

# Notice of Selection 2019/20 Topper Squads

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document sets out the squad selection policy and the responsibilities of individuals involved in the selection process for the RYA Topper UK Junior Squads and the ITCA (GBR) National 5.3 and 4.2 Squads.
- 1.2 This document and its appendices should be read in conjunction with the British Youth Sailing [“Programme Selection Policy & Procedures”](#) It consists of the following sections:

## 2. Aims of the Programme

The aim of ITCA (GBR) training is to facilitate skill development and progression, and increase the number of sailors participating in competitive Topper sailing and feeding into the British Sailing Team and other senior development programmes.

Of these squads, some are designated RYA squads and are financially supported by Sport England, in order to achieve the aims of the RYA's World Class Programme. ITCA (GBR) training is organised using a combination of ITCA (GBR) administrative and coaching support in conjunction with parent volunteers, who give their time to support children's involvement within the sport.

## 3. Eligibility

In order to be eligible for an ITCA or RYA Junior Squad place sailors should:

- i) Attend the nominated Squad Indicator Series Ranking Events in the year of qualification as specified in **Appendix 1**.
- ii) Be members of ITCA (GBR)
- iii) Be members of the RYA
- iv) Be resident in Great Britain, hold or be eligible to hold a British passport and be eligible to represent Great Britain at the World Sailing Youth Sailing World Championships. Sailors who do not comply with 3 iv) must apply to the RYA Youth Racing Manager for consideration.

### 3.1. RYA Topper UK Junior Squad eligibility

In order to be eligible for the 2019/20 RYA Topper UK Junior Squads, sailors shall be aged under 15 on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 except for the discretionary places awarded under section 5A below.

### 3.2. ITCA (GBR) National 5.3 Squad eligibility

In order to be eligible for the 2019/20 ITCA (GBR) National 5.3 Squad sailors shall normally be aged 14 or over and under 19 on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.



### 3.3. ITCA (GBR) National 4.2 Squad eligibility

In order to be eligible for the ITCA (GBR) National 4.2 Squad, sailors shall normally be aged over 10 and under 14 and weigh between 33 - 45 kg on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. However, in exceptional circumstances up to six sailors who do not meet the age criteria may be invited at the discretion of the Selection Committee.

## 4. Selection Committee

The Selection Committee is appointed as per the British Youth Sailing "Programme Selection Policy & Procedures" and currently comprises of the following people:

- RYA High Performance Manager (Chair)
- RYA Single Handed Pathway Manager
- ITCA Topper Steering Group Chair
- ITCA (GBR) Chair

The RYA Topper UK Junior Squad Head Coach and the ITCA 5.3 Head Coach will not form part of the selection committee, but will attend the meeting and advise on sailor development and selection.

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

If a Selector is a parent of a sailor seeking a squad place they will make a declaration of interest to the committee and will normally seek to find an alternative person to take their place during the process.

## 5. Selection process

### A. RYA Topper UK Junior Squads

#### **RYA Topper UK Junior Girls Squad**

The RYA Topper UK Junior Girls Squad will normally consist of a minimum of 16 and a maximum 24 girls allocated on the following basis:

- The top 15 girls from the UK Squads Indicator Series. A maximum of 8 of these places may be offered as discretionary places by the selectors to girls aged under 16 on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019
- 1 discretionary place, which may be allocated at the discretion of the Selectors to take into account illness, injury etc. If no discretionary place is offered an additional place will be offered to the next ranked girl to reach a minimum of 16 girls
- At the discretion of the selectors, 8 further places may be offered according to the UK Squads Indicator Series. These places will only be awarded if the sailors are of a comparable ability / experience to the other squad members.

## **RYA Topper UK Junior Boys Squad**

The RYA Topper UK National Junior Boys Squad will normally consist of the top ranked 24 boy sailors allocated on the following basis:

- The top 20 boys from the UK squads indicator series
- 3 discretionary places, which may be allocated at the discretion of the Selectors to take into account illness, injury etc. If no discretionary places are offered an additional place will be offered to the next ranked boys to reach a total of 24

However, these numbers may vary according to the ability of competitors taking part in the indicator series.

Places for these squads will normally be offered during **Phase One** of selection process.

