



RYA CYMRU WALES NATIONAL SQUAD SELECTION POLICY

(INCLUDING ACADEMY & POST YOUTH SUPPORT)

2021 / 22

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Foreword

RYA Cymru Wales is the Royal Yachting Association's (RYA) council for Wales and is committed to developing the best young racing sailors in the UK and feed the British Sailing Team.

RYA Cymru Wales has appointed a "Performance Sub Committee" (PSC) which will oversee the work of the Performance Manager (Wales) and ratify the National squad nominations put forward by the selection committee.

Discretion may be exercised in exceptional circumstances to include or exclude sailors from squads, however by setting out a clear and straightforward selection policy the RYA Cymru Wales' intent is that all sailors can identify their target events and work towards attaining the best possible results in them.

Introduction

Selection for the RYA Cymru Wales' 2021 - 2022 squads will be determined by the Selectors appointed by the Performance Sub Committee. Their aim is to select the sailors, who in their opinion, have the best prospects of progressing to RYA Youth Squads and winning medals for Wales and Great Britain in the future.

A high proportion of the Welsh National Squad places will be allocated to sailors on the basis of their Welsh ranking (a ranking list of Welsh sailors who have applied and based on the Primary Selector event). Some places may also be awarded on a discretionary basis, using the secondary event and past results and feedback from coaches.

Eligibility

To be eligible for selection to any of the squads referred to in this policy a sailor should meet the age criteria in the matrix below and be eligible to compete for Great Britain in the World Sailing Youth World Championship.

In addition, their primary place of residence and their primary sailing club must be situated in Wales.

In exceptional circumstances, non-residents of Wales may elect to apply for a Welsh Squad place. They will be considered for inclusion using the following criteria:-

1. Existing or previous membership of a Welsh squad.
2. The sailors' crew or helm meets the above criteria (Double-handed youth classes only).
3. Their primary sailing club must be situated in Wales and is the closest suitable sailing club to their primary residence. These sailors will not be eligible for equipment provision.

If a sailor has previously been a member of another zone or home country and has moved primary residence and primary sailing club, they will need approval from both the Regional Performance Manager they have moved from and also the Performance Manager (Wales) before they are

considered for selection into a Welsh squad. Without this approval, a sailor cannot be a member of a Welsh squad after being a member of another zone or home country squad.

Applications will be checked by the Performance Manager (Wales) to ensure the eligibility criteria are met before being put to the Selection Committee.

RYA Cymru Wales selectors may recommend to the PSC that older sailors are involved in Welsh squad training. Sailors falling into this category are encouraged to apply and could be eligible for discretionary places.

Working towards a balanced gender mix within the squads, the RYA Cymru Wales selectors may recommend to the PSC that they invite sailors falling outside of the normal selection criteria to ensure a minimum number, of either gender, usually not less than 30%, are included within the programme.

Sailors may be invited to attend one or more squad sessions on a trial basis if the selectors are not certain that a sailor will meet a required level of ability. This option may normally be considered for sailors significantly below age or in transition from a different class.

A sailor cannot usually be a member of more than one Welsh squad. However, in circumstances where a sailor is considering transition between classes, they may make a request to the Performance Manager (Wales) to be allowed to train alongside another squad.

Target Squad Sizes and Ages 2021/2022

Squad sizes will vary depending upon the strength and depth of talent in each particular class. However approximate indicative numbers are shown in the tables below. Ages in the tables below are as at 31st December 2021.

Welsh National Squads Profile						
Optimist	Topper	ILCA4,6&7	Feva	420	29er	Youth and Junior Academy and Post Youth Support
U14*	U14*	U19* Varies by class	U15*	U19*	U19*	U21*
12 – 16 Boats	12 – 16 Boats	12 - 16 Boats	6-8 Boats	Varies by class to a max of approx. 10	Varies by class to a max of approx. 10	Very few

**Typical Age – see specific class part of policy for details*

In exceptional circumstances, the selectors may consider applicants outside this age range.

Sailors who have gained places in RYA Youth Squads (no matter what age) will automatically qualify for a place in the Welsh National Sailing Squad.

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 Performance Manager (Wales) and the Head Coach feel are appropriate.

WELSH NATIONAL OPTIMIST SQUAD

Selection Criteria

Places in the Welsh National Squad will be allocated based on sailors' results from the following events.

