



2014 CANCUN NORTH AMERICAN WINDSURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS

including the
2014 RS:X NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
2014 TECHNO 293 NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

20th to 23rd February 2014
Puerto Cancun Marina, Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico

2014 YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFICATION EVENT for T293
2015 PAN-AMERICAN GAMES QUALIFICATION EVENT FOR RS:X CLASS

Final Results: Techno 293 / RS:X **EVENT WEBSITE** **Photos by Patrik Pollak**

Right Down to the Wire in Cancun!

Three races on the final day to complete the championship with eleven races in total for the Techno 293 sailors and a full complement of twelve for the RS:X Fleets. Right until the last race nothing was sure, well except maybe the RS:X Men and Women's champions and the fact that all had a great time here in Cancun.

The American team had already secured the first qualifying place for the Youth Olympic Games but the fight for the second qualifying place went right down to the wire. Yesterday, Mexico was ahead of Aruba by just one point with Puerto Rico behind by only two points, so it was a really close tough fight. Mack Van Den Eerenbeemt came ashore triumphantly shouting "Aruba!!" after taking all three bullets of the day with the wind in his favour, thus claiming the coveted second qualifying place for his country.



On the podium, American brothers Maximo and Geronimo Nores switched places again whilst fellow American Steven Cramer managed to cling on to the third place by just one point ahead of Mack.

First girl Mariana Aguilar maintained her overall 7th position even though she does better in lighter winds. She also qualified Mexico for a spot in the girls Techno 293 fleet at Nanjing 2014.

In the RS:X fleets, Brazilian Ricardo Santos and Mexican Demita Vega are undisputed Men's and Women's Champions. In the 9.5, Mexican Ignacio Berenger took second place, pushing fellow countryman David Mier y Teran down to third. Over in the 8.5 fleet the podium places belonged to Mexico. Nicole Level finished the championship with a flourish, seizing the last bullet and taking second place on the podium. Juan Varela, four points behind and third overall, was the first youth male.

The Championships drew to a close with a fabulous poolside party and prize giving. There is no doubt that the competitors have thoroughly enjoyed this first class competition in such excellent surroundings. They have had a variety of wind conditions - something for everyone - which has made for nail-biting drama as the leaderboard changed daily. The organisation and hospitality has been second to none.

Miguel Angel Pani, Event Organiser, full of enthusiasm and vibrancy, is proud of this venue: *"flat water, loads of wind, a 5* destination with an international airport close by, the tourist infrastructure is first class . . . we couldn't ask for more. The reason that windsurfing is growing in Cancun and the Yucatan peninsula is that it receives government funding and a lot of other support. This location is also renowned for providing excellent conditions and infrastructure for international competition."*

Carlos Padilla Becerra, President of the Mexican Olympic Committee: *"We are lucky that nature has afforded us the luxury of this scenery and, together with a great organisation, international associations and the Mexican Federation, we are looking forward to staging many more events of this type at an international level. I would like to wish all the competitors the best, I hope you all felt right at home here in Mexico and we hope to see you again real soon."*



2014 CANCUN NORTH AMERICAN WINDSURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS
view the complete T293 video playlist

Excellent Start to the North American Championships

68 competitors from 8 countries: USA, Aruba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Cuba, Peru and Canada took part in the North American Windsurfing Championships for the RS:X and Techno 293 Classes. All were given a very warm welcome, then a colourful display of traditional dancing before the obligatory group photo call; all eagerly anticipating the imminent start of competition.



On competition day one, after the formalities of registration, measurement and the skippers meeting, competitors took to the water. The course area was set close to the shore with the finish line just 20 metres from the beach - perfect for the spectators lining the shore.



In the Techno fleet, the first two bullets of the day were taken by Mac Van Den Eerenbeemt ARU-11 but he made a mistake in the third race which cost him 5 places.

"It was really good, I was first upwind then downwind but I thought I had to finish and went back to the shore! I realised I still had one more lap to do and went back on the water, but couldn't get my first place back although I overtook one or two." Mac shrugged off his mistake and said, "It was a good day with strong wind and I think I will be okay in the lighter winds too if I pump really hard and do my best."

American brothers, Maximo (USA-102) and Geronimo Nores (USA-09) were first and second overall on the Techno 293 leaderboard, consistency being the key. Maximo took the third bullet and was just one point ahead of Geronimo, who was one point ahead of philosophical Mac.

There were just four girls in this championship but 1st girl, Mariana Aguilar (MEX-28) was also a very consistent sailor currently sitting in 11th overall. First junior was Manuel Nores, 12th overall.



