

# Welcome to the USODA 2019 Spring Team Qualifier

## International Committee Spring Team Presentation



# Qualifying Regattas

- There are four qualifying regattas a year at which class members can qualify to represent the USA at international regattas:
  - Spring Team Qualifier (Spring teams qualifying event, typically held in October or November)
  - Team Race Midwinter Championship (Trofeo Marco Rizotti qualifying event, typically held in January or February)
  - Team Trials (Summer teams qualifying event, typically held in April)
  - Team Race National Championship (Opti Team Cup Berlin qualifying event, typically held in July or August)

# To which regattas does the USODA typically send teams?

- Spring Teams
  - IODA South American Championship
  - International Palamos Optimist Trophy
  - Lake Garda Optimist Meeting
  - Magic Marine Easter Regatta
- Summer Teams (based on results from Team Trials), in order of seeding
  - IODA World Championship
  - IODA European Championship
  - IODA Asian & Oceanian Championship
  - IODA North American Championship
  - Volvo Gill British National Championship
  - Sport Vlaanderen Nieuwpoortweek Regatta
- Opti Team Cup Berlin, typically receive an invitation to send two team race teams
- Trofeo Marco Rizzoti, typically receive an invitation to send two team race teams

# 2020 Spring Teams (in order of seeding)

- **IODA South American Championship**
  - Mar del Plata, Argentina
  - Tentative dates: March 19-27
  - 15 sailors
- **International Palamos Optimist Trophy**
  - Palamos, Spain
  - Tentative dates: February 9-17
  - 15 sailors
- **Lake Garda Optimist Meeting**
  - Lake Garda, Italy
  - Tentative dates: April 5-13
  - 20 sailors
- **Magic Marine Easter Regatta**
  - Roelofarendsveen, Holland
  - Dates have not been posted
  - 15 sailors



# What is the difference between the international regattas that the International Committee sends sailors to and the National Team sends sailors to?

- The National Team (“NT”) also travels to international regattas. Last year the NT traveled to:
  - Irish Nationals
  - Bermuda Nationals
  - Singapore Youth Championship
- Your sailor must be a member of the NT to receive an invitation to travel to a regatta with the NT.
- The International Committee (“IC”) and the NT do not send sailors to the same regattas.
- Because the IC and the NT both use STQ and TT results to seed teams, it is possible that your sailor could receive an invitation from the IC and the NT to different international regattas around the same time. For example, the IC will invite the top 15 STQ finishers to SAMs and some of those same sailors will also receive an invitation to Singapore. Your sailor can accept the invitations to both.

# Who is eligible to participate on a 2020 USODA Spring international team?

Competitors may elect to participate on one of the 2020 USODA Spring international teams with the order of selection to be based first on the order of finish at STQ and second to complete any applicable gender allocations. It is USODA policy that all international teams adhere to the IODA policy regarding members of the opposite gender (at least 25% of the team).



# Team Selection Process

- Teams will be seeded one at a time starting with the highest ranked available sailor.
- After your sailor receives an email invitation, you will have 24 hours to accept the invitation. To accept the invitation, you will need to register on the USODA website. To register, you pay the registration fee online and complete the waiver via DocuSign.
- As a courtesy, to keep the process moving along, please register as soon as possible. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.
- After 24 hours, if you have not registered and paid, the next sailor on the list will be offered the spot.
- A sailor may decline a spot on a team without being penalized. If you know your sailor does not want the spot, please respond by email to the International Committee as soon as possible so that we can move on to the next sailor on the list.
- There will be NO REFUNDS if a sailor cancels after accepting a spot on a team unless a replacement is found. If a replacement IS found, the registration fee minus \$500 will be returned.

# Important Things to Know

- **You do not need to complete international paperwork in advance of seeding anymore! No more notaries!! No more scanning!!!**
- When seeding based off the results of this STQ, we are going to seed in order of finish. Starting with Team Trials 2020, when you register for the STQ and Team Trials you will be asked to indicate which events your sailor would like to attend, if they qualify. For obvious reasons, this will not be necessary for the two team race qualifiers.
- Since this year's Spring Team Qualifier ("STQ") is occurring so early in the calendar year, some of the Spring international events are not yet scheduled. As a result, **we will not start seeding teams immediately after STQ.**
- Since we have a new process, and nothing is perfect the first time around, we will need you to bear with us as we work through our growing pains.
- You will still know what event (if any) your sailor(s) is attending before the date you normally would (i.e. when STQ occurs over Thanksgiving). Moreover, there is plenty of time between now and the International Palamos Optimist Trophy in mid-February 2020, which is the first of the Spring international teams, to book travel and accommodations, order gear, etc. Please be patient.
- Sailor Code of Conduct - your sailor will sign one code of conduct for USODA regattas, NT/ODP participation, and USODA sponsored international events on an annual basis when you renew their membership with the USODA.



