



WYA National Squad Selection Policy 2011 – 2012 Inc. Regional Optimist Squads

Foreword

The WYA (Welsh Yachting Association) is the RYA (Royal Yachting Association) Council for Wales and is committed to feeding the pathway to British World Class Sailing.

The WYA has appointed a “Performance Coaching Group” who will oversee the Selection Committee.

Discretion may be exercised in exceptional circumstances, however by setting out a clear and straightforward selection policy; sailors can identify their targets and work towards them.

Introduction

Selection to the 2011 - 2012 WYA Squads will be determined by the Selectors appointed by the WYA who select the sailors, who in the selector’s opinion will have the best prospects of progressing to GBR Squads and winning medals for Wales and GBR in the future.

A high proportion of Welsh National Squad places will be allocated to sailors on the basis of their national ranking in the indicator series and class ranking. Places may also be awarded on a discretionary basis.

Eligibility

The criteria for selection to the Welsh National Sailing Squad are as following:

At least one of:

1. Born in Wales
2. Welsh Parentage (parent or grandparent)
3. Live in Wales (2 years residency required)

And

4. Member of a Welsh Sailing Club

To be eligible for selection a sailor must also meet the age criteria in the matrix below and be eligible to compete for Great Britain in the Olympic Games.

WYA Selectors may decide to involve older sailors within Welsh National Squad training, sailors falling into this category are encouraged to apply and could be eligible for a discretionary place.

WYA Selectors may decide to invite girls falling outside of the normal selection criteria to ensure a minimum number usually not less than 30% are included within the program.

Sailors may be invited to attend on a “trial” basis if the selectors are not certain of ability.

A sailor cannot be a member of more than one Welsh National Squad

Target Squad Sizes 2012

Squad sizes will vary depending upon the strength and depth of talent in each particular class. However approximate indicative numbers are shown below:

Welsh Squads ages and composition

The following table shows the typical age composition at 31st December 2011,

Regional Squad Profile 2011 / 2012		
	Profile*	Target Squad Size*
South & West Optimist	Under 13	4 Sailors
South & West Optimist	Under 12	8 Sailors
North Optimist	Under 13	4 Sailors
North Optimist	Under 12	6 Sailors
Toppers - Should apply to Regional Open Training for 2011 - 12		

Welsh National Squad			
Optimist	Topper	Laser 4.7	Welsh Sailing Youth Academy
U14*	U14*	U15*	U19*
14 – 22 Boats	12 – 18 Boats	6 - 8 Boats	By Merit

*Typical Age – see detailed policy for details

The reason for the lower age limit is to allow the progression down the pathway to RYA, GBR Squads. In exceptional circumstances the selectors may consider applicants outside this age range. Sailors who have gained places in GBR Squads (no matter what age) will automatically qualify for a place in the Welsh National Sailing Squad.

Selection Criteria

Places in both the Welsh National Squad and Regional Squads will be allocated based on a sailor's results from the following events:

National Optimist Squad:

1. Inland Championships: [May]
2. National Championships: [August]
3. End of Season Championships: [October]

Regional & Discretionary Squad Places

Will also be awarded using results from any GBR ranking or any of the following events: -

Welsh Schools Championships 09th 10th July – Mumbles Yacht Club

Welsh Optimist Championships 27th – 29th August - CBYC

Welsh Youth & Junior Championships: 24th 25th September, Pwllheli SC

WYA CYRC Events (Regional Squad Only)

Welsh National Squad Profile 2011 - 2012	Age Profile (31 st Dec 2011)
Places awarded to any GBR Junior or Intermediate Squad sailor	Not Applicable
6 sailors by GBR ranking who are not selected for a GBR Squad	Under 14
Any number of places on the discretion of the Selection Committee. Preference maybe given to younger sailors	Under 13

Regional Squads are set out as per Table 1. Regional Sailors are not required to have achieved a GBR ranking but have ideally experienced a national event and competed in a "Main" fleet at a domestic Welsh event.

Welsh National Topper Squad:

1. Inland Championships: [May]
2. National Championships: [August]
3. GBR Selection Events – Nationwide Event 2 [28th 29th May WPNSA] 3 [10th 11th July, Derwent]
4 [September 10th 11th (Two out of three will count)]

Discretionary Places may also be awarded using results from any GBR ranking or any of the following events: -

- Welsh Schools Championships 09th 10th July – Mumbles Yacht Club
- Welsh Youth & Junior Championships: 24th 25th September, Pwllheli SC

Squad Profile 2011 - 2012	Age Profile (31 st Dec 2011)
Places awarded to any GBR Junior or Intermediate Squad sailor	Not Applicable
6 places by GBR ranking who are not selected for GBR Squad	Under 14
Any number of places on the discretion of the Selection Committee. Preference maybe given to younger sailors	Under 13
A further 2 places in exceptional circumstances maybe awarded outside this criteria. These places will normally be awarded to girls	Under 15

Laser 4.7

The following events shall be used by the selection committee as indicator events

1. Laser National Championships – 27th – 31st August, WPNSA
2. RYA South Zone Championships – 24th 25th September, WPNSA

Squad Profile 2011 - 2012	Age Profile (31 st Dec 2011)
Places awarded to any GBR National Junior Squad sailor	Not Applicable
A maximum of 8 places on the discretionary of the Selection Committee	Under 15
A further 2 places in exceptional circumstances maybe awarded outside this criteria. These places will normally be awarded to girls	Under 16

Junior Double-handers:

WYA will consider applications from junior sailors who can show results from National (British) level competition in their chosen Junior Double-handed class. (e.g. Class National / Inland Championships). Supported pathway Junior Double-handers are Mirror, Cadet & Feva.

