



Dear RYA Champion Club,

Thank you for all the work and support you have given British Youth Sailing over the past 18 years, that RYA Champion Club and previously Volvo Champion Club has been running. During this period we have seen thousands of club sailors progress through the British Youth Sailing Pathway and develop a lifelong love of the sport of sailing. Seeing young British sailors standing on podiums around the world is something that you should feel justifiably proud of for your part in the sailors' development.

Following a thorough review, we have taken the decision that now it is the right time to end the RYA Champion Club programme and this will take effect on the 31st March 2018. This will be replaced by a new RYA programme "British Youth Sailing Recognised Club", with the intention to more accurately target the benefits of the accreditation of the clubs that are demonstrating high quality race training and racing in the British Youth Sailing Recognised Classes and supporting the RYA Pathway. To ensure that the accredited clubs continue to meet the minimum criteria, British Youth Sailing Recognised Clubs will have to meet the requirements of an annual inspection.

At the Dinghy Show we will launch British Youth Sailing Recognised Club, which will be our new sign of a quality youth training and racing club that is aligned to the British Youth Sailing Performance Pathway. Clubs are invited to apply for Recognised Club status. We aim to be able to provide for these new Recognised Clubs: Support and advice from your Regional HPM; coach development opportunities for your club coaches; a dedicated website with resources and videos. Recognised Clubs will be asked to renew annually.

If your club meets the new higher criteria for a British Youth Sailing Recognised Club and would like to apply for recognition please see the new webpage [www.rya.org.uk/go/bysrecognisedclub](http://www.rya.org.uk/go/bysrecognisedclub) to download the application form and find out further information.

We would appreciate if clubs could remove their old plaques and also any reference to RYA Champion Club on club websites and promotional material.

For any questions, please contact your RYA High Performance Manager

North / Midlands:	Chris Blackburn	07909 994637	<a href="mailto:Chris.blackburn@rya.org.uk">Chris.blackburn@rya.org.uk</a>
South / South West:	Duncan West	07747 111447	<a href="mailto:Duncan.west@rya.org.uk">Duncan.west@rya.org.uk</a>
East / London & South East:	Paul Wren	07909 994642	<a href="mailto:Paul.wren@rya.org.uk">Paul.wren@rya.org.uk</a>

Or alternatively contact the British Youth Sailing Recognised Club Administrator Sarah Knox-Johnston 023 8060 4237 [Sarah.Knox-Johnston@rya.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.Knox-Johnston@rya.org.uk)

Kind Regards

Chris Atherton  
Senior High Performance Manager  
07909 994641 [chris.atherton@rya.org.uk](mailto:chris.atherton@rya.org.uk)