

# Talent Academy Venue Application



## **Talent Academy Overview**

The purpose of the Talent Academies is to support and develop sailors who have been identified as evidencing future performance potential. Through placing the Talent Academies regionally, the intention is to help bring high quality training environments more locally to sailors, reducing the need for them to travel long distances for training and reducing the financial and time cost to sailors and their families.

It is intended that in making the Talent Academies more accessible and affordable, this will increase the likelihood of increasing the engagement of sailors with potential from under-represented groups such as females, sailors from lower socio-economic groups and diverse ethnic communities.

The development of sailors within the Talent Academies will be focused initially across two specific areas:

- 1) Transition Training – Sailors transitioning from junior to youth class
- 2) Performance Development Training – Developing sailors established within a youth class

Sailors selected as part of their nearest Talent Academy will be provided with year-round monthly coaching and training designed to nurture and develop key skills, abilities and behaviours to support them maximise their potential.

There will be 4 Talent Academies across England. These will be strategically placed to gain maximal reach and accessibility for sailors across the country. Sailors are based outside of these areas or are located closer to a different Talent Academy, will be provided with the option to engage with the closest opportunity (this may include attending an Academy Programme in either Wales or Scotland).

The Talent Academies will be focusing on delivery aimed at developing sailors within the Recognised Youth Classes. These are:

- ILCA (4 and 6)
- 420
- 29er
- IQ Foil
- Formula Kite
- NACRA 15

## Academy Venue Selection Criteria

Applications for becoming an academy venue will be selected against the following criteria and their relationship with supporting the achievement of the Talent Academy Intentions:

### Key Criteria

- Meeting RYA Pathway Club requirements
- Ability to offer year-round sailing.
- Location – increases accessibility to gap areas.
- Sailing area large enough to accommodate multiple youth classes.
- Powerboat availability
- Access to quality classroom facilities (inc. presentation technology)
- Access/close proximity to affordable accommodation
- Access to Wi-Fi
- Ample Parking Facilities
- Proximity to large town/city
- Transportation access and links

### Flexible Criteria

- Close proximity to Higher Education Institute with appropriate level of facilities
- Close access to appropriate level athletic development facilities
- Onsite kitchen, café or food preparation facilities
- Social area (i.e. lounge, coffee area etc)
- Boat Storage space
- Links with other clubs to provide sailors with varied sailing conditions

Venues will be discussed and considered across each of the criteria set out above. Selection decisions will be based upon effectiveness of impacting within the specific academy location. As these challenges may differ from region to region, so may the rationale for the decision in that area.

## Academy Venue Requirements

Each Talent Academies will run across 48 days of the year. This will be allocated as follows:

- Transition Group: 1x 2 day training a month (Saturday and Sunday) = **24 days**
- Performance Development Group: 1 day training a month (Saturday or Sunday depending on class) = 2x 12 days = **24 days**

Facilities and equipment required for access and hire\*:

- Ribs: 1-2 ribs depending on size of group and location
- Full day exclusive access to classroom facility (inc. technology)
- Rigging space and launch area

\*This is not an exhaustive list and additional requirements may be required depending upon Academy location. Additional requirements will be highlighted through the agreement process

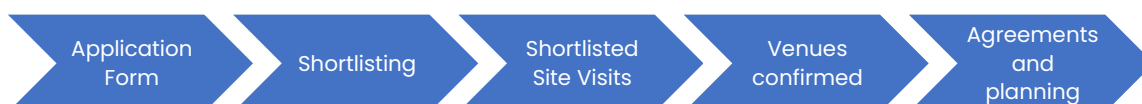
## Academy Venue Selection Process

Clubs applying to be considered as a Talent Academy venue will be required to complete an online application form.

Clubs who have provided an expression of interest in becoming an RYA Pathway Club, will be invited to complete the initial application form via the JustGo platform.

All applications will be reviewed by the Selection Panel and a list of venues will be shortlisted for the second stage of the selection process. Shortlisting will be based upon the selection criteria set out within this document.

Site visits of the shortlisted venues will be carried out and feedback reviewed and discussed by the selection panel. Following the completion of site visits within each region, the panel will make a decision on the selected venue.



## Key Dates and Milestones

Below are the key dates and milestones in relation to selection of the Talent Academy venues:

Application Process Live – **10<sup>th</sup> December 2024\***  
Application Process Webinar – **16<sup>th</sup> December 2024\***  
Application Closing Dates – **10<sup>th</sup> January 2025\***  
Informing Shortlisted Applications – **24<sup>th</sup> January 2025\***  
Completion of Site Visits – **28<sup>th</sup> February 2025\***  
Informing successful venues – **Feb/March 2025\***  
Announcing Venues – **Feb/March 2025\***  
Launch of Talent Academies – **September 2025\***

\*Please note: these dates are a guidance and may be subject to change.

## FAQs

### ***What would be the benefit to a club becoming a Talent Academy venue?***

In addition to hosting a key part of the long-term development of future youth racing pathway sailors, the level of benefit to the venue of being a Talent Academy venue may vary from a perception point of view, depending on the current position of the club/venue.

The RYA will reimburse the venue for the cost of hiring the venue, its facilities and use of any equipment at an agreed cost. This would provide an annual income to the club. In addition, with an increased footfall into the venue during Talent Academy weekends, this may also provide an increase in revenue through food, refreshments etc. from sailors and parents.

### ***How many sailors would a Talent Academy expect per training weekend?***

This will differ from Talent Academy to Talent Academy and will ultimately depend upon the numbers within each of the areas of the Country. However, we are estimating in between 12 and 24 sailors per training weekend.

### ***Could clubs create a joint application?***

We are welcoming different approaches and models for how a Talent Academy may operate. Any applications that are a partnership with multiple venues should be clear about how this would work and have in place agreements in relation to the roles and responsibilities of each partner at the time of application.

### ***Will venues be required to support all Talent Academy Classes?***

We know that each of the classes in terms of numbers are different, therefore the approach being taken at the start of the Talent Academy journey is as follows:

- ILCA (4&6), 420 and 29ers – Supported at each Talent Academy
- IQ Foil – Supported at 2x Talent Academies (located in the North and South of England)
- Kite and NACRA 15 – due to the lower numbers across the country, we will be looking at a class development approach in partnership with the class associations. This will involve a number of taster and skill days at various locations across England.

### ***Will the venue be required to provide the Talent Academy coach?***

No, the Talent Academy Lead Coach will be provided by the RYA.

### ***Will the Talent Academy be classified as a club activity?***

The Talent Academies will be RYA activities located at the chosen venues across the Country.