

I am pleased to report that BC Sailing continues to see growth in our sport within the province. Regatta, recreation and event participation across the province improved greatly this year over last year's return to sport. Clubs are reporting strong membership and program growth.

Safe Sport policy and infrastructure continues to mature as BC Sailing continues to balance the initiatives from Sail Canada around safe sport policy package and at the same time, ViaSport—BC's sport authority, has announced its provincially focused Safe Sport requirements and program.

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Competition

BC Sailors have been active in 2023 with success at multiple levels including Pan Am Games qualification, RS Venture success in the Hague, Optimist National Championships held at West Vancouver Yacht Club, ILCA 6 Canadian Champion, BC Sailors qualified for World Youth Championships, Wazp activity, and BC Sailor winning Sail Canada 2022 Marvin McDill Memorial Award presented to an athlete or a crew that have achieved the best results at their first Open World Championships as members of the Canadian Sailing Team

BC clubs again successfully ran multiple international keelboat/inshore such as Swiftsure, Southern Straits, Round Vancouver Island, and many others.

MOSS

The BC Sailing - Mobile Optimist Sailing School doubled its reach in 2023; with two trailers delivering sailing lessons for the first time post pandemic; with the primary goal of creating new sailing initiatives in BC. Our MOSS programs were delivered in 9 different communities throughout British Columbia and introduced more than 130 children to the sport of sailing.

Safety at Sea

The BC Sailing - Safety at Sea held a Coastal Personal Survival Course (CPSC), March 11, 2023 at Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club, Offshore Personal Survival Course in Victoria BC, January 21 & 22, 2023; and has scheduled an Offshore Personal Survival Course scheduled for November 25 & 26, 2023 in the Vancouver area.

Instructors and coaches

BC Sailing hosted a grand total of 28 CANSail Instructor Clinics; consisting of 8 Fundamental Theory clinics, 8 CANSail 1-4 Technical clinics, 9 Coach Boat Safety clinics, 2 Community Coach clinics, and 1 CANSail 5/6 Technical clinic this spring; in partnership with our member clubs and BC Learning Facilitators. Additionally, the 2023 Learning Facilitator Course was hosted at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club in February of this year. Additionally, 2 Basic Cruising Instructor clinics and 2 Intermediate Cruising Instructor Clinics were held this spring.

Officials

Race official certification remains consistent in the province this year. We are fortunate to have many certified and active Judges, Race Officers, and Umpires at all levels of certification. We are also pleased to host this year's Sail Canada Advanced Race Management Seminar at Vancouver Rowing Club. We expect strong BC attendance at this course, which will support the advancement of our officials into senior race management roles. BC Sailing was thrilled to host a Club Race Officer course and an Assistant Race Officer course at no cost to our members in March; thanks to the Via Sport Rally Together Fund - Sport Participation Grant.

BC Sailing reconstituted its Keelboat Committee this year. The committee has met three times this year, with members representing major west coast distance events, ratings systems, the Safety-at-Sea program, regional racing series and one observer from LOOR. Its mandate is to grow and improve keelboat events and participation across the province. Members of the committee represent regional series, overnight and offshore distance races, ratings systems and the Safety at Sea program.

I wish to acknowledge the thousands of volunteers who support our sport with their time and expertise—to all the race officials and committees, PHRF and ORC handicappers, Safety-at-Sea team and instructors, club executives, event organizers and each and every individual who helps to make clubs, activities and events successful. Thank you to those of you who share your skills and knowledge to support our sport beyond our borders nationally and internationally.

Thank you to Executive Director & Provincial Coach Kevin Black, Communications Director Delani Hulme-Lawrence and Office Manager Nancy Chow for going above and beyond in so many ways to ensure those engaged in the sport and recreation of sailing are well supported in British Columbia.

Jennifer Ross
President
BC Sailing Association.