



## Youth and Junior Programmes

### Class Recognition Policy

<b>Version Details:</b>	
<b>Programme:</b>	RYA Youth Programme
<b>Version:</b>	2.2 dated July 2011
<b>Element Name:</b>	Class Recognition Policy
<b>Authorisation:</b>	Youth Steering Group
<b>Authorisation Date:</b>	July 2011

# **RYA Youth Programme Class Recognition Policy**

## **1. Introduction**

1.1. This document has been prepared by the RYA Youth Steering Group (YSG) to clarify the policy, criteria and benefits for the RYA 'recognised', 'supported' and 'pathway' classes. It consists of 9 sections, and two appendices:

1. **Introduction**
2. **Background**
3. **Policy**
4. **Types of Recognition**
5. **Criteria**
6. **Benefits**
7. **Partnership Conditions**
8. **Selection and De-selection Process**
9. **Status**

## **2. Background**

2.1. The objective of the YSG is to develop sailors capable of winning events on the world stage, whilst acknowledging responsibilities to develop a healthy, vibrant and inclusive climate of youth sailing within the UK. The YSG aims to achieve this through:

- 2.1.1. Encouraging more sailors to start racing;
- 2.1.2. Creating and promoting a pathway to success;
- 2.1.3. Providing the support our sailors and classes need to achieve success;
- 2.1.4. Developing and promoting a climate of excellence;
- 2.1.5. Increasing the number of junior and youth racers;
- 2.1.6. Supporting progression to other classes and disciplines.

2.2. The primary objective is therefore to develop the (few) sailors who move on to the Olympic classes. The secondary objective is to develop a large number of youngsters with a high level of competence and a love of sailing who will move into established dinghy and windsurfing classes, university sailing, the marine trade, and other disciplines of our sport such as team racing, match racing, and keel boat sailing.

2.3. In order to meet its objectives, the RYA recognises a number of classes and supports their activities to varying degrees within the annual budget that is funded largely by Sport England and UK Sport.

## **3. Policy**

3.1. To recognise those classes which are best placed to develop junior and youth racing skills in order to:

- 3.1.1. Channel large numbers of young people into a select number of classes thereby creating a vibrant and highly competitive racing environment across Great Britain.
- 3.1.2. Feed the GBR Olympic Development and Performance Squads.
- 3.1.3. Make best use of RYA, sports councils and sponsor's money.

3.2. To establish partnership agreements with each class to support their development and secure the achievement of the RYA's objectives.

3.3. To monitor and review the performance of each class annually.

3.4. In recognising individual classes the RYA is required to develop and maintain an optimal pathway to Youth and Olympic success by having an effective balance of junior and youth classes/disciplines. Therefore, recognition or de-recognition of an individual class will be deliberated in the context of the needs of the programme as a whole. The scope of this framework is constrained by activity, cost, and available RYA resources as well as the number of sailors aspiring to squads, to best deliver on the following objectives:

- To have effective and robust pathways from junior, through youth, and on to Olympic classes
- To concentrate talented young sailors together, and avoid excessive dilution of talent
- To have an attractive framework, with exciting options for both girls and boys
- To enhance international competitiveness of GBR sailors
- To have good links to highly competitive international programmes
- To be accessible in terms of cost, geography and non-technical options
- To develop partnerships between the RYA and the classes

## RYA Youth Programme Class Recognition Policy

### 4. Types of Recognition

4.1. There are three types:

4.1.1. **Pathway Classes:** These are classes which the RYA YSG believe most effectively develop the necessary skills, knowledge and experience sailors require to successfully progress into Youth and Olympic racing. They will demonstrate this by consistently feeding (relatively) large numbers of sailors into RYA Transition Training, National Youth Squad Programmes and later into Olympic Development and Performance Programmes.

4.1.2. **Supported Classes:** These are the classes which the RYA YSG believe may develop the necessary skills, knowledge and experience sailors require to successfully progress into Youth and Olympic racing. They will demonstrate this by consistently feeding smaller numbers of sailors into RYA Transition Training, National Youth Squad Programmes and later into Olympic Development and Performance Programmes.

4.1.3. **Recognised Classes:** These are classes that the RYA YSG recognise as providing good quality, safe and effective race training and competition, using qualified and competent personnel. They are well placed to enable sailors to progress their racing skills and enjoy a lifetime with the sport.

