

HKSF SELECTION GUIDELINES
HKSF National Youth Sailing Team 2025-2026
Selection Guidelines for HKSI Supported Classes 29er, ILCA 6, and ILCA 4
Final 29-8-2024

1) General

The membership of the National Youth Team will be renewed on an annual basis (from 1 April of each calendar year to 31 March of the next calendar year). The youth teams are from 29er, ILCA6 and ILCA4 classes. The selections for the year will consist of two parts; sailors will be selected in the following order of priority; either through their results in named events; and or ranking in the classes specified below (Part 1); or invited at the recommendation of the National Coach with HKSF High Performance Committee's/Council's endorsement (Part 2). In all cases final selection will be confirmed only after a physical assessment and an interview assessment.

2) Aims

These selection guidelines are established to achieve the following:

- a) to have a fair and open selection on an annual basis, aiming to result in sailors being selected of high compatible performance levels.
- b) to identify and select young sailors in 29er, ILCA6 and ILCA4 to be at least 12 and under 18 years of age in the year of selection with potential to achieve outstanding results at the following events:
 - Sailing-World Championships
 - World Sailing Youth World Championships
 - Class World Championships
 - Class Asian Championships
 - Asian Games (when applicable)*
 - China National Games
 - 1st China Student Youth Games Finals.
- c) to provide these young sailors with high performance training.
- d) to prepare these young sailors, when invited, to further their athletic career as full-time sailors at a senior level in preparations for Asian and Olympic Games.
- e) to create a “pooling” of talent for those who have not yet achieved selection to encourage their continued attempts in the following year.

*HKSAR Passport Required.

3) Eligibility

In order to be eligible for selection a sailor must:

- a) Age limits:
 - i) for ILCA4 selection to be born in in 2009 or later and be a maximum of 17 years old at the time of the 2026 Asian Games;
 - ii) for ILCA6 and 29er be under 18 years of age at the end of the year of selection in the year prior to joining the team and to meet other criteria as set out in these guidelines, and
 - iii) be of age at least 12 years on 1st January 2025.
- b) be a member of HKSF; and
- c) have a suitable physique for to perform at a high level in the class they compete in; and
- d) be a holder of a HK Permanent ID card with not less than 7 years residency and be eligible to represent HK in international competitions (as specified in the respective NOR).

- e) Note; in exceptional circumstances at the National Coach's recommendation with HKSF High Performance Committee's/Council's endorsement, sailors outside these limitations may be considered for inclusion in the National Youth Team.

4) National Youth Team

a) Composition:

Ideally places available would be split as closely as possible to a 50% gender allocation, provided performance levels warrant this. Not all places are guaranteed to be filled.

b) Method of Selection:

PART 1 – Sailors will be selected through Selection Event as described in APPENDIX A.

PART 2 – Additional sailors may be invited at the recommendation of the National Coaches with HKSF High Performance Committee's/Council's endorsement *.

In both cases final confirmation of place being offered will be subject to a physical assessment and an interview.

- The physical assessment shall be carried out by HKSI staff.
- The interview shall be carried out by a panel composed by the National Coach; the sailor's coach; one member of the HKSF High Performance Committee.

* This part of the selection guidelines is designed to ensure continuity and a long-term approach covering the following situations (but not exclusively those listed):

- inability of some of the existing National Youth Team sailors to participate in the Selection Event due to entry in overseas competitions and training camps;
- Where some sailors that are deemed to have high potential to achieve future success in major competitions, but have not yet achieved such results reflecting this, the following criteria may be considered:
 - the results in the Selection Events and other local and/or overseas events;
 - observed outcomes in HKSF Future Heroes and Indicator Training
 - the sailors' potential for further development as observed by their coaches (which includes desire to improve performance, training commitment, attitude and behaviour, recorded attendance, and current performance level);
 - taking care of equipment;
 - ability to sail competently around the course.

5) Single-handed Classes - ILCA6 and ILCA4 (maximum 10 places)

a) Part 1; Selection by Results (max. 6 places)

Selection for the 6 places in the National Youth Team in the single-handed classes by results will be as follows:

- ILCA6: The top 4 eligible sailors who finish in the top 1/3 of the eligible sailors in the ILCA 6 fleet at the Selection Event will be guaranteed a place in the National Youth Team for the coming year starting 1st of April. At least 1 sailor must be of the opposite gender;
- ILCA4: the top one boy and top one girl at the Selection Event.
- For ILCA6 and ILCA4, at least 1 sailor must be of the opposite gender, and to be guaranteed a place he/she needs to get into top half of eligible sailors in the Selection Event;

- The selected sailors will be guaranteed a place in the National Youth Team for the coming year starting 1st of April.

b) Part 2; Invitation by Coach Recommendation (max. 4 places, see also bullet 3 below)

- ILCA 6: An additional up to 2 places may be allocated at the National Coach's recommendation, with at least one of the opposite gender;
- ILCA4: The National Coach may also identify up to 2 places at the national Coach's recommendation, with at least one of the opposite gender;
- Up to one additional athlete may be proposed by the National Coach in special circumstances or opportunity, and endorsed by HKSF, which then would change the maximum number to 5 places.

