



Sail Manitoba Report 2024
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1. Introduction

This report summarizes Sail Manitoba's key activities, achievements, and developments over the past year. As the organization continues to build on its mission to promote sailing across Manitoba, significant progress has been made in program development, strategic planning, partnerships, and athlete development.

2. Strategic Plan Implementation

Sail Manitoba has made substantial strides in implementing our **2024-2027 Strategic Plan**. The main objectives focus on:

- Increasing participation at all levels.
 - Enhancing coaching, officials, volunteers, and training programs.
 - Supporting the Long-Term Development Pathway from Sport Initiation to the Performance Pathway.
 - Strengthening community and club engagement
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3. Coaching and Athlete Development

Sail Manitoba has continued its commitment to **coaching excellence** and **athlete support**. Over the past year, we've:

- Recruited, evaluated, and trained **19 instructors** through the **Sail Canada Instructor Development Pathway**.
- Supported the advancement of **provincial athletes** competing at provincial and national regattas.
- Further developed our **High-Performance Pathway**, which includes certified Sport Science: Strength and Conditioning HP Trainers, Mental Performance Coaches, Nutritional Coaches, Physiotherapists, etc.

Our partnerships with Sport Manitoba, local sailing clubs and community organizations have enhanced our talent pipeline and created a robust support system for emerging athletes.

4. Competitions and Regattas

2024 was a successful year for **competitive sailing in Manitoba**. Some key highlights include:

- **The Manitoba Summer Games, held in Dauphin, Manitoba, brought together over 1,800 athletes in a multi-sport event, all striving for gold.** The sailing competition was held at Manipogo Provincial Park, marking the beginning of a new sailing club. It was an incredible experience for the athletes, volunteers, and organizers alike.
- **Canada Games Qualifiers:** Several athletes came out to qualify to represent Manitoba at the 2025 Canada Games. One last qualifier will be held in June 2025.
- **Club Regattas:** from weekly club races to annual regattas, the support of our sailing community members and volunteers plays a vital role in making these events a key feature of our regional sailing calendar.

These events showcased local talent and served as critical development opportunities for younger athletes and volunteers.

5. Community Engagement and Outreach

Sail Manitoba remains dedicated to fostering inclusive, accessible, and environmentally conscious programs for our members, communities, and partners:

- **Able Sail Programs:** We thank the leaders of Able Sail, Winnipeg, and Able Sail, Pelican Yacht Club. These programs create opportunities for individuals with disabilities to enjoy sailing through adaptive equipment, specially designed boats, and trained staff, ensuring a safe and inclusive experience for participants of all abilities.
- **Indigenous Youth Sailing Initiative:** Members from Black Sturgeon Sailing Club have teamed up with local schools and Indigenous leaders in Kenora, Ontario, to develop programs that blend sailing and nature, fostering a deeper connection to the water and the outdoors for Indigenous youth.
- **AIS Prevention and Awareness:** Protecting our waters is a priority for our members and the broader community. Members of the Gimli Yacht Club continue to collaborate with the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium and the Gimli Kiwanis Club to raise awareness and promote advocacy for aquatic invasive species prevention.
- **Breaking Down Barriers:** The Gimli Yacht Club and Winnipeg Sailing Centre have made remarkable strides towards inclusivity by offering free sailing lessons to children from underrepresented and marginalized communities. These efforts introduce young people to the sport and build a sense of belonging, confidence, and opportunity. The clubs are cultivating a more diverse and welcoming sailing environment by eliminating financial and social barriers.

These initiatives represent our ongoing commitment to making sailing accessible to everyone while building a stronger, more diverse, and engaged community that values inclusivity, sustainability, and growth in the sport.

6. Safe Sport Initiatives

Sail Manitoba is committed to fostering a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment for all participants. We have implemented several initiatives to ensure the physical and emotional well-being of everyone involved in our programs:

- Incorporating safe sport sessions for all coaches, athletes, volunteers, and staff to ensure a zero-tolerance policy for harassment and abuse.
- The creation of anonymous reporting mechanisms to empower athletes, parents, and volunteers to report concerns confidentially.
- Ongoing education and support through Sport Manitoba and the Province of Manitoba on fostering a positive, inclusive environment, particularly for youth and vulnerable participants.

Sail Manitoba is committed to maintaining high standards of safety, fairness, and respect within the sport.

7. Challenges and Future Plans

While we have made great progress, several challenges persist:

- **Volunteer shortages:** Like many organizations, we continue to face challenges in recruiting and retaining volunteers, especially for events and coaching support.
- **Facilities and Equipment:** Aging infrastructure and equipment require investment in upgrades and repairs.

Looking ahead:

- Further development of the National Training Centre – Prairie Region – to expand athlete pathways, enhance equipment, and create specialized training programs that support athletes and coaches.
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8. Conclusion

2024 has been a pivotal year for Sail Manitoba, marked by growth in participation, community engagement, and athlete development. Our continued success is the result of the hard work of our dedicated staff, volunteers, athletes, and coaches. As we look ahead, we are committed to maintaining this momentum and ensuring that sailing remains a vibrant and inclusive sport across the province.

Thank you to all who contributed to our achievements this year. We look forward to an even more successful 2025.
