



ITCA (GBR) Regional Performance Squad (RPS) **Selection Policy 2025/26**

1. Introduction

This policy sets out the selection requirements and the responsibilities of individuals involved in the selection process for the ITCA (GBR) Regional Performance Squads.

2. Aim of the programme

The aim of ITCA (GBR) training is to facilitate skill development and progression, to increase the number of sailors participating in competitive Topper sailing, and to feed into the British Sailing Team and other senior development programmes.

ITCA (GBR) training is organised using a combination of ITCA (GBR) administrative and coaching support, in conjunction with parent volunteers, who give their time to support children's involvement in the sport.

3. Eligibility

In order to be eligible for the ITCA (GBR) Regional Performance Squad sailors should;

- I. Compete in the area Regional Championships, and the Traveller and open coaching day held in September.
- II. Be a member of ITCA (GBR)

3.1 ITCA (GBR) Regional Performance Squad Eligibility

In order to be eligible for the 2025/26 ITCA (GBR) Regional Performance Squad, sailors will be under 18.

If a sailor falls outside these parameters, then contact Vanessa Ripley - vicechair@itca-gbr.co.uk or Flip Dugdale - Development@itca-gbr.co.uk to discuss.

4. Selection Committee

The ITCA (GBR) Regional Performance Squad Selection Committee will comprise of the following people:

ITCA (GBR) Regional Area Representative
ITCA (GBR) Development Officer
ITCA (GBR) RPS Head Coach

The ITCA (GBR) Head Coaches will form part of the Selection Committee and will advise on sailor development and selection.

If a member of the Selection Committee is a relative of a sailor seeking a Squad place, they will make a declaration of interest to the Committee and will normally seek to find an alternative person to take their place during the process.

5. Selection process

ITCA (GBR) Regional Performance Squad

Normally up to 18 places will be offered, however this number may vary according to the ability of applicants. Places can be offered to 5.3 and 4.2 sailors, if they are showing the required skill level.

6. Selection Criteria

ITCA (GBR) Regional Performance Squad Indicator Events

Clear and objective selections are an important principle for the ITCA (GBR) training programmes, however we do recognise that young sailors are often inconsistent and inevitably progress at different rates, due to differing rates of emotional and biological maturity. Sailors need to have taken part in their area Regional Championships, and the designated ITCA (GBR) Traveller and open coaching day in September.

6.1 Exceptional Circumstances – failure to attend indicator events

Sailors may take the opportunity to notify the Selection Committee of reasons why they have been unable to attend indicator events and seek dispensation, which will only be granted (retrospectively) in exceptional circumstances. Some examples of exceptional circumstances are illness or injury which precludes sailing (medical diagnosis should be provided), bereavement or non-transferable academic commitments which directly impact on the grade of a nationally recognised qualification that sailors will be awarded. Gear failure, breakage or the actions of another competitor are not considered exceptional.

Sailors wishing to notify the Selection Committee should do so in writing, together with any supporting documentation via the ITCA (GBR) Class Development Officer – development@itca-gbr.co.uk

6.2 Discretionary Places

Discretionary places will be determined by the Selection Committee and may be offered to sailors who:

- i. In their opinion have demonstrated the best prospects of progressing to the British Youth Sailing Team at International competitions in subsequent years.
- ii. Fail to achieve automatic selection, possibly (but not exclusively) because they are new to the class or injured.

When allocating discretionary places, the Selection Committee may take into consideration the following factors:

- Age and potential
- Factors affecting results.
- Performance in the Indicator series
- Attitude and behaviour throughout the series and during previous training
- Class ranking list.
- Performance in other events
- Goals and aspirations
- Other factors the Selection Committee considers appropriate.

6.3 Selection Practice

For all squad places, the Selection Committee have the discretion to determine:

- The size of each team, taking into account the target sizes.
- Which of the criteria to take into account.
- Who to select.

In making their decisions Selectors are 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 and class representatives.

6.4 Additional Sailors

Additional talented sailors may be invited to train alongside any of the above squads later in the training programme at the discretion of the Selection Committee. This may, but not exclusively, be because existing squad sailors are unable to attend a specific session, or if talented sailors emerge from other programmes later in the process.

7. Selection Procedure and Events

ITCA (GBR) has a wide range of training and competition opportunities to suit all abilities and ages, however this does make the application, selection and acceptance process complex. Therefore ITCA (GBR) have worked hard to develop a fair and clear process which would normally be followed (see section 6.2).

The Regional Performance Squad Indicator Events.