National Optimist Squad:

Primary Events	Welsh Regional Championships - 25-26 th September 2021, Plas Heli
We may also look at	Welsh Youth & Junior Championships, Cardiff Bay YC - 19-20 th June 2021 Optimist National Championships, WPNSA – 1-6 th August 2021 Optimist Late Summer Championships, Poole YC- 11-12 th September 2021 Past results and feedback from coaches will also be considered

Squad Profile 2021 - 2022	Age Profile (31st Dec 2021)
6 places by Welsh Optimist Ranking (based on the Primary event above)	Under 15
Any number of places at the discretion of the Selection Committee. Preference maybe given to younger sailors	Under 14
Further places in exceptional circumstances maybe awarded outside these criteria. These places will normally but not exclusively be awarded to girls	Under 15

WELSH NATIONAL TOPPER SQUAD

Places in the Welsh National Squad will be allocated based on sailor's results from the following two events:

Primary Events	Welsh Regional Championships - 25-26 th September 2021, Plas
We may also look at	Welsh Youth & Junior Championships, Pembrokeshire Performance Sailing Academy - 19-20 th June 2021 Welsh Topper Championships, 3-4 th July, Llandegfedd SC Past results and feedback from coaches will also be considered

Welsh National Squad Profile 2021 - 2022	Age Profile (31st Dec 2021)
6 sailors by Welsh Topper ranking (based on the Primary event above)	Under 15
Any number of places on the discretion of the Selection Committee. Preference may be given to younger sailors	Under 14
Further places in exceptional circumstances maybe awarded outside these criteria. These places will normally but not exclusively be awarded to girls	Under 16

For sailors in transition from a Junior class, the selectors will also be able to consider results from their previous class's international or national championships as a selection indicator.

WELSH NATIONAL RS FEVA SQUAD

Places in the Welsh National Squad will be allocated based on sailor's results from the following two events:

Primary Events	Welsh Regional Championships - 25-26 th September 2021, Plas
We may also look at	Past results and feedback from coaches will also be considered

Welsh National Squad Profile 2021 - 2022	Age Profile (31st Dec 2021)
6 sailors by Welsh Topper ranking (based on the Primary event above)	Under 15
Any number of places on the discretion of the Selection Committee. Preference may be given to younger sailors	Under 14
Further places in exceptional circumstances maybe awarded outside these criteria. These places will normally but not exclusively be awarded to girls	Under 16

For sailors in transition from a Junior class, the selectors will also be able to consider results from their previous class's international or national championships as a selection indicator.

WELSH NATIONAL ILCA SQUAD

Sailors who have gained places in RYA Youth Squads (no matter what age) will automatically qualify for a place in the Welsh National Youth Sailing Squad

Places in the Welsh National Squad will be based on a sailor's results from the following events:

ILCA4 :-

Primary Events	ILCA Qualifier, Sunderland SC – 25-26 th September 2021
Secondary Events	ILCA National Championships, WPNSA – 14-18 th August 2021
We may also look at	Welsh Youth & Junior Championships, Plas Heli – 12-13 th June 2021 Past results and feedback from coaches will also be considered

ILCA 6&7:-

Primary Events	RYA Youth National Championships, Plymouth – 9-12 th August 2021
Secondary	ILCA Qualifier, Sunderland SC – 25-26 th September 2021
We may also look at	Welsh Youth & Junior Championships, Plas Heli – 12-13 th June 2021 ILCA National Championships, WPNSA – 14-18 th August 2021 Past results and feedback from coaches will also be considered

Potential applicants should make every effort to attend the indicator event(s). Please be aware that there is no guarantee that any Discretionary places will be awarded.

ILCA4

Squad Profile 2021 - 2022	Age Profile (31 st Dec 2021)
6 places by Welsh Ranking (based on the Primary event above)	Under 15
Any number of places on the discretion of the Selection Committee. Preference maybe given to younger sailors	Under 14
Further places in exceptional circumstances maybe awarded outside this criteria. These places will normally but not exclusively be awarded to girls.	Under 16

ILCA6&7

Squad Profile 2021 - 2022	Age Profile (31 st Dec 2021)
6 places by Welsh Ranking (based on the Primary event above)	Under 19
Any number of places on the discretion of the Selection Committee. Preference maybe given to younger sailors	Under 19
Further places in exceptional circumstances maybe awarded outside this criteria. These places will normally but not exclusively be awarded to girls.	Under 19

Discretionary Places

For sailors in transition from a Junior class, the selectors will also be able to consider results from their previous class's international or national championships as a selection indicator.

WELSH NATIONAL 420 SQUADS

Sailors who have gained places in RYA Youth Squads (no matter what age) will automatically qualify for a place in the Welsh National Youth Sailing Squad. RYA Cymru Wales are keen to support gender balance and as such will consider mixed pairings for the 420 class.

420

Primary Events	RYA Youth National Championships, Plymouth – 9-12 th August 2021
Secondary	420 National Championships, Pwllheli – 25-26 th September 2021
We may also look at	Past results and feedback from coaches will also be considered

Potential applicants should make every effort to attend the indicator event(s). Please be aware that there is no guarantee that any Discretionary places will be awarded.

