



Sail Manitoba

409 - 145 Pacific Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2Z6

It's been an exciting and transformative year for sailing in Manitoba. In January 2025, Sail Manitoba experienced a change in leadership, as Jackie Spear assumed the role of Executive Director, succeeding Sheila Bellido. We thank Sheila for her years of service and leadership, and we look forward to continuing to build on her strong foundation.

From hosting major regattas to expanding access to sailing across the province, 2025 marked a milestone year for Sail Manitoba as we celebrated our 60th anniversary and officially opened a Regional Training Centre – Prairie Region at Gimli Yacht Club. This facility is already helping develop athletes, coaches, and officials across Western Canada.

2025 Highlights on the Water

1. Hosting Major Events:

Gimli Yacht Club proudly hosted Sail West, and Royal Lake of the Woods hosted the Richardson Regatta and the ILCA No Cost Championships, welcoming sailors from across the prairies and western Canada.

2. Canada Summer Games Success:

Manitoba sent a full roster to the 2025 Canada Summer Games, marking a strong return to national competition and showcasing the depth of our provincial sailing talent.

3. Expanding Accessibility and Inclusion:

- The Winnipeg Sailing Centre (WSC) offered the province's first-ever French sailing lessons, expanding opportunities for Francophone youth and families.
- WSC also delivered free sailing lessons for newcomers, inner-city youth, and LGBTQ+ participants, continuing our commitment to making sailing accessible to everyone.
- Women and Wind sessions at WSC and the South Whiteshell Women's Sailing League continued to grow, creating supportive and empowering spaces for women in sailing.
- Gimli Yacht Club offered low-cost semi-private lessons to underrepresented communities

4. Instructor, Coach, and Officials Development:

- Delivered two Fundamental Clinics and a Technical Clinic to train new instructors and coaches.



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- Coach Mentorship Programs, connecting emerging coaches with experienced mentors.
- Officials Development was strong, with courses for Assistant Race Officers, Club Race Officers, Club Judges, and Assistant Mark Layers.

5. Challenges:

- Some clubs continued to face challenges in recruiting qualified instructors, and summer wildfires affected participation at certain events, as well as our Mobile Sailing school's delivery of programming in Northern Manitoba. Despite these hurdles, enthusiasm and community engagement remained strong across the province.

Looking Ahead to 2026

We're excited about what's to come. Plans are underway for:

- Our presence at the Winnipeg Boat Show
- Launching a provincial Opti race series
- Reviving our mobile sailing program to reach northern and rural communities, and
- Exploring new opportunities in foiling and performance sailing.

With a strong base of volunteers, dedicated clubs, and new development pathways in place, the future of sailing in Manitoba looks brighter than ever.