



AUSTRALIAN OPTIMIST SAILING TEAM & DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

2024 SELECTION PROTOCOL

AIODA reserves the right to amend and re-publish this Selection Protocol at any time and for any reason.

The opportunity to join any of AIODA's Australian Optimist Sailing Teams (AOST) or Development Squads (Squads) is a unique, rewarding and highly sought after experience. Participation in any of the AOST or Squads should be viewed as a privilege to represent Australia and an occasion to experience high quality international competition along with interesting cultures. It is also an opportunity to build sailing experience with a number of similarly motivated sailors trying their best.

Results achieved should not be the sole motivation, nor single performance indicator, but rather the collective learned experiences both in life and sailing afforded by the event, and the experience of being part of a representative team.

To be eligible for the AOST or Squads, a sailor must meet and maintain all of the Eligibility Criteria listed below. This document details the procedure to be followed by AIODA to select and administer the Australian Optimist Sailing Team and the Development Squads in 2024.

TEAM REGATTAS / TRAINING CAMPS SELECTION PROCEDURE

Positions on AOST or Squads for 2024 will be offered to eligible sailors based on performance at the **2024 Australian Optimist Championship** AND participation in the **2024 Australian Optimist Team Racing Championship**. All eligible sailors who are offered a position on the AOST or Squads are required to meet and maintain the Eligibility Criteria.

The number of regattas, number of sailor positions offered and the gender balance requirements at IODA Continental Events are at the discretion of IODA. Usually the positions and regattas offered are based upon Australia's ranking at the previous World Championships.

AIODA will endeavour to send the highest ranked sailors to the highest ranked events.

AIODA intend to run training camps for AOST (19-21 April) and AODS (12-14 April) sailors during which are compulsory elements of participating in the AOST/AODS.

In the event that AIODA offers positions at regattas and training camps, the following positions on the AOST and the Squads will be available:

AOST (Tier 1)

The AOST is Tier 1 and will consist of up to 19 sailors with a minimum of 6 of each gender. The number of AOST places is dependent upon the confirmation of Australia entries into the IODA Continental Championships.

Development Squads (Tier 2)

The Squads are Tier 2 teams aimed at developing sailor's abilities, providing regatta experience and exposing them to national coaching programs to prepare them for future AOST qualification.



The Squads will consist of 12 to 16 sailors and AIODA will ensure representation of sailors of each gender. Squad sailors must be eligible for and must commit to competing at the 2025 Australian Optimist Championships.

AOST / DEVELOPMENT SQUAD SELECTION PROCEDURE

The AOST and Squads Selection Procedure is as follows:

1. Selection for the AOST and Squad positions will be offered to sailors on a top down basis from Tier 1 to Tier 2 based on the 2024 Australian Optimist Championship (Open Fleet).
2. AIODA reserves the unfettered and sole discretion to make selections and allocations to AOST and AODS with consideration to factors it deems appropriate to provide a balance of opportunity, competitiveness and team cohesion.
3. With the exception of the top 5 sailors, all other ranked sailors will only be able to attend 1 international regatta. The top 5 sailors will be eligible to attend a maximum of 2 international regattas.
4. In the event that a sailor is offered and they accept a position at a AOST or Squad regatta or training camp, upon acceptance of an offer the sailor and or guardian will need to pay a non-refundable deposit as determined by AIODA to reserve their position on the team, with deposits to be paid by the due date indicated in the selection offer. Where a sailor declines an offer to an event they had indicated availability for they will not be offered a position in a "lower" Team or Squad unless all other invitations have been exhausted.
5. Sailors who accept an offer to the AOST or Squad will have their position confirmed by AIODA and will be required to complete and maintain adherence to the terms of the Letter of Offer including compliance with the AIODA Codes of Conduct.
6. Sailors will only be eligible to be selected and remain in the AOST or Squads if they meet and maintain the Eligibility Criteria detailed below.

AOST AND SQUADS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for selection as an AOST or a Squad member, the sailor must meet and maintain all of the following Eligibility Criteria:

1. At the time of registration at the selection event, the sailor must be:
 - (a) an Australian citizen; or
 - (b) a permanent resident **and** meet IODA eligibility requirements. If the sailor is not a permanent resident, they must apply to IODA, through AIODA, and be approved for a residency waiver.
2. The sailor must have been born in the year **2009** or later;
3. The sailor must have competed in Open Fleet at the **2024 Australian Optimist Championship**;
4. The sailor must have been nominated in a team that participated in the Australian Optimist Team Racing Championship (AOST selection only);



5. The sailor must be a member of an Australian sailing club affiliated with Australian Sailing and must also be a member of a state optimist class association;
6. Prior to attending their selected international regatta, the sailor must commit to:
 - (a) attending any compulsory AOST/ Squad camps;
 - (b) attending any state based training programs within their home state;
 - (c) attending all major Optimist regattas in their home state; and
 - (d) undertaking regular training in the Optimist dinghy.
7. AOST sailors attending IODA events are required to stay in the IODA provided accommodation with the AOST Coach and Team Manager;
8. The sailor and parent/guardian must complete and adhere to at all times with the Letter of Offer and AIODA Codes of Conduct;
9. Where AIODA becomes aware, via any means, that a sailor has been reported for Misconduct or breaches of the Code of Conduct their eligibility for selection or continued involvement in any team may be reviewed.
10. In the event of international travel being required, the sailor must have a current passport, or the ability to obtain a passport, with the ability to hold any required visa;
11. Have paid all invoiced fees for the AOST or Squad training camp or regatta by the required dates;
12. In addition to the Eligibility Criteria outlined in items 1 to 10 above, Squad members must also be eligible for and must commit to competing at the **2025** Australian Optimist Championships or equivalent as advised by AIODA.