



IOCA(UK)/GBR 2023 Teams Selection Policy

1. Introduction

This document sets out the selection policy and processes for:

1. Inviting sailors to the Selection Trials
2. Inviting sailors to participate in one of the IOCA(UK)/GBR teams

This policy also outlines the responsibilities of individuals involved in the selection process and the appeals process.

2. Purpose of the Selection Process

The primary purpose of the selection process is to select the best sailors to represent IOCA(UK)/GBR at the Optimist World Championships and European Championships. The secondary purpose is to select for additional teams to give sailors, with the greatest potential to represent IOCA(UK)/GBR in subsequent World and European Championships, the experience of being in a team at an international event. In addition, the results of the Selection Trials may also be used to select sailors for other teams, or training opportunities, that arise later in the year.

3. IOCA(UK)/GBR Teams

In 2023, the following Teams are planned (dates include training days)

- The World Championship Team, to compete in the IODA World Championships on the Costa Brava, Spain from 10th to 25th June 2023
- The European Championship Team, to compete in the IODA European Championships in Thessaloniki, Greece from 9th to 22nd July 2023
- The Development Team 1, to compete in the IODA Asian & Oceanian Championship in Abu Dhabi, UAE from 24th October to 5th November 2023. Please note that this Championship is not yet confirmed as the destination for Dev 1 as it is dependent on places being confirmed by the Organising Authority and an assessment of costs. These will be known before the Selection Trials and this policy updated accordingly.
- The Development Team 2, to compete in the Optimist Gold Cup in Monfalcone, Italy from 24th to 30th July, 2023

- The Development Team 3, to compete in the French Nationals in Perros-Guirec, Brittany, France from 13th to 21st July, 2023
- The Junior Team to compete in the Irish National Championships in Ballyholme from 15th to 20th August 2023
- The Venice Team Racing Team, to compete in the XXXIV Trofeo Marco Rizzotti - International Optimist Class Team Race, in Venice, Italy from 9th to 14th May 2023
- An individual sailor to compete in the Garda Country Cup held immediately before the Lake Garda Optimist Meeting in Italy on 5th April 2023

It should be noted that all team members and their families must make a significant commitment in terms of time and cost to take part in these teams. Development Team 3 and the Junior Team going to Ireland are not residential teams and require parents to take their children. For more details about the terms and conditions for each team including the event dates and venues, training dates and associated costs, please refer to the relevant factsheets and participation contracts, which will be posted under the Teams tab on the Class website.

4. Eligibility for an IOCA(UK)/GBR Team place

1. To be eligible for an IOCA(UK)/GBR team place, sailors must:
 - a. be a member of IOCA(UK);
 - b. sail a GBR-registered boat at the Selection Trials; and
 - c. be a British national or ordinarily resident in the UK.
2. In addition, for the Worlds, Euros and Asian & Oceania Championships sailors must meet the IODA eligibility criteria, detailed in Section 10 of the [IODA Handbook](#), *“Sailors shall be either nationals or bona fide residents of the country they represent, unless otherwise agreed by the IODA Executive Committee. A sailor who has represented one country at an IODA World or Continental Championship shall not represent another country except in cases of alteration of residence, which cases shall be approved by the IODA Executive. As per [World Sailing Regulations Appendix 3](#), Item 19.6 (d), IODA events require competitors to have ‘World Sailing Eligibility’ as defined in Items 19.4 and 19.5.”*
3. Sailors must also meet the age requirements of the team:
 - a. for the World, European and Venice Teams, and the Garda Country Cup, be [IOCA age](#) 15 or under in the year of the event
 - b. for the Development Teams be IOCA age 12, 13 or 14 in the year of the event

- c. for the Junior Team be IOCA age 10, 11 or 12 in the year of the event

If you have any questions regarding your eligibility to represent GBR at international events, please contact the RYA Junior Racing Manager, chris.atherton@rya.org.uk for advice.

5. Invitation to the Selection Trials

The Selection Trials are an invitational event. Invitations will be sent in the days following the Spring Championships to the email address(s) of the parents/guardians recorded on the IOCA(UK) membership database. The following sailors will be invited to participate:

1. Sixty sailors, taken in descending rank order from the [IOCA\(UK\) Rolling Ranking](#) (updated after the Spring Championships on 18-19 March 2023). A sailor who is no longer participating actively in the Class, has been absent from racing an Optimist for a long period and/or has moved into another junior or youth class, should not assume they will automatically be invited to the Selection Trials.
2. A further 20 sailors will be invited at the discretion of the Selection Committee. Sailors wishing to be considered for a discretionary entry should follow the procedure outlined in Section 10.

In line with the IOCA(UK) Rolling Ranking [Policy](#), should Main Fleet sail fewer than three races at the Spring Championships, the event would not be included in the Rolling Ranking. Similarly, if the Spring Championships were not to take place. In either case, the Selection Committee would use the Rolling Ranking at the time, plus any available evidence, to decide which sailors to invite to the Selection Trials.

