



420 Junior European Championships 2026 Team Selection Policy

ISSUED: November 2025

1. Introduction and Aims

- 1.1. This policy describes the process for the selection of the British Team to compete at the 420 Junior European Championships which incorporate the U22, U19, U17 and U15 Junior European Championships collectively known as the ("*Junior Euros*") to be held from 20th-27th July 2026 in Nida, Lithuania.
- 1.2. The "*Selection Process*" is defined as everything included in this document that relates to the selection of sailors by the British International 420 Class Association ("*the Class*") to represent Great Britain ("*GBR*") at the 2026 420 *Junior Euros*.
- 1.3. The *Class* collaborates with the Royal Yachting Association ("*RYA*"), in order to fulfil the aim of the *RYA's* World Class Youth Programme.
- 1.4. The aim of the *Selection Process* is to select the sailors who will best represent the *Class* at the *Junior Euros* considering the following aims:
 - to give eligible 420 sailors a fair chance to qualify for the British team
 - to provide effective development opportunities, international regatta exposure and coaching to aid the development of promising young 420 sailors
 - to create the best environment to optimise the experience and performance for those selected

2. Independent Selection Committee

- 2.1. The *Class* appoints an independent group of selectors (the Independent Selection Committee or "*ISC*").

The *ISC* will comprise:

Ian Walker (Chair)
John Meadowcroft
Tiffany Cawthorne
RYA representative

- 2.2. The *ISC* will oversee the *Selection Process* and recommend sailors to the *Class* for team selection.



- 2.3. The *ISC* has authority delegated by the *Class Management Committee* to take decisions on all matters concerning the *Selection Process*. The *ISC* will act in its sole discretion in interpreting the provisions of this policy and will make whatever decisions it deems necessary providing they align with the aims of the *Selection Process* outlined in 1.4.
- 2.4. In exceptional circumstances the *ISC* may award discretionary team places if they believe that this best achieves the aims of the *Selection Process*.
- 2.5. Should you wish to correspond with the *ISC* you can do so by email to the chair - ian@familywalker.net. Any requests should be made in a timely fashion and as soon as any issues or concerns first come to light.
- 2.6. *ISC* decisions will be published on the *Class* website.

3. Team Composition

The maximum number of selected pairings will ordinarily be sixteen. Two additional team places are available to pairings that qualify as Under 15s (max possible team size in this instance would be eighteen pairs). These will be selected from the *Ranking*, after any discretionary places (if any) have been awarded. The team will consist of:

- 3.1. Sixteen team places will be awarded to:
 - 3.2.1 any sailor pairings selected by discretion
 - 3.2.2 the four highest ranked U17 pairs
 - 3.2.3 the two highest ranked mixed pairs
 - 3.2.4 the two highest ranked female pairs
 - 3.2.5 the two highest ranked male pairs.
 - 3.2.6 the next highest ranked eligible pairs irrespective of age or gender for the team size to be sixteen pairings in total.
- 3.2. A further two team places may be awarded to eligible Under 15 pairs.
- 3.3. The team composition may be subject to change at the discretion of the *ISC*.

4. Eligibility

In order to be eligible for selection sailors must:

- 4.1. Be eligible to compete for Great Britain at the *Junior Euros*:
 - 4.1.1. For the U22 *Junior Euros*, each member of a pair must be aged under 22 on the 31st of December 2026 (i.e. born in 2005 or later)



- 4.1.2. For the U19 *Junior Euros*, each member of a pair must be aged under 19 on the 31st of December 2026 (i.e. born in 2008 or later)
- 4.1.3. For the U17 *Junior Euros*, each member of a pair must be aged under 17 on the 31st of December 2026 (i.e. born in 2010 or later)
- 4.1.4. For the U15 *Junior Euros*, each member of a pair must be aged under 15 on the 31st of December 2026 (i.e. born in 2012 or later)
- 4.2. Be ordinarily resident in Great Britain, the Isle of Man or Channel Islands at the time of the *Qualifiers* and at the time of the *Junior Euros*.
- 4.3. Be members of *the Class* and the RYA.
- 4.4. Be compliant with World Sailing (WS) eligibility according to WS Regulation 19 at the time of entry for the *Junior Euros*.
- 4.5. Enter the *Qualifiers* together as a pair and remain in the same configuration of helm and crew as the entered pair for the *Selection Series*.
- 4.6. Comply with Section 9 (Sailor pairing substitution).

