

RYA Windsurfer Zone Squad Selection Policy 2018-2019

Introduction

The RYA British Youth Sailing Pathway is a performance programme to develop and retain racing sailors who can represent the sport at the highest levels. The Windsurfing Zone Squads are the entry point into the programme. The Zone Squads are organized into four regional squads comprising of the following:- South Zone; South West Zone, East/London & South East Zones and the North & Midlands Zones. The Bic Techno 293 OD Board is the RYA Recognised Junior board used by the Zone Squads.

Normally up to 12 places will be offered for the RYA Windsurf Zone Squad in each of the four regions (i.e. a total of 48 windsurfers), however this number may vary according to the overall ability of competitors taking part in the indicator series and not simply the relative abilities of such competitors. Normally for each of the RYA Windsurf Zone Squads we would aim to award places to windsurfers taking a cross section of windsurfers aged from U13 through to U16. Potentially further places in each region will be offered to windsurfers who in the opinion of the Selection Committee have demonstrated the best prospects of progressing within the RYA British Youth Sailing Pathway Programme. Actual squad size will be dependent on the strength and depth of the windsurfers putting themselves forward for selection.

Where we have a large number of sailors suitable for selection it may be necessary to split the squad in to two distinct separate training groups which maybe done by zone to facilitate local training. This would ensure manageable training group numbers to assist the sailor's development, create a better performance environment and give us a wider variety of venues to use. This would consist of some training in tandem at separate venues and some run as combined training at the same venue. Squad splits would be based on the sailor's selection ranking and individual's needs.

Guidelines for composition of the squad

At senior level male and female windsurfers race in separate fleets. However at Zone Squad level sailors usually race in mixed fleets. In order to prepare for the future the RYA aspires to select an equal proportion of boys and girls into the Zone Squads if the standard allows.

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

Support

Windsurfers selected to be part of the RYA Windsurf Zone Squad will normally receive the following support:

- Invitation to an off-the-water training day where windsurfers are introduced to the squad coaches, the RYA training pathway is explained and briefings are given on the physiology of training
- Invitation to five subsidised race training weekends and one residential 3 day Easter Camp
- A specific needs based training programme
- Opportunity to access remote coaching support from the UK Zone Squad coaches
- Opportunity to purchase discounted Zone Squad clothing
- Receive transition advice regarding progression within pathway

The RYA Windsurf Zone Squad is subsidised by the RYA. A contribution towards the cost of coaching, venues, coach boats, and in the case of Easter Camp for accommodation and food, will be required from each windsurfer.

Eligibility

To be eligible for selection, windsurfers must be aged under 16 on 31 December 2018. Applicants must be eligible to; hold a British passport, and represent Great Britain at International Championships.

RYA Selectors may, in exceptional circumstances, decide to invite older sailors into a Zone Squad.

All selected sailors will be required to be members of the RYA.

Sailors may not accept a RYA Windsurf Zone Squad place if they have accepted a place in another RYA squad

Indicator Events

The following events will be used as indicators for Zone Squad places:

- The BYS Regional Junior Championships (Primary Selection event)
- Regional Open training, one class association regional open training in the autumn.
- The National Windsurfing Championships

Sailors are expected to attend the the primary selection event (BYS Regional Junior Championships) and at least one of the other secondary selection events.

Indicator events				
Primary Selection	South	SW	East / London & SE	North / Midlands
BYS Regional Junior Championships	29/30 Sep WPNSA	29/30 Sep WPNSA	29/30 Sep Queen Mary SC	29/30 Sep Northampton SC
Secondary Selection Events				
Open Training	23 rd Sept Portsmouth	23 rd Sept WPNSA	22 nd Sept Queen Mary SC	23 rd Sept - Debdale OR 22 nd Sept - North Lincs
The National Windsurfing Championships.	15/16 Sep Rutland SC			

The RYA reserve the right to add further indicator events if the selectors deem it necessary.

Selection Criteria and Procedure

Windsurfing Zone Squad places will be allocated on a discretionary basis by the Selection Committee, who will consider the following factors:

- Performance in indicator events
- Age and potential
- Sail sizes
- Performance of core skills in open training
- Board type
- Factors affecting results
- Attitude and behaviour
- Class ranking list
- Height and weight
- Goals and aspirations
- Other factors the selection committee considers appropriate

Exceptional Circumstances/failure to attend Indicator events

The selectors expect sailors to attend the primary selection event and at least one of the secondary events in order that they can make objective decisions having seen sailors compete against each other.

Where this is impossible sailors must notify their RYA High Performance Manager in writing, giving the reason why and seek dispensation not to attend an event. Dispensation 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. Gear failure, breakage or the actions of another competitor are not considered exceptional, where appropriate, sailors should seek retribution via the normal processes of the racing rules of sailing.

Selection Practice

For all squad places Selectors therefore have the discretion to determine

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

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

- Use their expertise and experience
- Rely on their observation of the competitors, together with the observations made by other individuals, such as squad coaches and class representatives

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee shall comprise of the RYA High Performance Manager, the RYA Zone Head Coach or Assistant Coach and the relevant Class Association Representative or selected representatives (where appropriate).

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

Application for Zone Squads

Sailors wishing to be considered for a Zone Squad place should complete a Zone Squad application. Applications should be completed by the last selection event online at <http://www.rya.org.uk/racing-squads>.

Rules concerning Zone Squad application

Sailors must apply for, and sail in the indicator series of the Zone Squad that either:

- a. Falls within the region/zone of their primary place of residence, or
- b. Falls within the region of their primary sailing club.

If a sailor's primary place of residence, and primary sailing/windsurf club fall within different zones then he/she may initially choose which zone squad to apply for and therefore which indicator series to participate in. **However, once a sailor has applied for a particular squad, sailors are not able to change zone unless their primary place of residence has changed.** To find out which zone your club or residence lies in please see:-

<http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/youthjunior/squads/zone/Pages/Selection.aspx>

If there are other personal reasons why it may be more convenient for a sailor to be a member of a different zone squad to that described in point a.) or b.), it should be discussed with their RYA High Performance Manager. In exceptional circumstances, allowances may be made.

If you are still unsure of how this applies to your own personal circumstances, please contact the relevant RYA High Performance Manager

South/South West:	Duncan West	07747 111447	duncan.west@rya.org.uk
North/ Midlands:	Gerry Ball / Chris Blackburn	07909 994637	HPM.NM@rya.org.uk
East/ London & South East:	Paul Wren	07909 994642	paul.wren@rya.org.uk

Or alternatively contact the HPM Support Administrator on sarah.knox-johnston@rya.org.uk.

Notification

Applicants will be notified in writing by email as soon as is practically possible after completion of the final indicator event, usually within 14 days.

Appeals

There will be no appeals against the published selection criteria or the actions of the selectors, provided they follow the 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 in writing to the Racing Manager within 5 days of the selection being announced. The full Appeals Policy document is available on request from the RYA Racing Manager, Racing Operations Manager or email racing@rya.org.uk

Home Countries

Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales have their own relevant policies and training programmes which can be found on www.rya.org.uk

Status

The Royal Yachting Association's (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. 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.

Policies

Please read this Notice of Selection in conjunction with the British Youth Sailing – Programme Selection Policy and Procedures by using the following link:

<http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/youthjunior/information/Pages/Policies.aspx>