

Multihull Selection for the Youth World Sailing Championships & Youth Olympic Games

Background

For the past decade the multihull equipment used at the Youth World Sailing Championships (Youth Worlds) has been the Hobie 16 or SL16. This is based on the boat supply contract secured by the Organising Committee.

During this time Australia has used the Hobie 16 class for the purpose of selection to the Australian Sailing Youth Team as it has traditionally been the only class with reasonable domestic participation numbers and even then they have only averaged 4 to 5 (youth) boats over the decade.

Australia has been very successful in the multihull at Youth Worlds given the limited domestic numbers. A large portion of this success is the representation by one family with a strong multihull background (Waterhouse/Darmanin). However, where non-multihull specialists have gained selection they have also achieved Gold or Silver medals at the Youth Worlds.

Australian Youth Worlds Multihull results

Year	Boat used	AUS result	Skipper	Crew	Multihull background
2005	Hobie 16	1 / 11	Evan Walker	Kyle Langford	NO
2006	Hobie 16	4 / 13	Jason Waterhouse	Jeremy Roberts	YES
2007	Hobie 16	3 / 15	Jason Waterhouse	Michael McCormick	YES
2008	SL 16	6 / 16	Jason Waterhouse	Lisa Darmanin	YES
2009	Hobie 16	1 / 17	Jason Waterhouse	Lisa Darmanin	YES
2010	SL 16	1 / 11	Chase Lurati	Paul Darmanin	YES
2011	SL 16	10 / 14	Paul Darmanin	Alexander Vucic	YES
2012	SL 16	2 / 15	Paul Darmanin	Lucy Copeland	YES
2013	SL 16	2 / 15	Paul Darmanin	Lucy Copeland	YES
2014	SL 16	8 / 16	Michelle Bursa	Chelsea Haynes	YES
2015	SL 16	2 / 14	Shaun Connor	Sophie Renouf	NO / YES

During the above period, other nations without significant multihull fleets have chosen to select their Youth Worlds Multihull sailors from the second placed pairs in either the 29er or 420. They then train these crews in the 6 months preceding the Youth Worlds in either a Hobie 16 or SL16. Many have gone on to medal at the Youth Worlds despite their lack of multihull experience. For this reason, there has been significant pressure from coaches and other parties within Australia to do likewise, in particular selecting from 29er ranks where competition is currently strong. An example of this is Shaun Connor who attended the 2014 Youth Worlds crewing in a 29er and gained selection in the Multihull for 2015 after 9 months of multihull sailing.

The future on the world stage – Youth Worlds and Youth Olympic Games

World Sailing (formally ISAF) has now chosen the Nacra 15 to be the sole multihull used at Youth Worlds for the foreseeable future. This is a new purpose designed boat that mirrors the Olympic Nacra 17 and will be a 'semi-foiling' platform. The Nacra 15 will be used in the December 2016 event in Oman as an open gender class and from

July 2017 (Israel) onwards as a mixed gender class to mirror the Olympic class. It will also be used for future Youth Olympic Games (YOG) as a mixed gender class. The next YOG is October 2018 in Argentina and will be open to 15-18 year olds.

As with the Nacra 17, the first 75 Nacra 15's will be offered at a discount of 1000 Euro's (A\$20,500 instead of A\$22,000). However, this will only be open to orders placed via the National Federation (i.e. YA) prior to 21 March 2016. Orders made within this timeframe are expected to be ready for delivery in August 2016. If this order window is missed, it is likely Australian sailors will not be able secure a Nacra 15 until mid 2017.

The future for Australia

The above decisions and class appointments present Australia with the opportunity to review how it selects sailors for the Youth Worlds multihull, and now also the Youth Olympics Games; and what a pathway leading to Olympic Multihull medals looks like in Australia.

In order to help guide this decision, Australian Sailing, Yachting Australia's Performance Program is calling for all interested parties to complete a survey. The survey is open to any interested party from the pathway; a manufacturer, a dinghy or multihull sailor (or parent), as well as class associations.

The survey will **close at 5pm Monday 7 March 2016.**

Following the survey closing, a decision on the class used for Youth World Selection this coming Dec/Jan (for July 2017 Youth Worlds) will be announced.

Current and potential Youth Class comparison

Class	Length	Width	Weight	Main m2	Jib m2	Spin m2	AUD\$ incl. GST²
Hobie 16 ¹	5.04	2.41	145	14.3	5.1	14	\$15,300
Nacra 15 ¹	4.7	2.35	140	13.6	3.3	16.5	\$22,000
SL 16 ¹	4.8	2.32	145	13.8	3.8	17	\$22,600
Viper ¹	5	2.37	130	15.0	3.7	17.5	\$25,500
Laser Radial	4.23	1.7	68	5.8	-	-	\$11,400
29er	4.4	1.63	110	13.19		16.83	\$21,000
420	4.2		100	7.45	2.8	8.83	\$22,600

¹ Multihull class

² Obtained from documents submitted by the classes to World Sailing; includes shipping to Australia and GST, but no road trailer.