



Class Association Membership

You need to be a Member of the Class Association to enter Class Events, Class Training, the RYA Youth Championships and any other events that are organised under the ISAF Rules of Sailing and in accordance with the ISAF International 420 Class Rules.

The membership year runs from 1 September to 30 August, but someone entering the Nationals for the first time, will have their membership valid for the full year following.

Please apply for membership as early as possible before your first Event/Training session, so that we can process your application.

Photo courtesy of Peter Newton Photography

For more information

Check out the website where there is loads about the class or you can contact any of the committee via the contacts page. Most Class communication is via the website or one of the social networks



British International 420 Class

@420gbrsailing

www.420sailing.org.uk



- ◆ International Class - sailed Worldwide
- ◆ Ideal progression from any Junior Class
- ◆ RYA Pathway Class
- ◆ RYA Transition and Youth Class Support
- ◆ One Design Racing
- ◆ Strong sailor based Class Association
- ◆ Full UK and International Racing Programme
- ◆ Challenging to sail well but easy to learn
- ◆ Nationwide Fleets

Transition to the 420 Class

The best advice is to seek out a boat & get a sail in one – the speed is exhilarating & the rig is particularly adjustable so that light weight crew partnerships can go out in surprisingly strong breezes, possibly even stronger winds than they would be happy with in their junior classes! A sub 45kg sailor can right a 420 from turtled after capsize which is not the case with all youth boats – this is important as you move to a youth class where there may not be the same rescue coverage as you have experienced in the Junior fleets. Second hand boat availability is good with competition in the new boat market from a variety of boat manufacturers. There are several specialist chandlers who are happy to offer advice.



The British International 420 Class Association

Considering a 420?

The 420 is an established performance two person trapeze and spinnaker racing dinghy. There are 56,000 worldwide. This popular dinghy is sailed at school, club, open, national and international levels. There are many second hand boats available, active clubs and excellent tuition for all levels. Built in buoyancy tanks make the boat very safe even when inverted. The 420 is a youth development boat in the UK and in 42 other countries, and despite the emergence of newer commercially driven classes and asymmetrics, the 420 is still the top youth training boat. Most of the World's top sailors started in this class and easily moved on to succeed in other classes.

How big do I need to be?

Successful pairings have ranged from about 110kg to 135kg. From the RYA Youth website: "the ideal combined weight is 130 kg with the helm weighing between 50-60kg and the crew at 60-75kgs" but this is only a guideline and many pairings when first joining the class are below these levels. At recent National Championships, about 50% of sailors were boys and 50% girls. In the UK most sailors are in the 15-19 age range, but in other countries the class has many older competitors. The 420 rig is very easy to control and adjust, so can be optimized for light or heavy pairings, allowing them to be competitive in all wind conditions.

What training is there?

The UK 420 Class Association organizes a training programme open to all class members. There are three to four training weekends in the autumn and a similar number in the spring, plus a training Camp in October half term. Coaching is provided by world class 420 coaches, with on the water coaching, video debriefs, shore based sessions and racing. Where possible, the coaching ratio is generally maintained at one coach per six boats. Details of these events are published on the main Event Calendar and on the special Training Event pages of the Class web site.

The 420 has been selected as the double-handed boat for boys and for girls at the Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championships.



2012 RYA Youth Championships, Pwllheli - Photo courtesy of Peter Newton Photography



So you've decided to become a 420 sailor...

It's a good choice & the experience of sailing a 420 will not disappoint. The first major event is the 420 Nationals, usually held in August. This event is often the first major event for new sailors moving into the fleet and a great intro to 420 life since there are plenty of socials for sailors and parents to network through - as a newcomer you will not be alone.

Parents do tend to stay around, there are shore-based duties to cover and inevitable boat repairs to undertake. The 420 class employ an on shore and on water coach to particularly support the newer sailors. They tend to run briefings and debriefings most days. **HELPFUL HINT:** try to find accommodation nearby: there tends to be a 420 event most nights, which the sailors sign up to, and chauffeuring is a bind. These range from buddy nights, games nights to a great black tie dinner. Yet another 420 tradition. Parents are invited to this and asked to buy in to 'supervise' so bring your posh frock!

The overall feel at the Nationals is of a relaxed event; it may be the first event for some but is often the finale for those off to university that year - But, there is hot competition! Lots of trophies to be challenged for and the RYA do use performance here as a marker for squad selection.

The season is kick-started so what happens next?

Check out the 420 event calendar on the website. The major events throughout the year are a must.

Class Training

Suitable for sailors of all abilities often with 20+ sailors attending from newbies to youth squad. Ratio 1:6 run by top world class coaches with 420/470 experience. Great value for money!

Youth Squad and Transitional Squad

RYA determined squads selected on the basis of "Nationals, Inlands, End of Seasons" and Class Training performance taking into consideration past sailing experience and achievements. The squad tend to be announced in September (Youth squad) and December (Transitional squad). You do need to apply for a place so watch the RYA website for details. Sailors tend to aim for these squads but remember not everyone makes it and there is plenty of good value training provided via the Class.

Selections for Worlds and Junior Europeans Teams

Normally scheduled March through to May Day weekend. If the Worlds championships are to be held in the Southern hemisphere these events are usually rescheduled to September with a Europeans then being held in its place early summer. These offer excellent hot competition as World and Euro teams are chosen on the basis of these events but are all sailable as individual events.

Suitable for all abilities but tends to be quite a tense event because of the selection process. Both the 420 Worlds, Euros and Junior Euros are closed events so you must qualify to enter. The current process is that the top 7 girl boats may enter the Women Worlds and the top 7 all boy or mixed teams enter

the Open World Championship. Similarly the top 7 boats are invited to represent GBR at the Junior Euros. This must include 2 girl boats.

RYA Youth Championships

An RYA organised event for youth classes, normally held in the Easter school holidays. Used by the RYA to select the sailors to represent GBR at the ISAF world championships and also form part of the youth squad selection process.

Worlds and Euros

These are closed events. Well supported by the RYA who fund team coaches for the event. Parents are involved: each event is different. As an Association we tend to provide 1 or 2 team managers and ask for house parents dependant on accommodation options. In addition we try to have shore based bosun support.



Worlds 2011- Buenos Aires, Argentina



Class Multistacking Trailer

Special events that are traditionally supported by the 420 fleet are listed below:

Tiger Trophy - is normally scheduled the first weekend in February at Rutland Water - well attended by 420 sailors.

Kiel Regatta - scheduled late June, An enormous international regatta for craft of all sizes and a great spectacle at the Olympic venue from 1972. Fantastic sailing event to watch and lots of on shore activity.

Flanders Regatta - A well attended regatta for junior and youth fleets. Local to south coast so easy access. **French Nationals** - Normally July and a weeks event kicked off by a casual 'team racing' event. RYA supported with coach if enough GBR sailors sign up. A great way to launch your International 420 career. Suitable for intermediate sailors.

Talk to the other sailors who are signed up - the events work well if the GBR team all 'camp' together enhancing the team spirit and providing social fun for all. Tend not to be many social events arranged by the French 420 class but there is all that French food and wine to enjoy! Normally a typical relaxed French event.



2011 Europeans in Tavira