



**HIGH-
PERFORMANCE
PROGRAMME**
*SUPPORT
STRUCTURE*

NZL SAILING TEAM

OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

AON FAST TRACK

DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

AON NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAMME



NZL SAILING TEAM /

The pinnacle level of our NZL Sailing programme.

Sailors qualify for the NZL Sailing Team by achieving:

- / World championships top 10 in the past two years of the last Olympic cycle (2023 or 2024),
- / Top-10 placing at the 2024 Olympic Games or medalling at a previous Olympics, or
- / Top-10 placing at the world championships in the 2025-2028 cycle.



OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT /

These sailors are actively campaigning for the Olympics and are on track to qualify for the NZL Sailing Team. Sailors qualify by placing in the top 20 per cent overall, or in the top 20 overall if there are 100 or fewer competitors, at their Olympic class world championships.

Examples:

/ 140 competitors: 20 per cent = 28th place overall or better.

/ 75 competitors: Top 20 overall.

Note: Support may vary depending on Yachting New Zealand class and strategic priorities.

AON FAST TRACK SQUAD /

The Aon Fast Track squad comprises Olympic campaigning sailors under the age of 24 who have achieved top-level results in world youth, junior (under-21, under-23 or under-24 dependent on class), or a result in a senior world championships.

Eligible sailors will have achieved one of the following results:

- / Olympic class junior world championships medal;
- / World Sailing youth world championships medal;
- / Youth class world championships medal;
- / Placed in the top 40 per cent at an Olympic class open world championships.

Sailors remain on this level for two years, provided they are actively campaigning in an Olympic class with a current campaign plan signed off by Yachting New Zealand. They can re-qualify for the Aon Fast Track squad by meeting any of the above criteria.

If in a double-handed partnership with one sailor over 24, the under-24 sailor will be eligible for Aon Fast Track and the team may be supported (e.g. one sailor is 21 and their sailing partner is 25. They place in the top 40 per cent at an Olympic class world championships = The team may be eligible for support).

If a sailor or team does not manage to requalify within two years, they can apply to remain on Aon Fast Track support for an additional year based on the same criteria outlined for development support (below). Applications will be assessed by a selection panel.

Youth sailors who have medalled at a youth world championships (or youth class world championships) will be assessed for Aon Fast Track once they commence sailing an Olympic class and have a confirmed campaign plan.



DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT /

This is the official entry level of our NZL Sailing high-performance programme. Sailors receive campaign oversight from Yachting New Zealand and access to personal development and performance workshop opportunities.

Being part of the programme allows access to specific athlete performance support (APS) from High Performance Sport New Zealand - including athlete life and strength and conditioning. Coaching is provided based on class strategic priority and squad/training partner involvement.

Development sailors are selected through an application process by submitting their campaign plan and being committed to their Olympic class sailing. Applications must be submitted in either May/June or October/November.

Applications will be assessed by a selection panel comprising NZL Sailing programme leaders, an HPSNZ representative, and a possible independent selector.

Selection criteria:

- / Commitment and work ethic.
- / Results at international pinnacle events in that year.
- / Rank in and quality and depth of NZ fleet.
- / Previous results (youth and Olympic class).
- / Future potential for success in 2028/2032.
- / Individual sailor circumstances (e.g. time in class or in combination).
- / Year-on-year improvement.
- / Feedback from coaches and performance staff.

Note: The number of athletes who can be supported at the development level is subject to resource and numbers allocated by HPSNZ.





PINNACLE EVENTS /

Performance at a pinnacle event is fundamental to the success of the NZL Sailing high-performance programme. Pinnacle events are outlined above for the respective levels and include the Olympic Games, world championships, under-21 and under-23 world championships, World Sailing youth world championships and youth class world championships.

In rare circumstances, sailors may request an alternative pinnacle event. This must be agreed with Yachting New Zealand in advance.



PROGRAMME SUPPORT PRINCIPLES

NZL SAILING PROGRAMME SUPPORT PRINCIPLES /

In addition to the criteria outlined above, support status can be assessed on an individual basis including (but not limited to) past international performance considering factors such as past international performance (including fleet size and quality), contribution to the squad, communication with key stakeholders and the support team, commitment to their objectives, work ethic, behaviours, and intention.

The context of the sailor and their class will also be considered. A panel, which may include an HPSNZ representative and senior athletes, will be consulted when necessary.

Examples include (but are not limited to):

- / Two experienced sailors with previous top results forming a new double-handed combination.
- / A valued training partner or squad member.
- / Returning from injury or childbirth.
- / When an athlete/team qualifies for NZL Sailing Team or Aon Fast Track, they remain on this for two years, provided they have a confirmed campaign plan each year and remain actively campaigning.
- / Olympic development support athletes remain on this level for one year.
- / When an athlete/team qualifies for a programme level and then change(s) partners and/or boat class, athletes may be allowed to remain on this level in a new combination or class at the discretion of the Yachting New Zealand high-performance director.
- / Sailors' year-on-year improvement and overall results trajectory will be considered when being nominated for a squad.
- / Supported sailors are required to sign an athlete agreement with Yachting New Zealand.

Through being a member of the NZL Sailing high-performance programme and achieving benchmark results at international events, HPSNZ provides eligible sailors with funding grants to assist them with living, training and competing. These are known as Tailored Athlete Pathway Support (TAPS). This support comes in the form of athlete performance support (APS) and athlete financial support. Athlete grants come in two forms - elite and potential training grants. Access to HPSNZ TAPS criteria and frequently asked questions can be found by clicking on the link below.

» [CLICK HERE](#)

