



RYA British Youth Sailing

Class Recognition Policy

Version Details:	
Programme:	RYA British Youth Sailing
Version:	4.0 dated April 2017
Element Name:	Class Recognition Policy
Authorisation:	Youth Racing Committee
Authorisation Date:	May 2017

British Youth Sailing Class Recognition Policy

1. Introduction

1.1. This document has been prepared by the RYA Youth Racing Committee (YRC) to clarify the policy, criteria and benefits for the RYA British Youth Sailing Recognised classes. It consists of 9 sections, and two appendices:

1. Introduction
2. Background
3. Policy
4. Types of Recognition
5. Criteria
6. Benefits
7. Partnership Conditions
8. Selection and De-selection Process
9. Status

2. Background

2.1. The objective of the YRC is to develop sailors capable of winning events on the world stage, whilst acknowledging responsibilities to develop a healthy, vibrant and inclusive climate of youth sailing within the UK. The YRC aims to achieve this through:

- 2.1.1. Encouraging more sailors to start racing;
- 2.1.2. Creating and promoting a pathway to success;
- 2.1.3. Providing the support our sailors and classes need to achieve success;
- 2.1.4. Developing and promoting a climate of excellence;
- 2.1.5. Increasing the number of junior and youth racers;
- 2.1.6. Supporting progression to other classes and disciplines.

2.2. The primary objective is therefore to develop the (few) sailors who move on to the Olympic classes. The secondary objective is to develop a large number of youngsters with a high level of competence and a love of sailing who will move into established dinghy and windsurfing classes, university sailing, the marine trade, and other disciplines of our sport such as team racing, match racing, and keel boat sailing.

2.3. In order to meet its objectives, the RYA recognises a number of classes and supports their activities to varying degrees within the annual budget that is funded largely by Sport England and UK Sport.

3. Policy

3.1. To recognise those classes which are best placed to develop junior and youth racing skills in order to:

- 3.1.1. Channel large numbers of young people into a select number of classes thereby creating a vibrant and highly competitive racing environment across Great Britain.
- 3.1.2. Feed the British Sailing Team.
- 3.1.3. Make best use of RYA, sports councils and sponsor's money.

3.2. To establish partnership agreements with each class to support their development and secure the achievement of the RYA's objectives.

3.3. To monitor and review the performance of each class annually.

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3.4. In recognising individual classes the RYA is required to develop and maintain an optimal pathway to Youth and Olympic success by having an effective balance of junior and youth classes/disciplines. Therefore, recognition or de-recognition of an individual class will be deliberated in the context of the needs of the programme as a whole. The scope of this framework is constrained by activity, cost, and available RYA resources as well as the number of sailors aspiring to squads, to best deliver on the following objectives:

- To have effective and robust pathways from junior, through youth, and on to Olympic classes
- To concentrate talented young sailors together, and avoid excessive dilution of talent
- To have an attractive framework, with exciting options for both girls and boys
- To enhance international competitiveness of GBR sailors
- To have good links to highly competitive international programmes
- To be accessible in terms of cost, geography and non-technical options
- To develop partnerships between the RYA and the classes

4. Types of Recognition

4.1 There is only one type of Recognition.

British Youth Sailing Recognised Class: The RYA then orders the Classes by what it believes are their ability to impact on the stated objectives to help inform the allocation of RYA resources in support of the Classes.

4.2 In addition to the type of Recognition, the RYA also determines the age category that it believes a class is best suited for. As a result, a class will be designated as principally being most suitable for sailors who are normally under 16 years of age (**Junior Classes**) or most suitable for those sailors who are under 21 years of age (**Youth Classes**).

5. Criteria

5.1. The RYA YRC will use its discretion to determine their recommendations to Racing Committee for the recognition of classes, using the rationale outlined in item 4 and the criteria outlined in appendix A. It will support those classes that in its opinion best meet the aims and objectives of the programme and assign recognition and a priority status. In particular the criteria listed in appendix A, in conjunction with the matrix of objectives in 3.4 will be taken into account when the RYA YRC determines which classes should be assigned which level of priority.

