

Introduction

Selection to the 2011-2012 RYA Zone Squad will be determined by Selectors appointed by the RYA and will be the sailors, who in their opinion will have the best prospects of progressing to the National Squad and winning medals in the future.

In order to give greater transparency a high proportion of Zone Squad places will be allocated to sailors on the basis of their ranking in the indicator events. The remaining Zone Squad places will be allocated at the discretion of the selection committee.

Eligibility

To be eligible for selection, a sailor should meet the age criteria in the matrix below. In addition a sailor shall hold or be eligible to hold a British passport, and be eligible to represent Great Britain in the ISAF Youth World Sailing Championships.

RYA Selectors may decide to involve older sailors within Zone Squad training, sailors falling into this category are encouraged to apply and will be eligible for a discretionary place.

Zone Squad ages, sizes and compositions

The following table shows the squads, catchment zones, indicative squad sizes and example helm age compositions at 31st December 2011, based on typical squad size of 12. Normally this will include at least 3 girl helms.

Squad composition, based on a typical squad size of 12					
Optimists	Windsurfers	Toppers	Mirrors	Cadets	Feva
U13 – 4 places	U15 – 4 places	U14– 7 places	U14 - 7 places	U14 – 7 places	U14 – 7 places
U12 – 4 places	U14 – 3 places	U13– 3 places	U13 – 3 places	U13 – 3 places	U13 – 2 places
U11 – 2 places	U13 – 3 places	Discretionary – 2 places	Discretionary – 2 places	Discretionary – 2 places	Discretionary – 3 places
Discretionary - 2 places	Discretionary - 2 places				

Squad sizes will vary depending upon the strength and depth of talent in each particular class in each zone, age compositions will vary proportionally based on actual squad size using example numbers in the table below.

Where there are more talented sailors in an age category than there are places, places may be taken from the category above. Where there are insufficient sailors in one or more categories to fill the available places then these places may be offered on a discretionary basis.

Indicative squad sizes						
	South	SW	East	SE	North	West
Optimist	18 to 24 places	12 places	12 places	12 to 18 places	6 to 12 places	12 places
Topper	12 places	12 places	12 places	12 to 18 places	12 to 18 places	12 to 18 places
Windsurfer	12 to 18 places		12 to 18 places		12 to 18 places	
Feva	6-12 places		6-12 places		6-12 places	
	South			North		
Mirror	6 to 12 places			6 to 12 places		
Cadet	6 to 12 places			6 to 12 places		
Feva	6 to 12 places			6 to 12 places		

Sailors may be invited to attend some or all of the RYA arranged Zone Squad Training. This will depend upon the specific needs and development of the sailors invited, and the need to enable further sailors to be included in the training should they emerge later.

Indicator Events

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

- The Zone Championships

The RYA Zone Championships			
South Optimist, South Topper, South Mirror, S/SW Windsurfer, South Cadet, S/SW Feva	WPNSA	24/25-Sep	The South Zone Championships
SW Optimist, SW Topper,	Restronguet SC	24/25-Sep	The SW Zone Championships
East Optimist, East Topper, North Cadet, E/SE Windsurfer,	Grafham Water SC	24/25-Sep	The East Zone Championships
SE Optimist, SE Topper, E/SE Feva,	Bewl Valley SC	24/25-Sep	The SE Zone Championships
West Optimist, West Topper, , N/W Windsurf, N/W Feva	Blithfield SC	24/25-Sep	The West Zone Championships
North Optimist, North Topper, North Mirror	Derwent Reservoir SC	24/25-Sep	The North Zone Championships

- A Class Association nominated regional open event (this does not include windsurfers)

A Class Association Regional Traveller Event						
Single hander	South	SW	East	SE	North	West
Optimist	17 Sept Spinnaker	10/11 Sept Bowmoor	18 Sept NBYC	17 Sept Weir Wood	17 Sept Barnt Green	17 Sept Barnt Green
Topper	17 Sept Oxford	4 Sept Roadford	3 Sept Stewartby	17 Sept Island Barn	8 Oct Burton	17 Sept Leigh & Lowton
Windsurfer	No regional traveller event for windsurfers					
Double hander	South			North		
Mirror	17/18 Sept Poole			1 Oct Ullswater SC		
Cadet	3/4 Sept Parkstone			17/18 Sept Stone		
Feva	S/SW		E/SE		N/W	
	1/2 Oct Chew Valley		8/9 Oct Island Barn		10/11 Sept Northampton	

