ISA AFFILIATED CLASSES PROMOTING JUNIOR AND YOUTH SAILING

Picking which dinghy best suits each sailor
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Active Class Associations support the successful dinghy classes in Ireland and the ISA works closely with the Classes affiliated to it.

Affiliated Class Associations, both dinghy and keelboat, play a key role in introducing newcomers to the Sport and supporting them in the development of their sailing and competitive skills.

This guide is directed at those young dinghy sailors who have reached the Improving Skills level and are considering what Class of boat will best suit the type of racing and general involvement in the Sport that most interests them.

It looks at the ISA Affiliated Classes popular at Junior and Youth Levels and highlights a number of the key considerations for a sailor choosing the boat best suited to their future participation.

Choosing the boat to sail or purchase is a personal decision but it can be difficult to know what boat best suits each sailor’s interests, physique, preferred type of participation, competitive potential and financial capacity.

WHAT TO CONSIDER

**Classes** cater for a different interests – local racing, national circuit or some more sociable

**Cost Comparisons**: new, secondhand availability, residual value and maintenance costs

**Single-handed**: Offer opportunity to hone personal skills more quickly

**Double-handed**: Offer opportunities to develop crewing skills and how to use multiple sails and rig combinations

**Double-handed** classes keep a wider range of sailors active

**Classes** are designed for different Helm and Crew Weights

Some classes may be popular in your club OR More Suited to your location
Consider both Single-handed and Double-handed Options

A Balance between Single and Double Handed boats is key to Retention and Participation

**SINGLE OR DOUBLE-HANDED: THE BENEFITS**

- Single-handed require less crew management
- Double-handed sailing can be more sociable and fun.
- Double-handed offer more flexibility with regard to physique, gender and age combinations
- Sailing in a double handed boat is an excellent way to start and crewing a skill required for later ages
- Some sailors prefer to crew rather than to helm: allows specialisation in specific skills like spinnaker handling
- Instructors need both double and single-handed skills.
- Easy to start in single-handed but not progression route for all
- Single-handed: easier for traveling sailors
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- Instructors need both double and single-handed skills.
- Easy to start in single-handed but not progression route for all
- Single-handed: easier for traveling sailors
Double and Single-handed Dinghies both have a place – it often suits to learn the basic skills in Single-handed boats and then move into Double-handed as either helm or crew when you progress further in racing.

**When Choosing a Competition Class: Consider?**

- **Your Location:** Choose Classes already active in your club or location.
- **Age & Weight:** Boats and rigs should suit the weight and age of the sailor/s.
- **Class Associations:** Vibrant Class Associations encourage class growth.
- **Double-handed:** More sociable, learn more skills and can share costs.
- **Competition:** Participating in Local Racing is a key time in development of Life Long Sailors.
## The Affiliated Classes – Promoting Junior Sailing

*Junior Classes are classified as those sailed up to 15 years. Some Classes may span Junior and Youth categories and allow juniors an extended career in the boat depending on their own size, and for double-handed boats, the size of their crew.*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Skill Level</th>
<th>Recommended Age</th>
<th>Weight Range</th>
<th>Class Website</th>
<th>Distribution of Classes in Ireland</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OPTIMIST</strong></td>
<td>Size/forgiving nature make it good for introducing sailors at an early age. Recognised as also providing a foundation to the physical, technical and racing skills needed in competitive racing.</td>
<td>Single-hander</td>
<td>Start/Basic Skills</td>
<td>7 – 15 Years</td>
<td>38- 50 Kgs</td>
<td><a href="#">Class Website</a></td>
<td><a href="#">Distribution of Classes in Ireland</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOPAZ</strong></td>
<td>Robust and suitable as introductory boat with flexible rig options to convert to a single or double-hander.</td>
<td>Double-hander/Single-hander</td>
<td>Start/Basic Skills</td>
<td>10 – 15 Years</td>
<td>60/100 Kgs (depending if single or double-handed)</td>
<td><a href="#">Class Website</a></td>
<td><a href="#">Distribution of Classes in Ireland</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOPPER</strong></td>
<td>A single-handed boat with standard or reduced sail options. A prominent feeder into the Youth Classes</td>
<td>Single-hander</td>
<td>Start/Basic Skills</td>
<td>8 – 15 Years</td>
<td>45 – 58 Kgs</td>
<td><a href="#">Class Website</a></td>
<td><a href="#">Distribution of Classes in Ireland</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MIRROR</strong></td>
<td>A double-handed boat with symmetric spinnaker available in wood or GPR</td>
<td>Double-hander</td>
<td>Basic/Improving Skills</td>
<td>11 – 15 Years</td>
<td>85 - 110 Kgs</td>
<td><a href="#">Class Website</a></td>
<td><a href="#">Distribution of Classes in Ireland</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RS FEVA</strong></td>
<td>Is a double-handed asymmetric boat with a flexible rig configuration which is a good feeder boat to many of the Youth Classes.</td>
<td>Double-hander</td>
<td>Basic/Improving Skills</td>
<td>11 – 15 Years</td>
<td>85 – 110 Kgs</td>
<td><a href="#">Class Website</a></td>
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The Affiliated Classes – Promoting Youth Sailing

Youth Classes are classified as those sailed up to 18 years. Some Classes may span Youth and Adult categories and encourage sailors to continue in the boat depending on their own size, and for double-handed boats, the size of their crew.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>LASER 4.7</td>
<td>A single-handed sail feeder Class for both the Laser Radial and Laser Standard that allows sailors transition easily using the same hull with different sail and lower mast.</td>
<td>Single-hander</td>
<td>Improving Skills</td>
<td>14 – 16 Years</td>
<td>54 – 64 Kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>420</td>
<td>A double-handed trapeze boat with symmetrical spinnaker. The Junior Classes feed this Class and after a number of years sailors can progress into senior classes.</td>
<td>Double-hander</td>
<td>Improving/Advanced Skills</td>
<td>14 – 18 Years</td>
<td>115–130 Kgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LASER RADIAL</td>
<td>The women’s single-handed Olympic Class, a popular single-handed boat for men and women and the transition class for boys to the Laser Standard Class.</td>
<td>Single-hander</td>
<td>Improving Skills</td>
<td>15 – 18+ Years</td>
<td>64 – 70 Kgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RS 200</td>
<td>A double-handed boat with an asymmetric spinnaker sailed by those who have progressed to advanced skills level. Some may continue to sail as an adult or family boat while others transition into the RS 400.</td>
<td>Double-hander</td>
<td>Advanced Skills</td>
<td>16 – 21+ Years</td>
<td>120 – 155 Kgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP 14</td>
<td>A double-handed boat with symmetric spinnaker and genoa sailed at youth and adult level. It is available in wood or GRP.</td>
<td>Double-hander</td>
<td>Advanced Skills</td>
<td>17 – 22+ Years</td>
<td>130 - 180 Kgs</td>
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How can the ISA help

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- ISA Affiliated Classes (link)
- ISA Affiliated Clubs (link)
- ISA Calendar of Events (link)
- ISA News (link)

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