



VISION 2024 PLAN

U.S. Olympic Sailing Program

May 2013

OVERVIEW

In December 2012, Olympic Sailing Committee (OSC) Chairman, Ben Richardson, and Managing Director of U.S. Olympic Sailing, Josh Adams, appointed an Olympic Pathways Committee to assess youth development in the U.S., define Olympic pathways, and form recommendations on strategy to the OSC. The collective experience of the expert group—Cory Sertl, Andrew Campbell, Leandro Spina, Zack Leonard, Jay Kehoe, Greg Wilkinson, Charlie McKee, and Jerelyn Biehl—represents many of the major segments of youth sailing in the U.S.

The OPC's report was submitted to and accepted by the Olympic Sailing Committee in March 2013. The report is a comprehensive evaluation of Olympic development and now forms the core of the U.S. Olympic Sailing Program's long-term strategy: VISION 2024.

We must plan long term as a country, and VISION 2024 does that. In the wake of our team's no-medal performance in Olympic classes in Weymouth, Americans should be encouraged by the history we have on our side. In 2004, Olympic sailing teams from Australia, New Zealand, and The Netherlands won no medals; the Aussies, Dutch, and Kiwis bounced back in 2012 with a combined nine medals. Those sailing federations returned to the podium by looking long and supporting their athletes with high-performance strategies focused on sustainable results. We are doing the same.

VISION 2024 compliments the U.S. Olympic Sailing Program's strategic plan for Rio 2016, aligned with our three fundamental success factors: lead a culture of technical excellence; make domestic training a strength; build the base.

VISION 2024 MISSION

Create sustainable performance and reshape the U.S. Olympic pathways.

OLYMPIC PATHWAYS DEFINITION

There is no one path to Olympic success. We define Olympic Pathways as the multiple paths young American sailors can take to build a strong foundation in high-performance boats, as both skipper and crew, and earn successful results in Olympic class racing. Olympic Pathways feature training and racing at these three stages: skill builders, Olympic development classes, and Olympic classes. (See the chart at bottom.)

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

We believe that we will successfully execute our long-term plan by adhering to these critical success factors:

1. Broaden the base of high-performance sailors
2. Promote and provide multiple pathways to Olympic success
3. Expose young sailors to high-performance dinghies early and often
4. Work within the existing frameworks of U.S. youth sailing, including clinics, championships, and organizations
5. Build a domestic training system that consistently produces and prepares competitive Olympic sailors
6. Develop world-class crews

VISION 2024 PLAN, Phase One

In VISION 2024's Phase One (2013-16), the U.S. Olympic Sailing Program is committed to the following action plan.

1. Influence, through policy and support, the direction of championships and clinics to reflect high-performance ideals instead of ideals that limit the capacity of our prospects and champions.

ACTION:

- Work with US Sailing to reestablish the U.S. Youth Championships as *the* premiere youth sailing championship in the U.S. Strengthen the Youth Champs by including all Youth Worlds classes and identifying the event as a qualifier for the U.S. Youth Worlds team. (*completed*)
- Provide US Sailing Team Sperry Top-Sider coaches at the U.S. Youth Championships, appropriate US Sailing junior championships, and regional clinics that meet certain criteria. (*assigned*)
- Coach the coaches: work with US Sailing Training Programs to raise high-performance coaching standards across different segments of youth sailing.
- Guide the development of new clinics for Development and Olympic Classes.

2. Identify, endorse, and support six Olympic development classes: Laser, Laser Radial, I420, 29er, F16, Techno 293. These boats develop critical high-performance sailing skills.

ACTION:

- Inform young sailors about opportunities, events, and ideal body sizes through the OSC's Olympic Pathways grass-roots promotional effort.
- Work with class associations and clinic/regatta organizers to coordinate event schedules and include Olympic development classes.

3. Establish the ISAF Youth World Championships as the primary goal of competitive youth sailors up to age 19.

4. Collaborate with classes and organizations that build the base of junior sailors but do not necessarily promote high-performance or Olympic concepts. Work with the class associations to help their top young sailors identify an Olympic pathway. We recognize

these classes and organizations as positive skill builders: Optimist, C420, High School Sailing, College Sailing, FJ, Open Bic, Naples Sabot, Byte, etc.

