



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) 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 & 6.4 Topper Team Eligibility.

In order to be eligible for the 2021/22 ITCA (GBR) 5.3 & 6.4 Topper Team, sailors shall primarily be aged 15 or over and under 19 on the 31st of December 2021.

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 31st of December 2021. 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 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.



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 part 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 & 6.4 Topper Team.

Normally up to 25 places will be offered 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.

Up to 25 places will normally be offered, however this number may vary according to the ability of the competitors taking part in the indicator events. 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 either of these places to boys.

6. Selection Criteria

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 2021/22 Topper Teams are 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**.

6.1 Scoring

Selection for the teams would normally be made using the scoring system detailed below, but due to COVID-19 restrictions sailors will be asked for a brief sailing history, including results from any National or Regional Topper events in which they have competed during 2021. Due to restricted places at events, no sailor will be disadvantaged if they have been unable to enter.

Standard scoring System – please note that this will not be used in the 2021/22 selection.

ITCA (GBR) 5.3 & 6.4 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.

6.2 Exceptional Circumstances – failure to attend indicator events.

The selectors expect sailors to make every endeavour to attend 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 2021/22 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

6.3 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 RYA UK Youth Squads and the most potential to win medals for 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, 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.

6.4 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.
- Reply 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.

6.5 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 the 2021/22 season whilst it is advisable for applicants to attend as many National and Regional events as possible, the Selectors are aware that as some events places are limited, and some events may have to be cancelled. No sailor will be disadvantaged if they cannot compete at any event.

ITCA (GBR) 5.3 & 6.4 Topper Team Indicator Event:

Results from any National Series Event, National Championships or local Regional Traveller Events

ITCA (GBR) 4.2 Topper Team Event:

Results from any National Series Event, National Championships or local Regional Traveller Events

8. Application

Applications for all the 2021/22 Topper Teams should be submitted by 12:00 noon on Friday 3rd September 2021 and must be made via this link. Please email the ITCA (GBR) Vice Chair (Training) – vicechari@itca-gbr.co.uk if you have any 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, results from indicator events (see Section 7), a short sailing biography and reason for applying.

Depending on the number of successful sailors, Training Teams may be split into North and South Teams so you will 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:

- 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 2021/22 ITCA (GBR) Topper Teams it is our intention to offer the following training:

4.2 Training Team

DATE	VENUE	TRAINING
16 th & 17 th October 2021	Northampton Sailing Club	Training camp – joint camp with 5.3 & 6.4 Team
13 th & 14 th November 2021	TBA	Training camp
December 2021	Online	Virtual Classroom
29 th & 30 th January 2022	Draycote Water Sailing Club	Training camp
February 2022	Online	Virtual Classroom
19 th & 20 th March 2022	TBA	Training camp
23 rd & 24 th April 2022	WPNSA	Training camp – joint camp with 5.3 & 6.4 Team

5.3 & 6.4 Training Team

DATE	VENUE	TRAINING
16 th & 17 th October 2021	Northampton Sailing Club	Training camp – joint camp with 4.2 Team
13 th & 14 th November 2021	Draycote Water Sailing Club	Training camp
11 th & 12 th December 2021	Northampton Sailing Club	Training Camp



22nd & 23rd January 2022	WPNSA	Training camp
February 2022	Online	Virtual Classroom
19 th & 20 th March 2022	TBA	Training camp
23 rd & 24 th April 2022	WPNSA	Training camp – joint camp with 4.2 Team

The outstanding venues will be confirmed as soon as possible. A reserve weekend of the 7th & 8th May may be used.

All dates and venues are provisional at this stage and may be subject to change.