



ITCA (GBR) National Performance Squad (NPS) 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) 5.3 National Performance Squad and ITCA (GBR) 4.2 National Performance Squad.

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) National Performance Squad sailors should;

- I. Attend a minimum of 2 out of these 3 National Series events (NS4 Hayling Island, NS5 Grafham Water and NS1 TBC) and the National Championships, Weymouth.
- II. Be a member of ITCA (GBR)

3.1 ITCA (GBR) 5.3 National Performance Squad Eligibility

In order to be eligible for the 2026/27 ITCA (GBR) 5.3 NPS, sailors will be under 18.

3.2 ITCA (GBR) 4.2 National Performance Squad Eligibility

In order to be eligible for the ITCA (GBR) 4.2 NPS, sailors shall normally be aged over 10 and under 14. The suggested weight for the 4.2 sailor is between 33kg and 45kg. If a sailor falls outside of these parameters, they may contact Flip Dugdale, ITCA (GBR) Class Development Officer (development@itca-gbr.co.uk) to discuss the sailor's eligibility as they may be better suited to a different sail. In exceptional circumstances, up to six sailors who do not meet the age criteria may be invited at the discretion of the selection committee.

4. Selection Committee

The ITCA (GBR) 5.3 NPS selection committee will comprise of the following people:

ITCA (GBR) Chair
ITCA (GBR) Vice Chair (Training)
ITCA (GBR) Development Officer
ITCA (GBR) 5.3 NPS Head Coach
ITCA (GBR) Class Secretary (*to take the minutes*)

The ITCA (GBR) 4.2 NPS selection committee will comprise of the following people:

ITCA (GBR) Chair
ITCA (GBR) Vice Chair (Training)
ITCA (GBR) Development Officer
ITCA (GBR) 4.2 NPS Head Coach
ITCA (GBR) Class Secretary (*to take the minutes*)

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) 5.3 NPS

Normally up to 24 places will be offered, however this number may vary according to the ability of applicants.

ITCA (GBR) 4.2 NPS

Normally up to 24 places will be offered, however this number may vary according to the ability of applicants.

6. Selection Criteria

ITCA (GBR) National 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 at least 2 National Series (NS) events listed above and the National Championships. If a sailor attends all 3 of the selected National Series events, their best 2 results will be utilised from the ranking system.

The National Series events that will be used will be NS4 Hayling Island, NS5 Grafham Water and NS1 TBC from the same calendar year.

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 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. Fall outside of the age criteria.
- iii. 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 National Performance 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, the Selection Committee 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).

ITCA (GBR) 5.3 NPS Indicator Events:

2 out of the 3 specific National Series (NS4,NS5 and NS1) events in the 2026 plus the Nationals will be used to collate a ranking system.

ITCA (GBR) 4.2 NPS indicator Events:

2 out of the 3 specific National Series (NS4,NS5 and NS1) events in the 2026 plus the Nationals will be used to collate a ranking system.

8. Application

Applications for all the 2026/27 NPS should be submitted by midnight on Sunday 20th September 2026. Please email the ITCA (GBR) Class Development Officer – development@itca-gbr.co.uk 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. For successful applicants, confirmation of acceptance must be confirmed within 7 days of the invitation. The names of the NPS 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) NPS it is our intention to offer 5 training weekends.

5.3/4.2 NPS	Venue	Date
NPS 1	TBC	21/22 nd November 26
NPS 2	TBC	12/13 th December 26
NPS 3	TBC	23/24 th January 27
NPS 4	TBC	27/28 th February 27
NPS 5	TBC	20/21 st March 27

Please be aware these date may change slightly when booking venues.

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

The coaches will run an online, pre-camp briefing and all sailors should endeavour to attend.

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 5.3 NPS will be paid in two instalments. The cost will be published as soon as we can but it's expected to be between £700-£800

For the 2026/27 programme, the cost for the 4.2 NPS will be paid in two instalments. The cost will be published as soon as we can but it's expected to be 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.