

RYA Notice to aid selection of sail size for forthcoming RYA National Junior Squad Indicators:

(Please Note – this information below is NO different to how RYA NJS selection has worked for several years, but has been written to help answer some of our frequently asked questions. It is generic information and still, please use your coach as your first port of call for individual advice)

The BIC Techno class is unique amongst the RYA programmes in the respect that the sailors have to choose which rig to select to sail within the UKWA cup events many of which are also indicators for RYA squads and teams. In other classes often the indicator events for each rig/class are separate which means sailors can begin to experiment in the prospective class prior to leaving, and without detriment to their opportunities in the current rig.

For good reason this is not possible in the Techno (or indeed within transition to RS:X) and therefore in order to provide additional advice and guidance for those 'in between' rig's regarding which rig to use at which events for qualification purposes to the RYA National Junior Squad 2011-12, the following clarification notice is intended to provide that generic guidance to sailors and their families.

The selection committee would like to encourage sailors, where possible, to sail at the remaining RYA National Junior Squad qualifiers on the sail size that they intend to be training and competing in next year (in order to enhance chances of qualifying for an automatic results based squad place) , i.e. you should endeavour to qualify on the rig size that you would like to be selected for the winter training period on, and subsequently compete within domestically and internationally next year. For example, if you are currently racing on a 6.8, but need (either because of your age or size) to move up to a 7.8 next year, it is recommended that you sail a 7.8 at one or both of the remaining two (National Junior) squad qualifiers.

You will note that the selection policy accounts for this unique situation and necessitates a selection policy that has a greater degree of flexibility and more than normal (for the dinghy classes) proportion of discretionary places to allow sailors to be selected if and when they switch rig sizes mid-season and therefore mid qualification.

The details of the RYA National Junior Squad selection policy and guidance on selection ages and rig sizes can be found on the RYA website:

<http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/youthjunior/squads/junior/Pages/Selection.aspx#bic>

Sailors and parents should be mindful that Windsurfing is a physically demanding sport and whilst there is little evidence that the loads/demands are radically different from one rig to the other the choice of rig should also be considered in relation to the sailors ability, fitness, strength, technique and size. As such, we would advise you to seek advice from your zone coach and should the conditions dictate be prepared to change down where necessary within the rig category you are competing. e.g. race on a 6.8 in the 7.8 fleet if it's breezy.

Should you have any queries on this, please contact either the class association, your zone coach or Ian Roberts, the newly appointed RYA Techno National Junior Squad Head Coach or the Sailor Liaison member of the Techno Class Association Committee Simon York.

Please note that the 2011-12 RYA National Junior Squad application process is now open and can be accessed at the following web address: <http://www.sailracer.org/events/event-v2.asp?eventid=54587>

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