

2026 Starling Match Racing National Championships Eligibility and Region Definition

To be eligible to represent a region a competitor shall be under the age of 19 on the first day of the Starling Match Racing National Championships and be a member of a yacht club affiliated to Yachting New Zealand within the relevant region.

	Region	Definition
1	Northland	Clubs listed under "Northland" on YNZ's website (see https://www.yachtingnz.org.nz/clubs/find-club)
2	North Harbour	Manly Sailing Club Gulf Harbour Yacht Club Weiti Boating Club Torbay Sailing Club Murrays Bay Sailing Club Milford Cruising Club Pupuke Boating Club Takapuna Boating Club Wakatere Boating Club Northcote Birkenhead Yacht Club Hobsonville Yacht Club Clearwater Cove Yacht Club Devonport Yacht Club RNZ Navy Sailing Club
3	Auckland	Clubs listed under "Auckland" on YNZ's website, except those designated "North Harbour" above.
4	Waikato / Thames / Coromandel	Clubs listed under "Waikato/Thames" on YNZ's website
5	Bay of Plenty	Clubs listed under "Bay of Plenty" on YNZ's website, except Lake Taupo Yacht Club
6	Napier / Taupo	Clubs listed under "East Coast NI" on YNZ's website, plus Lake Taupo Yacht Club
7	Taranaki	Clubs listed under "Western Districts" on YNZ's website
8	Wellington	Clubs listed under "Wellington" on YNZ's website
9	Nelson / Marlborough	Clubs listed under "Nelson / Marlborough" on YNZ's website
10	Canterbury	Clubs listed under "West Coast SI" and "Canterbury" on YNZ's website
11	Otago / Southland	Clubs listed under "Otago" and "Southland" on YNZ's website
12	Wildcard	

Each region may nominate one entrant.

Any region that does not nominate an entrant by 8 January 2026 shall forfeit its place.

The Starling Class Association (SCA) will select entrants for the wildcard place and to fill any places forfeited. In selecting the entrants, the SCA will have regard to:

- encouraging participation of female sailors;
- regional diversity (selecting competitors from regions bordering forfeited places);
and
- fleet strength (selecting sailors with strong performances in Starling match racing, 420 teams racing, and Starling fleet racing).

Candidates that have entered a regional trial (where available) will generally be preferred.

Sailors finishing in second place in a regional trial will automatically be considered for a wildcard place. Other sailors that wish to apply for a wildcard place should contact Dan Barker dan@paragonwine.co.nz January 8 2026.