



Received: February 2024

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**Supporting Secretaries**: UK (owner of the bid), full list below (i)

## **Summary: Increase Youth age at European Championship**

### **Affects:**

Constitution

Deed of Gift

Other

By-Laws

Rules of Conduct

Class Rules

NoR or SI Template

### **Objective:**

- Attract more youth sailors.
- Create a broader talent pool.
- Provide mentorship opportunities.
- Provide continuity in the class.

### **Proposal:**

~~Junior~~ Youth European Championship Trophy

The proposal is to change the Junior European Championship (U22) to a Youth European Championship (U30).

Maintaining a separate category and prize for U22 sailors within the championship remains the priority, providing recognition and incentives for younger participants while accommodating the broader age range of U30 competitors.

This adjustment ensures that youth sailors remain motivated and engaged in the sport for a longer duration.

Additionally, expanding the age limit makes it easier to attract participation from various countries to this championship, thereby enriching the competitive experience and promoting international collaboration within the Snipe Class Community.

Moreover, a wider age range can make it more interesting for a club to organize the competition.

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<sup>1</sup> Proposals can be made by the Board, Technical Committee, National Secretaries or 5 fleet captains up to 1<sup>st</sup> March.



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**Emblematic of:** ~~Junior~~ Youth Championship of Europe

**Donated by:** SCIRA United Kingdom

**Owned by:** SCIRA United Kingdom

**Awarded to:** Winning skipper and crew

**Entry and Eligibility:**

1. ~~Junior~~ Youth members of SCIRA.

//This program is designed to support young people, a group encompassing those in the transitional period from childhood to adulthood [1]. **Open to:**

...

6. A minimum of one **Junior** team (skipper and crew) and escort (one person) from each country shall be offered lodging and food.

7. No entry fees are chargeable **for Juniors**.

...

9. Divisions of medals shall be presented for trophies for top 3 places in the following divisions:

We propose to have the categories:

Or Proposal 1

have a capped team age of 50. This could support fair team strength.

- U22: Skipper U22, Crew U30
- U26: Skipper U26, Crew U26
- U30: Skipper U30, Crew U22

Or Proposal 2

Where both skipper and crew meet the same criteria:

- U22
- U30

## **Reasons**

### **Preample**

The U22 age category in the Snipe class has likely existed for a long time, possibly since the early years. However, society is evolving, and more young people are pursuing longer periods of study. This often leaves little time for sailing Snipe. It is worth noting that the UN refers to the U25 category, while the European Union uses U30 (ii). The phase of youth is characterized by a period when young people are not yet completely independent of their parents. We can absolutely maintain the Junior category U22 from a physical point of view. With general global, and in particular the European evolution of society, we can justify raising the age for Youth at the ~~Junior~~ Youth European championship.



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The **main arguments** for this request are:

### 1. Attract more 'youth' sailors

- **Current age ranges in other classes leave a gap for the +18-U25 year old sailors:**
  - o World Sailing applies the *U19* rule to Youth Sailing, in particular for the Youth Championships (ILCA 6, 420, 29er) [source [2024-Youth-Worlds NOR 25JAN24.pdf \(d2cx26qpfwuhvu.cloudfront.net\)](#)]
  - o According to a self-conducted study of the sailors mentioned in the World Sailing Olympic ranking, the age in Olympic classes ranges from *24-44 years* [source [World Sailing - Fleet Racing - Olympic Rankings](#)]
- With a few exceptions, such as primarily Spain, no European Snipe nation has a **sustainable junior fleet**. [source: SCIRA, see attachment 1]
  - o With a Junior representation of 15,97%, we can't state the Snipe Class is a Junior Class. This give us the opportunity to focus on the U30 age group, which currently lacks specific targeting by any other class, making it a highly appealing potential demographic to engage with.
  - o 52,94% of countries with not enough junior members to form 1 team.

### 2. Adapting to evolving societal context

- The age of U22 has been used for a long time, presumably since the early years of SCIRA's existence. Meanwhile, **society has evolved**. More young people are studying, as well as longer. This makes them **hold youth status longer**. Also, because of this study, they have fewer opportunities to participate in major junior championships. Today, when they start, they are up against experienced sailors, which is not motivating.
- In most nations of Europe, the government does **not give a financial support** for sailors to pursuit their sailing career (before or) after the age of 18.
- In most nations of Europe, there is **no such thing as University sailing**. When sailors are 18 years old, they need to choose: they continue a sailing career or they start their higher education. There is no governmental financial support and under pressure from their parents, most of these sailors choose higher education. This means they are studying from ages 18-21 for a Bachelor's degree and 18-23 for a Master's degree. In other words, *they come back to the sailing scene when they're already 21 or 23, missing every chance to prepare and/or participate in U22 events.*



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### 3. Continuity in the Snipe class

- **Creating a broader talent pool.**  
Expanding the eligible age range would open the door to a wider youth community.
- **Provide mentorship opportunities.**  
'Older' (U30) sailors could act as mentors to Junior (U22) sailors. They are closer to U22 (junior) sailors and can attract more younger sailors. The U30 can take the U22 under their wing and travel to events together. (Which is already in the Snipe spirit).
- There is a **potential gap to build a community among youth sailors** who continue after active periods in their younger years once they have consolidated their studies and start to sail Snipe most often 'for life'.

### 4. Benefits of broadening the Junior European Championship

Currently **no European nation has a junior only regatta** and if they do organize a regatta, it is from junior to U30. Extend this community to a major championship.

By extending, we:

- Will be the *only class* offering a specific approach to the over +21 & U30 year olds
- Accommodate the *diverse paths* of young sailors
- Offer *more time to master their skills*, before having to compete only against the (much) more experienced sailors like Damian Borrás, Alexandre Tinoco, Jordy Tray, Victor Perez, Augie Diaz, Ernesto Rodriguez, and many more.
- *Create a culture of mentorship* within the (Junior) Snipe Class Community. Older junior sailors serve as role models and mentors for their younger counterparts, sharing invaluable knowledge and experience garnered over years of sailing. This intergenerational exchange not only elevates the skill level of junior sailors but also fosters a sense of camaraderie and mutual support essential for the class's growth and vitality.

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## (ii) Definitions

**UN.org**

# SCIRA Proposal Form

Number 24-10



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YOUTH is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence. That's why, as a category, youth is more fluid than other fixed age-groups. Yet, age is the easiest way to define this group, particularly in relation to education and employment, because 'youth' is often referred to a person between the ages of leaving compulsory education, and finding their first job.

What does the United Nations mean by 'youth'? The United Nations, for statistical purposes, defines 'youth', as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years, without prejudice to other definitions by Member States.

## European Union

Young people are defined as those between 15 and 29 years old.

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## Supporting countries

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>SECRETARY</b>
UK	Peter Wolstenhome
Belgium	Katia Royer
Italy	Stefano Longhi
Portugal	Manuel Stichini Vilela
Spain	Cesar Travado
Finland	Reino Suonsilta