



Optimist Team Selection and Trials

QUALIFICATION FOR TRIALS

1. Sailors have to qualify for trials. Qualification for trials in any one year is based on a sailor's performance in the previous year's events.
2. To qualify for trials a sailor must sail in the Nationals and at least two regional events. A sailor is scored based on the sum of the sailor's national place and the sailor's two best regional results, excluding non-Irish sailors.
3. A sailor is given 3,000 points for a missed event.
4. After all sailors are given a score the top sailors (and ties) in senior fleet (who have all competed in Nationals and two regional events), excluding the sailors who have aged out and the top sailors (and ties) in junior fleet (who have all competed in Nationals and two regional events) are invited to trials. The number of top sailors invited to trials in each fleet will be published annually based on fleet sizes during the season.
5. Sailors representing Ireland as a member of a national team will be given an average placing in a regional event missed due to an international team competition.
6. Medical exemptions are considered on an individual basis and do not count towards the cap.

Teams Selection

7. The purpose of the Trials event is to select sailors to represent Ireland in International Events.
8. At the end of the trials, regardless of gender, the first five sailors will be offered places on the World team. A sailor who finishes in the top five at trials can elect to sail on the European team, but not on the Irish Development Team ("IDT").
9. 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.

10. 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 trials.
11. 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”).
12. The IDT will be made up of the next 8 sailors with a minimum of 3 sailors from one gender.
13. In addition, there is the Under 12 team. This is a parent led team which is supported by IODAI. This team is not selected at trials. This team is selected after the final IODAI regional event in the previous year. The sailors are selected based on the end of year ranking. This team is made up of the top 12 sailors who qualify for trials and are Optimist age 12 or younger in the year of the trials. The Under 12 Squad competes in the British Nationals.

Selection

14. Team Selection will be based on the results achieved at the Trials Event and full compliance with such terms as IODAI may require.
15. 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.
16. 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 in the Trials as clearly demonstrated by their performance in the races in Trials in which they sailed.

17. 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.
18. The Optimist Dinghy Sailing Association of Ireland Ltd reserve 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.
19. 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 finisher and will complete when all team places are filled (subject to paragraph 16 requirements).
20. IDT places are not open to sailors who have previously represented IODAI at a Worlds or European event or as a previous member of an IDT.
21. A sailor must be Optimist age 12 or over to compete the Worlds, Europeans or International Development Team events.

Team Membership Rules

22. Continued membership of a team will be dependent upon conformance with the rules and behaviours as described below and in the team acceptance documentation.
23. Conformance with the code of conduct for sailors and the code of conduct for parents and supporters.
24. 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).
25. Attendance at designated training sessions, fitness tests and build-up regattas as part of the programme.
26. In the event of such default and forfeiture, expenses incurred by IODAI will be payable.



Acceptance of Team Place

27. 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 24hrs 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.
28. 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).
29. Indicative team costs will be outlined ahead of Trials each year, dependent on location and timing.
30. Note that parents travelling to events are required to stay at accommodation other than that of the team. By accepting a place on a team it is deemed that this requirement is also acceptable.

Nationality Criteria

31. An optimist sailor is eligible to be on an IODAI Team, if they satisfy at least one of the following:
 - a. Holds an Irish passport, or are born in Ireland or Northern Ireland
 - b. Have a parent or parents born in Ireland or Northern Ireland
 - c. Have a grandparent or grandparents born in Ireland or Northern Ireland
 - d. Have been living in Ireland with their family for 2 consecutive years prior to the team selection event which is currently Trials.
32. Note, 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 .

IS Prize giving

33. Irish Sailing will award IS medals to the top three finishers at trials.