### **B. ITCA (GBR) National Squads**

The ITCA (GBR) National Squads consist of:

1. ITCA (GBR) National 5.3 Squad (up to 25 sailors)
2. ITCA (GBR) National 4.2 Squad (up to 25 sailors)

#### **ITCA (GBR) National 5.3 Squad**

Normally up to 25 ITCA National Squad places will be offered to sailors that have not been offered a place in the RYA National Junior squads, however this number may vary according to the ability of competitors taking part in the indicator series. The intention is to award a minimum of eight of these places to girls and eight of these places to boys.

Places for this squad will normally be offered in **Phase One** of the selection process.

#### **ITCA (GBR) National 4.2 Squad**

Up to 25 ITCA (GBR) National 4.2 Squad places will normally be offered, however, this number may vary according to the ability of competitors taking part in the indicator series. The intention is to award a minimum of eight of these places to girls and eight of these places to boys.

Places for this squad will be offered in **Phase Two** of selection.

## **6. Selection Criteria**

### **6.1. UK Squads Indicator Series:**

Clear and objective selections are an important principle for the Topper squad programmes, however, we do recognise that young sailors are often inconsistent and inevitably progress at different rates due to differing rates of emotional and biological maturity.

Therefore, a proportion of the squad places will normally be offered on a 'first past the post basis' based on the ranking system, the remaining places will be offered at the discretion



of the Selection Committee who are empowered by ITCA (GBR) and the RYA to make such decisions.

Those places offered to the highest ranked sailors on the basis of results will be allocated according to a ranking system using the results from the identified UK Squads Series Indicator events.

Members of the Selection Committee (or their appointed representatives) may attend the above events in order to make discretionary selections based upon the matrix of criteria listed below in section 6.4.

Helms may not accept an RYA Topper UK Junior Girls Squad, or RYA Topper UK Junior Boys Squad place if they have accepted a place in another RYA or Class Squad, except in the case of the 4.2 squad where sailors can be a member of an RYA Zone squad.

## 6.2. Scoring

**UK Squads Indicator Series** (with the exception of the ITCA (GBR) National 4.2 Squad) will be scored by adding the best two overall finishing positions from the three identified National Series Indicator events plus the overall finishing position from the Topper Class National Championships. The scores will be counted unaltered, i.e. including all competitors at the regattas.

**ITCA (GBR) 4.2 Squad Indicator Series** will be scored by adding the best three overall finishing positions from the six identified 4.2 National Series Indicator events. The scores will be counted unaltered, i.e. including all competitors at the regattas. These event results will be used to create a ranking list.

## 6.3. Exceptional Circumstances / failure to attend Indicator events

### **Irish Nationals British Youth Sailing Topper Team**

Selected sailors attending the Irish Nationals (10 Sailors) will miss NS6. These sailors will be awarded a score for NS6 based on average Finishing positions from NS5 and NS1

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

Where this is **impossible**, sailors may take the opportunity to notify the Selectors of the reasons why and seek dispensation, which 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 which directly impact on the grade of a nationally recognised qualification that sailors will be awarded. Gear failure, breakage or the actions of another competitor are not considered exceptional.

By electing not to attend an event sailors accept the likelihood of negatively impacting on their selection. Sailors are encouraged to seek medical advice and exercise common sense around competing with an illness or injury.

Sailors wishing to notify the Selectors should do so in writing, together with any diagnosis or reasons via the ITCA squads' administrator: [squads@itca-gbr.co.uk](mailto:squads@itca-gbr.co.uk)

#### 6.4. Discretionary Places

Discretionary places will be determined by the Selection Committee and may be offered to sailors who:

- a) In their opinion have demonstrated the best prospects of progressing to the RYA UK Youth Squads and the most potential to win medals for the British Youth Sailing Team at international competitions in the subsequent years
- b) Fall outside the age criteria
- c) Fail to achieve automatic selection, 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:

- Age and potential
- Factors affecting results
- Performance in the Indicator series
- Attitude and behaviour throughout the series and during previous training
- Class ranking list
- Performance in other events
- Goals and aspirations
- Height and weight
- Other factors the Selection Committee considers appropriate.

The Selection Committee may extend the selection process beyond the indicator series.

#### 6.5. Selection Practice

For all squad places Selectors have the discretion to determine:

- The size of each squad, taking into account the target sizes
- Which of the criteria to take into account
- Who to select

In making their decisions Selectors are expected to:

- Use their own expertise and experience
- Rely on their own 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 discretions.