5. Registration of interest

For a pair to be considered for selection they must register their interest by completing the *Junior Euros* Team Selection request form. This will be published on the *Class* website and should be completed prior to the end of Q1.

6. Selection Events ('Qualifiers')

The Selection Series will consist of the following *Qualifiers*:

- (1) Q1 Winter Championships – 7/8 February 2026, Draycote Water
- (2) Q2 Inland Championships – 21/22 March 2026, Rutland Sailing Club
- (3) Q3 RYA Youth Nationals – 7–10 April 2026, Hayling Island Sailing Club

Q3 is **NON-DISCARDABLE IF A PAIRING IS ELIGIBLE TO SAIL IN THIS EVENT - SEE 7.2**

Dates and venues may be subject to change, and this will be communicated to sailors via the *Class* website as soon as reasonably practicable.



7. Selection Ranking List ('Ranking')

- 7.1. A *Ranking* will be made using the overall finishing positions of Q1, Q2 and Q3. The *Ranking* will include any pairings entered in any of the *Qualifiers* irrespective of whether they are eligible under section 4 or not. The pairing with the lowest cumulative score wins and the pairings will be ranked accordingly.
- 7.2. For pairings that are eligible to compete in the RYA Youth National Championships (Q3), a pairing's *Ranking* score will be created by adding the overall finishing position at Q3 to their best overall finishing position at **either** Q1 or Q2. For clarity this means that only two *Qualifier* results will count towards the *Ranking*, but you must count the result of Q3. A pairing will only need to count one overall finishing position from either Q1 or Q2. Any competitors that do not meet the RYA age limitation and are therefore ineligible to compete in Q3 will need to count their overall finishing positions at Q1 and Q2. If either of these events do not meet the minimum number of races required by 7.3 or they are unable to compete at these events for any reason, the pairing will need to make a request to the ISC under 2.4.
- 7.3. For the overall standings of a *Qualifier* to be counted as part of the *Ranking* there must be a minimum of three races completed. If fewer than three races are completed the results of that *Qualifier* will not count towards the *Ranking*.
- 7.4. If any of the *Qualifiers* do not have a minimum of three completed races, then the *Ranking* will be created using the overall finishing positions in the other two *Qualifiers*. If two of the *Qualifiers* do not have a minimum of three completed races, then the *Ranking* will be created solely from the one valid *Qualifier*.
- 7.5. For the purposes of the *Ranking*, a pairing that does not compete in a *Qualifier* will score points equal to the finishing place one more than the number of pairings entered in whichever *Qualifier* has the most entries.
- 7.6. Following a request for discretion, the *ISC* may decide to amend a pairing's scores in the *Ranking*, award average points, or make any similar decisions if they feel that this best meets the aims of the *Selection Process*. Any discretion request should be made as soon as a Pairing is aware of the relevant issue.
- 7.7. Any ties in the *Ranking* points will be broken in favour of the pair with the better overall finishing position in Q3. If this does not separate a tie for any reason, then it will be separated in favour of the pair with the better finishing position in Q2.



8. Selection Procedure

- 8.1. The *ISC* will aim to select the highest ranked eligible pairs, based upon the *Ranking* outlined in Section 7.
- 8.2. If for any reason it is felt that the *Selection Series* has been compromised, team selection will be undertaken by the *ISC* taking into account any of the following factors: race results from completed *Qualifiers*, past 420 event performance and feedback from the 420 *Class* and *RYA* Performance Squad coaches.
- 8.3. For the avoidance of doubt and notwithstanding any other provision in the *Selection Process*, the *ISC* reserves the right to revoke a nomination once made or to choose to nominate fewer than the target number of pairs. The *ISC* may, in order to achieve the aims outlined in Section 1, opt to not select a full allocation of team places if the standard of the lower ranked pairings is not deemed suitable for International competition. This decision will only be made in consultation with the *Class* and if where doing so better achieves the aims stated in 1.4.