Squad Profile 2021 - 2022	Age Profile (31st Dec 2021)
6 places by Welsh Ranking (based on the Primary event above)	Under 19
Any number of places on the discretion of the Selection Committee. Preference maybe given to younger sailors	Under 19
Further places in exceptional circumstances maybe awarded outside this criteria. These places will normally but not exclusively be awarded to girls.	Under 19

Discretionary Places

For sailors in transition from a Junior class, the selectors will also be able to consider results from their previous class's international or national championships as a selection indicator.

WELSH NATIONAL 29er SQUADS

Sailors who have gained places in RYA Youth Squads (no matter what age) will automatically qualify for a place in the Welsh National Youth Sailing Squad. RYA Cymru Wales are keen to support gender balance and as such will consider mixed pairings for the 29er class.

29er

Primary Events	RYA Youth National Championships, Plymouth – 9-12 th August 2021
Secondary	29er National Championships, Largs SC – 24-31 st July 2021
We may also look at	Past results and feedback from coaches will also be considered

Potential applicants should make every effort to attend the indicator event(s). Please be aware that there is no guarantee that any Discretionary places will be awarded.

Squad Profile 2021 - 2022	Age Profile (31st Dec 2021)
6 places by Welsh Ranking (based on the Primary event above)	Under 19
Any number of places on the discretion of the Selection Committee. Preference maybe given to younger sailors	Under 19
Further places in exceptional circumstances maybe awarded outside this criteria. These places will normally but not exclusively be awarded to girls.	Under 19

Discretionary Places

For sailors in transition from a Junior class, the selectors will also be able to consider results from their previous class's international or national championships as a selection indicator.

How to Apply for Welsh National Junior and Youth Squads

Sailors wishing to be considered for any Junior or Youth National Squad should complete an online application form at [Racing \(rya.org.uk\)](http://Racing.rya.org.uk). It is expected that online entries will open in September 2021.

Welsh National Squads Benefits and Sailors Commitments

Sailors selected to join RYA Cymru Wales National Squads will access a range of benefits:

- National squad training weekends run by a high level class coach
- Access to squad clothing
- Support at selected national events
- Access to travel grants for attending squad training
- Possibility of application to further grants
- Possible selection to Welsh teams such as Eric Twiname event.
- Support to gain coaching qualifications
- Access to sports science support
- Opportunity to make friends for life

In return sailors must:

- Attend all the national squad training weekends (normally spread over weekends between October and June). There will be no refunds for non-attendance unless agreed with Performance Manager (Wales) in advance or due to exceptional circumstance, bereavement, injury with medical note etc.
- Pay all squad fees and any other fees within the programme timeframe*
- Become a member of the RYA.
- Commit to the agreed training programme
- Commit to the competition programme agreed by the Performance Manager (Wales) 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 programme. Fees can be paid in instalments by arrangement.***

WELSH YOUTH AND JUNIOR ACADEMY AND POST YOUTH SUPPORT

Exceptional sailors may be invited by the selectors to join the Welsh Youth and Junior Academy. The Welsh Sailing Youth and Junior Academy is for sailors who have the potential to win medals at National and International Junior, Youth & Senior competition in time. The Academy is open for selection at various times but the main entry point will be in the autumn.

As guidance the Academy will typically be made up of sailors who have several of the following characteristics:

- Been in a Junior or Youth class for more than a year.
- Showing significant potential to medal at National and International events.
- Been selected for the GBR Youth Squad for winter 2021/2022 or showing significant potential to be selected in 2021
- Finished the previous year within the top 10% or top 10 whichever is smaller in the UK gender rankings for that class.
- Can demonstrate high levels of talent, work ethic and desire for improvement.
- Represented GBR at World or European Championships.

The Academy will support those sailors with;

- Additional Training camps
- Tailored small group training time in their local area with Academy Coaches.
- Training in wider factions of the sport such as rules and match racing.
- Agreed training plans to address training and lifestyle needs.
- Event support at major championships and where suitable International competition.
- Equipment Support.
- On-going benefits such as travel grants, Gym access, clothing etc.
- Additional fitness support over the winter

The exact structure of each Academy package will vary to maximise the effectiveness of the support to allow each sailor to make maximum progress.

Post Youth – Pursuing Podium/Podium Potential Squad

Consideration will also be given to applications for support from sailors who have shown an exceptional track record as a youth sailor (e.g. Podium finish at World or European events) who are not selected into the RYA's Olympic Pathway at the end of their youth sailing careers. Sailors must be actively pursuing selection within one of the Olympic classes. Support will be for a maximum of two years. The exact structure of each sailor's package will vary to maximise the effectiveness of any support to allow each sailor to make maximum progress.

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee shall comprise of the Performance Manager (Wales), the Head Coach of the class and Regional Head Coaches (if applicable).

Selections will be subject to the approval of the RYA Cymru Wales Performance Sub Committee.

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

Status

RYA Cymru Wales' 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.

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