



IOCA(UK)/GBR 2024 Teams Selection Policy

1. Introduction

The International Optimist Class Association (UK) has a long tradition of sending teams overseas to compete in international regattas. For the sailors, being selected to represent the Class and their country is an honour as well as a major personal achievement, often coming after several years of committed training and racing in the Class. Competing overseas allows our sailors to meet and sail with some of the best Optimist sailors in the world and experience the unique international Oppie community.

Representing IOCA(UK)/GBR at an IODA Worlds or European Championship is seen by many as the pinnacle of an Optimist career, even if in reality it is only the very start of a lifetime in the sport. While for others, the IOCA(UK)/GBR Development Teams give a very valuable and rewarding experience as they progress through the fleet or before they transition to one of the RYA Youth Classes.

The other IODA Continental Championships, aside from the Euros, are also an excellent opportunity for our most accomplished Sailors; although by definition they are a distance away and the dates may not fit well with the UK school calendar. In addition, places are allocated to IOCA in a 'second round' and may come up at relatively short notice. As such they are best considered separately but are included in this policy.

The Class has a duty to ensure the best sailors are selected for teams such that the experience is a positive one for every sailor. This policy describes the processes by which sailors will be selected for the IOCA(UK)/GBR teams in 2024. The process may also be used to select sailors for specific training opportunities throughout the year.

2. The IOCA(UK) Selection Committee

The Selection Committee has three members, currently

- David Campbell-James, Chair of the Selection Committee.
- Chris Atherton, Junior Racing Manager, representing the RYA.
- Alan Williams, as an independent National Race Official or Race Coach.

If a member of the Committee is absent, the IOCA Chair may nominate a deputy.

The role of the Selection Committee is to ensure that the selection policy is followed and the process is fair. In making their decisions Selectors are expected to be impartial and objective and to draw on their experience and expertise. Members of the Selection Committee may attend the Spring Championships, Selection Trials and Team Racing Championships to inform

their decisions. The Selection Committee has the ultimate discretion to determine which of the selection criteria to take into account and who to select.

3. IOCA(UK)/GBR Teams in 2024

From 2024 we will designate our teams as ‘Performance’ or ‘Development’ Teams and be clearer on the leadership and support provided by the Class and that required of the parents (Table 1).

Team Leadership and support	IOCA(UK) GBR Performance Teams	IOCA(UK)/GBR Development Teams
Coach Team Leader	Worlds Team Venice Team Racing Euros Team European Team Racing	
Coach Team Leader or House Parent as required	Berlin Team Racing Monaco Team Racing IODA Continental Teams	Development Team 1
Coach Parent-supported (sailors travel and stay with their parents)	Garda Country Cup Bermuda Gold Cup	Junior Team Development Team 2

Table 1. Team Leadership and support for IOCA(UK)/GBR Teams in 2024

Some teams will travel to an event with a coach and team leader and be largely independent. In other teams, such as the Junior Team and Dev 2, sailors will train and compete under the guidance of a coach but travel to the venue with their parents and stay with them when not training or racing. Other teams/events may work best with a House Parent, volunteering alongside a coach. All teams will benefit from, and some will only be possible with, parental support in the administration, organisation and logistics of getting the team to and from the event.

4. Eligibility for an IOCA(UK)/GBR Team place

To be eligible for an IOCA(UK)/GBR team place, sailors must:

- be a member of IOCA(UK);
- sail a GBR-registered boat at the Selection Trials; and
- be a British national or ordinarily resident in the UK.

In addition, for the Worlds, Euros and North American Championships sailors must meet the IODA eligibility criteria, detailed in Section 10 of the [IODA Handbook](#), *“Sailors shall be either nationals or bona fide residents of the country they represent, unless otherwise agreed by the IODA Executive Committee. A sailor who has represented one country at an IODA World or*

Continental Championship shall not represent another country except in cases of alteration of residence, which cases shall be approved by the IODA Executive. As per [World Sailing Regulations Appendix 3](#), Item 19.6 (d), IODA events require competitors to have 'World Sailing Eligibility' as defined in Items 19.4 and 19.5."

Sailors must also meet the age requirements of the team detailed in Table 2 *in the year of the event*.

