



**Athlete Selection System and Requirements
for
2018 US Youth Championship
Wrightsville Beach, NC
June 23-27, 2018
Hosted by the Carolina Yacht Club**

Definition of a Prospective Athlete

A person meeting all Athlete Eligibility requirements specified herein.

Athlete Eligibility

- **Age**
A prospective athlete shall be under the age of 20 years on 31 December 2018 (born after 31 December 1999).
- **Citizenship**
A prospective athlete shall be a citizen of the USA or an eligible permanent resident with written authorization from World Sailing for an exemption under World Sailing Regulation 24.5.4, unless the Organizing Authority grants an exception to this requirement based on a written request to do so.
- **US Sailing Membership**
A prospective athlete must be a member of US Sailing.

Equipment

The 2018 US Youth Championship will be conducted with the equipment (sailboat classes) listed below:

- One Person Dinghy – Laser
- One Person Dinghy – Laser Radial
- Two Person Dinghy – i420
- Two Person Multihull – Nacra 15
- One Person Windsurfer – T293+
- Two Person Skiff – 29er

Selection

Up to 200 prospective athletes will be selected for entry in the 2018 US Youth Championship. Up to 100 of these will be provided invitations based on performance at an Early Acceptance regatta, with the remaining athletes selected based on resume. ALL athletes must complete an application to the US Youth Championship on the US Youth Championships website by the posted deadline to be considered for selection. The selection committee will release the acceptance and waiting lists no later than May 1st, 2018.

Early Acceptance Regattas

9/18/17 update: Highlighted regattas have recently updated dates and/or locations
12/7/2017 Update: Highlighted regattas have recently updated dates and/or locations

Laser (open): Up to 9 Prospective Athletes selected by Early Acceptance:

- Top 3: Atlantic Coast Championship | Ft Lauderdale, FL | January 13-15, 2018
- Top 3*: Midwinters East | Clearwater, FL | February 22-25, 2018
- Top 3*: **Midwinters West | Santa Barbara, CA | March 23-25, 2018**

Laser Radial Boy: Up to 15 Prospective Athletes selected by Early Acceptance:

- Top 3: Chubb US JR Championship (Smythe) | Toms River, NJ | August 8-11, 2017
- Top 3*: Atlantic Coast Championship | Ft Lauderdale, FL | January 13-15, 2018
- Top 3*: Midwinters East | Clearwater, FL | February 22-25, 2018
- Top 3*: Spring High Performance Regatta | Houston, TX | March 2-4, 2018
- Top 3*: **Midwinters West | Santa Barbara, CA | March 23-25, 2018**

Laser Radial Girl: Up to 14 Prospective Athletes selected by Early Acceptance:

- Top 6: US JR Women's Singlehanded Champs (Leiter) | Houston, TX | July 6-11, 2017
- Top 2*: Atlantic Coast Championship | Ft Lauderdale, FL | January 13-15, 2018
- Top 2*: Midwinters East | Clearwater, FL | February 22-25, 2018
- Top 2*: Spring High Performance Regatta | Houston, TX | March 2-4, 2018
- Top 2*: **Midwinters West | Santa Barbara, CA | March 23-25, 2018**

i-420 Boy: Up to 7 Teams** of Prospective Athletes selected by Early Acceptance:

- Top 2: i-420 Atlantic Coast Championship | Greenwich, CT | September 30- October 1, 2017
- Top 2*: Open Orange Bowl | Miami, FL | December 27-30, 2017
- Top 2*: North American Championship | Miami, FL | January 13-15, 2018
- Top 1*: Midwinter Championship | Miami, FL | February 17-19, 2018

i-420 Girl: Up to 6 Teams** of Prospective Athletes selected by Early Acceptance:

- Top 2: i-420 Atlantic Coast Championship | Greenwich, CT | September 30- October 1, 2017
- Top 2*: Open Orange Bowl | Miami, FL | December 27-30, 2017
- Top 1*: North American Championship | Miami, FL | January 13-15, 2018
- Top 1*: Midwinter Championship | Miami, FL | February 17-19, 2018

Nacra 15 (open): Up to 8 Teams of Prospective Athletes selected by Early Acceptance:

- Top 2: North American Championship | Miami, FL | November 18-20, 2017
- Top 3*: **Nacra 15 Regatta | Clearwater, FL | January 2-4, 2018**
- Top 3*: **Nacra 15 Regatta | Long Beach, California | March 29-31, 2018**

T293+ Boy: Up to 3 Prospective Athletes selected by Early Acceptance:

