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QUALIFICATION FOR THE US SAILING TEAM - 2026

To qualify for the US Sailing Team, 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 1 or 2, with corresponding levels of US Sailing Team-provided support.

TIER 1: PODIUM POTENTIAL ATHLETE (TOP 10 IN THE WORLD)

To qualify for US Sailing Team Tier 1, athletes/teams must achieve a top 10 overall finish at:

- either of their class's two most recent scheduled Class World Championships OR
- the 2026 Trofeo S.A.R. Princesa Sofia Regatta | Palma de Mallorca, ESP | March 27-April 4, 2026

Athletes who qualify for Tier 1 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 USST requirements.

TIER 2: PERFORMANCE ATHLETE

To qualify for US Sailing Team Tier 2, athletes/teams must:

- Achieve a top 20 overall finish (within the top 50% of the fleet) at either of their class's two most recent scheduled Class World Championships OR
- Achieve a top 20 overall finish (within the top 50% of the fleet) at the 2026 Trofeo S.A.R. Princesa Sofia Regatta | Palma de Mallorca, ESP | March 27-April 4, 2026

Athletes who qualify for Tier 2 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 USST requirements.

QUALIFICATION DETAILS AND REQUIREMENTS

- To be officially named to the USST after qualifying for Tier 1 or Tier 2, athletes must:
 - Submit their Medal Winning Plan to be reviewed and approved by USST High Performance Director.

- Sign both the 2026 US Sailing Athlete Participation Agreement and the 2026 US Sailing Team Agreement and comply with all obligations detailed therein.
- Tier Duration and/or Changes
 - If an athlete/team qualifies for a Tier and subsequently qualifies for a higher Tier at the following World Championship or Princesa Sofia Regatta, they will move to the higher Tier beginning the first of the month following the regatta at which they qualified, with higher funding amount prorated to the same date.
 - Should a previously qualified athlete/team fail to qualify for Tier 1 or 2 for two consecutive scheduled World Championships, they will drop off the US Sailing Team at the conclusion of the second World Championship and will move to ODP Tier 3. This Tier 3 status will last until the next World Championship, at which point the athlete/team must re-qualify.
 - If an athlete/team's approved schedule conflicts with a qualifying event, the athlete/team may be named to a Tier at the discretion of the USST High Performance Director and supported by recommendation from the International Selection Committee (ISC).
 - In case of injury, illness, pregnancy, or break from competition following the Olympic Games, Tier status may be extended at the discretion of the USST High Performance 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 Plan and may be appointed to a Tier with a new partner or in a new class at the discretion of the USST High Performance Director, supported by recommendation from the International Selection Committee (ISC).
 - This discretionary status is only valid until the next scheduled World Championship.
- Athlete Financial Support: US Sailing, in partnership with the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) provides Direct Athlete Funding to all Tier 1 and 2 athletes named to the US Sailing Team, based on their Tier status and an approved Medal Winning Plan.

ELITE ATHLETE HEALTH INSURANCE (EAHI)

For 2026, the EAHI slots awarded to US Sailing by the USOPC will be allocated based on the following criteria:

1. Athletes who have qualified for Tier 1 as of December 1, 2025, will be allocated an EAHI slot.

- a. If there are more Tier 1 Athletes than available EAHI slots, Tier 1 athletes will be ranked in order of their finishing position at the 2025 World Championships and EAHI will be allocated in order of best finish until all available slots are awarded.
2. If EAHI slots remain after all Tier 1 athletes have received EAHI, the remaining slots will be awarded to athletes who have qualified for Tier 2 as of December 1, 2025.
 - a. If there are more Tier 2 Athletes than available EAHI slots, Tier 2 athletes will be ranked in order of their finishing position at the 2025 World Championships and EAHI will be allocated in order of best finish until all available slots are awarded.
3. If slots remain after the above criteria has been exhausted and/or because an athlete declines coverage, any open slots will remain unused.

ELITE ATHLETE HEALTH INSURANCE DETAILS AND REQUIREMENTS

- To be eligible for EAHI:
 - Athletes must meet the USOPC's Team USA Eligibility: <https://www.usopc.org/TeamUSA-Eligibility>
 - Athletes must sign the 2026 US Sailing Team Agreement and 2026 US Sailing Athlete Participation Agreement.
- EAHI coverage begins upon athlete enrollment, with coverage eligibility beginning as early as January 1, 2026, as long as Athlete has met all requirements.
- EAHI coverage will last until December 31, 2026. Athletes will be notified in advance before coverage termination.
- Once the initial EAHI enrollment offer is sent, athletes have thirty (30) days to accept coverage. If an athlete does not accept/activate coverage within this 30 day window, they will be considered to have declined coverage.
- If an eligible athlete declines coverage, the EAHI slot will go unused.
- If a crew/team changes occur and/or an enrolled athlete stops campaigning, their slot may no longer be available.