If you have any questions regarding your eligibility to represent GBR at international events, please contact the RYA Junior Racing Manager, chris.atherton@rya.org.uk for advice.

5. Events used to select GBR/IOCA(UK) Teams.

Three events will be used to select GBR/IOCA(UK) Teams in 2024 as detailed in section 7.

1. IOCA Spring Championships, held at Draycote Water Sailing Club, 16-17 March 2024.
2. IOCA Selection Trials, held at Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy, 3-6 May 2024.
3. IOCA(UK) Optimist Team Racing Championships, held at Oxford Sailing Club, 18-19 May 2024.

If three or more races in the Spring Championships, or six or more races in the Selection Trials, are completed, the Selection Committee will select sailors for the relevant team(s) from the applicable event, based on the overall results from all races completed at that event, with discards applied as per the Notice of Race and SSIs.

If fewer than three races in the Spring Championships or fewer than six races in the Selection Trials are completed, the Selection Committee will select sailors for the relevant team(s) based on the results from and the conditions sailed in at the applicable event and any other information they deem necessary, including the anticipated conditions at the event at which a team will compete.

If the Team Racing Championships complete the Selectors will use the overall results to select Teams. If the Championships do not complete, then the Selection Committee will select Teams based on the races sailed, the conditions sailed in and any other information they deem necessary.

6. Entry to selection events

The IOCA Spring Championships and the IOCA(UK) Optimist Team Racing Championships are open to any member of IOCA.

The Selection Trials are an invitational event. Invitations will be sent in the days following the Spring Championships to the email address(s) of the parents/guardians recorded on the IOCA(UK) membership database. The following sailors will be invited to participate:

1. Sixty sailors, taken in descending rank order from the [IOCA\(UK\) Rolling Ranking](#) updated after the Spring Championships. A sailor who is no longer participating actively in the Class, has been absent from racing an Optimist outside their home club for a long period and/or has moved into another junior or youth class, should not assume they will automatically be invited to the Selection Trials.
2. A further 20 sailors will be invited at the discretion of the Selection Committee. Sailors wishing to be considered for a discretionary entry should follow the procedure outlined in Section 9.

In line with the IOCA(UK) Rolling Ranking [Policy](#), should Main Fleet sail fewer than three races at the Spring Championships, the event would not be included in the Rolling Ranking. If this were the case, the Selection Committee would use the Rolling Ranking at the time, plus any available evidence, to decide which sailors to invite to the Selection Trials.

7. The Selection Process

The Selection Committee will follow the procedure outlined below, provided that in their opinion there are no discretionary requests which are worthy of being given consideration for inclusion within a relevant team.

Following each selection event, sailors will be invited based on the criteria listed in Table 2 and in accordance with the following points:

- 7.1 To be selected sailors must be eligible to represent GBR/IOCA(UK) - see Section 4.
- 7.2 After the Spring Championships, a sailor may accept a place in the Junior Team and, if invited, go on to compete in the Selection Trials. If they are successful in the Selection Trials and are offered a place in another team, the sailor may decide to relinquish their place in the Junior Team but they cannot accept places in both teams.
- 7.3 Among the eligible sailors registered in the 2024 Lake Garda Optimist Meeting, the sailor ranked highest in the IOCA Rolling Ranking (updated after the Spring Championships) will be invited to compete in the Garda Country Cup. Accepting the place in the Country Cup, which takes place the day before the main event, will not preclude the sailor from accepting a place in another team.
- 7.4 Team places will be filled in sequence, with each team being completed before sailors are invited to join the next team listed in Table 2. After the Selection Trials, the Worlds Team will be filled first, followed by the Euros, Dev 1 and so on.
- 7.5 A sailor offered a Worlds place may opt to take a place in the Euros or, at the discretion of the Selection Committee, a place in a Development Team. Similarly, a sailor offered a Euros place may opt to take a place in a Development Team, at the discretion of the Selection Committee.
- 7.6. Accepting the place in the Bermuda Junior Gold Cup will not preclude the sailor from accepting a place in another team.

