

Status: Approved

Sprint Committee of the American Canoe Association's National Competition Council

ARTICLE I – Name

The name of the organization shall be the Sprint Committee of the American Canoe Association (ACA), structurally known as the Sprint National Activity Committee (SNAC) of the American Canoe Association (ACA), hereinafter “Committee”.

ARTICLE II – Empowerment

The Committee shall operate under the auspices of the American Canoe Association (ACA) and these Bylaws must be consistent with the ACA Bylaws and the Operating Procedures of the ACA Competition Council. The ACA Board of Directors provides final approval.

ARTICLE III – Purposes

The primary purpose of the Committee is to guide, promote, and oversee the canoe and kayak sprint racing discipline in the United States. The Sprint Racing Discipline, hereinafter the “Discipline” or “Sprint”, refers to the policies for sprint racing in the US. The objective is to promote and support a national network of sprint racing clubs, coaches, national teams and individual athletes to enable them to achieve sustained competitive excellence in Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American, and Parapan American competition, as well as other national and international competitions.

The Committee shall establish the criteria and process for conducting competitions (including our National Championships and Team Trials), for training camps, for international team and staff qualification, and for team travel and logistics. The Committee shall also recommend to the ACA the criteria and process for hiring and supervising team coaches and managers.

All activities shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the ACA, the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. §§ 220501 et seq. (the “Sports Act”), and the International Canoe Federation. Furthermore, the Committee shall promote diversity, equity, and inclusion as fundamental to the organization and organizational partners.

ARTICLE IV – Membership

Current members of the ACA who are Competition Members (not individual members) and indicate interest in their membership application in supporting and participating in the Sprint Discipline shall elect the Committee. They may also purchase an ACA “Competition License” to be eligible to compete, coach, and/or officiate in Sprint Racing events.

Status: Approved

Article V Voting Rights

Voting Rights to elect the Committee shall be held by Sprint Competition members of the ACA above the age of 18 . Athlete representatives of the Committee shall be elected exclusively by eligible athletes who are Competition members.

All elected members shall have equal voting rights to matters that come before the Committee. Committee members must be Sprint Competition members as defined above, other than those individuals who have not attained the age of eighteen (18) or older as of 12:01 am, Eastern Standard Time, on the first day of the voting period shall hold full voting rights during their period of membership.

ARTICLE VI – Committee Membership and Election

The Committee shall be comprised of no fewer than five (5) duly elected members. Elections of the Committee shall take place every two years with the guidance of the ACA office via electronic voting. Athlete Representatives, as defined by the ACA Bylaws and in accordance with the USOPC, must comprise 33% of the Committee and shall be selected by the Sprint v athlete competition members per the ACA Bylaws. The non-athlete members shall be elected by all Sprint Competition members of the ACA. The term is two years.

ARTICLE VII – Officers

Representative shall be elected either at the annual meeting or electronically from among the current Membership, and they shall serve terms of two years. They are eligible for re-election, as long as they remain duly elected members of the Committee and maintain their ACA membership. The officers should be the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Committee members may serve no more than three (3) consecutive terms. Terms should be staggered. Officers of the Committee are elected by the representatives of the Committee. Any Sprint Competition member of the ACA may become a non-voting officer member of the Committee.

ARTICLE VIII – Subcommittees

The Committee shall establish and support the following standing subcommittees: Sprint Coaches Association, and Sprint Officials Association. Membership on the subcommittees is voluntary, determined by interest in their Membership application. and their officers shall be elected by the respective members of the Associations and serve subcommittee terms congruent with their term of two years. Additional subcommittees may be established and/or dissolved as deemed necessary. Competition membership is required. If a subcommittee is inactive, the Sprint Competition Committee may appoint Officers of the Sub Committee to serve until an election can be conducted.

The Sprint Committee may also constitute additional Ad Hoc committees as it deems necessary to fulfill the needs of the Sport.

ARTICLE IX – Meetings

The Committee shall ensure all meetings are conducted with a published agenda. Meeting Minutes should be taken, published and retained on the ACA web site. Meetings are open to all members of the

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Sprint Racing Discipline. A Quorum is a majority of the committee's members. Robert's Rules of Order should apply. Meetings held electronically can be considered regular meetings.

ARTICLE X - Staff Support

Staff support shall be provided by the ACA Executive Director and staff. The Committee shall report evaluations to the ACA Executive Director annually. Staff may not serve as a voting member of the Committee.

ARTICLE XI - Conflict of Interest

Whenever a Committee member or officer has a financial or personal interest in any matter coming before the Committee, the affected person shall a) fully disclose the nature of the interest and b) withdraw from discussion, lobbying, and voting on the matter. Any transaction or vote involving a potential conflict of interest shall be approved only when a majority of disinterested members determine that it is in the best interest of the organization to do so. The minutes of meetings at which such votes are taken shall record such disclosure, abstention, and rationale for approval.

Committee members should complete the ACA conflict of interest form upon their election.

ARTICLE XII - Discipline and Removal

In the event of unethical or inappropriate behavior, members of the Committee may be removed from the Committee. Except in extreme circumstances, the member must be given a warning and an opportunity to apologize and make amends. Should the behavior or violations persist, the member must be notified of the offense and the proposed termination in writing, prior to the meeting at which the proposal shall be voted. However, in case of extreme or repeated violations of normal and expected behavior or excessive absence (missing three consecutive meetings), a voting member may be removed by a majority Quorum of the Committee.

If a voting member is removed, the ACA and the membership will be notified, and the membership as outlined above, can self nominate and an election should be held as soon as possible.

ARTICLE XIII - Compensation

Members of the Committee shall not be compensated for their normal service on the Committee, but they may be eligible for unusual expense reimbursement. Such reimbursement must be approved by the chair in writing in advance. Athlete representatives must be reimbursed for travel, meals and lodging for in person Committee meetings.

ARTICLE XIV – Indemnification

Members of the Committee shall be included in the ACA's insurance and protected to the extent that the policy and the law provide protection.

Status: Approved

ARTICLE XV - Bylaws Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a vote of the membership, provided the membership has been notified in writing of the proposed amendments at least two (2) weeks prior to the vote.

Last updated: December 1,2023

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