

LAKE NAMTSO ICE RACE 2025 REPORT

After 2 days of travel by train from Saint-Brieuc then by plane from Paris, Here I am at the hotel in Lhasa, stuck for 2 days for acclimatization to the altitude. 6 hours of driving left and here I am at the lakeside where I discover what a DN ice boat is (which I use for the first time).

DRINGGGGGGGG !!!!!

Damn, I wake up on this Sunday morning, the trip having been only a dream...

Breakfast and then I turn on the computer.

Small router test to give me an indication of the direction to take...

And there, bad surprise, it will all be in NAP (random navigation) the router proving incapable of a result, because the high speeds and the presence of the coasts. So back to the study of polars to realize that the first section will be done by tacking in best VMG. The race should be played at buoy 1, the other 2 sections being done in a direct line, no time in fact to go looking for the wind or for angles.

Let's go! I did well not to waste time doing my hair this morning, the speed is crazy, almost 100 km/h on average. The difficulty at these speeds is turning at exactly the right moment, and this requires being at the controls and attentive at all times. Lucky for a French guy, the start at 10am and a 2 hour race is easily manageable (once the authorisations have been obtained from Mrs ;))

It remains to be seen how to turn as quickly as possible... And there, I admit that I was lucky on buoy 1, less so on buoy 2 where I went almost 270 meters too far in a southerly direction (10 seconds!)...

Well done to StingFI and Patrick who were stronger than me in this game, especially on their tacking during the first section. Second chance for a French guy, arrived at aperitif time, so I can celebrate my podium!

And I can't wait for the next ice race... because it's going to be hair-raising!