



Dear Federation,

International Junior Sailing Academy was born from our realisation of the lack of opportunities for young promising sailors once they reach their teenage years. From our coaching and racing experience it was evident that due to lack of funding, time and services at the disposal of young sailors, most promising athletes end up leaving the sport before finishing high-school.

By analysing the results of junior world and continental championships it becomes evident how the majority of talented athletes, especially those coming from countries with limited financial resources or without a fully developed structure for the development of top level athletes, does not make it to top international level as adults. This trend is also strongly reflected in the distribution of medals at recent Olympic Games. Using Italy as an example, the results achieved in junior world championships in the past decades have not translated either into Olympic level results or in a growth of amateur sailing. Our research led us to start the first sailing college placement program in Italy 18 months ago. With a class of 12 sailors from around Italy we conducted a test to verify the effectiveness of the program and to evaluate the benefits it can bring to athletes and their families. The results were extremely positive, with two students recruited by US colleges, who will start their undergraduate degree in 2018, and other students already in talks with multiple colleges. Our mission, which describes the program perfectly and in which we truly believe in is:

If you are a good sailor and a good student you can use your talents, and take advantage of opportunities to study around the world.

The College Placement Program aims first of all to INFORM about the different options available to young athletes to keep sailing at high level while completing their higher education and entering the working environment. The second step is to PREPARE young sailors by giving them the tools to take advantage of these opportunities while teaching them to be athletes. The College Placement program offers a long term development plan for the athlete which revolves around four areas of work: English language, physical training, technical sailing development and preparation for college life abroad. After an initial training to assess the level of the athlete in every area the team develops a long term overall plan with short term goals to achieve, and offers long distance counselling to athletes, their families and their coaches. This is

complemented by four training camps each year, during which the athletes complete tests to keep track of their improvements and the IJSA team adapts the long term plan to their learning curves. During the training camps athletes also have the opportunity to learn from some of the best professionals in working area, from professional sailors to fitness coaches, specialised nutritionists, sailmakers, English professors, student counsellors and even US College Sailing Coaches. This, and a variety of other activities offered during the camps, helps develop the athletes into all around sailors while motivating them to excel in their studies.

We believe that the program is very innovative in the sailing environment. Especially in this period when the dream of becoming Olympic sailors is not accessible by most due to the lack of funding and time, the College Placement program offers a new approach and new motivations to families and sailors which see results for their sacrifices. The project is supported by ICSA, through the president Mitch Brindley, which we have met at his University in Virginia (USA), and some College Sailing coaches. Alessandro Ambrosi, head coach at Hampton University, has been attending ICSA training camps at least once a year, to coach the young sailors and for recruitment purposes.

The project is a perfect fit for the principles that guide EUROSAF, and we would be excited to have the support of the federation's support in keeping the initiative alive and helping sailors in accessing the program.

EUROSAF and IJSA will provide four scholarships for each member federation (two for 50% of the yearly fee, one for 40% and one 30%) for the 2018-2019 season of the IJSA College Placement Program.

The individual federations are asked to select the athletes independently and provide details and contact information to IJSA as will be detailed at a later stage.

IJSA College Placement Program Quick Facts:

Registration Fee: €200 per year

Monthly Fee: €230 per month

Number of participants: 20 athletes per class, with a maximum of 2 classes

Registrations will be open until 31 August 2018, and will be confirmed once the initial registration fee is deposited to:

IJSA College Placement Claudio Brighenti - IBAN:
IT59M0359901899080168518443

For further information or queries do not hesitate to contact info@ijsa.eu.

Kind regards,

Claudio Brighenti and Giovanni Canazza