# US Sailing Athlete Selection System and Requirements
# Youth Sailing World Championships | Vilamoura, Portugal | December 11-19, 2026

Published: June 29, 2026

Amended November 6, 2026

The Notice of Race (NOR) for this event has been posted by World Sailing and is available here: https://worldsailingywc.org/notice-board/

**Definition of a Prospective Athlete**

A person meeting all Athlete Eligibility requirements specified herein who wishes to compete in the 2026 Youth Sailing World Championship (Youth Worlds).

**Athlete Eligibility**

- **Age**
  - All prospective athletes shall be under the age of 19 years on 31 December 2026 (born after 31 December 2007 and no later than 31 December 2014).

- **Citizenship**
  - Unless otherwise approved by the IOC or World Sailing Board, all prospective athletes shall be a national of the USA and present proof of nationality (passport) or approved exception.
  - The athlete's passport shall not expire for six months after the conclusion of the 2026 Youth Worlds.

- **World Sailing ID**
  - All prospective athletes shall have a registered 'World Sailor ID' on the World Sailing website.

- **US Sailing Membership**
  - Competitors must have a US Sailing individual or family membership in good standing and shall not be otherwise ineligible to complete under the laws, regulations, policies and rules of the USOPC or its affiliated organizations.

- **Additional Eligibility Requirements**
  - Prospective athletes must meet all the eligibility requirements in the Youth Worlds NOR at the time of the qualifying event.

**Equipment**

The USA qualification events to the Youth Worlds will be conducted with the equipment (sailboat classes) listed below.

- Boy's One Person Dinghy – ILCA 6
- Girl's One Person Dinghy – ILCA 6
- Mixed/Boys' Two-Person Dinghy – i420
- Girls' Two-Person Dinghy – i420
- Mixed/Boys' Skiff – 29er
- Girls' Skiff – 29er
- Mixed Multihull – Nacra15
- Boy's Windsurfer – iQFOiL Youth
- Girl's Windsurfer – iQFOiL Youth
- Boy's Kites – Formula Kite
- Girl's Kites – Formula Kite

**USA Selection for the Youth Worlds**

US Sailing's International Selection Committee (ISC) will select one eligible prospective athlete in each of the single-handed classes and one team of two eligible prospective athletes for each of the double-handed classes to represent the United States at the Youth Sailing World Championship.

For ILCA 6, i420, 29er, iQFOiL Youth, and Formula Kite classes, the top eligible finisher in their class at the following event will earn selection:

- U.S. Youth Championship| October 9-12, 2026 | Long Beach, CA

For Nacra 15 class, the top eligible finisher in their class at the following event will earn selection:

- Buzzelli Nacra 15 North Americans | October 10-12, 2026 | Sarasota, FL

If the regatta is a "non-event" as defined in the Notice of Race for that event, cancelled, or postponed, then the ISC will publish revised selection procedures for the affected class(es) as soon as practicable.

Selected athletes must accept their spot at the Youth Sailing World Championship by emailing youth@ussailing.org within 10 days of selection. Athletes who do not accept selection may be replaced by the next high-ranking athlete or team. If there is no eligible next high-ranking athlete or team, the ISC may select athletes by sailing resume, based on the following criteria:

- Performance at events in the class/discipline in the last 3 years
- Experience with the class/equipment

For the iQFOiL Girls class:

As of November 6, 2026, the sole eligible athlete from the U.S. Youth Championship has declined selection. As a result, the ISC may select a replacement athlete via sailing resume. Eligible athletes must submit their sailing resume and 2026 training plan to US Sailing by November 16, 2026, via this form: https://ussailing.jotform.com/263025840405854

In order to be considered, athletes must meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the Athlete Eligibility section of this document. Athletes will be informed of the selection decision no later than November 23, 2026. Athletes are encouraged to contact youth@ussailing.org with any questions.

**Substitutions**

- Should a selected single-handed athlete be unable to compete for any reason, including injury or illness, the next highest-ranking athlete will be selected.
- In double-handed classes, should both selected athletes in a double-handed boat be unable to compete, the next highest-ranking team will be selected. Should only one of the selected athletes (either skipper or crew) be unable to compete after selection, a substitute athlete may be approved by the ISC.
- Athletes shall submit requests for team composition changes in writing to the ISC by contacting youth@ussailing.org. The ISC reserves the right to disapprove of the request and select the next highest-ranking team.

**Athlete Conduct**

Any athlete found to violate the US Sailing Code of Conduct at any time from the publishing of this document through the commencement of Youth Worlds may not be eligible to represent the USA at Youth Worlds. All decisions regarding an Athlete's violations of the US Sailing Code of Conduct regarding an athlete's eligibility to compete at Youth Worlds will be made by US Sailing, based on the procedures defined in the US Sailing Bylaws and Regulations.

**Athlete Ombudsman**

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by US Sailing may contact either of the following:

- US Sailing Athlete Ombuds, Bob Lane
  - rlane@hmallc.com
- USOPC Ombuds, Kacie Wallace
  - kacie@usathlete.org
- 719-866-2299
  - Toll-free telephone | 1-(888) ATHLETE (1-888-284-5383)
  - https://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Ombuds

**Disclaimer**

The Selection Criteria are based on the latest information available to US Sailing.

**AS THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY FOR SAILING IN THE UNITED STATES, THE COMMITTEE MAY NOT DISCRIMINATE BASED UPON THE APPLICANT'S RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, AGE, SEX OR NATIONAL ORIGIN, DISABILITY, VETERAN STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION, GENETIC INFORMATION, OR ANY OTHER STATUS PROTECTED BY FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAW, WHERE APPLICABLE.**