



ITCA TEAM GBR Selection Policy

1. Introduction.

This document sets out the selection policy and the responsibilities of individuals involved in the selection process for the ITCA (GBR) 5.3 & 6.4 Topper Team and the 4.2 Topper Team.

2. Aims of the Programme.

The aim of ITCA (GBR) training is to facilitate skill development and progression and increase the number of sailors participating in competitive Topper sailing and feeding 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 an ITCA (GBR) Topper Team place sailor should:

- i) Ideally attend a National Event in the year of qualification.
- ii) Be members of ITCA (GBR).

3.1 ITCA (GBR) 5.3 & 6.4 Topper Team Eligibility.

In order to be eligible for the 2024/25 ITCA (GBR) 5.3 & 6.4 Topper Team, sailors shall primarily be aged 14 or over and under 19.

3.2 ITCA (GBR) 4.2 Topper Team Eligibility.

In order to be eligible for the ITCA (GBR) 4.2 Topper Team, sailors shall normally be aged over 10 and under 14. The **suggested** weight for a 4.2 sailor is between 33 and 45 kg. If your sailor falls outside these parameters then contact Vanessa Ripley - vicechair@itca-gbr.co.uk to discuss 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 & 6.4 Topper Team Selection Committee comprises of the following people:

- ITCA (GBR) Chair
- ITCA (GBR) Vice Chair (Training)
- 5.3 & 6.4 Topper Team Head Coach
- ITCA (GBR) Secretary to take the minutes.



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The ITCA (GBR) 4.2 Topper Team Selection Committee comprises of the following people:

ITCA (GBR) Chair
ITCA (GBR) Vice Chair (Training)
4.2 Topper Team Head Coach
ITCA (GBR) Secretary to take the minutes.

The Topper Head Coaches will form part of the selection committee and will advise on sailor development and selection.

If a Selector is a relative of a sailor seeking a Team 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 & 6.4 Topper Team.

Normally up to 18 places will be offered however this number may vary according to the ability of competitors.

ITCA (GBR) 4.2 Topper Team.

Up to 18 places will normally be offered, however this number may vary according to the ability of the competitors.

6. Selection Criteria

Topper Team Indicator Events:

Clear and objective selections are an important principle for the ITCA (GBR) Topper 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 one national event or the Nationals to be considered for a place. Results from national and regional events will be used by the Selection panel when selecting sailors.

Sailors will also be asked for a brief sailing history, including results from any Regional Topper events or any other sailing competition in which they have competed during 2024.

Members of the Selection Committee (or their appointed representatives) may attend any event in order to make discretionary selections.

6.1 Exceptional Circumstances – failure to attend indicator events.



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Sailors may also take the opportunity to notify the Selectors of other 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 Selectors should do so in writing, together with any diagnosis or reasons via the ITCA (GBR) Vice Chair Training – vicechair@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 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 team places Selectors 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.



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6.4 Additional Sailors

Additional talented sailors may be invited to train alongside any of the above teams later in the training programme at the discretion of the Selection Committee. This may, but not exclusively, be because existing team 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

The Topper Class 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 & 6.4 Topper Team Indicator Events:

Ideally results from a National Event or the Nationals together with any results from Regional Traveller Events.

ITCA (GBR) 4.2 Topper Team Events:

Ideally results from a National Event or the Nationals and any local Regional Traveller Events.

8. Application

Applications for all the 2024/25 Topper Teams should be submitted by 12:00 noon on Saturday 8th September 2024. Please email the ITCA (GBR) Vic Chair (Training) – vicechair@itca-gbr.co.uk if you have any queries about applying.

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, results from relevant events (see Section 7), a short sailing biography and reason for applying.

9. Notification

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



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10. Appeals

There will be no appeals against the published selection criteria or the actions of the selectors, 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 Selectors. 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 2024/25 ITCA (GBR) Topper Teams it is our intention to offer the following training:

DATE	VENUE	TRAINING
2 nd & 3 rd November	Carsington Water	5.3 Team & 4.2 Team
7 th & 8 th December	Northampton SC	5.3 Team & 4.2 Team
18 th & 19 th January	Bristol Corinthian YC	5.3 Team & 4.2 Team
8 th & 9 th February	WPNSA	5.3 Team & 4.2 Team
15 th & 16 March	Island Barn SC	5.3 Team & 4.2 Team
5 th & 6 th April	TBA	Reserve date

Please be aware of the dates before applying.

The coaches may 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 2024/25 training the cost for the 5.3 & 6.4 Team will be £700 to be paid in two instalments – first payment before the first camp and the second payment to be made at the end of January.

For the 4.2 Team the cost will be £700 and again can be paid in two instalments – first payment before the first camp and the second payment before the end of January.

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