5. Double the level of funding we currently spend on youth development.

ACTION: Direct funding to three key areas of support.

- Provide Olympic-level coaching at regional clinics and events that feature Olympic development classes. (*assigned*)
- Youth Worlds team support and training.
- With increased funding: run new national clinics in Olympic development classes, support athlete travel to and provide boats at clinics/championships, and provide additional technical direction and specialty coaching.

6. Create the positions of Youth Development Director and Youth Development Advisor, two new posts responsible for managing the U.S. Olympic Sailing Program's youth development effort. The YDD is a full-time position; YDA is a part-time position. Both report to High Performance Director, Charlie McKee.

ACTION:

- YDD appointment: Leandro Spina (*completed*)
- YDA appointment: Andrew Campbell (*completed*)

7. Place emphasis on competing at world championships:

- Promote greater participation in the junior world championships in Olympic classes.
- Work with Olympic class associations, development class associations, national yacht club leaders, and Sail Canada leadership to draw junior and open class world championships to North America.

ACTION: Appoint OSC subcommittee to pursue opportunities for U.S. to host world championships in Olympic classes; coordinate effort with the Canadians (*assigned*).

8. Partner with college sailing and make the organization part of the solution:

- Work with college coaches with Olympic prospects in their program as de facto assistant coaches to the US Sailing Development Team.
- Provide access to Olympic assets for college coaches involved with Olympic prospects.
- Work with college coaches to maximize Olympic prospects' use of physical training facilities, sailing venues and equipment.
- Work with coaches to form Individual Athlete Plans (IAP) for Olympic prospects.
- Capture the college offseason of Olympic prospects (July-August, January, portions of Fall) to get the more talented sailors in Olympic class boats.

ACTION:

- Make space available for college coaches on US Sailing Team Sperry Top-Sider coach boats at ISAF Sailing World Cup Miami. (*completed*)
- Form IAPs now with Olympic prospects and coaches.
- Promote 2014 ISAF Sailing World Cup Miami to college sailors.

- For college sailors interested in 49er/FX/Nacra 17, provide sailing opportunities at Oakcliff Sailing (Oyster Bay, NY), a US Sailing Team Sperry Top-Sider Training Center. (*ongoing*)

9. Focus on the development of specific high-performance skills at key stages, including:

- Trapeze skills focus: create training programs that train both young skippers and crews in trapezing skills.
- Women sailing, especially helms

ACTION: Recommend and encourage High School Sailing to a) broaden women's-only sailing events and b) create a major women's championship.

- Capture athletes in the 13- to 15-year old window. The U.S. Olympic Sailing Program has an opportunity to step in at this age range to capture and redirect this sizeable group of American sailors who cannot compete in the pram because they are either leaving the sport or moving on to unproductive outlets within it.
 - Communicate alternative paths in Olympic development classes to young sailors who have sized or aged out of the Opti/Sabot.

10. Publish and promote the different Olympic pathways. The chart below identifies the skills required for Olympic sailing success, the development classes we endorse, and a basic analysis of which skills and positions lead to Olympic medals.

Olympic Class	Sail Dev/mast tuning critical	Trapeze	Spinnaker	Development Class
Laser				Radial
Radial				Radial
470 M	YES	YES	YES	I420
470 W	YES	YES	YES	I420
Nacra 17	YES	YES	YES	F16
49er	YES	YES	YES	29er/FX
FX	YES	YES	YES	29er
Finn	YES			Laser
RSX M		YES		Techno 293
RSX W		YES		Techno 293
TOTAL: 10 Classes 15 Medals	60% of classes 73% of medals	70% of classes 67% of medals	50% of classes	<u>Other facts:</u> 100% crews on trapeze 50% skippers on trapeze

ACTION:

- Provide more information on Olympic Pathways at ussailing.org. (*completed*)
- Share Olympic Pathways message at the following 2013 events/with the following organizations:
 - The US Youth Championships and other Youth World Qualifiers
 - Major existing Regional Clinics (CISA, Brooke E. Gonzalez, etc.)

- US Sailing Junior Championships
- College Sailing
- High School Sailing
- Junior Programs and Yacht Clubs
- Youth and Community Programs
- Relevant Classes

U.S. Olympic Sailing Program