



Northwest ILCA Squad

Overview

Version: Spring 2024

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Introduction

Aims of the Program

“For the advancement of sailing in the Pacific Northwest.”



“ Focused on youth sailing at all levels, but with a special focus on racing, we believe sailing as an activity offers a unique medium for personal growth and enrichment. The joy of sailing and sailboat racing should be enjoyed by the many, not the few. Our Youth Sailing Initiative is centred around four key elements... Racing, Outreach, Organization, and Training.”



“The aim of this squad is to provide supplementary support to top sailors from clubs in the Pacific Northwest region. This squad is designed to create a team environment that will help sailors transition into national youth teams and the US Sailing Olympic Development Programs.”

Program Overview

Squad Structure:

- The squad will be selected in September.
- There will be 6 squad camps October through May at intervals of approximately 5-6 weeks.
- The squad camps will typically be 2 days over a weekend, although we will aim to have one longer squad camp.

Squad Composition:

- The team will consist of up to 12 sailors; with as close to 50:50 split as possible between genders.
- The team will be led by a head coach and The Sailing Foundation.
- An assistant coach will be brought in who may be from outside the region to provide expertise, and an assistant will be brought in from the region to provide mentorship.
- Balance will be sought among ILCA 4, 6, and 7 sailors in order to provide long-term squad development and stability.

Squad Calendar and Annual Cycle

1. Sailors should **apply** to join the squad (June - August).
 - a. An online application will be available through The Sailing Foundation website.
2. The **Northwest Youth Racing Circuit** will form the foundations of the selection process, and sailors wishing to apply to the squad should aim to complete the series.
3. The Northwest Youth Sailing **Squad will be announced** mid September and must formally register and **accept their position** by September 30th.
 - a. At announcement Sailors will be provided with:
 - i. Squad Training Schedule
 - ii. What events will be supported
 - iii. Level of event support available
 - iv. Squad fees
4. Second round selections will be announced by October 1; these sailors must formally register and accept their position by October 15.
5. Squad trainings will take place approximately every 5-6 weeks throughout the winter and spring, and the location will rotate through clubs in the area.

Squad Code of Conduct:

1. Sailors will participate in the Northwest Youth Racing Circuit.
2. Sailors will attend all squad training camps.
3. Sailors will attend their “home” youth sailing practices.
 - a. 100% attendance will be required for programs that are <2 weeks in length.
 - b. 80% attendance will be required for programs that are 2-5 weeks in length.
 - c. 75% attendance will be required for programs that are over 5 weeks in length.
4. Sailors will participate in a second, chosen sport outside of sailing to support their development as an athlete.
5. Sailors will conduct themselves in a way that reflects their position as a youth athlete on a regional team. This includes:
 - a. Developing a culture of excellence on a personal and squad level.
 - b. Taking personal responsibility for performance and outcomes.
 - c. Optimizing equipment, physical fitness, mental fitness, wellbeing, and partnerships which facilitate performance.
 - d. Approaching the sport with curiosity.
 - e. Treating everyone and the opportunities provided with respect.
 - f. Having fun!
6. Breaking this Code of Conduct by a guardian or sailor will be grounds for immediate expulsion from the squad with no refunds.

Applications

Eligibility

Any selection is subject to the prior compliance to and on-going conformance to any standards, expectations, charters, and codes of conduct laid down by The Sailing Foundation and its representatives and is conditional upon:

- a. Full commitment to the program unless specific permission has been granted.
- b. Continuing to satisfy the eligibility criteria.
- c. Attending and engaging with profiling as set by Squad Coaches.
- d. Adherence to the terms and conditions within the squad contract.
- e. Exhibiting behaviors consistent with The Sailing Foundation values.

Age - The candidate should be U19 on the 31st of December 2024.

Region - Member of a youth sailing program in either Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, or Alaska.

Sex/Gender - The Sailing Foundation will take all reasonable steps to ensure that a sailor who has a genuine and serious desire to identify in a different gender to the sex that was assigned at birth is able to participate in the squad as their self-identified gender.

Application Process

Applications will be available via the [Northwest Youth Sailing website](#).

