



## QUALIFICATION FOR THE US SAILING OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM - 2026

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US Sailing's Olympic Development Program (ODP) is composed of athletes competing in Olympic equipment who are working to make the top 20 in the world to qualify for the US Sailing Team.

To qualify for ODP, athletes/teams must meet the requirements below while training and competing in a 2028 Olympic class boat. Athletes/teams will qualify for a specific Tier (Tier 3, 4, or 5) with corresponding levels of US Sailing-provided support.

### **TIER 3: PERFORMANCE POTENTIAL ATHLETE**

To be eligible for ODP Tier 3, athletes/teams must finish within a specific overall position (listed below) at either of their class's two most recent scheduled Class World Championships OR at the 2026 Trofeo S.A.R. Princesa Sofia Regatta | Palma de Mallorca, ESP | March 27-April 4, 2026:

- 470, 49er, 49erFX, Nacra 17, Men's Kite, Women's Kite: Finish 21-30 overall, within the top 75% of the fleet
- ILCA 6 and Women's iQFOiL classes: Finish 21-40 overall, within the top 75% of the fleet
- ILCA 7 and Men's iQFOiL classes: Finish 21-50 overall, within the top 75% of the fleet

*Athletes who qualify for Tier 3 through performance at a World Championship or at the Princesa Sofia Regatta will maintain this Tier status for the next two scheduled World Championships, provided they meet all outlined requirements.*

- 2020 and/or 2024 Olympians who are not otherwise qualified for Tiers 1 or 2 will be eligible for Tier 3.

*2020 and/or 2024 Olympians who qualify for Tier 3 will activate their Tier 3 status upon signing the US Sailing ODP Agreement and US Sailing Athlete Participation Agreement. They will maintain this Tier 3 status through the World Championship in the year following Tier 3 activation. (For example, if an athlete signs the Tier 3 Agreement in 2026, they will maintain Tier 3 status until the 2027 World Championships, at which point they must qualify outright.)*



## **TIER 4: OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT ATHLETE**

To be eligible for ODP Tier 4, athletes must finish within a specific overall position at any of the following events:

- 2022-2026 Youth Sailing World Championships medalist
- Top 10 overall finish at a 2022-2026 Youth Class World Championship (ex: top 10 at 29er Worlds)
- Top 10 overall finish (within top 50% of the fleet) at a 2022-2026 U21/U23 Olympic-discipline World Championship
- Top 3 finish at any 2022-2026 College Singlehanded Sailing Championships

Athletes may also be considered for Tier 4 through resume-based selection based on international Olympic circuit experience on a case-by-case, class-by-class basis. To be considered, please complete the Tier 4 application form found [HERE](#).

Applications will be reviewed by the US Sailing Team High Performance Director and Olympic Development Director, supported by recommendation from the International Selection Committee (ISC).

- The first application window will be open from April 1-30, 2026, with application decisions communicated no later than May 15, 2026.
- The second application period will be open from July 20-August 21, 2026, with application decisions communicated no later than September 4, 2026.

Note: Results from either the 2026 Princesa Sofia Regatta or 2026 LBOCR may be considered in the resume selection process, though attendance at these regattas is not required for resume selection. Fleet size and competitiveness will be taken into account when reviewing results during the resume selection process.

*Athletes who qualify for Tier 4 will maintain this Tier status until September 30, 2027, provided they meet all outlined requirements.*

## **TIER 5: OLYMPIC TRANSITION ATHLETE**

Athletes may be invited to participate in ODP camps and/or Olympic-class regattas at the Tier 5 level based on available resources. These invitations will be based on the following considerations:

- Member of the US Sailing Youth Team (Tiers 6 and 7) ready to transition to ODP



- Top 3 finish at any 2022-2026 College Sailing National Championship
- Sailing experience and athletic ability
- Interest in and commitment to Olympic sailing
- Goals relevant to future Olympic campaigns

To request an invitation, athletes will need to complete an application form which will be reviewed by the Olympic Development Director, Youth Racing Director, and Youth Performance Manager. The application form can be found [HERE](#). Applications will be reviewed on a quarterly basis.

*Athletes who are invited to participate in Tier 5 will maintain this Tier status until September 30, 2027, provided they meet all outlined requirements.*

## **QUALIFICATION DETAILS AND REQUIREMENTS**

- To be officially named to the ODP for Tiers 3 or 4, athletes must:
  - Tier 3:
    - Submit a Medal Winning Plan to be reviewed and approved by both the USST High Performance Director and the Olympic Development Director.
    - Sign both the 2026 US Sailing Athlete Participation Agreement and the 2026 US Sailing ODP Agreement and comply with all obligations detailed therein.
  - Tier 4:
    - Submit a Performance Progression Plan to be reviewed and approved by the Olympic Development Director.
    - Sign the 2026 US Sailing Athlete Participation Agreement
- Athletes invited to join an ODP camp and/or training block at the Tier 5 level will need to sign the 2026 US Sailing Athlete Participation Agreement.
- Tier Duration and/or Changes
  - If an athlete/team qualifies for a Tier and subsequently qualifies for a higher Tier at a later date, they will move to the higher Tier beginning the first of the month following qualification, with available resources prorated to the same date.
  - Should a Tier 3 or 4 athlete/team fail to requalify per the above time parameters, they will drop down one tiering level.
  - In case of injury, illness, or pregnancy, Tier status may be extended at the discretion of the USST High Performance Director and Olympic Development Director.



- Team and/or Class Changes:
  - If an athlete/team earns Tier status and then changes partners and/or boat class/equipment, athlete(s) must submit a new Medal Winning or Performance Progression Plan and may be appointed to the same Tier with a new partner or in a new class in consultation with the USST High Performance Director and Olympic Development Director.