



ITCA (GBR) Regional Performance Squad (RPS) **Selection Policy 2026/27**

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 2026/27 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.

Regional Area Champs, your areas traveller events in September and the open training event in September. As below

	Area Champs	Traveller	Training
South	20/21 st June 2026 WPNSA	12 th September 2026, Hill Head	13 th September 2026, Hill Head
South East	16/17 May, Itchenor SC	19 th September, island barn SC	12 th September 2026, Bewl valley

East	20/21 st June, Grafham	TBC	TBC
South West	20/21 st June, WPNSA	20 th September, Swanage SC	19 th September 2026, Swanage SC
Midlands	4/5 July, Draycote Water SC	20 th September, Bartley SC	5 th September , Hollowell
North	20/21 June, Derwent Reservoir	29 th August, TBC	5 th September, TBC

Please beware these dates may vary once venues are booked.

8. Application

Applications for all the 2026/27 RPS should be submitted by midnight on Sunday 13th September 2026. Please email the ITCA (GBR) Class Development Officer – development@itca-gbr.co.uk or 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.

Here is the online form to apply

<https://forms.office.com/e/EbJgK8tK76>

9. Notification

Applicants will be notified in writing (by email) as soon as is practically possible after the application deadline. 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 2026/27 ITCA (GBR) RPS it is our intention to offer 5 training weekends.

RPS/ Open coaching	14/15 November	5/6 December	9/10 January	6/7 February	13/14 March	April(reserve weekend)
East	Norfolk Broads YC	Stewartby SC	Royal Harwich YC	Brightlingsea SC	Datchet SC(joint)	TBC
South East	Island Barn SC	Queen Mary SC	Itchenor SC	TBC	Datchet SC(joint)	TBC
South	Spinnaker SC	TBC	Hamble river SC	Oxford SC	Poole YC(joint)	TBC
South West	Paignton SC	Hooe point SC, mount batten	Bristol Corinthian SC	Durleigh	Poole YC(joint)	TBC
Midlands	Notts County SC	Northampton SC	Draycote SC	Skwarkstone SC	Pwhelli(j oint)	TBC
North	Yorkshire Dales SC	Derwent SC	Leigh and Lonton SC	Hollingworth SC	Pwhelli (joint)	TBC

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 2026/27 programme, the cost for the RPS will be paid in two instalments –The first instalments will be before the first camp and the second will be confirmed. The cost of the RPS will be confirmed but somewhere between £700 - £ 800.

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