4.2. In addition to the type of Recognition, the RYA also determines the age category that it believes a class is best suited for. As a result, a class will be designated as principally being most suitable for sailors who are normally under 16 years of age (**Junior Classes**) or most suitable for those sailors who are under 19 years of age (**Youth Classes**).

### 5. Criteria

5.1. The RYA YSG will use its discretion to determine their recommendations to Racing Committee for the recognition of classes, using the rationale outlined in item 4 and the criteria outlined in appendix A. It will support those classes that in its opinion best meet the aims and objectives of the programme and assign recognition status. In particular the criteria listed in appendix A, in conjunction with the matrix of objectives in 3.4 will be taken into account when the RYA YSG determines which classes should be assigned which type of recognition.

6. **Benefits** – Subject to annual review which will include discussion and agreement between the class and the RYA, the RYA will endeavour to provide access to the following benefits, consistent with the level of relevant level of recognition:

6.1. For pathway classes these may include:

Junior Pathway Classes	Youth Pathway Classes
Assistance from RYA Youth Programme staff	Assistance from RYA Youth Programme staff
The provision of an RYA/Eric Twiname Class RIB	The provision of an RYA/Eric Twiname Class RIB
An RYA appointed (and resourced) Head Coach	An RYA appointed (and resourced) Head Coach
Funding to support the administration of joint RYA/Class activity	Funding to support the administration of joint RYA/Class activity
A grant to contribute towards an RYA National Junior Squad training programme	A highly subsidised RYA National Youth Squad training programme
RYA International Travel grants	RYA International Travel grants
An RYA (grant) Supported Open Training programme	An RYA (grant) Supported Open Training programme
Priority access to centrally controlled RYA resources – Van's, RIB's, Buoy's etc.	Priority access to centrally controlled RYA resources – Van's, RIB's, Buoy's etc.
Inclusion within RYA Zone and RYA Eric Twiname Championship	Inclusion within RYA Youth National Championship
Priority right to exhibit on the RYA Youth programme stand at the RYA Dinghy Sailing Show	Priority right to exhibit on the RYA Youth programme stand at the RYA Dinghy Sailing Show
Right to promote the class as an RYA pathway class and use appropriate RYA branding	Right to promote the class as an RYA pathway class and use appropriate RYA branding
Champion Club Fleet Development Support (via	Champion Club Fleet Development Support (via

## RYA Youth Programme Class Recognition Policy

HPM's)	HPM's)
RYA Coach Professional Development Support	RYA Coach Professional Development Support
The provision of RYA Sports Science Support to sailors	The provision of RYA Sports Science Support to sailors
RYA Squad Jackets	RYA Squad Jackets
Youth Class Transition advice (for sailors)	Olympic Transition advice (for sailors)
RYA invitation training programme for elite sailors (where appropriate)	RYA Tailored Support training programme for elite sailors (where appropriate)
A highly Subsidised RYA Zone Squad Training	

6.2. For supported classes these may include:

<b>Junior Supported Classes</b>	<b>Youth Supported Classes</b>
Assistance from RYA Youth Programme staff	Assistance from RYA Youth Programme staff
The provision of an RYA/Eric Twiname Class RIB - owned and insured by the RYA	The provision of an RYA/Eric Twiname Class RIB - owned and insured by the RYA
An RYA appointed (and resourced) Head Coach	An RYA appointed (and resourced) Head Coach
Some funding to support the administration of joint RYA/Class activity	Some funding to support the administration of joint RYA/Class activity
An agreed annual subsidy to run an RYA National Junior Squad training programme	A subsidised RYA National Youth Squad/class training programme
RYA International Travel grants	RYA International Travel grants
An RYA Supported Open Training programme	An RYA Supported Open Training programme
Access to centrally controlled RYA resources – Van's, RIB's, Buoy's etc.	Access to centrally controlled RYA resources – Van's, RIB's, Buoy's etc.
Inclusion within RYA Zone Championships and RYA Eric Twiname Championship	Inclusion within RYA Youth National Championships (subject to minimum numbers)
Right to exhibit on the RYA Youth programme stand at the RYA Dinghy Sailing Show	Right to exhibit on the RYA Youth programme stand at the RYA Dinghy Sailing Show
Right to promote as an RYA supported class and use appropriate RYA branding	Right to promote as an RYA supported class and use appropriate RYA branding
Champion Club Fleet Development Support (via HPM's)	Champion Club Fleet Development Support (via HPM's)
RYA Coach Professional Development Support	RYA Coach Professional Development Support
RYA Squad Jackets	RYA Squad Jackets
Youth Class Transition advice (for sailors)	Olympic Transition advice (for sailors)
Subsidised Zone Squad Training	

