

Dear All,

Ahead of the first big qualifying regattas which will take place in Imperia in early December, a brief update on the Youth Olympic project.

Towards end of September, both sailors (Sebastien and Alexandra) have received their new boats. Since then they have been training intensively with already over 20 days of training days spent between Switzerland (Lake Geneva), Italy (Lago di Garda) and France (Mediterranean Sea). Lately, a third sailor has joined them to act as "sparring partner" for the coming month trainings. His name is Johnathan Schopfer, currently Swiss Champion in Laser radial and 7th overall at European level. The head coach for the team is Ezequiel Schargorodsky who is also the head coach for "la Societe Nautique" of Geneva and its Sailing team. We are also very lucky because during the next training sessions in Imperia and the first big regattas Swiss Sailing has made available their Head coach to support the team. His name is Jean-Claude Vuithier. He himself participated at 3 Olympic campaigns as a sailor and has been several time world and European champion with various boat classes. He was also the head coach for the Swiss "star" boat class delegation who qualified and came 5th at the last Olympic Games in China.

The boats and the team will be leaving this Thursday for Imperia for a three days training. They will go back there the following week for another 6 days training before the start of the European Championship which will start on the 4th of December to finish the 7th of December (the official website: www.i-w-r.com). The European championship will also count as the first qualification for the Youth Olympic Games (each sailor can qualify his country for the Youth Olympic Games if within the first 7th European country). Qualification criteria can also be found on the Swiss Sailing official site: www.swiss-sailing-team.ch.

On the support side we are very pleased that the private Bank "Edmond the Rothschild SA" have accepted to support the team along with "Frederique-Constant". "Henri-Lloyd" has also joined the team to provide them with technical clothes for the training and the regattas.

So, a lot has happen in the last two month and we are proud for what has been achieved so far. Early December will be a first test with already over 18 nation entries at the European championship. There is still a long and challenging road ahead of the team, but the spirit and enthusiasm is very high!

A big thank you for all your continue support,

The Swiss Youth Olympic games team!
Sebastien, Alexandra and Ezequiel

NB: We will be planning to take as many pictures as possible this next weekend during the training session in Imperia that we will be forwarding you.