6. **Benefits** – Subject to annual review which will include discussion and agreement between the class and the RYA, the RYA will endeavour to provide access to the following benefits, consistent with the level of relevant level of recognition:

6.1. For recognised classes these may include (dependent on priority):

Junior Classes	Youth Classes
Assistance from RYA Youth Programme staff	Assistance from RYA Youth Programme staff
The provision of an RYA/Eric Twiname Class RIB, dependant on availability and Class Priority	The provision of an RYA/Eric Twiname Class RIB, dependant on availability and Class Priority
An RYA appointed (and resourced) Head Coach	An RYA appointed (and resourced) Head Coach
Funding to support the administration of joint RYA/Class activity	Funding to support the administration of joint RYA/Class activity
A grant to contribute towards an RYA National Junior Squad training programme	A subsidised RYA National Youth Squad training programme
RYA International Travel grants	RYA International Travel grants
An RYA (grant) Supported Open Training programme	An RYA (grant) Supported Open Training programme

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Priority access to centrally controlled RYA resources – Vans, RIBs, Buoys etc.	Priority access to centrally controlled RYA resources – Vans, RIBs, Buoys etc.
Inclusion within RYA Zone and RYA Eric Twiname Championship	Inclusion within RYA Youth National Championship
Priority right to exhibit on the RYA Youth programme stand at the RYA Dinghy Sailing Show	Priority right to exhibit on the RYA Youth programme stand at the RYA Dinghy Sailing Show
Right to promote the class as an RYA recognised class and use appropriate RYA branding	Right to promote the class as an RYA recognised class and use appropriate RYA branding
Champion Club Fleet Development Support (via HPM's)	Champion Club Fleet Development Support (via HPM's)
RYA Coach Professional Development Support	RYA Coach Professional Development Support
The provision of RYA Sports Science Support to sailors	The provision of RYA Sports Science Support to sailors
RYA Squad clothing	RYA Squad clothing
Youth Class Transition advice (for sailors)	Olympic Transition advice (for sailors)
A Subsidised RYA Zone Squad Training	

7. Partnership Conditions

- 7.1. Selection of a recognised class is conditional upon a full commitment to all the requirements set out in the relevant RYA recognition partnership agreement.

8. Selection and De-Selection Process

- 8.1. Applications from class associations pursuing a new application for recognition will be considered annually at the autumn YRC meeting. Any application should be addressed in writing to the RYA Youth Racing Operations Manager, in the capacity of secretary to the YRC by the end of September each year. Each application should include an explanation of how the class meets the criteria set out within this document, with all relevant evidence. The class association web-site, calendar should demonstrate full evidence and adherence to, or adoption of all the relevant policies.
- 8.2. Current recognised classes will be reviewed annually, usually again at the autumn YRC meeting (for changes taking effect in April the following year) against the criteria consistent with recognition and the levels of funding and support which are available. This may entail a review and monitoring of the criteria and/or review of the structure, types of recognition or indeed the status of a particular class.
- 8.3. De-selection or a change in type of recognition may occur when in the opinion of the RYA YRC a class is failing to meet the criteria as outlined in this document, or the pressure on resources makes a change necessary, or where a change in international Youth or Olympic classes necessitates a review.

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- 8.4. If the YRC considers that a particular Class should be selected, de-selected or subject to a change in priority then it will make a recommendation to that effect, together with supporting reasons, to the RYA Racing Committee. A copy of the YRC's recommendation, together with supporting reasons, will also be sent to the relevant Class Association to allow the association a reasonable opportunity to submit a written response via the RYA Director of Racing, acting as secretary to the RYA Racing Committee.
- 8.5. The YRC's recommendation, together with supporting reasons, and the relevant Class association's written response will be submitted to the RYA Racing Committee, which will decide whether the proposed selection, de-selection is to be adopted. The decision of the RYA Racing Committee will be final.

Should a particular Class be de-selected then the YRC will endeavour to give to that Class the opportunity, advice and support to enable it to plan and show how it intends to meet the relevant criteria again.

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.