# What happens after the team is seeded and announced?

- All international regattas
  - Team leader will be selected
  - Team leader will contact team shortly thereafter
  - You will need to book your sailor's airline tickets
  - You will need to order your sailor's gear
  - You will need to book your accommodations if you choose to travel with your sailor
- Non-IODA regattas
  - You will need to book your sailor's accommodations

# How are team leaders selected?

- Team leaders are selected by the USODA International Committee.
- The goal is to select a parent who has a good working relationship with the coach(es) and has experience with other USODA international teams, if possible.
- Please volunteer!
- If you are interested in volunteering, please email [usodainternationalcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:usodainternationalcommittee@gmail.com)

# International Team Leader(s) Responsibilities

- Team communications
- Register all sailors with regatta organizers
- Arrange for charters (non-IODA events)
- Facilitate the ordering of team gear through our vendor(s)
- Assign parent duties
- Plan team dinner (non-IODA events)
- Team finances
- Provide a timely final reconciliation with receipts for the USODA accountant

Being a team leader is a difficult job. All parents traveling to the regatta are expected to take on some responsibilities.

- All international regattas
  - Coach boats need to be fueled
  - Coach boats need to be stocked with water, bars, etc.
  - Sailor dollies may need to be stored after launching and waiting when the sailors return to shore
- IODA regattas (in addition to the tasks above)
  - Sailor rooms need to be stocked with water and snacks
  - Sailor laundry needs to be done
  - Sailors may need to be chaperoned when not on the water



# International Team Leader(s)

- Are team leaders compensated?
  - Team leaders are volunteer parents.
  - Accommodations and meals for IODA team leaders are paid for in the team fees.
- WHY?
  - Sailors for IODA events are housed together. The team leader stays at the hotel with the sailors and coaches and is the chaperone for your child when off the water, during meals, and in the evening at the hotel.

# How is the travel schedule determined?

All regattas, except IODA World Championship, Opti Team Cup Berlin, and Trofeo Marco Rizzotti:

- Arrival day
  - You will typically collect your opti and have a team meeting
  - You may have a short practice
  - Team leader will register the team with the OA
- Two - three days of practice
- Race days (typically four or five days)
- Some OAs include a lay day during the race days
- Departure day
- When planning Spring team travel schedules, we try to take into account school calendars

# Travel Arrangements



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- IODA Regattas
  - In-country transportation, housing, meals, and charters are provided by OA (the costs are included in the cost of registration)
  - Sailors are housed together with their coach(es) and the team leader
  - If you travel with your sailor, you are responsible for securing your own housing, which may or may not be in the same place the team is staying
- Non-IODA Regattas
  - In-country transportation, housing, meals, and charters are not provided by the OA (charter costs are included in your registration, but transportation, housing, and meals are not included)
  - USODA blocks hotel rooms for the team, your sailors are housed with you (our teams typically stay at the same hotels every year)
  - Team leader arranges for charters (we provide vendor contact info)
- Elizabeth Kratzig, [sailingteamtravel@gmail.com](mailto:sailingteamtravel@gmail.com)



# A note on budgets

- Budgets are estimates
- The USODA uses the budgets to determine the registration fee (it is our best guess at what the regatta is going to cost)
- You are responsible for all costs whether they are outside of budget or not

# How are the coaches selected?



# How are the coaches selected?

- The coaches apply to coach. Their application includes, among other things, a background check. The International Committee selects the coaches from those who apply.
- The IC is comprised of seven members. The members include five Board members, including the President of the USODA, the Vice President of the USODA, and the Chair of the NT (who is also a past-President of the USODA). Moreover, the members represent different regions of the country where you find pockets of opti sailors. Some are current opti parents, while others are former opti parents.
- Typically, 3 times the number of coaches apply as there are coaching spots available. For example, 24 coaches have applied to coach the 2020 Spring teams for which 9 coaching spots are available. Moreover, 21 of those 24 coaches have coached an international regatta for the USODA previously and all but 2 have coached multiple times.
- The IC strives to pick the best possible coach for each regatta.
- Please know that with 3 times the coaches for coaching spots, it is not possible to choose all of the amazing coaches that have applied. Politics are not at play. The IC is made up of a group of well-intentioned folks who volunteer hundreds of hours a year to help make all of this possible (and not so they can ensure their favorite coach gets picked). Sometimes their favorite coach isn't chosen and sometimes your favorite coach won't be chosen. Please act like adults.



# The things I wish someone had told me...

- Take two sails
- Pack your sailor's sailing kit in carry-on baggage
- Pack the USA flag (and other USA gear)
- Take stuff to trade





# What I always forget to say, until my presentation is over and then regret not having said...

- These regattas are really fun



# What I always forget to say, until my presentation is over and then regret not having said...

- Your sailor will change (for the better) as a result of having gone to these regattas





# What I always forget to say, until my presentation is over and then regret not having said...

- Your sailor will make friends with kids from all over the world



# What I always forget to say, until my presentation is over and then regret not having said...

- If your child doesn't qualify, that is okay too - I promise.