- Top 2: Orange Bowl Youth Windsurf Regatta | Miami, FL | December 28-30, 2017
- Top 1*: Clearwater Midwinters | Clearwater, FL | March 9-11, 2018

T293+ Girl: Up to 2 Prospective Athletes selected by Early Acceptance:

- Top 1: Orange Bowl Youth Windsurf Regatta | Miami, FL | December 28-30, 2017
- Top 1*: Clearwater Midwinters | Clearwater, FL | March 9-11, 2018



29er Boy: Up to 5 Teams** of Prospective Athletes selected by Early Acceptance:

- Top 1: Open Orange Bowl | Miami, FL | December 27-30, 2017
- Top 1*: Spring High Performance Regatta | Houston, TX | March 2-4, 2018
- Top 1*: Midwinters East | Miami, FL | March 16-18, 2018
- Top 2*: Midwinters West | Coronado, CA | March 23-25, 2018

29er Girl: Up to 4 Teams** of Prospective Athletes selected by Early Acceptance:

- Top 1: Open Orange Bowl | Miami, FL | December 27-30, 2017
- Top 1*: Spring High Performance Regatta | Houston, TX | March 2-4, 2018
- Top 1*: Midwinters East | Miami, FL | March 16-18, 2018
- Top 1*: Midwinters West | Coronado, CA | March 23-25, 2018

****Prospective Athlete (singlehanded classes) or Team of Prospective Athletes (doublehanded classes) not already selected in that class.***

*****29er and i-420 teams must sail as male/male or female/female teams in order to be eligible for Early Acceptance. However, mixed teams in all doublehanded classes may apply via resume.***

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *Why are there two ways to be selected for the US Youth Championship (selection via early acceptance event and via resume)?*

A: The purpose of the Early Acceptance Regattas is to provide opportunities for sailors to be selected for the US Youth Championship based on their performance at a single highly competitive regatta (ie, to "sail-in"). The purpose of the application process is to provide an opportunity for sailors to be selected based on their resume of regatta results and training plan. The overall goal is to make sure that the top sailors in each class have ample opportunity to gain acceptance to the Youth Champs and compete in US Sailing's premier youth regatta.

Q: *If I earn an Early Acceptance invitation, do I still need to fill out the application?*

A: Yes. All sailors intending to race in Youth Champs need to fill out the application. Once the final list of accepted sailors is posted, they will have the opportunity to register.

Q: *If I earn an Early Acceptance invitation in the one class (ex: Radial), can I switch to a different class (ex: Laser) and still have Early Acceptance?*

A: No. Early Acceptance spots must be used in the class they were earned in. If you intend to sail Youth Champs in a different class, you can apply for selection via resume.

Q: *Our team earned an Early Acceptance invitation as a doublehanded team, but we are now sailing with new teammates. Do our Early Acceptance invitations carry over to the new teams?*

A: No. The Youth Champs selection process considers each doublehanded team unique, so if you are sailing with new teammates you will need to apply for selection via resume.



Q: *I sail as a part of a male/female or female/male i-420 or 29er team. Can I be selected via Early Acceptance Regatta?*

A: No, mixed teams are not eligible for Early Acceptance in the i-420 and 29er classes, **but they are eligible for selection via resume.** In order to be eligible for Early Acceptance in the i-420 or 29er classes, you must sail as a male/male or female/female pair. This is an effort to support teams that aspire to sail i-420 or 29er in the Youth World Championship, which is sailed in single-gender fleets.

Q: *The Early Acceptance Regattas are mostly in Florida, Texas and California. Do I have to travel to these regattas in order to be selected for Youth Champs?*

A: No. Sailors who do not attend any Early Acceptance Regattas may be selected for Youth Champs via resume based on their performance at regional and national regattas and their training plan. The circuit of Early Acceptance Regattas is focused on the winter and spring seasons, with the goal of selecting sailors who are performing well in the months immediately prior to Youth Champs. Since most major regattas at this time of year are held in warm parts of the country, it is difficult to achieve regional balance.

Q: *The boat classes that I currently sail are not in Youth Champs. Can I still sail in Youth Champs?*

A: Yes, but you will need to train and compete in the new class in order to prepare. Trying different boat classes and expanding your skills to new sailing disciplines is key to building a well-rounded skill-set and growing as a sailor. The classes sailed in Youth Champs reflect the international standard for youth high performance racing, offering sailors the opportunity to excel at the national and international levels. If you find a Youth Champs class that is a good fit, the next step is to build your training plan and spend time on the water sailing the boat. When you apply for Youth Champs, the selection committee will take into account your regatta results from other classes and disciplines, as well as your training plan. For sailors transitioning to a new class, a detailed training plan is critical to a successful application.