

Athena Foiling Pathway U18 WASZP Squad **Notice of Selection 2026/2027**

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1. Introduction

This document sets out the individual-specific eligibility, purpose and intent, selection committee, criteria and the expectations of individuals involved in the selection process for the Athena Foiling Pathway U18 WASZP Squad.

2. Purpose and Intent

a. The overall aim of the Athena Foiling Pathway is to:

“To deliver a world-leading foiling programme that promotes a love and passion for the sport, drives diversity and opportunity, and allows British junior, youth and women sailors to excel in foiling sailing.”

b. To achieve the above, we aim to select those individuals who have:

- Demonstrated passion for the sport
- Eagerness to learn and improve as part of a team
- Potential to achieve excellence
- Proven results in the WASZP and/or other classes
- Committed to the programme

3. Eligibility

a. Sailors must be eligible to represent Great Britain per World Sailing Regulation 19.

b. To be eligible for selection for the U18 Squad, sailors must be 18 or under and over the age of 14 on the 31st of December 2026.

4. Selection Committee

James Parker Mowbray - Performance Academy Manager

Ross Banham - U18 Squad Head Coach

Saskia Clark – Athena Performance Athlete & Olympic Gold Medallist

5. Anticipated Squad Structure

U18 Squad - Up to 12 sailors, two coaches and 7.5 & 8.2 rigs. At least four women, at least six 7.5 rigs.

6. Selection Criteria

U18 Squad

-Top 4 U18 men at the primary selection event

-Top 4 U18 women (7.5m) at the primary selection event

- Up to 4 spots selected from the criteria at the selection events
- At least six sailors on 7.5 rigs

Selection events

Primary selection event – UK WASZP Nationals, 30 July – 2 August, WPNSA

Other selection events – WASZP GP Events, Athena Foiling Fest, 24-28 Aug

The Selection Committee will use the following factors to evidence their decision:

- a) Performance at the primary selection event.
- b) Evidence of meeting the below criteria at the selection events:
 - Eagerness to learn and improve as part of a team
 - Potential to achieve excellence
 - Demonstrated passion for the sport
 - Proven results in the WASZP and/or other classes
 - Committed to the programme
- c) Sailor performances at other national and international regattas over the last six months.

Where it is impossible to attend the specified event, sailors must notify the selection committee in advance, giving the reason and seeking dispensation not to participate in the event. Dispensation will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

Some examples of exceptional circumstances are:

- Illness or injury which precludes sailing (medical diagnosis should be provided)
- Bereavement or non-transferable academic commitments
- Gear failure, breakage or the actions of another competitor

7. Selection Process

The selection process will be as follows:

- 1) Sailor application form
- 2) Selection event
- 3) Selection decisions
- 4) Notification letters
- 5) Squad confirmation

8. Expectations and Commitments

On accepting a squad position, sailors + AFP make the following commitments:

- Sailors shall provide their own boat.
- Sailors shall commit to all published squad camps.
- Sailors, as a minimum, shall compete in the WASZP UK Nationals.
- There will be open training opportunities for sailors who haven't made the squads but are showing improvement and commitment.

9. De-Selection

If the sailor is failing to meet the required standard either in performance or behaviour, they may receive an official warning. Along with the warning, they will also be provided with guidance and support to help them improve their development and progression. If the sailor continues not to meet the required standard, they will be deselected from the programme at the next review point or earlier if necessary.

10. Gross Misconduct

Separate from the above warning system, any sailor found to have committed gross misconduct may be subject to suspension without warning. Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Behaviour that brings the Athena Foiling Pathway or its partners into disrepute
- Breach of anti-doping regulations
- Physical or verbal abuse of fellow athletes, coaches, staff, or officials
- Deliberate damage to equipment or property
- Discriminatory, bullying, or harassing behaviour
- Cheating or intentional unsportsmanlike conduct

In such cases, the Selection Committee reserves the right to investigate and take prompt action. The sailor will be informed in writing of the allegations and allowed to respond before any final decision is made to remove them from the squad.

Any behavioural incident involving a pupil with a disability or SEND will be reviewed in context, with due consideration of the individual's needs, triggers, and support plan.

10. Review Point Selection

Sailors who are unsuccessful in gaining selection at the main selection in the Autumn will have a second chance at the Spring review point.

Sailors will be reviewed throughout the period at UK WASZP regattas and training using the selection criteria.

There is no requirement to deselect a squad sailor/boat to create room within a squad for a new sailor/boat.

11. Contact

For further information please get in touch with afp@athenapathway.com