

WHO IS THE MANITOBA RUNNERS' ASSOCIATION?

The MRA is the only non-profit advocate for the sport of road running in Manitoba and is incorporated under the laws of Manitoba. It is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors which is accountable to its members and to the community and employs a part-time Executive Director, Kathy Wiens. Our mission statement is to “promote and support the sport of running for health, fun and fitness for life to runners of all ages and abilities”. The aim of the MRA is to encourage mass participation in road running as well as the individual pursuit of excellence through our schedule of fun runs and road races.

The MRA was formed in 1971 and currently has 344 members. However thousands of Manitobans benefit from our activities. Whether young or old, male or female, disabled or disadvantaged, the MRA serves them all. Most of the people who participate in our events avail themselves of our facilities but are not actually members of the organization. Part of our ongoing effort is to encourage them to join. We also offer school memberships which provide discounts to students at events such as the Manitoba Marathon.

The events that the MRA supports range from small fun runs to large, highly competitive races such as the Manitoba Marathon, many of which are organized to support an important charitable cause. Although the majority of our events are held within the City of Winnipeg, we continue to make a concerted effort to promote activities outside of its boundaries. This year we have a number of events on our Race Calendar that are being held outside Winnipeg including Steinbach, Birds Hill Park, Headingley, Altona, Swan River, East St. Paul, Grand Beach, The Pas, Gimli, Treherne, Stony Mountain, Winkler and Hecla.

WHAT DOES THE MANITOBA RUNNERS' ASSOCIATION DO?

The MRA encourages Manitobans to make running and walking a part of a healthy lifestyle and makes a special effort to encourage our youth to pursue running as a way of staying fit for life. In order to achieve this, the MRA organizes two road race series for its members. The MRA Race Series is for runners ages 15 and up who are looking for some friendly competition. It gives them the opportunity to compete against others in their respective age groups and be rewarded for their efforts at the annual Year-End Awards Banquet. It also provides properly measured and certified courses that can be used by elite runners wishing to qualify for national events and recognition. In fact, Manitoba has the second largest number of certified courses in Canada thanks in a large part to the MRA.

The MRA Youth Series introduces kids 16 and under to the sport of road running and encourages both participation and competition by rewarding their efforts at the annual Banquet as well. The races that are included in this series are kept to shorter, more age-appropriate distances and the participants can choose the distance that they would like to run. Youth aged 10 and under earn participation awards while those 11-16 can earn both participation and competitive awards.

In 2016 the MRA annual Race Calendar included 47 road running events which were sanctioned by the MRA. Sanctioning with the MRA provides equipment, insurance and over 45 years of experience in planning and executing road running events. It helps to ensure the safety of all involved, including participants, spectators, volunteers and event organizers by providing Race Directors with a detailed event planning guide which contains standards developed by the MRA as well as all of the information needed to stage a road running event. The MRA advocates for Race Directors with the City of Winnipeg, Winnipeg Parks and other organizations vital to the execution of these events.