

2017-18 Victorian Sailing Team



Forming the pathway to the
Victorian Institute of Sport Sailing Program and the Australian Sailing Team.



1 Introduction

This document outlines the purpose of the VICTORIAN SAILING TEAM (VST), as well as roles of each of the contributing parties.

The VST aims to boost the participation of junior, youth and under 24 aged sailors and lift the standard of sailing in Victoria. This is to be achieved by providing the best possible support, encouragement and opportunities for aspirational Junior, Youth and under 24 aged sailors, and to offer young sailors direction, in line with the Australian Sailing Performance Pathway.

The VST aims to do this by working closely with engaged Clubs and Classes, with a sense of shared objectives, to work together so as to provide the best and most cohesive support program.

In particular, the Class Development Coaching Programs organised by each of the eligible Class Associations provide a critically important step in skills development and critical mass for sailors aspiring to be included in the VIC SAILING TEAM.

As the feeder program to the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) Sailing Program, the VST initiative seeks to strike an appropriate balance to achieve critical mass and skills development in certain classes of sailing boats that are active in Victoria. The inclusion criteria are therefore based around the Australian Sailing Junior & Youth Pathway Classes (International Optimist, Laser 4.7, Laser Radial, 420, 29er and Nacra 15) and the Olympic Classes. Certain additional Junior/Youth classes that have achieved regular and on-going on-water critical mass (currently the Minnow and International Cadet classes) are also included.

The 2017-18 program will commence on 1 March 2017 and operate until 28 February 2018.

In previous years the majority of each sailor's on-water performance coaching program was delivered through their specific class/club-coaching program. Following a broad review undertaken in early 2016 by the Victorian Coaching Committee, the key change is that each VST sailors' on-water program will be co-ordinated by the Head of State Coaching under new Performance Coaching arrangements.

In addition, members of the VST are reminded that they will also need to undertake their own independently arranged training sessions whenever possible in order to optimise the development of their own sailing skills.

2 Eligibility and Selection Process

2.1 Eligibility for selection into the VST

To be eligible for selection in the VST, all sailors must:

- a) permanently reside in Victoria or in a township approved by Australian Sailing (AS).
- b) be a financial member of:
 - i. an AS-affiliated sailing club in Victoria; and
 - ii. an AS Pathway Class Association in Victoria.
- c) be under 24 years old at 31 December 2017; and
- d) be of the correct age for their class (unless transitioning). For Minnow and International Cadet helmspersons who are 15 years or under at December 31st 2017. If 15 years old, must be transitioning to a YA Youth Pathway class.

In the case of a double-handed boat, both the skipper and crew must meet the above criteria to be eligible for selection.

Sailors selected into the 2017-18 VIS Sailing Program will not be eligible for selection into the VST. However the two groups may train and/or compete together from time-to-time under coaches from either program to provide greater synergy & connection between the two programs, as has occurred in 2015 and 2016.

2.2 Selection Process

Selection to the VST is via application and the following table summarises the process for 2017/18:

Date:	Action:
Any time before 1 February 2017	Eligible sailors must submit an application to the AS Manager Regattas and Events, and discuss with the Head of State Coaching Eligible sailors must submit to the AS Manager Regattas and Events a short application (1-2 pages) outlining why they would like to be considered for invitation to be a member of the VST 2017/18.
2 February 2017	Proposed list of 2017/18 VST sailors collated by the AS Head of State Coaching and presented to the selection panel
13 February 2017	Proposed list confirmed by the appointed Panel and letters of invitation sent to selected sailors
22 February 2017	Sailors' VST invitation acceptances or declines due
24 February 2017	VST team list announced

Australian Sailing's Performance Program is the responsible authority for making all decisions and determinations regarding the application of the VST selection criteria and for all other issues relating to this document and will consult with the relevant State Committee where relevant. Sailors must advise the AS Manager Regattas and Events of their acceptance of an offer in the VST by the due date specified in the Letter of Offer.

3 Selection Criteria

In recent years the VST was selected based on points accumulated by sailors from nominated selection regattas.

For 2017/18 selections this points-based system will be replaced with an AS Performance Program led system. A panel that, at a minimum, comprises the following persons will determine final selection to the VST:

- AS Performance Pathway Manager

- AS Regional Manager - Victoria
- VIS Head Coach (Sailing)
- Head of State Coaching
- A Yachting Victoria Board Nominee (nominally the Coaching Committee Chair)

Specifically, the Head of State Coaching (or nominee), as outlined in the above table, will prepare a proposed list of VST recommended applicants based broadly on the following subjective criteria and objectives (where participation and results criteria apply these are for the 12 months preceding the VST program commencing):

1. Participation in and good results at national level (Class Nationals, Australian Youth Championships and at least one of QLD Youth Championships or NSW Youth Championships). Top 50% of fleet as a guide.
2. Participation in and very good results at state level (States, Youths, VSC events). Top 40% of fleet as a guide.
3. Demonstrated commitment to take part in an optimal number of regattas and events at local, state and national level.
5. Demonstrated commitment to attending coaching programs and to ensuring an ability to cope with the required amount of 'time on water' in a coaching and pre-regatta environment.
6. Ability to understand a 'campaigning culture' and work with a coach and/or a squad toward important regattas, and an application confirming commitment to this, optimum time on water, and the VST code of conduct
7. A basic understanding and willingness to commit to the required sports science and fitness requirements of a performance program.
8. Adhering to the 'user-pay' component of this subsidised program.
9. All VST members to undergo a Physio screening with recommended AS Physio.

Note that there will be no fixed quota or allocation of places in the VST for each eligible class.

For double-handed classes, selection will also take into account the level of commitment by the helm and crew combination and their plans to continue sailing together for the 2017/18 season.

If a crew split occurs after the selection period, both members will stay in the VST, as long as each member finds a partner of a comparable standard to other members of the team, or anticipated to quickly reach the standard, and the crew combination is approved by the Head of State Coaching.

If a sailor selected to the VST does not demonstrate the required level of commitment to their training or engages in off-water conduct of a nature that is inconsistent with 'being their best', the Head of State Coaching may recommend to the AS Performance Pathway Manager (AS PPM) that the relevant sailor no longer be a member of the VST. The AS PPM may consult with the selection panel before making any determination.

Existing VST sailors who are not able to compete in these events must explain before the relevant event the reason for their absence by email to Head of State Coaching and AS Performance Pathway Manager.

3.1 Benefits of Inclusion in the VST

As part of the VST, sailors will be entitled to:

1. Access to Performance Coaching managed by the Head of State Coaching - Victoria. Details of the program are available at: (<http://www.sailing.org.au/performance-coaching-program-victoria/>);
2. Access to off-water sessions, delivered by experts in their field on a range of topics;
3. Participation in the annual VIS Pacer Cup event;
4. Invitations to listen to guest speakers. In the past this has included Gold Medallists, America's Cup Sailors and World Champions;
5. Support at nominated interstate events, in partnership with class associations;
6. A VST uniform maybe partial funded; and
7. Access to VST Sponsorship opportunities.

4 Contacts

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