- Applications open on June 1, 2024
- Applications close on August 31, 2024
- A coach reference is required with application.
- First round of invitations will be sent mid-September.
- Formal registration and spot acceptance due: September 30.
- Second round of invitations will be sent October 1.
- Formal registration and spot acceptance of second round invitees will be due on October 15.

Selection

Selection Process

The Sailing Foundation will assemble a selection committee.

The selection committee will be asked to use the established selection criteria. However, there will be an allowance for the selection committee to use their discretion to determine how to apportion the different criteria and to decide on the priority requirements in making their decision within the remit of fulfilling the program aims.

The selection committee therefore has the discretion to determine:

- The size of the squad, taking into account the indicated squad size.
- Which of the criteria and to what proportion these criteria are taken into account.
- Who to select.
- Not to make any selection, or to select less than the indicated squad size

In making their decisions and exercising their discretions, the selection committee is expected to:

- Use their own expertise and experience.
- Rely on their own observations of the competitors, together with the observations made by other individuals, such as class coaches, other support staff, and class representatives.
- Have regard to the program aims.

By entering an event or activity that is part of a selection series, the competitors agree that the selection committee have such discretions.

Selection Criteria

- **Performance at NWYRC Series.**
- Reports from coaches and class associations.
- Any other factors the selectors consider relevant to fulfilling the program aims, including long term squad development.
- Performance at other events.
- Age, strength, and size.
- Attitude and behavior at the events in the series and during previous training.
- Mitigating factors affecting results.
- Class ranking lists.

Appeals

No legal action may be taken arising from a decision made by the selectors.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This policy document sets out Northwest Youth Sailing Appeals Policy for the selection of a sailor into, or deselection from one of The Sailing Foundation's Racing Squads.
- 1.2. This policy shall not apply to exclusion from squads or events or termination of athlete agreements or termination of participation agreements where such exclusion or termination is for disciplinary reasons.

2. Process

- 2.1. Notice of intention to appeal should be submitted and addressed to the Youth Sailing Director via ysd@thesailingfoundation.org 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.
- 2.2. The appeal shall take the form of a written statement from the prospective appellant detailing all relevant reasons.
- 2.3. The selectors will be invited to comment, in writing, on the prospective appellant's written statement.
- 2.4. The validity of the appeal will be determined as soon as reasonably practicable, as follows:
 - 2.4.1. Initial scrutiny of an appeal shall be conducted by a relevant Race Officer and shall be known for this purpose as the "Appeal Scrutineer". The purpose of the scrutiny of an appeal shall be to decide whether the written statement from the prospective appellant identifies valid grounds for appeal.
 - 2.4.2. The grounds for appeal are limited to allegations of:
 - Failure to follow the applicable selection policy
 - Failure to take into account relevant considerations or taking into account irrelevant considerations
 - Bias
 - Decisions made in bad faith, dishonestly and/or in a perverse manner
 - 2.4.3. The criteria for appeal may not include:
 - any alleged error of judgement of the selectors
 - where relevant, any alleged error of judgement of coaches

- errors in the published selection criteria

2.4.4. Should the Appeal Scrutineer determine that the written statement from the prospective appellant identifies no potential grounds for appeal, the Appeal Scrutineer shall dismiss the appeal and the selection will stand. The decision will be made in writing.

2.4.5. Should the Appeal Scrutineer determine that the written statement from the prospective appellant identifies potential grounds for appeal, the Appeal Scrutineer shall refer the matter to the appropriate appeal panel as set out below.

4. Squad Selection/Deselection

4.1. Should the Appeal Scrutineer determine that a squad selection/deselection appeal has valid grounds for appeal, the appeal shall be considered as follows:

- 4.1.1. The appeal panel shall be a panel of volunteers appointed by the “Appeal Scrutineer”
- 4.1.2. The appeal will be dealt with by written submissions only, without the opportunity for personal representation

5. Outcome

5.1. Should the appeal panel dismiss the appeal, the selection decision shall stand.

5.2. Until the outcome of the appeal is decided, The Sailing Foundation will refrain from publishing the selection decision further (unless the relevant event will take place before the appeal can be heard) and will continue to support the preparation of the selected sailor(s), but will not support preparation of sailors who have either not been selected or have been deselected (as the case may be).

5.3. Decisions by an appeal panel shall be final