Over in the RS:X Fleet, Mexican lady Demita Vega dominated the 8.5 leaderboard with three bullets, an impressive 7 points clear of Mexican Youth Mario Flores, who was just one point ahead of Brazilian Youth Benno Francioli.

Brazilian Ricardo Santos had three bullets and was five points clear of the American, Carson Crain who was beaten twice by Mexican Ignacio Berenger currently sitting in third place overall.

With just three races completed out of a possible twelve, there was all to play for!

Light Wind Specialists' Chance to Shine on Day Two

The second day of the North American Championships dawned as expected with warm sunny breezes and the beautiful turquoise waters beckoned. A chance for the light wind specialists to shine in the second and third races.

First girl Mariana Aguilar MEX-66 moved up the overall ranking from 11th to 8th, really pleased with her third and second places. She would have liked to win but the boys were *"just pumping and pumping and I couldn't get to them"*.



Steven Cramer took two bullets sending him three places up the leaderboard, now just two points off the podium in fourth place. *"I love these conditions, this is what we train in in Miami. I want to keep myself ahead of the fleet and work with my team mates just to make sure we get a spot. The other days might have different conditions."*

Two points now separated the Nores brothers on the podium. Maximo took the first bullet of the day, then had to settle for a seventh which was discarded, then a third. Geronimo in second place had consistent two's and three's, discarding a fourth. Mac Van Den Eerenbeemt was not a fan of the light wind conditions. He came second in the first race of the day but then an eighth and a ninth (discarded) were the best he could do as the wind lessened.

The junior boys were sliding down the leaderboard. Mexican Adolfo de la O was now first junior boy with a healthy 6 point lead over Manuel Nores.



Perfect scores at the top of the RS:X 9.5 and 8.5 leaderboards. Demita Vega MEX-9 had not lost a single race so far in this championship but yesterday's second placed Mario Flores had a disastrous last race (now discarded) and slid down to fifth overall. Brenno Francioli (BRA-70) moved up take Mario's place while Mexican Juan Varela now occupied the third podium spot. Mexican lady Nicole Level obviously enjoys the lighter wind as demonstrated by her improving results, just one point behind along with Mario, both eager to knock Juan back off the podium.

Ricardo Santos (BRA-1) had a perfect score of 5 but allowed David Mier y Teran (MEX-1) his moment of glory, first over the line for the last race of the day. There was a lot of movement on the 9.5 leaderboard. Yesterday's second placed Carson Crain did not fare well and slid down to fifth place. Ignacio Berenger stepped up to take his place and David was now third.

Half way through the Championship, the first places on the podiums appeared to be unassailable but everyone else in the fleets had all to play for!

Day Three - USA Dominates Techno 293 Podium

Just two races on **day three** in light conditions for the Techno 293 Fleet. The boys from the USA were hammering the competition with brothers Geronimo and Maximo Nores in first and second and Steven Cramer in third. The sibling rivalry was intense as it had been Maximo in the top spot yesterday! We also learnt yesterday that Steven loves these conditions and proved that with two more bullets today.



These three podium hoppers were a clear 14 points ahead of their nearest rivals. However, the Windguru forecast for the final day was for stronger winds again so the final places were by no means certain. A lot could happen right the way down the fleet as there were some very interesting battles going on. Excitement was building!

First girl Mariana Aguilar was working her way up the overall leaderboard, now in 7th place, whilst Adolfo de la O was holding his own as first junior.

Many kids now are progressing from Techno to the Olympic level. Ricardo Santos from Brazil: *"I love this class, it is amazing to watch them. It is one of the best classes in the sailing world, just like the Optimist. It's nice to watch them race, a really high level, starts are good, lay-line is good, they are all really good sailors. I am happy for them and I think it is amazing when you see 450 sailors at the worlds."*

Three races for the RS:X Fleets. Ricardo Santos was the undoubted champion of the RS:X 9.5 fleet stretching his lead to 11 points ahead of his closest rival with two bullets and a second today. The real battle was between the Mexicans, David Mier y Teran and Ignacio Berenger, as to who would take silver and who would have to settle for bronze. Just one point separated these two after David beat Ricardo to take the bullet in the second race of the day.

Demita Vega was also untouchable in the 8.5 fleet but allowed Mexican Youth Juan Varela to beat her over the line and he moved up to second place overall. We now had two Mexican ladies on the podium as Nicole Level stepped up to third. This meant that yesterday's second placed Brenno Francioli had fallen down to fourth.

As we moved into the last day, the battle was on!

Sponsors:

