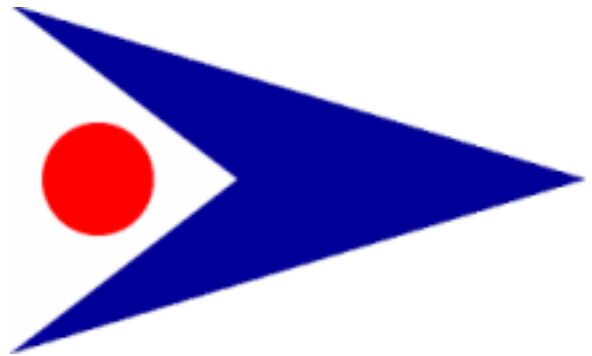


JAPAN SAILING FEDERATION

TOKYO, JAPAN

Founded in 1875, the Japan Sailing Federation is an organization with two different purposes; serving as sailing's national authority in Japan and as an ocean-racing yacht club. Among the events it hosts are the Oshima Race (since 1951), Pearl Race (since 1960), Japan Cup (since 1985), and the Melbourne-Osaka Doublehanded Race (since 1987). The Federation challenged for the America's Cup as the Nippon Challenge in 1992.



The team this year is composed mainly of members of a sailing team called "GEKKO", which has a history of nearly 60 years in Japan. In addition, they have added two dinghy top sailors, Naoki Ichino and Mano Udagawa, whose original aim was to participate in the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. After not qualifying, one of their new goals included participating in this year's Global Team Race. "We started preparations three years ago," team Captain Yudai Ishiyama said. "At that time, the venue was planned to be Sardinia, or could possibly be in the Netherlands." The coronavirus certainly thwarted those plans, but the team has nevertheless continued to practice, mainly using J/24s.

The club placed 8th in the inaugural Global Team Race in 2018 and 11th in the 2019 Global Team Race.

SKIPPERS: Kohei Ichikawa, Naoki Ichino

CREW: Mano Udagawa, Fumina Moriguchi, Hitoshi Yamamoto, Yudai Ishiyama, Hiroaki Matsuyama, Remi Matsuoka