

RYA Northern Ireland Youth Performance Programme Selection Policy

1. Vision

“To develop and support the best young racing sailors in the world”

2. Introduction

The RYANI Youth Performance Programme is a fundamental step on the RYA Performance Pathway. The Performance Pathway allows sailors to develop their skills and supports potential sailors to go on to RYANI Academy, National Squads and Olympic Pathway.

For selection, consideration will be determined on the basis of a sailor’s performances at class events, the RYANI Youth Championships, Selection Weekend and observations at any other relevant training activity.

Sailing involves ongoing, consistent skill development in a variety of wind and wave conditions that requires sailors to:

1. Sail on a regular basis
2. Work with others
3. Engage in appropriate physical development
4. Compete at events appropriate to their level of development
5. Have an open mind-set

For sailors in the programme, it is expected they shall train regularly between each session, undertake a succinct competition plan relative to their age and experience and aspire to meet the above core attributes. These core attributes are critical in the long term development of all sailors.

3. Eligibility

To be eligible for selection, a sailor must be:

Topper Class:

Under 16 years of age on the 31st December in the year of selection i.e. 2022;

ILCA 4 Class:

Under 16 years of age on the 31st December in the year of selection i.e. 2022;

ILCA 6, ILCA 7, 420 and 29er:

Under 19 years of age on the 31st December in the year of selection i.e. 2022;

Double handed teams where one sailor is over the age of 18, but in their final academic year, may still be considered.

And

A resident of/born in Northern Ireland

RYANI selectors may decide to involve sailors who do not meet the above criteria where it is in the best interests of the programme; sailors falling into either categories may apply for a place.

4. Selection Process

In order to be considered for a place on the Youth Performance Programme, sailors need to have a basic level of competency and experience. RYANI coaches will assess sailors at outlined events and training to ensure they are at a sufficient level to engage in the training and at the desired level of the programme.

Place on the programme will be allocated through performances/observation at:

- Class Events
- RYANI Youth Championships
- YPP Application Form
- YPP Selection Weekends

Races may be held on the training weekend to help determine places.

RYANI selectors reserve the right to add further indicator events if the selectors deem it necessary and may extend the selection process for nominated sailors.

5. Criteria

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

- Championship performances;
- Competency at training and events;
- Optimum numbers for training;
- Age and potential;
- Factors affecting results;
- Attitude and behavior;
- Class ranking list;



- Height and weight;
- Goals and aspirations;
- Other factors the selectors consider appropriate.

6. Exceptional circumstances

The selectors expect sailors to attend class events, the RYANI Youth Championships and stipulated training so they can make objective decisions.

Where this is impossible sailors must notify the RYANI Performance Manager in writing, giving reasons why and seek dispensation not to attend any of the above. 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, non-transferable academic commitments. Gear failure, breakage or the actions of another competitor are not considered exceptional, where appropriate, sailors should seek redress via the normal processes of the racing rules of sailing.

7. Applying for a place

Sailors must register their interest by filling out an Online Application Form before the designated deadline.

8. Informing applicants

RYANI will offer places to sailors in writing by email within 14 days of applications closing. Sailors must accept the letters of offer within 1 week of receiving them.

9. Costs

A financial contribution towards training sessions is required and will be outlined in the *Letter of Offer*. This excludes food and accommodation which is the responsibility of the individual sailors.

10. Squad Commitment and de-selection

Continued inclusion within the programme will be dependent upon satisfactory progress being made.

Sailors are expected to commit to the programme in full and will only be granted absence for illness, injury, National Squad commitments, bereavement or non-transferrable academic commitments.

Sailors may be de-selected where:

- A sailor's attendance drops below an acceptable level;
- A sailor's behavior is unacceptable;
- Parent/Guardian behaviour is unacceptable



Sailors may receive a warning and continued behavior or attendance issues will equal de-selection from the Programme.

11. Selection Practice

The Selection Panel shall comprise of the RYANI Performance Manager, the RYANI Head Coach and/or relevant coaches. A Class Association representative may be invited (where appropriate).

Selectors have the discretion to determine:

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

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

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

By entering an event or activity that is part of this selection series the competitors agree that the Selectors have such discretions.

The Selection Committee may extend the selection process beyond the series.

12. Appeal

There will be no appeals against the published selection criteria or the actions of the selectors, provide they follow the selection criteria. By entering the process, sailors agree to this condition.

The grounds for appeal are limited to allegations of:

1. Failure to follow due process;
2. Bias/ undue influence;
3. Some other misconduct.

The criteria for appeal may not include any alleged error of judgement of the selectors. Should an appeal arise, then it should be submitted in writing to the RYANI Performance Manager within 5 days of the selection being announced.

13. Performance Academy and Championship support

Only sailors that meet all relevant criteria will be invited to join as an Academy member. Intake & review for the Performance Academy will take place in Spring and Autumn each year with continued participation based on criteria being met and funding support for this programme.



Sailors wishing to be considered for the RYANI Performance Academy should read the relevant selection criteria online.

In the event of selection for stipulated Championships support, teams may be selected using ranking compiled for the Youth Performance Programme selection, combined with races run during any performances training sessions or other stipulated events and observation by coaches.

14. Status

The Royal Yachting Association NI (RYANI)'s policies and procedures are subject to change from time to time, including variations required to comply with Sport Northern Ireland's directions on the investment of funds.

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