6. The Selection Trials

For the purposes of this policy, the results of the Selection Trials will be used as follows:

1. If six or more races are completed, the overall results will consist of all races completed with discards as per the NOR and SIs.
2. If fewer than six races are completed, the Selection Committee will make decisions based on the number of races sailed, the conditions sailed in and anything else they feel is necessary to support the stated purpose of the Selection Policy.

7. Team Selection

Selection of the teams will be made by the Selection Committee, who will select the highest placed eligible sailors in:

1. the Spring Championships, for the Irish Nationals Junior Team, Venice Team Racing Team and the Garda Country Cup
2. the Selection Trials, for the World, European and Development Teams 1, 2 and 3

The Selection Committee will follow the procedure outlined below, provided that in their opinion:

1. There are no discretionary requests which are worthy of being given exceptional consideration for inclusion within a relevant team;
2. Sailors satisfy the conditions laid out in Section 8.

For the avoidance of doubt the Selection Committee reserves the right not to select a sailor or sailors for a team.

Gender Quota

The primary purpose of this Selection Policy is to select sailors to compete in the World and European Championships and at the Euros, boys and girls compete in separate fleets. As a Class we need to ensure equity of access for boys and girls to our development teams, to ensure we can continue to field strong teams for the Euros and to prepare our most talented sailors for the future – Olympic sailing teams are 50:50 by gender.

Sailors will normally be offered places as follows:

- **Worlds Team** - The five highest placed eligible sailors in the Selection Trials regardless of gender. Sailors must be IOCA age 15 or under in the year of the event. Any sailor offered a place in the Worlds Team may opt instead to take a place on the Europeans Team.
- **Europeans Team** - As boys and girls compete in separate fleets at the European Championships we are required to select a Euros team as follows. Once the Worlds Team places have been determined the Euros Team will be selected from the remaining eligible sailors. The next three highest placed girls and the next three highest placed boys will be offered places. If a sailor declines a place, then a sailor of the same gender will be offered a place until six sailors meeting the gender quotas have accepted, then the next highest placed sailor of either gender will complete the team of seven. Sailors must be IOCA age 15 or under in the year of the event. Any sailor offered a place in the Euros Team may opt instead to take a

place on one of the Development Teams, subject to fulfilling the age requirements and at the discretion of the Selection Committee.

- **Development Team 1** - once the World and Euros teams have been determined this team will be selected from the remaining eligible sailors. Sailors are eligible where they are IOCA age 12, 13 or 14 on the 31st December 2023; intend to continue to sail an Optimist competitively until at least the Selection Trials 2024 and have not accepted a place in the 2023 World or Euros teams. The six highest placed sailors, with a minimum of two sailors of each gender will normally be offered places. Sailors who have been on a previous year's Worlds or Euros team will only be eligible for Development Team 1 at the discretion of the Selection Committee.
- **Development Team 2** - once the World, European and Development Team 1 teams have been determined this team will be selected from the remaining eligible sailors. Sailors are eligible where they are IOCA age 12, 13 or 14 on the 31st December 2023; intend to continue to sail an Optimist competitively until at least the Selection Trials 2024 and have not accepted a place in the 2023 World or European teams, or Dev 1. The eight highest placed sailors with a minimum of two sailors of each gender will normally be offered places. Sailors who have been on a previous year's Worlds or Europeans team will only be eligible for Development Team 2 at the discretion of the Selection Committee.
- **Development Team 3** - once the World, Euros and Development Team 1 and 2 teams have been determined this Team will be selected from the remaining eligible sailors. Sailors are eligible where they are IOCA age 12, 13 or 14 on the 31st December 2023; intend to continue to sail an Optimist competitively until at least the Selection Trials 2024 and have not accepted a place in the 2023 World or European teams, Dev 1 or Dev 2. The 16 highest placed sailors with a minimum of four sailors of each gender will normally be offered places. Sailors who have been on a previous year's Worlds or Europeans team will only be eligible for the Development Team 3 at the discretion of the Selection Committee
- **Irish Nationals Junior Team** - this team will be selected from the Main Fleet results of the 2023 IOCA Spring Championship. All sailors of IOCA age 10, 11 or 12 in the year of the event are eligible. The 16 highest placed sailors with a minimum of five sailors of each gender will normally be offered places. In the event the Spring Championship does not take place, Junior Team places will be offered at the discretion of the Selection Committee. A sailor may accept a place on the Junior Team and, if invited, compete in the Selection Trials. If they are successful in the Selection Trials and are offered a place in another team (Worlds, Euros, Dev 1, 2 or

3), they may decide to relinquish their place in the Junior Team but they cannot accept both.

- **Venice Team Racing Team** - the four highest placed sailors from the Main Fleet results of the 2023 IOCA(UK) Spring Championships will be invited. Accepting a place in the Venice Team Racing Team will not preclude a sailor from accepting a place in another team.
- **Garda Country Cup** - among the eligible sailors competing in the Lake Garda Optimist Meeting on 6th to 9th April 2023, the sailor ranked highest in the Rolling Ranking (updated after the Spring Championships) will be invited to also compete in the Country Cup on 5th April 2023. Accepting the place in the Country Cup will not preclude the sailor from accepting a place in another team.

