



QUALIFICATION FOR THE US SAILING YOUTH NATIONAL TEAM - 2026

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The US Sailing Youth National Team is composed of the top American youth athletes, under age 19, in the Youth Worlds Classes (iQFOiL, Formula Kite, ILCA 6, Nacra 15, 29er, and i420). Up to 74 athletes are named to the team annually, with selection procedures updated and revised on an annual basis.

As described below, athletes may qualify for the Youth National Team based on performance at qualifying events.

The maximum number of athletes in each class will be:

Singlehanded Classes

- ILCA 6 - up to 20 athletes (top 10 male and top 10 female)
- Formula Kite - up to 4 athletes (top 2 male, top 2 female)
- iQFOiL - up to 4 athletes (top 2 male, top 2 female)

Doublehanded Classes

- Nacra 15 - up to 12 athletes (top 6 mixed teams)
- 29er - up to 16 athletes (top 4 mixed/male teams and top 4 female teams)
- i420 - up to 16 athletes (top 4 mixed/male teams and top 4 female teams)

DESIGNED FOR PERFORMANCE

Built on a culture of teamwork, preparation, and accountability, the US Youth Team aims to create the best sailors in the world in under-19 competition and prepare athletes for successful sailing careers, including the Olympic Development Program.

- Teamwork - The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.
- Preparation - Regattas are won in the weeks, months, and years before the race.
- Accountability - Commitment to your training plan, fitness program, and the team.



US SAILING YOUTH NATIONAL TEAM ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION

Athlete Eligibility

- Age: All prospective athletes shall be under the age of 19 years as of December 31, 2025.
 - *Note: Age eligibility for class championship competitions varies. Athletes who turn 19 in 2026 may not be eligible to compete in all events but are still eligible for the US Sailing Youth National Team.*
- Citizenship: Unless otherwise approved by the IOC or World Sailing, all prospective athletes shall be a national of the USA and present proof of nationality (passport) or approved exception.
- Membership: Competitors must have a current US Sailing membership in good standing and shall not be otherwise ineligible to compete under the laws, regulations, policies and rules of the USOPC or its affiliated organizations.

Selection Events

- iQFOiL Youth | up to 4 athletes
 - [iQFOiL Midwinters East](#) | February 14-15, 2026 | Clearwater, FL
 - Top 1 eligible males, Top 1 eligible females
 - [iQFOiL North Americans](#) | July 25-27, 2026 | Long Beach, CA
 - Top 1 eligible males, Top 1 eligible females (not already qualified)
- ILCA 6 | up to 20 athletes
 - [ILCA Midwinters East](#) | February 19-22, 2026 | Miami, FL
 - Top 5 eligible males, Top 5 eligible females
 - [ILCA Midwinters West](#) | March 20-22, 2026 | Newport Beach, CA
 - Top 5 eligible males, Top 5 eligible females (not already qualified)
- Formula Kite | up to 4 athletes
 - [Long Beach OCR Sailing Grand Slam](#) | July 13-16, 2026 | Long Beach, CA
 - Top 2 eligible males, Top 2 eligible females
- Nacra 15 | up to 12 athletes
 - [Lauderdale OCR](#) | January 17-19, 2026 | Ft. Lauderdale, FL
 - Top 3 eligible mixed male/female teams
 - [HHSW Regatta Series](#) | February 13-15, 2026 | St. Petersburg, FL



- Top 3 eligible mixed male/female teams (not already qualified)
- 29er | up to 16 athletes
 - [29er Midwinters East](#) / Helly Hansen Regatta Series | February 13-15, 2026 | St. Petersburg, FL
 - Top 2 eligible mixed/male teams, Top 2 eligible female teams
 - [29er Midwinters West](#) | March 20-22, 2026 | Long Beach, CA
 - Top 2 eligible mixed/male teams, Top 2 eligible female teams (not already qualified)
- i420 | up to 16 athletes
 - [i420 Midwinters East](#) | February 14-16, 2026 | Miami, FL
 - Top 2 eligible mixed/male teams, Top 2 eligible female teams
 - [i420 Midwinters West](#) | March 20-22, 2026 | Long Beach, CA
 - Top 2 eligible mixed/male teams, Top 2 eligible female teams (not already qualified)

Doublehanded Teammate Changes

Each crew member of a doublehanded class who qualifies for the Youth Team does so as an individual.

Should a doublehanded pairing change during the year, Youth Team athletes can apply for their new teammate to receive discretionary admission to Training Camps or National Team Events. This discretionary admission process must also be used for any temporary crew for a specific event or camp. Applications can be submitted via email to youth@ussailing.org and will be reviewed by the Youth Racing Director and Youth Performance Manager.

Accepting Selection

Athletes who earn selection will receive an email with registration instructions and must accept selection by completing the US Youth National Team online registration within fourteen (14) days of selection. Should a qualified athlete not register within fourteen (14) days, US Sailing may offer selection to the next qualified athlete(s).

Costs

- Membership Fee: \$750 (includes team gear and administration)
- Camp and Regatta Coaching Fees: varies based on class, event location, number of coaches, etc. A detailed budget for each camp/regatta will be available at the time of selection. These fees do not include athlete travel, accommodation, charter boats, etc, which are the athlete's responsibility.



Scholarships may be available on a case-by-case basis. To apply for a scholarship, please contact US Sailing at youth@ussailing.org.

Coaching and Support Staff Selection

Class coaches for US Sailing Youth National Team training camps and regattas will be appointed by US Sailing. The job description and application form will be available on the US Sailing website: <https://www.ussailing.org/about/our-people/careers/>