The Regional Area Champs, area traveller and open training events, as below:

| | Area Champs | Traveller | Training |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| South | 21/22 June | 14 September | 13 September |
| South East | 14/15 June | 20 September | 6 September |
| East | 21/22 June | 7 September | 6 September |
| South West | 21/22 June | 7 September | 6 September |
| Midlands | 14/15 June | 14 September | <i>TBC</i> |
| North | 21/22 June | 30 August | 6 September |

8. Application

Applications for all the 2025/26 RPS should be submitted by 12:00 noon on Saturday 6th September 2025. Please email the ITCA (GBR) Class Development Officer – development@itca-gbr.co.uk your Area Rep if you have any queries about the application. Applications must be submitted via the online form and sailors will need to submit the following information:

Name, sail number, ITCA (GBR) championship number, gender, date of birth and a short sailing biography.

9. Notification

Applicants will be notified in writing (by email) as soon as is practically possible after the application deadline, usually within 14 days. For successful applicants, confirmation of acceptance must be confirmed within 7 days of the invitation. The names of the RPS sailors will be published on the ITCA (GBR) website once all attendance confirmation forms/contracts have been returned to ITCA (GBR) (it is not our policy to publish this information before this time).

10. Appeals

There will be no appeals against the published selection criteria or the actions of the Selection Committee, provided they follow these selection criteria. By entering the selection process sailors agree to this condition. The grounds for appeal are limited to allegations of:

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

The criteria for appeal may not include any alleged error of judgement of the Selection Committee. Should an appeal still arise, then it should be submitted to the ITCA (GBR) Class Secretary (secretary@itca-gbr.co.uk) within 5 days of the selection being announced.

11. Training Weekends

For the 2025/26 ITCA (GBR) RPS it is our intention to offer 5 training weekends. Dates published and the end of this document.

Please be aware of the dates before applying for a place.

In addition, there will be a series of online sessions covering boat preparation, rules of sailing, protests, nutrition and fitness.

12. Cost

For the 2025/26 programme, the cost for the 5.3 NPS will be paid in two instalments –The first instalments will be before the first camp and the second will be confirmed along with the cost of the 5 weekends

Please be aware, that attendance at all training weekends is expected. If for whatever reason a sailor is unable to attend a weekend, we are not able to offer refunds as the Class still have expenses to pay irrespective of the number of sailors attending a weekend.

| South East | Venue | Date | East | Venue | Date |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| RPS 1 | Itchenor Sailing Club | 29/30 November 2025 | RPS 1 | Norfolk Broads Yacht Club | 15/16 November 2025 |
| RPS 2 | Island Barn | 13/14 December 2025 | RPS 2 | Royal Harwich Yacht Club | 6/7 December 2025 |
| RPS 3 | Grafham Water Sailing Club (Joint) | 10/11 January 2026 | RPS 3 | Grafham Water Sailing Club (Joint) | 10/11 January 2026 |
| RPS 4 | Datchet Water Sailing Club (Joint) | 7/8 February 2026 | RPS 4 | Datchet Water Sailing Club (Joint) | 7/8 February 2026 |
| RPS 5 | Medway Yacht Club | 21/22 March 2026 | RPS 5 | Brightlingsea Sailing Club | 21/22 March 2026 |

| South | Venue | Date | South West | Venue | Date |
|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| RPS 1 | Warsash | 1/2 November 2025 | RPS 1 | Paignton sailing club | 15/16 November 2025 |
| RPS 2 | Poole Yacht Club (Joint) | 13/14 December 2025 | RPS 2 | Poole Yacht Club (Joint) | 13/14 December 2025 |
| RPS 3 | Spinnaker sailing club | 10/11 January 2026 | RPS 3 | Bristol Corinthian | 10/11 January 2026 |
| RPS 4 | Hamble | 7/8 February 2026 | RPS 4 | TBC | February TBC 2026 |
| RPS 5 | Weymouth (Joint) | 14/15 March 2026 | RPS 5 | Weymouth (Joint) | 14/15 March 2026 |

| Midlands | Venue | Date | North | Venue | Date |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| RPS 1 | Northampton Sailing club | 15/16 November 2025 | RPS 1 | Leigh and Lowton | 15/16 November 2025 |
| RPS 2 | Carsington (Joint) | 6/7 December 2025 | RPS 2 | Carsington (Joint) | 6/7 December 2025 |
| RPS 3 | Draycote | 10/11 January 2026 | RPS 3 | Yorkshire Dales | 10/11 January 2026 |
| RPS 4 | Notts County | February TBC 2026 | RPS 4 | TBC | February TBC 2026 |
| RPS 5 | Pwllheli (Joint) | 14/15 March 2026 | RPS 5 | Pwllheli (Joint) | 14/15 March 2026 |