



## **Irish Sailing Youth National Championships & IODAI Teams Selection Policy**

Irish Sailing's Youth National Championships ('the Youth Nationals') are held in Spring every year. A variety of different classes participate over three or four days. They form part of the section process for the World Sailing Youth Worlds, IODAI Team selection, Irish Sailing National Squads and also as an indicator, amongst other events, for the Irish Sailing Academy.

For the Optimist class, unlike the IODAI National and Regional Championships the fleet is not separated into Junior and Senior divisions for this reason and because of the timing of the event, Bronze Fleet sailors are not encouraged to participate.

Sailors must qualify in order to be eligible to participate at the Youth Nationals. Based on the results of the sailors at the Youth Nationals, IODAI Teams to participate at the World Championships, European Championships and for the Irish Development Team will be chosen.

### **Eligibility for Irish Sailing Youth National Championships**

1. A sailor must be eligible to take up an IODAI National Team place.
2. A sailor must have acquired a ranking by sailing in a minimum of the National Championships and two Regional events. A sailor's ranking is scored based on the sum of the sailor's National Championship place and the sailor's two best regional results, excluding non-Irish sailors. The sailor must have sailed in the Regional and National Championships for those places to count towards ranking.
3. Sailors representing Ireland as a member of an IODAI National Team will be given an average placing in a regional event missed due to an international team competition.
4. Medical exemptions are considered on an individual basis and do not count towards the cap.
5. Based on the previous years rankings, the top sailors (and ties) in senior fleet, excluding the sailors who have aged out and the top sailors (and ties) in junior fleet are invited to participate in the Youth Nationals. The number of top sailors eligible to attend at the Youth Nationals will be published annually based on fleet sizes during the season.



## Team Eligibility

6. IDT places are not open to sailors who have previously represented IODAI at a Worlds or European event or as a previous member of that IDT.
7. A sailor must be Optimist age 12 or over to compete in the Worlds, Europeans or International Development Team events.
8. An optimist sailor is eligible to be on an IODAI Team, if they satisfy at least one of the following:
  - Holds an Irish passport, or are born in Ireland or Northern Ireland
  - Have a parent or parents born in Ireland or Northern Ireland
  - Have a grandparent or grandparents born in Ireland or Northern Ireland
  - Have been living in Ireland with their family for 2 consecutive years prior to the team selection event which is currently Irish Sailing Youth Nationals.
9. Sailors who have represented another country in the past can represent Ireland on a national team provided they are eligible based on the above criteria. For Worlds and European teams this would be subject to any necessary approval from IODA .

## Team Selection

10. Team Selection will be based on the results achieved at the Youth Nationals and full compliance with such terms as IODAI may require.
11. As soon as possible after final results have been posted, sailors will be offered places on the various teams. This will start in order from the first placed finisher and will complete when all team places are filled (subject to paragraph 16 requirements).
12. At the end of the Youth Nationals, regardless of gender, the first five placed sailors will be offered places on the Worlds team. A sailor who finishes in the top five at Youth Nationals can elect to sail on the European team, but not on an Irish Development Team ("IDT").



13. If a top five sailor elects to sail on the European team, his or her place on the Worlds team will be offered to another sailor, so the original sailor cannot change his or her mind. The sixth placed sailor will then be offered a place on the Worlds team. This process will continue until all of the places on the Worlds team are filled. Places on the Europeans team will only be offered to sailors once all of the places on the Worlds team have been accepted.
14. If a sailor “drops down” to the European team, he or she will rank at the top of the rankings for the next team (subject to other higher ranked sailors also “dropping down”). This is significant as there are gender quotas on the other two teams selected at Youth Nationals.
15. The European team will be made up of the next seven sailors with a maximum of four from one gender. Once again, a sailor who qualifies for the Europeans Team may elect to “drop down” to the IDT. If a sailor chooses to do so, that sailor will not be allowed to change his or her mind. That sailor will rank top of the rankings for the IDT, (subject to other higher ranked sailors also “dropping down”).
16. The IDT will be made up of the next 8 sailors with a minimum of 3 sailors from one gender.
17. In addition, there is the Under 12 team. This team is not selected at Youth Nationals. This team is selected after the final IODAI regional event in the previous year. This Team is made up of the top 12 sailors who are Optimist age 12 or less in the year following ranking. There is no requirement that an Under 12 Team sailor participate at the Youth Nationals. The Under 12 Team competes in the British Nationals.
18. In certain years, IODAI might not support a full Worlds team (e.g. where it is an outside Europe/Southern Hemisphere event). This will be made clear before Youth Nationals. In such years, Worlds entry will be facilitated solely for those sailors finishing in the top five. No “drop downs” will apply. An additional team (“Euro 2”) may be created which will comprise the next seven eligible sailors (with a minimum of two of one gender) after the European places are taken by those eligible. IDT places will be allocated after the Euro 2 team is filled.



## Selection and Placing Review Committee

19. In the event of a sailor being unable to compete in a number of races, an IODAI appointed Committee (the Selection and Placing Review Committee, SPRC) may, at their discretion, award him/her (a) average points for those races or (b) a place on a team. The SPRC will be chaired by a director of IODAI or a suitably independent and qualified person and consist of the chairman and 2 additional suitable independent and qualified persons.
20. It should be emphasized that this action will only be taken in regard to a sailor who, in the opinion of the SPRC, would have been one of the top performing sailors at the Youth Nationals as clearly demonstrated by their performance in the races in which they sailed.
21. It must be emphasised that the circumstances which prevent a sailor from competing will have to be compelling and absolute, and if appropriate, supported by such medical evidence as the SPRC may require.
22. The Optimist Dinghy Sailing Association of Ireland Limited reserves the right to change the selection process and eligibility rules, however once the first race is completed, this can only be done by the SPRC.

## Acceptance of Team Place

23. Places are accepted by signing up to the team membership rules and payment of team costs. Full team costs, paid by cheque or electronic transfer, are required within 3 banking days or as otherwise specified. The final cost may be more or less and a final balancing payment or refund will be made as soon as possible after the event.
24. Withdrawal or forfeiture of a team place will incur a penalty of 25% of the team costs, plus any expenses incurred by IODAI in reshuffling teams (e.g. flight change charges).
25. Indicative team costs will be outlined ahead of the Youth Nationals each year, dependent on location and timing.



26. Note that parents are not encouraged to travel to events with their sailors and are required to stay at accommodation other than that of the team if they do so. By accepting a place on a team, it is deemed that this requirement is also acceptable.

## Team Membership Rules

27. Continued membership of a team will be dependent upon conformance with the rules and behaviours and the team acceptance documentation, in particular:

- the Code of Conduct for sailors
- the Code of Conduct for parents and supporters

28. Conformance with the programme requirements and reasonable IODAI and IS requests including full participation as members of the team during the relevant championship event (this includes a commitment to stay at the nominated accommodation with other team members).

29. Attendance at designated training sessions, fitness tests and build-up regattas as part of the programme.

30. In the event of such default and forfeiture, expenses incurred by IODAI will be payable.