On completion of the Selection Trials, no sailor should assume that they have a place in any team until the sailors placed above them have decided which team they will elect to join.

It should be noted that it might not be possible to fully select all teams at the Selection Trials, due to the length of time it can take to finalise teams. In this situation, the Selection Committee will notify sailors by phone or email as soon as possible. To accept a place in a team, sailors and their parents/guardians must sign and accept the terms and conditions of the team.

The parents/guardians of selected sailors will be asked to pay a substantial portion of their parental contribution as a commitment of intent on the final day of the Selection Trials. This will be part payment towards the full parental contribution for each team. No part of the parental contribution is refundable, except in exceptional circumstances.

8. Suspension and Termination

Continued membership of any Team will normally be dependent upon:

- Satisfactory performance by the sailor, which is reviewed on a regular basis;
- Conformance with the relevant terms and conditions, codes of conduct/ethics that may be laid down or recognized by the sport/class from time to time;
- Conformance with programme requirements, policies and procedures and reasonable IOCA(UK) requests;
- Attendance at designated training sessions, fitness tests, and preparation regattas

Notwithstanding the above, IOCA(UK) reserves the right at its absolute discretion to suspend or terminate membership from a Team at any time and for any reason.

9. The IOCA(UK) Selection Committee

The role of the Selection Committee is to ensure that the selection process is fair, ensure all procedures are followed and to consider requests for discretionary invitations/places. The Selection Committee will comprise the following individuals, none of whom have eligible children within the class:

- Chair of the Selection Committee, nominated by IOCA(UK), David Campbell-James
- A representative of the RYA - currently Tim Hall, the RYA Midlands Regional Performance Manager and Optimist Liaison Officer.
- An Independent, National Race Official or National Race Coach, nominated by the IOCA(UK) Committee, currently Alan Williams

Members of the Selection Committee (or their appointed representatives) will attend the Selection Trials to inform decisions on any discretionary team places. The Selection Committee may extend the selection process if they judge it necessary.

10. Applications for Discretionary Invitations / Places

A sailor may apply to be considered by the Selection Committee for a discretionary invitation to the Selection Trials and/or a discretionary place in a team. Principally, but not exclusively, this would apply to:

- Sailors who had a very good result in the Spring Championships but had not sailed in enough Main Fleet events to be ranked in the top 60 of the Rolling Ranking.
- Sailors who were unable to attend the Spring Championships for a reason beyond their control.
- Sailors who were invited but unable to attend the Selection Trials for a reason beyond their control.
- Sailors who would like to make the Selection Committee aware of any exceptional circumstances / factors which were relevant to their case.

An application for a discretionary invitation / place, including any relevant details, must be made by emailing the Chair of the Selection Committee, David Campbell-James campbelljames@btinternet.com by either:

- 1) 5pm on Wednesday 22nd March 2023, in relation to a discretionary invitation to the Selection Trials, or a discretionary place in the Irish Nationals Junior Team, Venice Team Racing Team or the Garda Country Cup.
- 2) The expiry of protest time on the final day of the Selection Trials, Monday 1st May 2023, in relation to a discretionary place in the Worlds, Europeans or Dev 1-3 teams.

In the case of illness or injury a note from a doctor or hospital should be included.

Applications will be reviewed by the Selection Committee and invitations / places may be offered to sailors who fail to achieve automatic invitation / selection. When assessing applications, the Selection Committee may take into consideration the following factors:

- Exceptional circumstances affecting results
- Performance in previous IOCA(UK) events
- IOCA(UK) Rolling Ranking
- Performance in other significant domestic or international events
- Age and potential
- Attitude and behavior throughout the series
- Goals and aspirations
- Height and weight
- Other factors the Selection Committee considers appropriate.

To inform their decisions the Selection Committee may consult with the RYA Regional Performance Managers and the relevant RYA Regional Training Group and Home Country Lead Coaches.

11. Selection Practice

The Selection Committee therefore has the discretion to determine:

- 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 own expertise and experience
- Be impartial and objective

- Rely on their own observations of the competitors and, where appropriate, observations made by other individuals, such as class coaches

By entering the Spring Championships and/or Selection Trials competitors agree that the Selectors have such discretions.

12. Appeals

There will be no appeals against the published selection criteria or the actions of the Selectors, provided they follow the selection policy. By entering the Spring Championships and/or Selection Trials sailors agree to this condition. The grounds for appeal may not include any alleged error of judgment of the Selectors and are limited to allegations of:

- Failure to follow due process
- Bias/undue influence
- Some other misconduct

Should an appeal still arise then the process will be managed by the RYA, following the [RYA Racing Department Appeals Policy](#). Notice of intention to appeal should be submitted and addressed to the Racing Operations Manager, Olivia Risk, by email racing@rya.org.uk as soon as reasonably practical and in any event within 7 days of the selection or deselection being announced. The appeal shall be submitted in full within 14 days of the selection or deselection being announced.

Version control

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1.1 change of start date for Venice Team Racing from 11th to 9th April 2023