 85 kilos (79 – 83 kilos is the competitive range)
 420 (Combined): 105 - 130 kilos (115 to 120kilos is the competitive range)
 Laser 4.7: 47 – 63 kgs (50-60 kgs is the competitive range)

5. Target Squad Sizes and Composition

Class	Target Squad Size	Anticipated min. number boys	Anticipated min. number girls	Results Based Places from Indicator events	Discretionary Places
Laser 4.7	6	2	2	Top 2 U16 Boys Top 2 U16 Girl Top 1 U15 open	0-2
Radial	12	3	3	Top 2 U18 Boys Top 1 U17 Boy	0-7

				Top 1 U18 Girls Top 1 U 17 Girl	
420	4 Teams	1 Team	1 Team	Top 1 boy team Top 1 girl team	0-2 Teams

The size, ratio of boy/ girl sailors and the age composition of results-based places on the squad outlines the clear intent of Selectors; however, these elements may vary as determined by the Selectors.

Sailors may be invited to attend some or all of the RYANI arranged Squad Training in a “*Train alongside*” role. This will depend upon the specific needs and development of the sailors invited and that of the squad, and the need to enable further sailors to be included in the training should they emerge later.

6. Indicator Events

Indicator events will be taken into account during the Squad Selection period will be posted on the relevant Squad webpage www.ryani.org.uk

RYANI reserve the right to add further indicator events if the selectors deem it necessary. Racing may be held on the training and selection weekend to help finalise places.

Transitioning sailors: Due to the transition nature from junior/ other classes, indicators from other classes will be considered (e.g. class ranking) but attendance to the remaining Indicator Events is essential.

7. Discretionary Places

Discretionary places may be offered by the Selection Panel to boats where the Helm:

- In their opinion have demonstrated the best prospects of progressing within the RYA NI Youth Sailing Pathway Programme;
- Fall outside the age criteria and have not already been a member of the squad for more than 1 year previously ;
- Fail to achieve selection based on rankings in the indicator events, possibly (but not exclusively) because they are new to the class, injured or could not attend all indicator events.

When allocating discretionary places selectors will take into consideration the following factors:

- Performance at indicator events
- Age and potential
- Factors affecting results
- Attitude and behaviour
- Class ranking list (where available)
- Height and weight
- Goals and aspirations
- Other factors the selectors consider appropriate

8. Exceptional circumstances

The selectors expect sailors to attend the indicator events so they can make objective decisions having seen sailors compete against one another.

If sailors are unable to attend an indicator, they must notify the RYANI Performance Manager in writing, giving the reasons why and seek dispensation not to attend an event.

Dispensation 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, non-transferable academic commitments. 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.

9. Applying for a place

Sailors must register their interest by filling out an Online Application Form. Forms must be **submitted within 2 days** following the final indicator and are available through www.ryani.org.uk

10. Informing applicants

RYANI will offer places to sailors in writing by e mail within 14 days of applications closing. Sailors must accept the letters of offer within 1 week of receiving them. If sailors have not accepted an offer, RYANI will base decisions to offer further places on the above criteria to other eligible candidates.

11. Fees

Although the Squad Programmes are subsidised by Sport Northern Ireland funds, a financial contribution towards training sessions and competition support is required and will be outlined in the Letter of Offer. This excludes food and accommodation (unless stipulated) which is the responsibility of the individual sailors.

12. Selection Practice

Selectors have the discretion to determine:

- The size of the squad, taking into account the target size and no's on National Squads
- 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 expertise and experience.
- Rely on their 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 discretion.

Selectors include the Youth Squad Head Coach, RYA NI Performance Manager and relevant coaches.

Selectors may extend the selection process beyond the series.

13. 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 the sailor agrees that any appeal against a selection decision will be limited to:

- 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 judgment of the selectors. Should an appeal still arise, then it should be submitted in writing to the RYANI Performance Manager within 5 days of the selection being announced.

14. Squad Review and de-selection

The Youth squads will be regularly reviewed. Sailors may be selected or deselected based on:

- Squad Expectations;
- Efforts for continuous improvements being shown;
- Performance at Events;
- Satisfactory commitment to the programme;
- Individual Competition and Training Plan being met;
- A sailor's attendance drops below an acceptable level;
- A sailor's behaviour is unacceptable;
- A sailor's Review is unsatisfactory.

Sailors are expected to commit to the programme in full and will only be granted absence for illness, injury, bereavement, non-transferrable academic commitments or National Squad commitments

15. 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 their development. Sailors are then either transferred across to the Olympic Programme or Paralympic Programme, or invited to participate in both of them in parallel should this be considered the 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.

16. Championship Selection

Following Squad selection and in the event of Selection required for stipulated Championships, the NI team may be selected using the rankings compiled for Topper Squad selection, combined with races run during any Squad Training sessions or other stipulated events

17. Status

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

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