7.7 Following the IOCA Team Racing Championships, the highest-placed, eligible team will be offered a choice of team racing competitions for which they also meet the age and gender requirements. The team may accept only one event and may decline any event which is offered. The next-highest-placed, eligible team will then be offered a choice of the remaining events for which they meet the entry criteria, and so on until all events have been allocated to a different team.

Team	Event(s)	Selection criteria	Selected from
Selected after the Spring Championships...			
Junior Team	Irish Nationals Howth Yacht Club, Dublin, Republic of Ireland, 15-18 August 2024	16 sailors, minimum of 5 of each gender. Oppie age 12 and under	Main Fleet results from the Spring Championships
Garda Country Cup	Lake Garda Optimist Meeting Riva del Garda, 27 March 2024	1 sailor No age restrictions	Rolling Ranking after Spring Champs
Selected after the Selection Trials...			
Worlds Team	IODA World Championships, Mar del Plata, Argentina, 5-15th December 2024	5 sailors Oppie age 12 and over Commitment to remain active in the Class after Selection Trials (See Section 8)	Results of Selection Trials
	International Optimist Class Team Race Venice, 6-9 June 2024	5 sailors Oppie age 12 and over	Results of Selection Trials
Euros team	IODA European Championships Club Nautico Marina di Carrara, Pisa, Italy 29 June-6 July 2024	7 sailors, at least 3 of each gender Oppie age 12 and over	Results of Selection Trials
	IODA European Team Racing Championships*, Monaco Yacht Club, 15-20 October 2024	4 sailors, 2 of each gender Oppie age 12 and over	Results of Selection Trials
Development Team 1	Halloween Cup, Torbole, Lake Garda, Italy, 27 October - 1 November (2 days training, 4 days racing)	8 sailors, at least 2 of each gender Oppie age 12 and over	Results of Selection Trials
Development Team 2	French Nationals Centre Nautique Biscarrosse Olympique, 13-19 July 2024	16 sailors, at least 4 of each gender Oppie age 12 and over	Results of Selection Trials
Bermuda Junior Gold Cup*	Royal Bermuda Yacht Club Hamilton, Bermuda, 1st week of October 2024	1 sailor No age restrictions	Winner of the Selection Trials

Team	Event(s)	Selection criteria	Selected from
Berlin Team Racing	Optimist Team Cup Potsdamer Yacht Club, Lake ju , Berlin, mid-October 2024	4 sailors, no gender requirements No age restrictions	Results of IOCA Team Racing Championships
Monaco Team Racing	15th Monaco Optimist Team Race Monaco Yacht Club, early-January 2025	4 sailors, at least one of each gender No age restrictions**	Results of the IOCA Team Racing Championships
Selected later in the year, after a separate call for applications...			
IODA Continental Championship Teams*	IODA North American Championships Puerto Rico 13-20 July 2024	TBC, typically 8 sailors, at least 2 of each gender. Oppie age 12 and over	Selectors will assess applicants based on a wide range of criteria including but not limited to: results of Selection Trials, IOCA Rolling Ranking, sailors performance in recent IOCA events and international regattas
	IODA Asian and Oceania Championships Marve Beach, Mumbai, 5-12 November 2024		

Table 2. Events and Selection Criteria for IOCA(UK)/GBR Teams in 2024. The dates included in the table are provisional and when confirmed will be published under the Teams tab on the IOCA website.

* Subject to an invitation(s) being received from the organising authority.

** Sailors wishing to be eligible for the Monaco Optimist Team Race in January 2025 need to be IOCA age 14 or under when competing in the 2024 IOCA Optimist Team Racing Championships.

There is a gender quota for some teams, either because this is required in the Notice of Race or because we have chosen to do so as a Class. It is important to promote equity of access for boys and girls to our development teams, to ensure we can continue to field strong teams for the Euros and other events, and to prepare our most talented sailors for the future - Olympic sailing teams being 50:50 by gender.

After the Selection Event

No sailor or team should assume that they have a place in any team until the sailors or teams placed above them have decided which team they will elect to join.

It should be noted that it might not be possible to fully select all teams at the Selection Trials, due to the length of time it can take to finalise teams. In this situation, the Selection Committee will notify sailors by phone or email as soon as possible. To accept a place in a team, sailors and their parents/guardians must sign and accept the terms and conditions of the team.

