

Notice of Selection

RYA Optimist Zone Squad 2018-2019



Introduction

The RYA British Youth Sailing Pathway is a performance programme to develop and retain racing sailors who can represent the sport at the highest levels. The Zone Squads are the entry point into the programme. The Zone Squads are organized into six regions: South, South West, East, London & South East, North and Midlands. The Optimist is one of several RYA Recognised classes of boat used by the Zone Squads.

Normally up to 12 boat places will be offered for the Optimist Zone Squad in each of the six regions, however this number may vary according to the overall ability of competitors taking part in the indicator series and not simply the relative abilities of such competitors. Normally for each of the six regions within the RYA Optimist Zone Squad we would aim to award up to 4 boat places to boats where the helm is in the U13, up to 4 boat places where the helm is in the U12 age group and up to 2 boat places to boats where the helm is in the U11 age group based on ranking in the indicator events. Potentially up to a further 2 boat places in each region will be offered to helms who in the opinion of the Selection Committee have demonstrated the best prospects of progressing within the RYA Youth British Youth Sailing Pathway Programme. Actual squad size will be dependent on the strength and depth of the sailors putting themselves forward for selection.

Where we have a large number of sailors suitable for selection, it may be necessary to split the squad into two distinct separate training groups. This would ensure manageable training group numbers to assist the sailor's development, create a better performance environment and give us a wider variety of venues to use. This would consist of some training in tandem at separate venues and some run as combined training at the same venue. Squad splits would be based on the sailor's selection ranking and individual's needs.

Guidelines for composition of the squad

At senior level male and female sailors race in separate fleets. However at Zone Squad level sailors usually race in mixed fleets. In order to prepare for the future the RYA aspires to select an equal proportion of boys and girls into the zone squads if the standard allows.

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

Support

Sailors selected to be part of the RYA Optimist Zone Squad will normally receive the following support:

- Invitation to an off-the-water training day where sailors are introduced to the squad coaches, the RYA training pathway is explained and briefings are given on the physiology of training
- Invitation to six subsidised race training weekends
- A specific needs based training programme
- Opportunity to access remote coaching support from the UK Zone Squad coaches
- Opportunity to purchase discounted Zone Squad clothing
- Receive transition advice regarding progression within pathway

The RYA Optimist Zone Squad is subsidised by the RYA. A contribution towards the cost of coaching, venues and coach boats will be required from each sailor.

Eligibility

To be eligible for selection, the Helm must be aged under 13 on 31st December 2018. Helms must be eligible to; hold a British passport, and represent Great Britain at International Championships.

RYA Selectors may, in exceptional circumstances, decide to invite older sailors into a Zone Squad; sailors falling into this category are encouraged to apply.

All selected sailors will be required to be members of the RYA.

Sailors may not accept an Optimist Zone Squad place if they have accepted a place in another RYA squad

Selection Criteria and Procedure

Normally up to 10 boat places in each of the six zone squads will be based on rankings achieved for each of the three age groups (U 13, U 12 and U 11) in the indicator events. Up to a further two boat places (known as “discretionary places”) in each of the six regional squads may be based on other factors (see below).

Indicator Events

The following events will be used as indicators for Zone Squad places:

- The BYS Regional Junior Championships
- Regional Event, a class association nominated regional open event
- Open Training, a class association nominated open training

Indicator Events						
	South	SW	East	London & SE	North	Midlands
BYS Regional Junior Championships	29/30 Sep WPNSA	29/30 Sep WPNSA	29/30 Sep Grafham Water SC	29/30 Sep Queen Mary SC	29/30 Sep Ullswater YC	29/30 Sep Northampton SC
Regional Event	8 Sep Burghfield SC	22 Sep Lyme Regis SC	8 Sep Blackwater SC	15 Sep Papercourt SC	16 Sep Derwent Reservoir	15 Sep Shustoke SC
Open Training	13 Oct Spinnaker SC	23 Sep Lyme Regis SC	16 Sep Alton Water	Tbc	No Open Training	No Open Training

The RYA reserve the right to add further indicator events if the selectors deem it necessary.