For all teams, the following apply:

- 8.4. All pairings must compete in the category that is applicable to their age / gender mix. ie U17 pairings must compete in the U17 category.
- 8.5. In the event that one or more pairs decline their places in the *Junior Euros* teams then the *ISC* may nominate replacement eligible pairs in the context of the aims outlined in Section 1.

9. Sailor pairing substitution.

- 9.1. The intent is that pairs sail the *Qualifiers* and are selected as a consistent pair (i.e. same helm and crew throughout). Only results achieved with the same crew will count towards the *Ranking* position.
- 9.2. Any crew substitution during a *Qualifier* will be subject to the Sailing Instructions and Jury governing that event.
- 9.3. Sailor pairing substitutions between events will only be considered by the *ISC* in **exceptional circumstances** which are likely to be **beyond the sailors' control**. Any requests must be made to the *ISC* as soon as possible after the pairing becomes aware of the situation.



10. Terms of membership

It is a condition of participation that sailors:

- 10.1. Agree to be bound by the Terms and Conditions of the Team (which will include details of any team logistics and financial contributions), any published code of ethics and conduct, and the rules and regulations of the *Class* and the *RYA*.
- 10.2. Agree to the extent reasonably practicable to participate in the package of training, racing and physical preparation sessions that the *Class* and the *RYA* will propose for the preparation of competitors for each event.
- 10.3. In the event of a sailor not complying with these conditions, then the *ISC* reserve the right to withdraw the nomination of that pair.
- 10.4. If a pairing splits after accepting a place on the team and one member of the pair still wishes to attend the *Junior Euros*, then they should apply to the *ISC* for dispensation. The *ISC* reserves the right to withdraw the team nomination. The *ISC* decision will be reached in consultation with the *Class* and will be based on the impact that it will have on the team or any other pairing that may have wished to compete.

11. Announcements and place acceptance

- 11.1. Where possible the names of those sailors nominated for the teams will be announced at the end of the final *Qualifier*. Any later selection decisions will be announced upon completion and will be posted on the *Class* website.
- 11.2. It is the intention to publish a briefing document as well as holding meetings outlining all known details of the *Junior Euros* at the *Qualifiers*. All prospective team members and their parents are invited to attend these meetings.
- 11.3. Sailors nominated for the team will be required to either accept or decline their place(s) by the date and time published in the offer letter. An initial deposit payment via bank transfer of £250 per sailor per event should be made to the *Class* bank account (to be advised in the briefing document).
- 11.4. The deposit is strictly non-refundable. In addition, any costs (e.g. accommodation or travel) incurred by the *Class*, on behalf of team members who have accepted places must be met by those team members.
- 11.5. In the absence of receiving this payment for both sailors in a pair, it shall be deemed that the places are not accepted, and the places may be offered to another pairing in the *Ranking*.



- 11.6. It is intended this will be a team lead event that the *Class* will organise boat transport, accommodation, entry, team kit and coaching for the team. Pastoral care will be via house parents. Travel will be organised by the individual or parent with the class assisting coordination where possible under guidance/ suggestions. Details and advice will be in the briefing documents. Any further estimated costs for each event will be communicated via the event briefing documents, along with payment stages and deadlines.
- 11.7. Balance of the costs of the *Junior Euros* Team must be paid to the *Class*, by both sailors, no later than 14 days prior to the commencement of the *Junior Euros*. Failure to pay on time will result in the *Class* cancelling the pairing's entry to the event with the event organisers. The sailors will remain liable for their share of any costs that have been incurred or committed to by the *Class*.

12. Appeals

- 12.1. By registering interest under Clause 5 of this policy sailors agree to the published *Selection Process*. Appeals will be limited to allegations of:
- Failure to follow due process
 - Failure to consider any relevant considerations
 - Bias/undue influence
 - Some other misconduct

For the avoidance of doubt an alleged error of judgement of the *ISC* does not constitute grounds for appeal.

- 12.2. Any appeal should be made in writing to the *Class* Chair (420classoffice@gmail.com), stating the grounds for appeal, within 7 days of the *ISC* announcing its decision. If the grounds for appeal are upheld the *Class* Committee will remit it to the *ISC* for further consideration. Any further decision made by the *ISC* will be final.