#### 6.6. Additional Sailors

Additional talented sailors may be invited to train alongside any of the above squads later in the training programme at the discretion of the Selection Committee. This may, but not exclusively, be because existing squad sailors are unable to attend a specific session, or if talented sailors emerge from other programmes later in the process.

## 7. Selection Procedure (see Squad Application Process Diagram - Appendix 2)

The Topper Class has a wide range of training and competition opportunities to suit all abilities and ages, however this does make the application, selection and acceptance process complex. Therefore, the RYA and the ITCA (GBR) have worked hard to develop the fairest and clearest process.

The process for applying for a Topper Squad has changed slightly this year. In 2019 when applying online, Topper sailors will see two options:

1. Apply for RYA Junior Squad / ITCA 5.3
2. Apply for RYA Zone Squad / ITCA 4.2.

Therefore if they wish to apply to the RYA Junior Squad **and** RYA Zone Squad or ITCA 5.3 Squad **and** ITCA 4.2 squad (if they are unsure which would be most appropriate for them) then they will need to apply to both 1 and 2 above. The Selection Committee will determine the most appropriate squad for you to be in based on your ranking, age and ability.

The 2019/20 Topper Squad selections will take place in two phases:

7.1. **Phase One** – Selection Phase One will take place shortly after the final UK Junior Squads Indicator Series event. At this stage the following squads will be selected (in order) from the ranking list:

- A. RYA Topper UK Junior Girls Squad.
- B. RYA Topper UK Junior Boys Squad.
- C. ITCA (GBR) National 5.3 Squad.

7.2. **Phase Two** - Selection Phase two will take place shortly after the culmination of the RYA Zone Squad indicator events after which the following squads will be selected:

- A. RYA Zone Squads.
- B. ITCA (GBR) National 4.2 Squad.

## 8. Application

Applications for all the 2019/20 Topper Squads should be submitted online between the 1st August 2019 and before the final indicator event for the specific squad, and can be accessed via: <http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/youthjunior/squads/junior/Pages/Selection.aspx>

## 9. Notification

Applicants will be notified in writing by email as soon as is practically possible after the completion of the final indicator event, usually within 14 days. Successful sailor's names will be published on the RYA website once all attendance confirmation forms/contracts have been returned to the office – it is not our policy to publish this information before this time.

## 10. Appeals

There will be no appeals against the published selection criteria or the actions of the selectors, provided they follow these 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 to the RYA Racing Operations Manager and sent by e-mail to [racing@rya.org.uk](mailto:racing@rya.org.uk) within five days of the selection being announced. The full Appeals document is available on request from the RYA Racing Operations Manager.

### Status

The Royal Yachting Association's (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.

### **RYA UK Junior and ITCA (GBR) National 5.3 Squads Indicator Series Ranking Events:**

- **National series 5** 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
Carsington Sailing Club
- **National series 6** 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
Poole Yacht Club
- **Topper National Championship 2019** 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019  
Largs Sailing Club
- **National series 1** 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
Mountbatten Watersports & Activities Centre

Sailors should attend the **Topper National Championships, plus at least two of the available three National Series** events.

### **ITCA (GBR) National 4.2 Squad Indicator Series:**

The ITCA (GBR) National 4.2 squad timetable runs differently to all other squads, the intention being to allow sailors to progress from the 4.2 rig to the 5.3 rig during June each year. The majority of squad events run at the same time as National 5.3 series events, but run on different courses. The 4.2 National Squad Indicator Events are therefore:

- **National Series 2 Winter Regatta** 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
WPNSA
- **National Series 3** 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
Datchet Water SC
- **National Series 4 Inlands** 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019  
Grafham Water SC
- **National series 5** 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
Carsington Sailing Club
- **National series 6** 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
Poole Yacht Club
- **National series 1** 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
Mountbatten Watersports & Activities Centre

**ITCA (GBR) 4.2 Squad Indicator Series** will be scored by adding the best three overall finishing positions from the six identified 4.2 National Series Indicator events. The scores will be counted unaltered, i.e. including all competitors at the regattas. These event results will be used to create a ranking list.

## Appendix 2

### ITCA and RYA Squad Application Process