## RYA Youth Programme Class Recognition Policy

6.3. For recognised classes these may include:

Junior Recognised Classes	Youth Recognised Classes
RYA Youth Steering Group Assistance	RYA Youth Steering Group Assistance
RYA Class Coach Recommendations	RYA Class Coach Recommendations
Promotion/support for Class Open Training	Promotion/support for Class Open Training
RYA Professional Coach Development Support	RYA Professional Coach Development Support
Champion Club Fleet Development Support	Youth Programme Exit planning promotion to sailors
Right to promote themselves as a Recognised Junior Class	Right to promote themselves as RYA Recognised Youth Class

### 7. Partnership Conditions

7.1. Selection of a recognised class is conditional upon a full commitment to all the requirements set out in the relevant RYA recognition partnership agreement.

### 8. Selection and De-Selection Process

- 8.1. Applications from class associations pursuing a new application for recognition will be considered annually at the autumn YSG meeting. Any application should be addressed in writing to the RYA Youth Racing Operations Officer, in the capacity of secretary to the YSG by the end of September each year. Each application should include an explanation of how the class meets the criteria set out within this document, with all relevant evidence. The class association web-site, calendar should demonstrate full evidence and adherence to, or adoption of all the relevant policies.
- 8.2. Current Pathway/supported/recognised classes will be reviewed annually, usually again at the autumn YSG meeting (for changes taking effect in April the following year) against the criteria consistent with the three tiers of recognition and the levels of funding and support which are available. This may entail a review and monitoring of the criteria and/or review of the structure, types of recognition or indeed the status of a particular class.
- 8.3. De-selection or a change in type of recognition may occur when in the opinion of the RYA YSG a class is failing to meet the criteria as outlined in this document, or the pressure on resources makes a change necessary, or where a change in international Youth or Olympic classes necessitates a review. A pathway class may become a supported class, a supported class may become a recognised class, a recognised class may be deselected and vice versa.
- 8.4. If the YSG considers that a particular Class should be selected, de-selected or subject to a change in type of recognition then it will make a recommendation to that effect, together with supporting reasons, to the RYA Racing Committee. A copy of the YSG's recommendation, together with supporting reasons, will also be sent to the relevant Class association to allow the association a reasonable opportunity to submit a written response via the RYA Racing Manager, acting as secretary to the RYA Racing Committee.
- 8.5. The YSG's recommendation, together with supporting reasons, and the relevant Class association's written response will be submitted to the RYA Racing Committee, which will decide whether the proposed selection, de-selection or change in type of recognition is to be adopted. The decision of the RYA Racing Committee will be final.
- 8.6. Should a particular Class be de-selected or subject to a change to a lesser type of recognition then the YSG will endeavour to give to that Class the opportunity, advice and support to enable it to plan and show how it intends to meet the relevant criteria again.

## **9. Status**

- 9.1. The 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.
- 9.2. 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.

## Appendix A – Class Recognition Criteria

Key	Junior			Youth		
	Pathway	Supported	Recognised	Pathway	Supported	Recognised
Status	Be an ISAF 'international' class.		Be an ISAF recognised class.	Be an ISAF 'international' class.		Have an international following.
Status				Be a class normally selected for the ISAF Youth Worlds.	Be chosen on occasions as a class for the ISAF Youth Worlds.	
Culture	Have a class environment/culture which encourages/supports gifted sailors to move on to youth pathway classes at the appropriate stage.	Have a class environment/culture which encourages/supports the most capable sailors to move on to youth pathway classes at the appropriate stage.	Have a class environment/culture which encourages the most gifted sailors on to youth pathway classes at the appropriate stage.	Have a class environment/culture which encourages gifted sailors to move into Olympic racing at the earliest practical age.	Have a class environment/culture which encourages/supports the most capable sailors to move on to Olympic classes at the appropriate stage.	
Culture	Have a recent, consistent, annual track record of large numbers of sailors progressing into the RYA Youth pathway classes and achieving success.	Have a recent track record of sailors progressing into the RYA Youth pathway classes and achieving success.	Have an organised and effective class association.	Have a recent, consistent annual track record of sailors progressing into Olympic classes and achieving success.	Have a recent track record of sailors successfully moving into Youth and subsequently Olympic Racing.	Provide a programme of training and competition suitable to develop a sailor's competence and engender a passion for the sport.
Culture	Have a continuous and recent track record of sailors successfully moving into Olympic Racing.		Have at least 5 racing fleets in 2 RYA Zones/Home Countries.	Have an appropriate annual domestic racing programme.	Have active racing fleets in number of the RYA Zones/Home Countries.	Provide a well organised programme of training and competition which is safe and delivered to RYA standards using qualified and competent personnel.

