

Nico Pini - Head Opti Coach at Bellport Bay Sailing Sailing Foundation

Argentinian, Nico grew up in Buenos Aires, where he sailed Optis, laser, 470, j-24, keelboats, both inshore and offshore and also match race events. He excelled in the 29er class winning team trials for Youth Worlds, won multiple local titles and raced 2 World Championships achieving the gold fleet in 2011.

At 18 years old Nico started his coaching career. Working with all kind of sailboats, he coached Argentinian National teams at multiple continental and world championships, helping his teams to achieve multiple titles, such as 6th in Laser Master World Championships, top 10 finishes in Optimist Orange Bowl Regatta, podium finishes in Laser South Americans and 1st at Optimist European Championship among others.

During that time, Nico attended multiple sailing coach and sport psychology courses, fitness and training seminars. He is always looking forward to improve his teaching abilities.

In 2014 he joined Club Universitario de Buenos Aires as Optimist Coach, he soon became the One-Design Classes Head Coach and helped the Club to become one of the most successful sailing programs in the country. With just around 40 sailors in 2014, now they have more than 200 youth sailors all year long sailing Optimist, Laser, I420 and 29er. They also secured multiple titles, such as:

- I420 National Champions 2018 and 2019 (1st, 2nd and 3rd)
- I420 team trials for Youth World Sailing Championship 2018 & 2019 (boys), 2021 (girls)
- 29er team trials for Youth World Sailing Championship 2020 & 2021 (girls)
- Optimist National Champion 2019 & 2020 (1st & 2nd)
- Top 4 finishes in Team Racing Optimist National Championship from 2016 to 2021
- 45 sailors qualified for Argentina Optimist National team
- 2016 Optimist Girl South American Champion, 13th at North American Championship,
- 2017 Optimist North American: 8th
- 2019 Optimist South American Championship: 12th and 1st Team Race; Girls Vice World Champion and top4 at Team Race, European Championship: 12th; North American Championship: 12th

This past season Nico joined Bellport Bay Sailing Foundation, helping their race team to succeed at GSBYRA Jr Regattas, securing 1st place at all RWB fleets and overall on the season.

With 17 years of experience as a coach, Nico has a true passion for the sport and is committed to help every single sailor to get to his/her best level.