

Blake MacDiarmid - FL

Blake MacDiarmid is a current Board member and past USODA President. In that leadership role, he worked with membership to revamp the Class communications platform, increase parent engagement, and improve Class management.

Blake is the US National Team Chair and sits on the International Committee. Working with the USNT Committee, in 2019 he spearheaded the launch of the national "ODP2" Optimist Development Program to broaden access to coordinated development coaching/content on a regional basis. The result was an increase in USNT/Development sailor enrollment from 55 to almost 200 in just one year.

A strategic consultant, Blake is a former professional F2 Sailboards sailor and member of the around-the-world maxi catamaran Team Adventure training team. He was program director of the Southport (Maine) Yacht Club junior program with an enrollment of 200 children, served as North American VP/29er Class World Council, and provides strategic and communications support to the US Sailing Team.

Blake is father to three sailors. Ian, 21, is a US Sailing Team member currently the top ranked American 49er crew in the world, and a former USNT Top Gun. Will, 13, recently graduated from the LYC Opti program and is moving into the 29er, and Clare, 11, loves being on the water - but has no interest in racing!

His goals for USODA include responsibly managing Class programming in the post-Covid world, expanding opportunities for learn to sail/Green Fleeters, growing Class membership in California and Great Lakes regions to ensure sustainability, and improving event site selection and diversity.