Scoring

The series will be scored by adding together the individual race scores from each indicator event. The following discard system will be used to allow for sailor inconsistency and varying conditions.

10, 11 or 12 races (4 discards); 8 or 9 races (3 discards); 5, 6 or 7 races (2 discards);
3 or 4 races (1 discard); 2 or less races (0 discards)

If in the view of the selectors, any of the races are deemed unsatisfactory, then the level of subjective/ discretionary selection may be increased.

Discretionary Places

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

- In their opinion have demonstrated the best prospects of progressing within the RYA British Youth Sailing Pathway Programme
- Fall outside the age criteria
- 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 the selection committee may take into consideration the following factors:

- Performance in indicator events
- Age and potential
- Factors affecting results
- Attitude and behaviour
- Class ranking list
- Height and weight
- Goals and aspirations
- Other factors the selection committee considers appropriate

Exceptional Circumstances/failure to attend Indicator events

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

Where this is impossible sailors must notify their RYA High Performance Manager in writing, giving the reason 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 or 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.

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 decision and exercising their discretions Selectors are expected to:

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

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee shall comprise of the RYA High Performance Manager, the RYA Zone Head Coach or Assistant Coach and the relevant Class Association Representative or selected representatives (where appropriate).

The RYA Youth Racing Manager may be in attendance as an independent observer

Application for Zone Squads

Sailors wishing to be considered for a Zone Squad place should complete a Zone Squad application. Applications should be completed by the last selection event online at <http://www.rya.org.uk/racing-squads>.

Rules concerning Zone Squad application

Sailors must apply for, and sail in the indicator series of the Zone Squad that either:

- a. Falls within the region/zone of their primary place of residence, or
- b. Falls within the region of their primary sailing club.

If a sailor's primary place of residence, and primary sailing club fall within different zones then he/she may initially choose which Zone Squad to apply for and therefore which indicator series to participate in. **However, once a sailor has applied for a particular squad, sailors are not able to change zone unless their primary place of residence has changed.** To find out which zone your club or residence lies in please see:-

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

For sailors from Poole Harbour Sailing Clubs or living in East Dorset area please refer to appendix 1.

If there are other personal reasons why it may be more convenient for a sailor to be a member of a different zone squad to that described in point a.) or b.), it should be discussed with their RYA High Performance Manager. In exceptional circumstances, allowances may be made.

If you are still unsure of how this applies to your own personal circumstances, please contact the relevant RYA High Performance Manager

South / South West:	Duncan West	07747 111447	duncan.west@rya.org.uk
North / Midlands:	Chris Blackburn	07909 994637	chris.blackburn@rya.org.uk
East / London & South East:	Paul Wren	07909 994642	paul.wren@rya.org.uk

Or alternatively contact the HPM Support Administrator on sarah.knox-johnston@rya.org.uk.

Notification

Applicants will be notified in writing by email as soon as is practically possible after completion of the final indicator event, usually within 14 days.

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 in writing to the Racing Manager within 5 days of the selection being announced. The full Appeals Policy document is available on request from the RYA Racing Manager, Racing Operations Manager or email racing@rya.org.uk

Home Countries

Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales have their own relevant policies and training programmes which can be found on www.rya.org.uk

Status

The Royal Yachting Association's (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. 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.

Policies

Please read this Notice of Selection in conjunction with the British Youth Sailing – Programme Selection Policy and Procedures by using the following link:

<http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/youthjunior/information/Pages/Policies.aspx>

Appendix 1

Guidance for sailors living in East Dorset and which Zone Squad they apply for.

This appendix is to clarify the RYA Youth Racing Policy for sailors who have been affected since the realignment of RYA Operational Boundary to align with county boundaries moving Poole Harbour Clubs to form part of the South West Zone region.

Following a meeting between Poole Harbour Association and the RYA it was agreed that sailors from Poole Harbour Clubs and / or those that live in East Dorset, for the next 2 years would be able to choose initially which zone squad they applied for (South or South West). However, once a sailor has applied for a particular squad, sailors are not able to change zone unless their primary place of residence has changed, as stated in the policy above.

At the end of the this period the RYA Zone Squad Policy for East Dorset would be reviewed for the training to be held for 2020-2021.