

# ITCA (GBR) Notice of Selection 2020/21 Topper Teams

## 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 and 4.2 Topper Teams.

## 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 within the sport.

## 3. Eligibility

In order to be eligible for an ITCA Topper Team place sailors should:

- i) Attend the nominated Indicator Series Ranking Events in the year of qualification as specified in **Section 7**.
- ii) Be members of ITCA (GBR)
- iii) Be members of the RYA

### 3.1. ITCA (GBR) 5.3 Topper Team eligibility

In order to be eligible for the 2020/21 ITCA (GBR) 5.3 Topper Team, sailors shall primarily be aged 15 or over and under 19 on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Sailors selected for the RYA Regional Training Groups will not be eligible.

### 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 and weigh between 33 - 45 kg on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. However, 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 5.3 ITCA GBR Team Selection Committee comprises of the following people:

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

The 4.2 ITCA GBR 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 parent 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 Topper Team

Normally up to 25 places will be offered to sailors that have not been offered a place in the RYA Regional Training Groups, however this number may vary according to the ability of competitors taking part in the indicator series. This number can also vary if divided into North and South teams. The intention is to award a minimum of eight of these places to girls and eight of these places to boys.

### ITCA (GBR) 4.2 Topper Team

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## 6. Selection Criteria

### 6.1. Topper Team Indicator Series:

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.

Therefore, a proportion of places will normally be offered on a 'first past the post basis' based on the ranking system, the remaining places will be offered at the discretion of the Selection Committee who are empowered by ITCA (GBR) to make such decisions. Those places are normally offered to the highest ranked sailors on the basis of results will be allocated according to a ranking system using the results from the identified Series Indicator events. However, due to the impact of COVID-19, selection events for the 2020-21 Topper Teams only is given in section 7.

Members of the Selection Committee (or their appointed representatives) may attend the above events in order to make discretionary selections based upon the matrix of criteria listed below in section 6.4.

Helms may not accept an ITCA (GBR) 5.3 Topper Team place if they have accepted a place in another RYA or Class Training Group/Team, however, sailors selected for the ITCA (GBR) 4.2 Topper Team can also be a member of an RYA Regional Training Group.

## 6.2. Scoring

Selection for the teams would normally be made using the scoring system detailed below but, due to COVID-19 restrictions, no ITCA (GBR) National Series events have been held since September 2019 and the 2020 National Championships were not held. For 2020-21 only sailors will be asked for a brief sailing history, including results from any national or regional Topper events in which they have competed during Autumn 2020. Due to restricted places at events, no sailor will be disadvantaged if they have been unable to enter.

**Standard scoring system – note that this will not be used in 2020-21 selection:**

**ITCA (GBR) 5.3 Topper Team Indicator Series** will be scored by adding the best two overall finishing positions from the three identified National Series Indicator events plus the overall finishing position from the Topper Class National Championships. The scores will be counted unaltered, i.e. including all competitors at the regattas.

**ITCA (GBR) 4.2 Topper Team Indicator Series** will be scored by adding the best three overall finishing positions from the six identified 4.2 National Series Indicator events. The scores will be counted unaltered, i.e. including all competitors at the regattas. These event results will be used to create a ranking list.

## 6.3. Exceptional Circumstances / failure to attend Indicator events

The selectors expect sailors to make every endeavour to attend NS1 at Draycote (3-4 October 2020) and at least one ITCA Open Event or Topper Traveller in any region in order that they can make objective decisions. However, due to the current need to limit entries at all events, no sailor will be disadvantaged if they are unable to enter these events.

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. For 2020-21 only, exceptional circumstances may also include self-isolation due to COVID-19 or shielding by the sailor themselves or adults who would provide support to attend events. Sailors wishing to notify the Selectors should do so in writing, together with any diagnosis or reasons via the ITCA GBR Class Secretary: [secretary@itca-gbr.co.uk](mailto:secretary@itca-gbr.co.uk)

## 6.4. Discretionary Places

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

- a) In their opinion have demonstrated the best prospects of progressing to the RYA UK Youth Squads and the most potential to win medals for the British Youth Sailing Team at international competitions in subsequent years
- b) Fall outside the age criteria
- c) Fail to achieve automatic selection, possibly (but not exclusively) because they are new to the class, injured, or could not attend all indicator events.

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
- Height and weight
- Other factors the Selection Committee considers appropriate.

The Selection Committee may extend the selection process beyond the indicator series.

### 6.5. 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

By entering an event or activity that is part of this selection series the competitors agree that the Selectors have such discretions.

### 6.6. 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).

The process for applying for a Topper Training Team has been changed for 2020-21 only; whilst it is advisable for applicants to attend the events listed, the Selectors are aware that places are limited and intended events may be cancelled. No sailor will be disadvantaged if they cannot compete at these selection events.

### ITCA (GBR) 5.3 Topper Teams Indicator Events:

- **National series 1** 3 & 4 October 2020  
Draycote Water Sailing Club

Sailors should attend this National Series event and at least one ITCA Open or Traveller event in any region.

#### **ITCA (GBR) 4.2 Topper Teams Indicator Events:**

- **National series 1** 3 & 4 October 2020  
Draycote Water Sailing Club

Sailors should attend this National Series event and at least one ITCA Open or Traveller event in any region.

### **8. Application**

Applications for all the 2020/21 Topper Teams should be submitted by **12:00 noon on Friday 9th October 2020** and must be made via Survey Monkey (link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PRJDN57>). Please email the ITCA (GBR) Vice Chair (Training) [vicechair@itca-gbr.co.uk](mailto:vicechair@itca-gbr.co.uk) if you have any problems with or queries about applying.

Applicants will need to submit the following information: name, sail number, ITCA (GBR) championship number, gender, date of birth, height and weight, plus a short sailing biography and reason for applying.

Depending on the number of successful sailors, Training Teams may be split into North and South so you will also be asked to indicate which area would be most appropriate.

### **9. Notification**

Applicants will be notified in writing by email as soon as is practically possible after the application deadline, usually within 14 days. 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).

### **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:

- I. Failure to follow due process
- II. Bias/undue influence
- III. 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](mailto:secretary@itca-gbr.co.uk)) within five days of the selection being announced.