

## Mirror National Youth Development Squad

### Selection Policy 2013-2014



#### Introduction

Selection to the 2013-2014 Mirror National Youth Development Squad (NYDS) will be determined by Selectors appointed by the Mirror Class Association (MCA) and will be the sailors, who in their opinion will have the best prospects of progressing to the National Squad and winning medals in the future.

In order to give greater transparency, a high proportion of NYDS places will be allocated to sailors on the basis of their ranking in the indicator events. The remaining NYDS places will be allocated at the discretion of the selection committee.

#### Eligibility

To be eligible for selection, a sailor should meet the age criteria listed below. Both helm and crew must be members of the MCA in both 2013 & 2014.

MCA Selectors may decide to involve older sailors within NYDS training, sailors falling into this category are encouraged to apply and will be eligible for a discretionary place.

#### Requirements

Sailors are required to attend **all six** training weekends and the Mirror Junior Nationals on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> May 2014 with a boat in good working order, and are expected to attend one of the days at the Dinghy Show, Alexandra Palace, London on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2014. If the sailor is under the age of 14 before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 they will be required to attend an RYA land day. There may be other events which the sailors are encourage to attend over the winter. Sailors will be expected to display an NYDS and sponsor's sticker on both sides of their hull.

#### Zone Squad ages, sizes and compositions

The following table shows the squads, catchment zones, indicative squad sizes and example helm age compositions at 31st December 2013, based on typical squad size of 12. Normally this will include at least 3 girl helms.

U13 – 4 places

U12 – 4 places

U11 – 2 places

Discretionary - 2 places

Squad sizes will vary depending upon the strength and depth of talent in each particular area. Where there are more talented sailors in an age category than there are places, places may be taken from the category above. Where there are insufficient sailors in one or more categories to fill the available

places then these places may be offered on a discretionary basis. Places will be offered to sailors whose 18<sup>th</sup> birthday falls before or on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013

### **Indicative squad sizes**

**North area 12**

**South area 12**

### **Indicator Events**

The following events will be used as indicators for NYDS places:

The RYA Volvo Zone Championships – Grafham SC 28/29 September 2013

Half Term Open Training, in your local area.

The MCA reserve the right to add further indicator events if the selectors deem it necessary.

### **Scoring**

The series will be scored by adding together the individual race scores from each indicator event. The following discard system will be used to allow for sailor inconsistency and varying conditions.

10, 11 or 12 races (4 discards); 8 or 9 races (3 discards); 5, 6 or 7 races (2 discards);

3 or 4 races (1 discard); 2 or less races (0 discards)

If in the view of the selectors, any of the races are deemed unsatisfactory, then the level of subjective/ discretionary selection may be increased. The results will be used to compile overall and age ranking lists.

### **Discretionary Places**

When allocating discretionary places the selection committee will take into consideration the following factors:

- Performance in indicator events
- Age and potential
- Factors affecting results
- Attitude and behaviour
- Class ranking list
- Height and weight
- Goals and aspirations
- Other factors the selection committee considers appropriate

## **Exceptional Circumstances/Failure Hi to Attend Indicator Events**

Sailors unable to attend either, or both indicator events, due to exceptional circumstances, will make the selectors aware. They should notify the MCA Training Manager, by email including any relevant reasons.

## **Selection Practice**

Selectors therefore have the discretion to determine

- The size of the squad, taking into account the target size
- Which of the criteria to take into account
- Who to select

In making their decision and exercising their discretions Selectors are expected to:

- Use their expertise and experience
- Rely on their observation of the competitors, together with the observations made by other individuals, such as squad coaches.

By entering an event or activity that is part of the indicator series the competitors agree that the Selectors have such discretions. The Selection Committee may extend the selection process beyond the series.

The Selection Committee shall comprise of the MCA JDT subcommittee, Class Training Coordinator Coaches and assistant coaches appointed by the MCA and the relevant Class Association Representative or selected representatives (where appropriate).

## **Additional Information for the Selection Procedure**

The 2013/14 squad selections will take place in two phases:

**Phase One** – Selection for National Squads (Phase One), this squad will be selected first. **Phase Two**- Selection for Phase two NYDS will take place at the culmination of the indicator events Please note that due to this process of application; applicants who are unsuccessful at gaining national squad selection during Phase One Selections but who meet the criteria for Phase Two consideration will receive a “**selection update**”/decision deferral letter at this point, which advises sailors that they will be considered for the NYDS. For clarity, if a sailor is unsuccessful in securing a squad place at the Phase One selections they **will automatically** be carried through to the Phase Two selections providing they meet the eligibility criteria for this application. Should sailors not wish to be carried forward then they should advise the MCA Training Manager that they do not wish to be considered for a place in the Phase Two selection process for NYDS or any other class squads.

## **Application for NYDS**

Sailors wishing to be considered for a NYDS place should complete an application. Applications should be completed by the 30th of September 2012 online at [www.ryaracingevents.org.uk](http://www.ryaracingevents.org.uk)

## **Rules concerning Zone Squad application**

To clarify, and to avoid any doubt for sailors (and parents of sailors) aspiring to be selected for the NYDS, the following rules will be applied to decisions of NYDS selection.

Sailors must apply for, and sail in the indicator series of the NYDS that either:

- a. Falls within the region/zone of their primary place of residence, or
- b. Falls within the region of their primary sailing club.

If a sailor's primary place of residence and primary sailing club fall within different areas then he/she may initially choose which areas squad to apply for and therefore which indicator series to participate in. However, once a sailor has applied for a particular squad, sailors are not able to change area unless their primary place of residence has changed.

If there are other personal reasons why it may be more convenient for a sailor to be a member of a different zone squad to that described in point a) or b), it should be discussed with their MCA Training Manager in exceptional circumstances, allowances may be made.

Therefore, subsequent to an initial NYDS application unless we believe, or have been notified that a sailor's situation has changed, he/she will not be considered for selection for any other area irrespective of any application received. If you are still unsure of how this applies to your own personal circumstances, please contact the relevant MCA Training Manager Dave Woodhead Email: [d.woodhead450@btinternet.com](mailto:d.woodhead450@btinternet.com) Tel: 01257 265208

If you are unsure which zone your primary place of residence or club falls in, please contact MCA Training Manager

## **Sponsorship**

The MCA may involve a sponsor. If requested, sailors will be expected to display the sponsor's logo on hull or sails in the specified position for the duration of the squad training. Stickers will be supplied by the sponsor.

## **Notification**

Applicants will be notified in writing by email as soon as is practically possible after completion of the final indicator event, usually within 14 days. Successful sailors' names will be published on the MCA website once all the attendance forms/contracts have been returned – it is our policy not to publish this information before this time.

## **Appeals**

There will be no appeals against the published selection criteria or the actions of the selectors, provided they follow the 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 in writing to the MCA Chairman within 5 days of the selection being announced.

### **Sailors who feel they may meet the eligibility criteria for Paralympics competition**

The MCA & RYA endeavours to keep those sailors who feel they may ultimately be eligible for the Paralympics within mainstream race and race training programmes for as long as is practically possible, as we consider this the most effective way to facilitate their development. Sailors are then either transferred across to the Olympic programme or the Paralympics programme, or invited to participate in both of them in parallel should this be considered most effective. Sailors or parents who would like further advice or feel they may meet the relevant criteria are encouraged to discuss in more detail with the relevant RYA Manager.

### **Status**

The Mirror Class Association (MCA) policies and procedures are subject to change from time to time. The MCA reserves the right to amend, supplement and/or discontinue at its absolute discretion, for whatever reason, any or all of its policies and procedures.