

ILCA Age Policy and Useful Information

Youth Age Policy and Championships

The Laser is widely used as a youth training and racing boat. The chart below illustrates a typical progression and suggested age limits for prizes at youth events. The stepped progression maintains interest throughout youth years for different rates of growth.

World Championships - General

As a result of high demand for places at major championships, the majority of Laser World Championships and Laser European Championships are allocated place events.

Birth Year**	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993
Laser 4.7***	UNDER 16			UNDER 18					
Laser Radial Youth	UNDER 17			UNDER 19					
Laser Radial Women				UNDER 21					
Laser Standard Men				UNDER 21					

* The age the competitor becomes in the year of the championship.

** The year during which the competitor must have been born for a 2013 championship using this guide.

*** Lower age group upper limit increased from under 15 to under 16 in October 2008.

Within these age limits there will be a wide variation in weight for a given age, therefore some overlap is necessary. The age bands for each rig show suggested main prize categories even when the total entry for a rig is starting together. In larger events, prizes for more age groups within the band limits should be awarded to generate even greater interest.

In general, the ILCA recommends that youth events shall be held in Laser 4.7 and Laser Radial rigs. The ILCA also recommends an Under-21 category (17 - 20 years old in the year of the championship) for the Laser Standard Men and Laser Radial Women categories.

In 2013 the ILCA will organize Youth World Championships in the Laser Radial and Laser 4.7, following the above age limits, and an Under-21 World Championship for the Laser Standard Men and Laser Radial Women.

Competitors in Youth World Championships will normally be in the upper age limits and will be of a high standard. They should be experienced in big fleets and able to sail well in open water venues in all wind conditions. Entering a world championship without experience and ability in all racing conditions is not recommended, especially if a sailor is not heavy or strong enough to handle the rig.

Women's Events

The ILCA's recommended policy is that women's championships should be held in the Laser Radial. For identification purposes at certain events women's sails shall carry a red rhombus above the top batten pocket on both sides, see class rule 4(g). Red rhombi shall conform with ILCA Rules, Part Two, section 4(g)(i) RED RHOMBUS.

Laser 4.7 Events

Although the Laser 4.7 is used primarily as a youth class, in some places it may be appropriate to run "open" Laser 4.7 regattas for lighter weight adults. At these events, separate category prizes for youth and women should also be considered, in a format similar to that of the Laser Radial.