### RYA Youth Programme Class Recognition Policy

	Junior			Youth		
Key	Pathway	Supported	Recognised	Pathway	Supported	Recognised
<b>Culture</b>	Have an effective and well organised class association.		Provide a programme of training and competition suitable to develop a sailor's competence and engender a passion for the sport.	Have an effective and well organised class association.		Have an organised and effective class association.
<b>Culture</b>	Have the greatest propensity to develop the necessary physical, technical, racing skills and knowledge for sailors who are principally under 16 years old who ultimately aspire to progress into Youth and Olympic racing.	Have the ability to develop the physical, technical, racing skills and knowledge for sailors who are principally under 16 years old who ultimately aspire to progress into Youth and Olympic racing.	Have the ability to develop suitable racing skills in order to enable sailors to successfully progress into youth and adult racing and enjoy a lifetime with the sport.	Have the greatest propensity to develop the necessary racing skills and knowledge for sailors who are under 19 years of age who ultimately aspire to progress into Olympic racing.	Have the ability to develop the physical, technical, racing skills and knowledge for sailors who ultimately aspire to progress into Olympic racing.	Provide a programme of training and competition suitable to develop a sailor's competence and engender a passion for the sport.
<b>Activity</b>	Deliver national racing events using RYA qualified race officials in key roles.		Have an annual racing programme consisting of a minimum of 6 regattas nationwide, each having a fleet size of at least 18 boats.	Deliver national racing events using RYA qualified race officials in key roles.		Have an annual racing programme consisting of a minimum of 6 regattas nationwide, each having a fleet size of at least 12 boats.
<b>Activity</b>	Have a high quality, appropriate annual racing and race training programme.	Have a regional or nationwide open race training programme.	Have a race training programme comprising of a minimum of 6 weekends of open training delivered by an approved RYA Class Coach.	Have a comprehensive nationwide open race training programme.	Have a regional or nationwide open race training programme.	Have the ability to develop suitable racing skills to enable sailors to successfully progress into senior racing and enjoy a lifetime with the sport.



### RYA Youth Programme Class Recognition Policy

	Junior			Youth		
Key	Pathway	Supported	Recognised	Pathway	Supported	Recognised
Activity	Have active racing fleets in the majority of RYA Zones/Home Countries.	Have active racing fleets in number of the RYA Zones/Home Countries.		Have racing fleets in a majority of RYA Zones/Home Countries.		Have a race training programme comprising of a minimum of 6 weekends of open training delivered by an approved RYA Class Coach.
Activity	Provide high quality annual, international competition(s).	Provide quality annual, international competition(s).		Provide high quality annual, international competition(s).	Provide quality annual, international competition(s).	
Activity	Have a comprehensive regional or nationwide open race training programme.	Have a quality, appropriate annual racing and race training programme.		Have a comprehensive and high quality annual international competition programme.	Have a quality, appropriate annual racing and race training programme.	
Policies	Adopt the RYA Racing Charter					
Policies	Adopt RYA Anti-bullying Policy					
Policies	Attend the RYA Youth & Junior Stakeholders conference.			Attend the RYA Youth & Junior Stakeholders conference.		A type of class not included among the pathway or supported classes.
Policies	Participate in the RYA Class Judge Scheme.	Participate in the RYA Class Judge Scheme if required.	Provide a well organised programme of training and competition which is safe and delivered to RYA standards using qualified and competent personnel.	Participate in the RYA Class Judge Scheme.	Participate in the RYA Class Judge Scheme if required.	
Policies	Adopt RYA Child Protection Policy					
Policies	Adopt RYA Sailor Supervision Guidelines					

### RYA Youth Programme Class Recognition Policy

	Junior			Youth		
Key	Pathway	Supported	Recognised	Pathway	Supported	Recognised
Policies	Utilise operational practices, as appropriate consistent with the relevant RYA policies/guidelines:					
Policies	Adopt RYA Youth Racing Safety Policy					

Appendix B – Youth Programme Class Recognition – Process Diagram



RYA Youth Steering Group (YSG)

