

UK 29er Class Academy

The aim of the UK 29er Class Academy is to provide the highest standard of class specific coaching to 29er sailors in the UK. In order to achieve this we create and select squads across the range of ability and also provide open training.

Squad Structure

The class intends to run two training squads through the winter of 2021 / 2022 along with open training. Please read on to understand the differences between each squad, which to apply for and considerations that the current pandemic may still require of us.

Class National Squad

Class National Squad is for the development of **high performing teams** that did not make selection into the RYA Youth Squad. The squad is typically comprised of 12 teams with a performance-based selection as described in the Selection Policy.

Class Development Squad

Class Development Squad is for **transitioning teams** typically in their first year or first full season of racing in the class showing greatest potential to develop; the squad is usually comprised of 12 teams with selection based on their performance and potential.

Open Training

Open training is accessible to all members of the UK 29er Class Association and the training is geared at the ability range of the applicants as determined by the Class Head Coach.

COVID-19 – A word of caution...

Even though the current coronavirus pandemic seems to be abating and life as we know it has started to return, we are still putting together a forward plan that may need to change at short notice. The structure outlined above will only run on the basis that we can continue do it safely and effectively.

As the pandemic situation continues during the planned training period it may still be necessary to reschedule some training camps and even cease and restructure our training programme part way through the season.

We may also encounter situations where the normal timescales for notifying participants of changes are compromised: If we continue to be restricted to working outside and cannot train, brief and run sessions indoors then we are unable to fall back to classroom based learning in the event of poor weather. We could therefore be required to cancel training at very short notice and subject to weather forecasts. Similarly, the risk still remains of regional and national lockdowns which may also force us to reschedule, search for a new venue or even cancel planned training at short notice.

Even though we seem to be at the tail end of the pandemic All applicants / participants are still advised to consider these factors when making plans to attend class training. Participants will be expected to follow Government guidance and consider whether they are safe to travel and to attend class training. While the class will do its best to minimise disruption, we will be led in the first instance by the Government and the RYA and from there the local clubs and centres that we are working with. Plans may change at very short notice both as a result changing guidance and advice, nationally and regionally, as well as due to factors such as the weather.

Selection Policy 2021 / 2022

1. Eligibility

To be eligible for selection, sailors must be full and up to date members of the UK 29er Class Association.

Selection to the UK 29er Class Academy is conditional upon:

- Participation with the sailing partner with whom you applied and subsequently qualified through the UK 29er Class Academy indicator events
- Full commitment to the programme unless approved by the Class Association training Selection Committee.

2. Selection Practice

The Selection Committee is appointed by the UK 29er Class Chair and will normally comprise the following people:

- UK 29er Class Training Co-Ordinator
- UK 29er Class Lead Coach
- At least one other member of the UK Class Association Committee (excluding the Class Secretary and the Class Chair).

Where the Selection Committee have eligible children applying for squads any selection of those sailors will be ratified by the Class Chair or Class Secretary for adherence to Selection Process.

The UK 29er Class squads will be selected annually at the winter selection point, usually in October and then again reviewed in January.

Selection is at the discretion of the Selection Committee and based upon meeting the sailing performances required in the specified indicator events from which there are normally places allocated on the basis of results and the discretion of the Selection Committee.

3. Selection Process

Selection of the sailors for inclusion in the UK 29er Class Squads will be determined by the Selection Committee. Their remit is to select sailors in order to best fulfil the aims of the Class Academy. All selections are made at the discretion of the Selection Committee. The process the Selection Committee will normally follow to select the squads is:

- A number of places normally allocated by the Selection Committee based upon the highest ranked eligible sailors at the indicator event(s) using the indicative number of result based places listed below.
- Further places may be allocated by the Selection Committee based upon the indicative number of additional places listed below; derived either through results based selection or selection criteria outlined in Section 4.

Squad	Indicator Event	Additional Indicators	Indicative Squad Size	Indicative Places	
				Results Based	Additional
Class National Squad (Girls)	Combined result from GP1 & GP2 (main fleet)	RYA Youth Nationals UK Class Rolling Ranking	6	3	3
Class National Squad (Boys)	Combined result from GP1 & GP2 (main fleet)	RYA Youth Nationals UK Class Rolling Ranking	6	3	3
Class Development Squad	Performance at GP1 (Development Fleet)	Other indicators as outlined in Section 4: Selection Criteria	12	2	4
	Performance at GP2 (Development Fleet)			2	4

At the review points the Selection Committee may select sailors to join the UK 29er Class Academy Squads at that point in the programme and may also backfill places in the Squads if positions become available during the training period.

The process that the Selection Committee will normally follow to review sailors is:

- Results progression.
- Continued engagement with the UK 29er Class Academy training programme.
- Adherence to the Eligibility Criteria.

4. Selection Criteria

The Selection Committee have full discretion within the remit of fulfilling the programme aims when making their selections. The Selection Committee will normally use one or more of the following criteria to select sailors:

- Performance at the Indicator events.
- Performance at Additional Indicator event(s).
- Performance at other UK 29er Class events.
- Performance at a significant International 29er regatta.
- Performance at UK 29er Class open training.
- Performance in previous classes and UK Class Association / RYA Squads.
- Attitude and behaviour at the UK 29er Class events and during previous training.
- Coach feedback.
- Mitigating Factors affecting results.

- Anticipated squad dynamics and expected levels of capability across the squad.

5. Appeals

No legal action may be taken arising from a decision made by the Selection Committee. Any appeal relating to the selection process should be sent to and reviewed by the class Chair.

6. Status

The UK Class Association policies and procedures are subject to change from time to time and the Class reserves the right to amend, supplement and/or discontinue at its absolute discretion, for whatever reason, any or all of its policies and procedures.

7. UK 29er Class Squad Composition

The table detailed in section 4 (Selection Process) outlines the indicative squad sizes. For the avoidance of doubt, all selections, squad sizes and composition will be determined by the Selection Committee, however this document outlines the clear intent of the Selection Committee and the principles they follow.

Whilst there is no specific open team criteria, mixed teams will be considered for selection against the performance of the all boy or all girl boats at the discretion of the Selectors.

The Class will take all reasonable steps to ensure that a sailor who has a genuine and serious desire to identify in a different gender to that assigned at birth is able to participate in the Class Academy programme appropriate to their self-identified gender. For more information on the UK 29er Class Safeguarding & Equality policy please contact the Class Safeguarding and Equality lead.

8. Application

Sailors who wish to be considered for a place in any of the UK 29er Class Academy Squads must apply online via the UK 29er 'Our Club Admin' website.

Applicants will be notified in writing (by email) as soon as is practically possible after the completion of the final indicator event and in the case of the Class National Squad, after the RYA Youth Squad has been selected.

9. Further Information

For further information please initially contact the UK 29er Class Association Training Officer via training.officer@29ersailing.org.uk.

You can also go to <http://www.29er.org.uk> and you can follow class news and information on Facebook by following "29er UK Class Association".