



Bahamas Sailing Association
&
Bahamas National Sailing School
P.O. Box N 752
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BAHAMIAN SAILOR JOSHUA HIGGINS TO COMPETE AT 2023 PAN AM GAMES

[Nassau, The Bahamas]: The Bahamas Sailing Association (BSA) is pleased to announce that as a result of his 11th place finish in the Central America and Caribbean (CAC) Games, together with an extended qualification process 20-year old Joshua Higgins has qualified The Bahamas in the ILCA 7 Class for the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile. The 2023 Pan Am Games are scheduled to take place from 28 October to 05 November 2023 and this is the first time The Bahamas has qualified for the Pan Am Games in any Sailing Class since 2007.

Harbour Island's Joshua Higgins has spent the last two years at a world-class training facility in Portugal and during that time has competed in various international sailing events with the goal of representing The Bahamas at the 2024 Olympics. Higgins recently competed in the Allianz Sailing World Championships, held in August 2023 at The Hague, Netherlands.

Attendance in the various Sailing Classes at the Pan Am Games is not open to everyone wishing to complete. Qualification for each Sailing Class is limited to a specified number of countries which is many less than the 41 Countries forming part of the Pan Am Games group. Each country must have qualified at a select group of events according to a set qualification process and can only send one entry in each Class in which they have qualified. Higgins will be one of the youngest sailors to take part in the ILCA 7 Class at this year's Games. There will be at least 17 countries competing in the ILCA 7 Class (a Class also sailed in the Olympics) and a total of 172 athletes in the various sailing classes represented at the Pan Am Games.

Lori Lowe, President, BSA said "Joshua has shown incredible dedication to his training program over the last year, and we are delighted at both his accomplishment and the BOC decision to include him in our team at the 2023 Pan Am Games. We are grateful for the private sponsors that have enabled Joshua to train and compete internationally and encourage the entire Bahamian community to join the Bahamas Sailing Association in our support of Joshua in his campaign."

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Media interviews: Joshua Higgins is in Nassau until October 24th before flying to Santiago to compete in the Pan Am Games.

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Notes to Editor:

1. The ***Bahamas Sailing Association*** (BSA) is the Member Nation Authority (MNA) and governing body of the sport of sailing in The Bahamas as designated by World Sailing (the international governing body for the sport of sailing). The BSA is the umbrella organization for all International Sailboat Classes sailing in The Bahamas and all Clubs in The Bahamas who sail in International Sailboat Classes and sail under the Racing Rules of Sailing as issued by World Sailing. The BSA has no authority over the various Bahamian Sloop Clubs and Associations. BSA also operates the ***Bahamas National Sailing School*** (BNSS), established in 2004 with the intention of expanding the base of sailing outside the existing club structure and making sailing available to all Bahamians. For more information visit:
www.bahsailingschool.org
2. Sailing at the **2023 Pan Am Games** -
<https://panamsailing.org/2023-santiago>
3. **Joshua Higgins** – for past results and athlete profile visit:
www.sailing.org
4. **ILCA 7** – the ILCA 7 is a small single-handed dingy and one of the most popular boats in the world. It has been used at the Olympic Games since 1996 (source: www.sailing.org).

Photo Captions:

Joshua Higgins began his sailing career in the Optimist Dinghy and competed in his first sailing regatta at the 2012 Bahamas Optimist Championships, held in Harbour Island. Higgins regularly returns to Eleuthera to help with the junior sailing program at Harbour Island Sailing Club and is pictured in an Optimist dinghy taking a welcome rest from coaching in September 2022.

Joshua Higgins pictured in an ILCA 7 dingy sailboat.