

Alberta Sailing Association President's 2020 Report

The 2020 COVID sailing season was definitely atypical. We were all striving to better understand how we can enhance participation and the experience of participating in the sport of sailing. We had training throughout the province at individual clubs and no provincially supported regattas due to Alberta Health regulations.

We continued with our revised staffing plan, which is continually evolving as needed. The amalgamation of the Head Coach and the Executive Director into the position of 'Sailing Director' is still occupied by Lauri Kalkkinen. We hired an Administrative Officer, Stephen Reichenfeld, to address many of our administrative needs, thus removing those tasks from Lauri and our volunteer board. We again hired a second Alberta coach (Yevgen Dombrovskiy). We find that we meet more of our members' needs by having a Head Coach and a secondary Alberta coach. We also contracted Sail Canada's 2019 Instructor of the Year, Braden Gray. Our coaches (staff and contracted) were available to clubs, for training, and when we are not in the throes of a pandemic, they are coaching at every Alberta regatta, at no cost to participants.

All our clubs/schools continued to impress, grow and enrich our sailing community! Our Head Coach, Lauri Kalkkinen, Southern Coach Yevgen Dombrovskiy and Contract Coach Braden Gray, deserve special recognition for their knowledge, mentorship, enthusiasm, energy and willingness to go beyond their defined roles. The Alberta Sailing Association received many accolades from parents, athletes and club coaches as to training provided.

Our Youth sailors were ecstatic to participate in the 'Youth Olympic Training' in August. They are also looking forward to participating in training on the west Coast – this a brilliant opportunity for our youth athletes to have the exposure to other youth athletes and coaches from across the nation.

Unfortunately some areas of our sport were reduced, namely Sail Canada's Sailing School of 2019, Glenmore Sailing School, was unable to operate and sadly we saw the dissolving of the Northern Alberta Sailing School, all due to necessary health regulations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2020 Alberta Sailing Association Board: Treasurer Phil Paxton (Calgary Yacht Club); Secretary Sarah Foscarini Wilkes (Glenmore Sailing Club); Director of Capital Assets, John Cormack (Newell Sailing Club); Director Paula Patterson (Glenmore Sailing Club); Director (until hired as southern coach) Yevgen Dombrovskiy (Glenmore Sailing School); and Director Glynis Dorey (Wabamun Sailing Club).

The ASA is on track for the 2021 season and beyond.

With much appreciation,
Stacey Gibb (Wabamun Sailing Club)
President – Alberta Sailing Association