Applications will also be considered from sailors with top results in another Junior Class (singlehanded) wishing to make a transition to a double-handed pathway. Please list all relevant results on the application.

Discretionary Places

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

- Fall outside the age criteria
 - Due to exceptional circumstances fail to achieve automatic selection
 - Any other reason the Welsh High Performance Manager and Head Coach feel are appropriate.
 - Other factors the selection committee considers appropriate
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Welsh Sailing Youth Academy

The Welsh Sailing Youth Academy is for sailors who have the potential to win medals at National and International Youth & Senior competition in time. The Academy is open for selection at various times for any sailor meeting the criteria set out below. It is likely the numbers will be smaller than in junior squads

The Academy will support those sailors with;

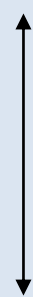
- 3-4 winter squad weekends in the conventional sense
- Tailored small group and year round training time in their local area with Academy Coaches
- Specific Training in wider factions of the sport such as rules and match racing
- Agreed training plans to address training and lifestyle needs involving at least one 1:1 session with coach (set around the British Program where relevant)
- Event support at major championships and where suitable international competition
- Equipment Support
- On-going current benefits of travel grant, Gym access, clothing etc.

Support by discretion to sailors transiting from youth – Olympic sailing under the same criteria as Talent Cymru post youth support within the WYA Performance plan (copied below)

Age – Already within or Eligible for the RYA Youth Squad

Classes

Sailors sailing in any RYA Youth or Olympic Pathway Class are eligible. Namely – Laser Radial / Standard, 420, 29er, Spitfire Multihull, RSX.

Academy Selection Hierarchy	
Any member of the RYA National Youth Squad	Automatic Selection  Discretionary
Sailors Representing GBR at World or European Championships	
Sailors with Previous Top (Medal) results from any Junior Class	
Results at RYA Youth Nationals / Class ranking Events & Class Nationals	
Members of the RYA Transitional Squad	
Previous members of RYA Junior National Squads	
Sailors able to demonstrate a hard working ethic, desire and improvement at UK National Standard Competition	

Academy Places – Tiered Support

1. British Youth Squad members will receive enhanced Academy funding support nominally by nomination for Talent Cymru Awards.
2. Full Academy members will receive coaching, equipment and some travel support as set out above.
3. Sailors unsuccessful for Academy Selection maybe invited to train alongside during training weekends.

Post Youth – pursuing Olympic Development Squad

Consideration will also be given to applications from Sailors who have shown an exceptional track record as a youth sailor(Podium finish at World, European events) who are not selected into the RYA's ODS at the end of their youth sailing careers. Sailors must me actively pursuing selection within one of the Olympic classes. Support will be for a maximum of two years.

Application

Sailors wishing to be considered for a Welsh Squad or Youth Academy place should complete an online application form at www.welshsailingevents.org

Welsh National Squad & Academy Benefits

Sailors selected to join WYA National Squads will access a range of benefits:

- National Squad training weekends run by a high level class coach
- Squad clothing
- Support at selected National Events
- Access to Travel Grant for attending Squad Training
- Possibility of application to further grants
- Possible selection to Welsh teams such as Twiname event
- Support to gain coaching qualifications
- Access to gym facilities through “Gold Card” schemes
- Access to sports science support
- Opportunity to make friends for life

In return sailors are expected to:

- Attend all the National Squad training weekends (normally spread over weekends between November and May).
- Become a junior member of the RYA.
- Commit to the agreed training programme which will include: fitness training, training diaries and on the water training.
- Commit to the competition programme agreed by the Welsh High Performance Manager and Squad Head Coach.
- Abide by the Squad rules

Although the Welsh National Squad Programme is supported and subsidised by Sports Wales, some costs need to be met and there will be a charge for the program which maybe payable in instalments.

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee shall comprise of the Welsh High Performance Manager, the Head Coach of the class and will be subject to the approval of the WYA Performance Coaching Group.

There will be no appeals against the selection criteria and the decisions of the Selectors. By submitting a Welsh National Squad application form the applicants agree to this condition.

Status

The Welsh Yachting Association (WYA)'s policies and procedures are subject to change from time to time, including variations required to comply with Sports Wales' directions on the investment of Exchequer and Lottery funding.

The WYA reserves the right to amend, supplement and/or discontinue at its absolute discretion, for whatever reason, any of its policies and procedures.

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Welsh Sailing
Hwyllo Cymru

