

Bylaws of the Sprint Coaches Association

Effective Date: November 4, 2024

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Sprint Coaches Association (SCA) is to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas on matters affecting coaches in the Olympic sport of sprint canoe / kayak and to provide club and coach's input and recommendations to the staff and committees of its National Governing Body, the American Canoe Association (ACA).

The SCA will specifically act as an advisory body to the ACA's Sprint Competition Committee, allowing coaches to raise concerns and give input on issues that affect clubs and coaching including but not limited to the selection of race sites, team selection criteria, and venue selection.

II. Mission

- Promote an environment in which all athletes and coaches are valued and respected in their efforts to support the growth of our sport;
- Encourage all member coaches to consider and discuss the subjects affecting them;
- Facilitate the exchange of information and ideas on matters affecting sprint coaches;
- Act as a formal body to provide coach's input and recommendations to the ACA and its Sprint Competition Committee, and to be a formal body on issues that affect clubs and coaching;
- Provide the delivery of coaching education workshops and seminars, and other professional development for coaching sprint canoe/kayak;
- Identify new research work or best practices in connection with our sport and share this with the member coaches.

III. Membership

All coaches who are: ACA Competition Members who are affiliated with an ACA 'Paddle America Club' that has sprint athletes, and all coaches affiliated with the National Team. There are no dues or membership fees to be a member of the SCA.

Members are expected to:

- Attend meetings when one is scheduled.
- Actively participate with all email communication.
- Communicate respectfully and constructively.

IV. Structure

Group Managers: A minimum of two Google Group “managers” should be maintained at all times to keep the Google Group up to date. Managers may be representatives of any club and should rotate regularly if possible.

Coordinator: If a meeting is called by a club representative, that member will be the meeting’s coordinator.

Note Taker: A note taker should be assigned for any meeting held and notes published by the Google Group managers to the SCA’s Google Drive and shared with the [Communication’s list](#) upon approval.

V. Meetings

All meetings will be ad hoc and may be called by any club representative. (Email communication should be the first and primary path.) If a meeting is warranted, it should be scheduled and published with the [Executive Google Group](#) a minimum of one week in advance.

An annual meeting should be held at Nationals prior to or after the scratch meeting with a primary purpose of ensuring our representative list is up-to-date and accurate. Managers of the Google Group should be assigned or reassigned at the National’s meeting.

Location: Meetings may be virtual using Google Meet or Zoom, and if held in person, should include a virtual attendee option whenever possible.

Agendas: All meetings must have published agendas at a minimum two days ahead of any scheduled meeting.

Decision-Making: Decisions will be made by unanimous consent or majority vote.

VI. Communication

Channels: Primary communication will occur via the SCA’s “Executive” Google Group which should contain at least one representative of every active sprint club in the United States.

Google Group’s web address:

<https://groups.google.com/u/6/g/sprint-coaches-association-executive>

Email: sprint-coaches-association-executive@googlegroups.com

Conflict Resolution: Concerns should be addressed directly with the involved parties, or escalated to leadership if necessary.

VII. Code of Conduct

Members are expected to:

- Treat one another with respect.
- Value diverse opinions and perspectives.
- Maintain confidentiality when necessary.
- Respond in a timely and professional manner.

VIII. Amendments

This governance document can be amended by a majority vote of the SCA's representatives with each club having one vote.

IX. Dissolution

In the event of dissolution, any resources (documents, surveys, spreadsheets, or forms) will be archived and given to our sport's National Governing Body.