



International Optimist Class Association (UK)



RYA UK NATIONAL OPTIMIST SQUAD, RYA UK OPTIMIST GIRLS SQUAD, RYA UK OPTIMIST BOYS SQUAD AND IOCA (UK) WINTER SQUADS SELECTION POLICY 2019/20

1. INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the selection policy, the squad composition, the selection process, the responsibilities of individuals involved in the selection process and the appeals process.

2. PURPOSE OF THE SELECTION PROCESS

The purpose of this process is to select sailors who will be invited to train in one of the IOCA (UK) Optimist Winter Squads, in order to develop their skills and knowledge to enable them to excel in Optimist Sailing and progress successfully towards Youth and Olympic Class sailing.

3. SQUADS 2019/20

IOCA (UK) will operate four squads. Three (National, Girls, and Boys) are delivered with RYA support and funding. The fourth (IOCA (UK) Squad) is wholly run by IOCA (UK). All squads require parental support and financial contribution. The squads will be formed in accordance with the guidelines and policies detailed in this document.

Note that in addition to the above the Class is planning to trial two additional training squads for Winter 2019/20, IOCA North and IOCA South. These will be aimed at those sailors who do not qualify for the National/IOCA Squads or the RYA Zone Squads. Selection will be based on the same ranking list as the other squads and this document will be updated with further details once they are finalised.

4. ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for an Optimist Squad place sailors should:

- Attend the nominated National Ranking Events in the main fleet in the year of qualification





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- Be members of IOCA (UK)
 - Be members of the RYA
 - Be aged Under 15 on the 31st of December in the year of qualification.
 - Sailors may be required in the future (in line with other youth and junior classes) to apply for a squad place online. Should this become part of the IOCA squad selection process, sailors and parents will be notified via a class notice before the End of Seasons.
- 4.1 For all RYA Funded Squads (National, Girls and Boys) sailors should 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. Please see Appendix 1 for clarification.

Sailors who do not comply with 4.1 must apply to the RYA Youth Racing Manager for consideration.

5. QUALIFICATION

In order to be selected a sailor should compete in the nominated (IOCA) UK major events, from which a ranking lists will be compiled. For the 2019/20 selection cycle these are:

- Volvo Gill IOCA (UK) Inland Championships
- Volvo Gill IOCA (UK) Late Summer Championships
- Volvo Gill IOCA (UK) End Of Seasons Championships

At these Championship events sailors will not be split into age groups. The format of racing may vary at each event and could use flights. To qualify under the ranking calculation, sailors shall compete in the MAIN fleet at all events.

Composition of the class ranking list:

The ranking series for 2019/20 will comprise of points calculated using a sailor's final finishing position at each ranking event.





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- Final overall finishing position at the Inland Championships
- Final overall finishing position at the Late Summer Championships
- Final overall finishing position at the End of Seasons Championships

At the end of each ranking event, the overall finishing position will be adjusted to remove all ineligible sailors (15 year olds and overseas sailors) for the purpose of ranking so that sailors may check their position before the next event. These adjusted finishing positions will be used for the ranking series.

Individual race results will not be re-scored.

After the completion of 3 ranking events, 1 ranking event result will be discarded from the series. Ranking points will be calculated using the final finishing positions for the remaining 2 ranking events. In the event that sailors are tied on points in the final ranking calculation, the low points scoring system will be used (Appendix A8 of the Racing Rules of Sailing).

Should there be less than 3 races sailed at a nominated ranking event then that event will become the discard in the series for all sailors regardless of whether they attended the event or not.

Should there be less than 3 races sailed at more than 1 of the nominated ranking events then the first of those events must be discarded by all sailors with the other event becoming non-discardable.

Sailors do not have to attend all 3 ranking events as only two will count for the final ranking. However, in order to give themselves the best opportunity to achieve the highest ranking sailors are encouraged to attend them all particularly in case an event has less than 3 races.

The Winter Squad Ranking series will be published on IOCA (UK)'s website as soon as possible after the End of Seasons to show the final squad ranking positions.





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In the event that a sailor is unable to attend part of the ranking series due to a clash with a major international competition where attendance has been sanctioned by the IOCA (UK) Selectors, the Selectors will use the sailors finishing position from the Selection Trials to derive a fair ranking. The finishing positions at Trials will be adjusted to remove 15 year olds in line with the other ranking events. This is not expected to apply in 2019/20 Squad Selection.

6. SQUAD COMPOSITION

The **RYA UK Optimist Girls Squad** will normally consist of the top ranked 25 girl sailors, who will normally be allocated places on the following basis:

- The top 24 Girls from the class rankings
- 1 discretionary place, which will 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 25.
- If there are fewer than 5 junior girls in the top 25 then additional places may be offered to reach a maximum of 5 juniors in the squad. It is possible that less than 5 additional junior places will be offered. Seniors will not be displaced.
- Sailors aged 11 and under in the year of qualification, who qualify for the squad on their ranking, will only be invited to the Girls Squad at the sole discretion of the Selectors.
- Sailors aged 11 or under should have already been members of their RYA Zone Squad, equivalent Home Country Squad or an equivalent training programme for one season.

The **RYA UK Optimist Boys Squad** will normally consist of the top ranked 25 boy sailors, who will normally be allocated places on the following basis:

- The top 24 Boys from the class rankings





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- 1 discretionary place, which will 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 boy to reach a minimum of 25.
- If there are fewer than 5 junior boys in the top 25 additional places may be offered to reach a maximum of 5 juniors in the squad. It is possible that less than 5 additional junior places will be offered. Seniors will not be displaced.
- Sailors aged 11 or under should have already been members of their RYA Zone Squad, equivalent Home Country Squad or an equivalent training programme for one season.
- Sailors aged 11 and under in the year of qualification, who qualify for the squad on their ranking, will only be invited to the Boys Squad at the sole discretion of the Selectors.

