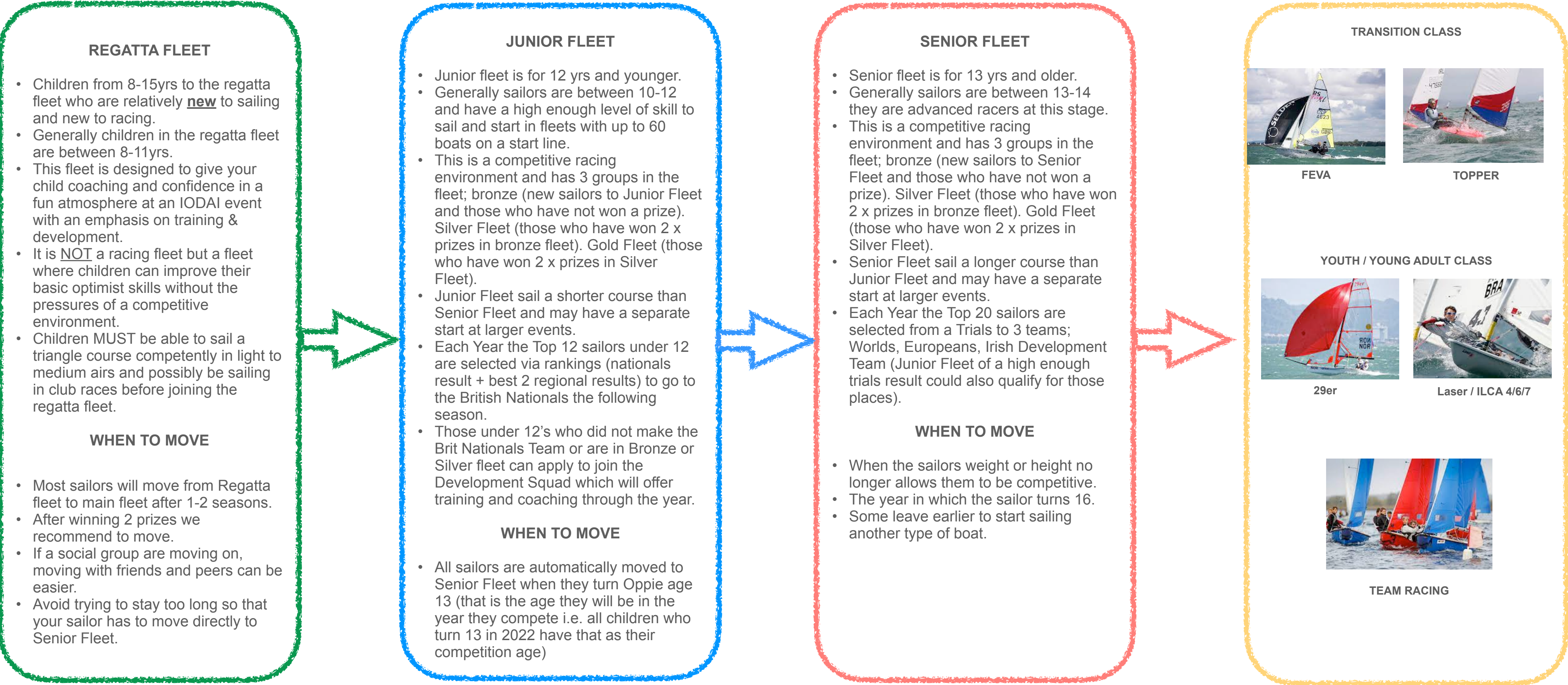





Sailing Pathway

The Optimist dinghy offers a great platform for children to learn sailing and racing from the age of 8yrs through to 15yrs. By 13yrs most sailors are deciding on their next class or earlier if physically they have outgrown the boat. Below is an outline of the journey thought the Optimist.






Transition classes

The club have identified the Topper and the RS Feva as the best boats to help keep children in sailing and as ideal transition boats (1-3 years). Both these boats provide a great learning platform to then move into 29ers and Lasers which are both large classes at the club. Team racing is also available from the club and does not require boat ownership.

