

## WYA Regional Squad Selection Policy 2010 - 2011

### 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 2009 - 2010 WYA Regional 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 Welsh National Squads.

### Eligibility

The criteria for selection to the Welsh Sailing Squads 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 Regional Squad training; sailors falling into this category are encouraged to apply and could be eligible for a discretionary place.

### Regional Performance Squads

*Optimist*

*Topper*

*Open Bic Techno 293*

For aspiring Great Britain and Welsh National Squad Sailors our Regional Squads provide class specific coaching at venues closer to home. Regional Squads have evolved from open training to now providing first class coaching to young sailors with the potential to represent Wales or Great Britain at International Sailing Events and progress to GBR and even Olympic Squads.

In 2009 2010, Wales supported Regional Squads in Optimist and Topper only. For 2010 2011 it is anticipated that the Open Bic Techno will be formed as a third class regional squad.

## Regional Squad ages and composition

The following table shows the typical age composition at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010,

Squad Profile 2010 / 2011		
	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
South & West Topper	Under 13	8 – 10 sailors
North Topper	Under 13	6 – 10 sailors
North Bic Techno 293	Under 14	*Not determined
S& W Bic Techno 293	Under 14	*Not determined

- Normally each squad will include at least 3 girls
- The reason for the lower age limit is to allow the progression down the pathway to W.Y.A National and GBR Squads. Out of age sailors may be selected on a discretionary basis.
- Sailors are not normally eligible for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year of regional squads. In special circumstances sailors maybe selected on a discretionary basis only.

## Selection Criteria

Welsh Regional Squad places will be allocated based on a sailor's results from the following events:

### Primary Indicators Optimist & Topper (must attend 1)

1. Welsh Schools and Clubs Championships 03<sup>rd</sup> 04<sup>th</sup> July – Mumbles SC
2. Volvo Welsh Youth & Junior Championships: 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> September 2009, Pwllheli SC

### Secondary Indicators Optimist Topper (results from these events will be considered)

1. CYRC events within your region
2. Class National Events (any)
3. Cardiff Bay YC Welsh Optimist Championships (29<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> August) (Optimist Only)
4. Acorn Onboard Regatta

### Windsurfing Indicators

- Indicator I -Volvo Welsh Youth & Junior Championships: 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> September 2009, Pwllheli SC
- Indicator II -Regional Squad Selector 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> October at (Venue North & Venue South/West)

It is advised that all aspiring Regional Squad Sailors should have competed in at least one UK National standard event and should be looking to build on this experience in the forthcoming year.

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

## 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 HPM and Regional Squad Coach feel are appropriate

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

- Performance in indicator events
- Age and potential
- Factors affecting results
- Attitude and behaviour
- Class ranking list
- Height and weight
- Goals and aspirations
- Other factors the head coach and WHPM considers appropriate

Regional Squad sailors will benefit from a recommended event program from their coach and WHPM. Normally these would consist of attending class ranking events, Welsh Youth and Junior Championships and Qualifying for the local CYRC series. Other suitable events maybe recommended at appropriate times

## Application Forms

Sailors wishing to be considered for a Welsh Regional Squad place should complete an online application form at [www.welshsailing.org](http://www.welshsailing.org). Applications shall be made by 19<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

## Benefits include:

- 5 weekends coaching with class specific coaches
- Invitational Training with the Welsh National Squad
- Opportunity to be Selected for Wales at the Eric Twiname Championships
- Access to "Reduced" ex W.Y.A Squad Boats or Boards
- Advice and support from your HPM and Squad Coach
- Coach support at Welsh and National events
- Access to pre event training pre Nationals
- Stepping stone into the Welsh National Squad
- Opportunity to make friends for life in sailing

In return sailors are expected to:

- Attend all the Regional Squad training weekends (normally spread over weekends between November and May).
- Commit to the agreed training programme which will normally consist of continuing training at open and club training events.
- 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 Council Wales, some costs need to be met and there will be a charge for each weekend.

### 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.

### 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 to the WHPM within 5 days of the selection being announced. The full Appeals document is available on request from the WHPM

### 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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