The **RYA UK National Optimist Squad** will be selected from those already chosen for the Girls and Boys Squads. It will normally consist of:

- The top 18 sailors from either the Girls Squad or the Boys Squad according to their overall ranking
- If there are fewer than 4 of either gender in the top 18 then additional places will be offered to ensure a minimum of 4 sailors of either gender within the Squad.
- Note: After the top 18 have been selected for the National Squad the Girls Squad and Boys Squad may be of uneven sizes.

The **IOCA Class Squad** will normally consist of up to 18 sailors who will be allocated places on the following basis.

- The top 18 sailors from the final rankings aged IOCA 12 years and above after the Girls and Boys Squads have been selected.
- Sailors need to be ranked in the top 85 of the class ranking list at the time of selection.
- If there is only 1 sailor of either gender in the 18 accepting places in the squad then additional places will be offered to ensure a minimum of 2 sailors of either gender within the Squad.





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- Sailors aged 11 and under in the year of qualification, who qualify on their ranking, will only be invited to the IOCA Class Squad at the sole discretion of the Selectors.
- Sailors aged 11 or under should have already been members of their RYA Zone Squad, equivalent Home Country Squad or an equivalent training programme for one season.

7. THE ROLE OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

The role of the Selection Committee is to ensure that the IOCA (UK) selection process is followed and to consider discretionary places. The Selection Committees will comprise of the following group of individuals, none of whom will have eligible children within the class:

Selection Committee for RYA National, Boys and Girls Optimist Squads

- An independent official, appointed by IOCA (UK), who will also be Chair of Selectors - currently Ann Whitfield
- RYA Senior High Performance Manager- currently Chris Atherton
- RYA's Singlehanded Pathway Manager-currently Tim Hall.

Selection Committee for IOCA Class Squads

- The Class Development Selector - currently Fiona Baddeley
- RYA Senior High Performance Manager- currently Chris Atherton
- An independent official, appointed by IOCA (UK), who will also be Chair of Selectors - currently Ann Whitfield

The RYA Junior Pathway Lead Coach - currently Alan Williams, will offer advice and guidance to both selection committees.

The Optimist National Coach – currently Sarah McGovern, will also be consulted throughout the process to offer guidance to both Selection Committees.





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Members of the selection committee (or their appointed representatives) will normally attend the three National Ranking Events in order that they can make decisions on discretionary places based upon the matrix of criteria listed below.

The Selectors can be contacted by email at selector@optimist.org.uk

8. ADDITIONAL SAILORS

Additional talented sailors may exceptionally be invited to train alongside any of the above squads later in the training programme at the sole 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.

9. EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES / FAILURE TO ATTEND RANKING EVENTS

In order to give themselves the best opportunity to achieve the highest ranking, sailors are encouraged to attend all three nominated ranking events as described in Section 5, Qualification.

Where attendance is not possible, 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 (supported by a letter from a doctor/consultant), bereavement, or non-transferable academic commitments which directly impact on the grade of a nationally recognised qualification that a sailor will be awarded.

Submitting an exceptional circumstances request does not imply acceptance of the reasons, or the granting of dispensation, by the selectors. By electing not to attend an event sailors accept the likelihood of this negatively impacting on their selection. Sailors are encouraged to seek medical advice and exercise common sense around competing with an illness or injury.





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Gear failure, breakage or the actions of another competitor are not considered exceptional, and where appropriate, sailors should seek redress via the normal processes of the racing rules of sailing.

Sailors wishing to notify the selectors of such circumstances should do so in writing, together with any supporting documentation or reasons via the Chair of the Selection Committee, Ann Whitfield, at selector@optimist.org.uk as soon as is possible, and at the latest by the end of Protest Time on the last day of the End of Seasons.

10. DISCRETIONARY PLACES

Any Discretionary places in Squads will be determined by the Selection Committee.

When allocating discretionary places the selection committee will take into consideration the following factors:

- Age and potential
- Factors affecting results
- Performance in the Indicator series
- Attitude and behaviour throughout the series
- Class ranking list
- Performance in other significant domestic or international events
- Goals and aspirations
- Height and weight
- Other factors the selection committee considers appropriate

11. SELECTION PRACTICE

Selectors have the discretion to determine:

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





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In making their decisions and exercising their discretions Selectors are expected to:

- Use their 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.
- Communicate their decisions in an open and transparent manner

By entering an event or activity that is part of this selection series the competitors agree that the Selectors have such discretions.

12. APPEAL PROCESS

There will be no appeals against the selection criteria and the decision of the Selectors. By entering one of the three ranking events the applicants agree to this condition.

13. STATUS

The 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 request the amendment, supplement and/or the discontinuation at its discretion, for whatever reason, any or all of these policies and procedures.

IOCA (UK) May 2019





APPENDIX 1

The Selectors would like to give some clarification of Clause 4.1 in the IOCA (UK)/RYA Squad Selection Policy. The requirement for eligibility is to be a 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 World Championships. .

Sailors should observe the following criteria.

As a minor to represent GBR at international Optimist events you need to be:

- A British Passport holder who has not represented another country in the last three years (unless special dispensation has been granted by the RYA Youth Racing Manager)

or

- Resident in the UK and have not represented another country in the last three years (unless special dispensation has been granted by the RYA Youth Racing Manager)

and

- Have completed the Optimist Class selection events whilst being eligible to represent GBR as above for the entire period of selection.

- Additionally to be eligible for RYA Optimist program support and investment you must be a GBR passport holder or resident in the UK and committed to representing GBR both now and in the future.

- Any non GBR eligible sailors will be removed from the ranking lists before selection is concluded.

We define representing another country as sailing at an event with a non GBR sail number