- For single handers, one Class Association/Steering Group regional open training event in the autumn- will be used to confirm discretionary selections

Regional Open Training for single handers						
Single hander	South	SW	East	SE	North	West
Optimist	2 Oct Lymington	10/11 Sept Bowmoor	1 Oct RBYC	1 Oct Datchet	17 Sept Barnt Green	17 Sept Barnt Green
Topper	1 Oct Chichester	1 Oct Bowmoor	8 Oct Alton Water	1 Oct QMSC	17 Sept Notts County	1 Oct Winsford Flash SC
Windsurfer	15/16 Oct Roadford		15/16 Oct Bewl Valley SC		15/16 Oct Notts County	
Double hander	No regional open training for double handers					

Windsurfing Zone Squad places will be allocated on a discretionary basis by a Selection Committee, who will consider the indicator series results, performance in open training, sail sizes, and the type of board used by the applicants. (Windsurfers will need to attend their Zone Championships and their local Open Training event.)

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. The results will be used to compile overall and age ranking lists.

This scoring series using the discard system, will not apply to windsurfers race series, because of the different Sail Size Class categories.

Discretionary Places

When allocating discretionary places the selection committee will 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

Sailors that are either:

1. Unable to attend either, or both indicator events, due to exceptional circumstances.
2. Would like to make the selectors aware of any exceptional circumstance which could be considered during selection,

Should notify the local RYA High Performance Manager by email, including any relevant reasons.

Selection Practice

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

By entering an event or activity that is part of the indicator series the competitors agree that the Selectors have such discretions. The Selection Committee may extend the selection process beyond the series.

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

Selection Procedure for Windsurfer and Topper

The 2011/12 squad selections will take place in two phases:

Phase One – Selection(National Squads) the Phase One will take place at the end of the final Indicator national Series

Phase Two- Selection for Phase two will take place at the culmination of the RYA Zone Squad indicator events after which the following squads will be selected:

1. RYA Zone Squads and where applicable other class squads.

Please note that due to this process of application; applicants who are unsuccessful at gaining national squad selection during Phase One Selections but who meet the criteria for Phase Two consideration will receive a "**selection update**"/decision deferral letter at this point, which advises sailors that they will be considered for either an RYA Zone Squad place (or for topper sailors ITCA(GBR) Junior Development squad) place in Phase Two.

For clarity, if a sailor is unsuccessful in securing a squad place at the Phase One selections they **will automatically** be carried through to the Phase Two selections providing they meet the eligibility criteria for this application. Should sailors not wish to be carried forward then they should advise their local RYA High Performance Manager that they do not wish to be considered for a place in the Phase Two selection process for RYA Zone Squads of any other class squads.

Application for Zone Squads

Sailors wishing to be considered for a Zone Squad place should complete an application. Applications should be completed by the end of September 2011 online at www.ryaracingevents.org.uk .

Rules concerning Zone Squad application

To clarify, and to avoid any doubt for sailors (and parents of sailors) aspiring to be selected for the RYA Zone Squads, the following rules will be applied to decisions of Zone Squad selection.

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.

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.

Therefore, subsequent to an initial Zone Squad application unless we believe, or have been notified that a sailor's situation has changed he/she will not be considered for selection for any other zone irrespective of any application received. Aspirants are reminded that he/she should attend the relevant RYA Zone Championship, which is a mandatory part of the indicator series, for the zone in which he/she is to be considered for selection.

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

South & SW:	Chris Atherton	07909 994641	chris.atherton@rya.org.uk
North & W:	Chris Blackburn	07909 994637	chris.blackburn@rya.org.uk
East & SE:	Paul Wren	07909 994642	paul.wren@rya.org.uk

If you are unsure which zone your primary place of residence or club falls in please contact the HPM Support Administrator Sarah Knox-Johnston 023 8060 4237 (email sarah.knox-johnston@rya.org.uk)

Notification

Applicants will be notified in writing by mail as soon as is practically possible after completion of the final indicator event, usually within 14 days. Successful sailors' names will be published on the RYA website once all the attendance forms/contracts have been returned – 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 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

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 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.

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 (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 whatever reason, any or all of its policies and procedures.