6) Double-handed Class - 29er Class (max. 8 places – 4 teams)

a) Part 1; Selection by Results

Selection for the 4 places (2 teams) in the National Youth Team in the double-handed class by results will be as follows:

- The top 2 eligible teams who finish in the top 1/3 of eligible teams in the 29er Class fleet at the Selection Events will be guaranteed a place in the National Youth Team for the coming year starting 1st of April. At least 1 boys'/mixed team and 1 girls' team must be guaranteed a place provided that such team gets into top half of results of eligible teams in the selection trial.

Part 2; Invitation by Coach Recommendation (max. 2 Teams)

- An additional 2 teams may be invited at the National Coach's recommendation with HKSF High Performance Committee's/Council's endorsement.
- The National Coach may also identify 1 additional team as Potential Athletes in the event that one team becomes unavailable, in which case the Potential team would take their place.
- Up to one additional team may be proposed by the National Coach on special circumstances or opportunity, and endorsed by HKSF

7) Annual Program

a) Time of Selection

Selection for physical assessment and interview will take place based on the respective class annual year ranking as it stands after completion of selection trials. Sailors selected will attend physical and interview assessment before 30th November 2024, with confirmation of selection targeted by the 15th December 2024. Selected sailors will receive National Youth Team status for one year from 1st April 2025 until 31st March 2026.

8) Probation Period

All first time National Youth Team sailors will initially be invited for a 3-month or longer period of probation starting from the 1st of April 2025. At the end of the probation period, an assessment will be made by the coaching staff considering the following:

- Level of performance;
- Potential for further improvement;
- Ability to sail competently in 20 knots of wind;
- Attendance and punctuality;
- Contribution to team work.

If the assessment is satisfactory the National Youth Team status will be extended until the end of the year. The period of probation may be extended if the assessment is unsatisfactory or membership cancelled at

the discretion of the coaching panel. The coaching panel shall consist the National Coach and direct coaching staff.

9) Benefits

National Youth Team members will be eligible for on-the-water and physical training under HKSI coaches. Team members will also be expected to attend local and overseas training camps organised under the National Team Programme.

10) HKSI Scholarships

Those with potential for further improvements to represent Hong Kong at the World Sailing and Class Youth World Championships, with high performance levels, a consistent level of performance at national/international level, commitment to elite training, supported by family/school, and a minimum 15 hours of training per week (over 4 days) may be awarded HKSI Scholarships in the Youth Team which may include financial support for participation in overseas training camps and intensified coaching. These Scholarships may be awarded at the National Coach's recommendation with HKSF High Performance Committee's endorsement and require monthly submission of a training log.

11) Regional/Development Teams

Sailors who are not selected for the National Youth Team but are young enough and have the potential to improve their performance and to be selected in future years, are encouraged to continue sailing in their club programme and/or regional teams.

12) Existing National Team members

Some existing National Team members, who may not have participated in enough Selection Events due to participation in overseas competition and training, may not have a year ranking. The National Coach with HKSF High Performance Committee's endorsement, will then base invitation on the coaches' recommendations on the sailors' performance and results to grant his/her National Youth Team status for one more year, at their discretion.

13) The Final Decision and Appeal Mechanism:

The selection report will be submitted to the HKSF Selection Committee by the National Coach for its endorsement. The final endorsing authority is HKSF Council. Any appeals must be by an aggrieved sailor in the event and class, and must be submitted to the HKSF Council as soon as possible, and no later than 7 days of HKSF announcing the selection result. At its discretion the HKSF Council may appoint an Appeal Working Party to decide on the validity of the appeal and the outcome.

APPENDIX A Selection Events

1. For each of the classes (29er, ILCA 6, and ILCA4) the selection will be based on results from at least four races in the following:

- ILCA and 29er GP at Middle the 16-17th of November, or if that event is unable to be held,
- South Side Regatta 30th November-1st December 2024.

2. In the event that weather or another compelling reason curtails or prevents some or all of the races in the selection event, the selection shall be scored on the basis of the remaining races conducted.