The parents/guardians of selected sailors for the Worlds and the Euros team will be asked to pay their full parental contribution on the final day of the Selection Trials. Sailors selected for the Development teams, will have 24 hrs to make full payment, once an invitation of a team

place has been given. No part of the parental contribution is refundable, except in exceptional circumstances.

8. Suspension and Termination

Continued membership of any Team will normally be dependent upon:

- Satisfactory on-going performance of the sailor
- Conformance with team requirements, IOCA (UK) policies and procedures and reasonable IOCA(UK) requests;
- Attendance at designated training sessions and/or preparation regattas;
- Conformance with the relevant codes of conduct that may be laid down or recognized by the sport/class from time to time;

Notwithstanding the above, IOCA(UK) reserves the right at its absolute discretion to suspend or terminate membership from a Team at any time and for any reason.

Particular requirements for the Worlds Team 2024

The Selectors require that any sailor accepting a place in the Worlds team continues to race the Optimist competitively in the seven month period between the Selection Trials and the Worlds, which will take place from 5-15th December 2024. If selected, sailors will be required to compete in all intervening IOCA championship events including the 2024 Nationals in Plas Heli.

9. Applications for Discretionary Invitations / Places

A sailor may apply to the Selection Committee for a discretionary invitation to the Selection Trials and/or a discretionary place in a team. Principally, but not exclusively, this would apply to:

- Sailors who had a very good result in the Spring Championships but had not sailed in enough ranking events to be ranked in the top 60 of the Rolling Ranking
- Sailors who were unable to compete in the Spring Championships for a reason beyond their control
- Sailors who were invited but unable to compete in the Selection Trials for a reason beyond their control
- Sailors who would like to make the Selection Committee aware of any exceptional circumstances / factors which are relevant to their case

An application for a discretionary invitation / place, including any relevant details, must be made by emailing the Chair of the Selection Committee, David Campbell-James campbelljames@btinternet.com by the following deadlines:

- 1) 5pm on Wednesday 20th March 2024, in relation to a discretionary invitation to the Selection Trials, or a discretionary place in the Junior Development Team.
- 2) The expiry of protest time on the final day of the Selection Trials, Monday 6th May 2024
- 3) The expiry of protest time on the final day of the Team Racing Championships, Sunday 19 May 2024

In the case of illness or injury a note from a doctor or hospital should be included.

Applications will be reviewed by the Selection Committee and invitations / places may be offered to sailors who fail to achieve automatic invitation / selection. When assessing applications, the Selection Committee may take into consideration the following factors:

- Any exceptional circumstances which may have affected a sailor's results
- Performance in previous IOCA(UK) events
- IOCA(UK) Rolling Ranking
- Performance in other significant domestic or international events
- Age and potential
- Attitude and behaviour throughout the event
- Goals and aspirations
- Height and weight
- Other factors the Selection Committee considers appropriate

To inform their decisions the Selection Committee may consult with the RYA Regional Performance Managers and the relevant RYA RTG and Home Country Lead Coaches.

10. Application for a substitute in a Team Racing team

It is possible that in the time between a team being selected and the competition taking place that one or more team members may no longer be able to compete. Principally, but not exclusively, this would apply to team members who would be absent due to illness or injury, or could no longer attend because of unforeseen family circumstances. In such cases a team may submit an application for one or more substitutes. This request must be made by emailing the Chair of the Selection Committee campbelljames@btinternet.com at the earliest possible opportunity.

11. Appeals

There will be no appeals against the published selection criteria or the actions of the Selectors, provided they follow the selection policy. By entering the Spring Championships and/or Selection Trials sailors agree to this condition. The grounds for appeal may not

include any alleged error of judgement of the Selection Committee and are limited to allegations of: failure to follow due process; bias/undue influence; or some other misconduct.

Should an appeal still arise then the process will be managed by the RYA, following the [RYA Racing Department Appeals Policy](#). Notice of intention to appeal should be submitted and addressed to the Racing Operations Manager, Olivia Risk, by email racing@rya.org.uk as soon as reasonably practical and in any event within 7 days of the selection or deselection being announced. The appeal shall be submitted in full within 14 days of the selection or deselection being announced.