

**2026 WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**Split Croatia, 28 September – 2 October 2026**

**ATHLETE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

UniSport is now seeking expressions of interest from skippers and crew for the 2026 FISU World University Championship Sailing (Fleet Racing) being held in Split, Croatia from 28 September – 2 October 2026.

Participation in the World University Championship Sailing (Fleet Racing) is self-funded. The participation fee including participation fees, technical fees, accreditation, boat hire costs, accommodation and meals, ground transport, dress uniforms will be approximately \$3500 (this does not include flights to Croatia or the damage deposit).

**1. Eligibility**

All athletes must:

- a) Be an Australian passport holder
- b) Be born between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2001 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008
- c) Be currently enrolled and proceeding towards a diploma or higher at a high education institution recognised by the appropriate national academic authority; or former students of the institutions mentioned above who have graduated in the year preceding the event.

**2. Conditions**

- a) All skippers must have a WS Sailor ID.
- b) All competitors must be a member of a club affiliated with Australian Sailing.
- c) All competitors must have an active Australian Sailing number.
- d) All competitors shall meet the eligibility requirements of World Sailing Eligibility Code.
- e) The registered skipper shall helm the boat at all times while racing, except in an emergency.

**3. Entry**

- a) The number of crew members on board must remain the same throughout the competition.
- b) Crews shall consist of three (3) or four (4) persons in a gender-equal configuration
- c) The weight of the crew is limited to 315kg maximum
- d) All registered crew shall sail all races
- e) Except in the case of the CISCA decision in conjunction with the International Jury (IJ), the skipper and the crew cannot be replaced during the championship
- f) Prior to the selection of teams, the organising authority and the FISU Technical Delegate shall fix the number of participating teams. Priority shall be given to the entry of one (1) crew per country. This first list shall be validated by the OA and the World Sailing and FISU TDs three (3) months before the event. Then, the remaining places shall be given according to the date of payment of the 50% deposit to the OA. Additional entries (not more than 3 crews per nation) will be at the sole discretion of FISU and the OA.
- g) At the first General Technical Meeting, the Head of the Delegation or his/ her representative shall confirm and sign the official list of the competitors accredited by the CIC.

**4. Format**



- a) The format is umpired fleet racing and consists of a qualifying series and a final series.
- b) A pairing list states the number of races and the teams for each race. The pairing list for the qualifying series shall be distributed before the first race and published on the ONB.
- c) The top five (5) teams in the qualifying series progress to the final series.
- d) The format may be modified during the event in a fair and practical way as solely determined by the OA after consulting the FISU Technical Delegate and Course Representative and taking into account the entries, weather conditions, time constraints and any other relevant factors. This includes changing the pairing list, the racing schedule, eliminating any race and terminating the series.

## **5. Boats and Sails**

- a) Type of boats: five (5) identical Melges 20 boats will be provided for the University World Championship.
- b) The following sails will be provided for each boat: mainsail, jib and gennaker.
- c) Boats will be allocated by draw, either daily or for each round, as decided by the Race Committee.
- d) While racing, competitors shall be required to wear bibs displaying their national flag on the back (this changes RRS G1.1). These bibs will be provided by the OA. They will be worn outside of all other clothing.
- e) Each competitor is required to bring their own Personal Flotation Devices at least to the standard Level 50S – PFD Type 3.
- f) A basic tool kit including personal hand tools is allowed on board (adhesive tape, rubber bands, rope, pennant material, watch, stopwatch, compass, shackles, Velcro, bosun chair, or harness, winch handle, spare blocks)
- g) The race committee shall determine the sail configuration to be used.
- h) A GPS tracking device may be provided by the organising authority

## **6. Selection**

UniSport Australia as the national university sports federation and member of FISU has the authority to enter a maximum of three teams. UniSport will work with Australian Sailing to finalise the selection and nomination of teams. UniSport reserves the right to determine if and how many teams will be selected.

All selection decisions will be made on the basis of potential international success at the World University Championship Sailing (keel boats, umpired Fleet Racing) as the primary basis for selection.

Skippers and athletes applying for selection will be selected in order of the following criteria:

- a) Performances in previous and recent international fleet racing events
- b) Performances in previous and recent Australian fleet racing events
- c) Potential to compete at international level and be capable of progressing to the finals at this event

With their nomination, skippers are asked to indicate their proposed crew. Please note that final decisions regarding crew will sit with UniSport Australia and Australian Sailing.

These guidelines are stated allowing applicants to be considered for selection. They do not in any way guarantee that an individual or crew will be selected. Selections will be approved by Australian Sailing.

The above information must be read in conjunction with the [Selection of High Performance Teams Guideline - UniRoos](#)

To express interest in selection, please complete the [EOI form](#) by Monday 20 April 2026

**Useful Links:**

How to get or search for your World Sailing ID: <https://www.sailing.org/sailors/world-sailing-profile/>

Australian Sailing number finder - <https://www.sailing.org.au/member-finder/>

[World Sailing Eligibility Code](#)