		Description	Easyness to sail	Performance	Fleet Numbers at Nationals 2022	Ave. age range	IS Pathway boat
Double Handed Dinghies		The Feva The world’s leading double handed dinghy for youngsters and parent / child teams. An <u>International Class</u> with events around the globe, the RS Feva is fast-growing in most developed sailing nations and expanding into others every year. Chosen by families, clubs and National Authorities to build the pathway to a lifetime in sailing – the RS Feva offers a double-handed alternative and a stepping stone at the crucial time in sailing lives. Exciting performance is the secret behind the success.	*****	***	15	11-16yrs	N
Single Handed Dinghies		The Topper 4.2, 5.3, 6.4 The topper is a single handed dinghy that is highly durable and has very large international fleets, with over 300 boats at the UK championships. It has a friendly racing circuit and is part of the RYA pathway for sailors. The Topper has a centre mainsheet and is ergonomic to hike out. It’s light weight makes it easy to car top.	*****	**	60	10yrs to mid 20’s	Y
Team Dinghies		Team Racing While traditionally a college sailing sport many clubs now offer it to younger teen sailors. Team racing is done with 6 identical boats, normally double handers, racing each other. The 3 v 3 format makes for fun and exciting racing with a great social element. Boat handling, tactics and rules are quickly learned in this fleet.	***	**	120 sailors Elmo Cup	12-25	N

Youth / Young Adult Clasesess

The 29er and the ILCA are very popular at the club and have strong fleets and great coaching available. As kids get older the team racing scene with it’s great social side is a very popular activity. Many sailors will team race as well as sail the 29er and ILCA.

		Description	Easyness to sail	Performance	Fleet Numbers at Nationals 2022	Ave. age range	IS Pathway boat
Double Handed Dinghies		The 29er The 29er is a two-person, single trapeze dinghy with an asymmetric spinnaker and a lightweight hull. The boats are durable, well equipped and fully competitive straight out of the box. The rig is pure skiff, fully battened sails with a self-tacking jib, supported on a composite tipped mast that gives the ultimate in gust response and acceleration. Combine this with the asymmetric spinnaker and you'll discover the 29er is pure dynamite downwind.	**	*****	15-20	13-18yrs	Y
		The ILCA 4 / 6 / 7 The Laser is challenging and it is rewarding whether it be at club level or the Olympic Games. When you take your 10 year old boat out for a local race the challenge is to work harder, hike longer, be smarter and sail better than the other Laser sailors. At the end of the race you count the number of boats behind you and you are rewarded with the knowledge that you beat them fair and square by your own skill and effort.	**	***	33	13-20yrs	Y
Single Handed Dinghies							
Team Dinghies		Team Racing While traditionally a college sailing sport many clubs now offer it to younger teen sailors. Team racing is done with 6 identical boats, normally double handers, racing each other. The 3 v 3 format makes for fun and exciting racing with a great social element. Boat handling, tactics and rules are quickly learned in this fleet.	***	**	120 sailors Elmo Cup	12-25	N

Some important questions to ask about a future class;

- What is the price and availability of boats?
- How long do the boats last?
- Is my sailor better in a team or on their own?
- What is the culture of the fleet like?
- Is the class mixed with other youth and/or adult sailors?
- What fleets are strong in your local area?
- Does the fleet have a development programme?
- What boat is this a stepping stone to?
- Is there a good gender balance in the fleet?
- What are the aims of my sailor (results, resilience, social, fun)?
- Link to IS Pathway Document

Other Options

Some dinghies and other boats to be aware of that could keep teenagers and young adults involved in sailing include the following;

Under 25 Keel boat programmes - these suit those out of dinghies and looking for a social but challenging racing experience.



J24



J80



1720

Young adult high performance dinghies - mainly sailed by young adults, these classes are building large youth followings globally



RS AERO



WAZP