

ACA Competition Council Ocean Racing Committee Meeting Agenda Friday, January 17, 2025

Last Revised: January 17, 2025

Conference Call Information

January 17, 2024 @ 7:00pm ET / 5:00pm PT

Microsoft Teams

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Meeting ID: 244 979 742 961

Passcode: tA6i5Pv2

1. Session Commencement

- a. Time: 07:05pm Eastern / 05:05pm Pacific
- b. Attendance
 - i. Geoff Pearson
 - ii. Greg Barton
 - iii. Jesse Lishchuk
 - iv. Matt Drayer
- c. Pre-Read Materials
 - i. [December ORC meeting minutes](#)
- d. Call for [Additional Topics](#)
 - i. No additional topics

2. Session Goals

- a. Vote: Approve December ORC meeting minutes for distribution



3. Current Initiatives

a. Community Representation

i. Organizational Representation

1. International Representation / [ICF](#)
 - a. Action: Matt to connect w/ Marian Sarbu re: 2025 collaboration
2. Continental Representation / [COPAC](#)
 - a. Still trying to get English-translated materials for Pan Ams
3. National Representation / [ACA](#)
 - a. [ACA Safety, Instruction, and Education Council](#)
 - i. NTR
 - b. [ACA Regional Activity Council](#)
 - i. Matt recently connected with New Hampshire State Director (SUP) re: MA Bay State Games
 - ii. Next RAC meeting: [Feb 4, 2025](#)
 - c. [ACA Paddle America Clubs](#)
 - i. Jesse: NAC just renovated their gym
 - ii. Greg: Aaron Small and Elena Wogamot are training there.
 - d. ACA Competition Council
 - i. January 2nd meeting not well-attended
 - ii. Risa (CC), Matt (ORC), Kristin (SUP), Trevor (Rafting)
 - e. [ACA CC Ocean Racing Committee](#)
 - i. Approve [December meeting minutes](#): Unanimous Approval
 - ii. Annual Meeting webinar for USA COR Community
 1. Unlikely for January
 2. Likely unlikely at all...
 3. But, we will announce National Series Top N on social media and with direct ACA communications
4. Regional / Local Community Representation/Engagement
 - a. Matt: USA COR/Surfski Nationals @ the Gorge! (Also USAORCA Nationals), 2025 MA Bay State Games
 - b. Jesse:
 - c. Greg:
 - d. Geoff: FL racing picking up – attended 954 race #1

ii. Member Representation

1. Member Identification ([ACA Competition Member Tracking](#))
 - a. Metrics/KPIs
 - i. 272 relevant ACA members (up from 246)
 - ii. 146 unique “ocean racing” ACA competition discipline members
 1. 63 [active primary](#) (up from 59)
 2. 83 [active secondary](#) (up from 79)



- iii. [126 ACA “non-discipline” members](#) (up from 111)
 - 1. 58 competition members
 - 2. 68 individual members
 - b. 2025 Member Drive
 - i. January: Encourage existing ACA competition members to add Ocean Racing as primary/secondary discipline
 - ii. January: Encourage existing ACA individual members to switch to competition membership
 - iii. January: Work with ACA to reignite expired members
 - c. Athletes
 - i. 2024: 181/892 (~20%) National Series ACA members
 - ii. 2025: 9/31 (~29%) National Series ACA members
 - d. Coaches
 - i. 25 unique “ocean racing” coaches
 - 1. [6 primary tagged as coach](#) (no change)
 - 2. [21 secondary tagged as coach](#) (no change)
 - e. Organizers
 - i. 2024: [152 confirmed competitions](#) / [185 races](#) tracked (2024 total)
 - ii. 2025: [53 confirmed competitions](#) / 5 races tracked (YTD)
 - 1. Geoff: Plasticized card w/ ACA QR code to Join page and National Series results page – Geoff will take the action
- 2. Member Communication
 - a. One-Way Communications
 - i. [ACA Ocean Racing Page](#)
 - 1. Matt: Post November + December minutes
 - 2. Matt: Update National Team Info for 2025
 - 3. Matt: Update officer titles for ORC members
 - ii. [ORC Email Newsletter #7 \(Winter 2025\)](#)
 - 1. Go by end of January or early February
 - 2. Matt: Share URL to draft document
 - 3. Jesse: Athlete of the Month / Year
 - a. 2024 National Series Top N paddlers
 - iii. [USASurfski.com](#)
 - 1. Race Calendar and National Series pages set for 2025
 - 2. National Championships page updated for Gorge
 - 3. Matt: Update Continentals + Worlds pages
 - iv. [USA Surfski Facebook Page](#)
 - 1. 98 likes (no change), 186 followers (+1)
 - b. Two-Way Communications
 - i. [USA Surfski Community Facebook Group](#)
 - 1. 0 group members



- ii. [ACA Ocean Racing Networks](#) (Google Groups)
 - 1. 35 Athlete Network members (up from 35)
 - 2. 12 Coach Network members (up from 12)
 - 3. 11 Organizer Network members (no change)
 - 4. 14 Club Network members (no change)

b. Competition Promotion/Production

- i. [International Competition Calendar \(ICF\)](#)
 - 1. Level 4 / Basic International Events
 - 2. Level 3 / Continental Championships
 - a. 2025 - Fortaleza, Ceara, Brazil (August 22-30, 2025)
 - i. Time to begin assembling the National Team
 - 3. Level 2 / World Cups
 - 4. Level 1 / [World Championships](#)
 - a. 2025 - Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa (October 17-19, 2025)
 - i. Time to begin assembling the National Team
 - ii. Fenn offering an amazing ski rental deal
 - iii. Sounds like some USA athletes will participate, from Patrick Hemmens
 - 1. Greg: Some chatter about possibly going to Durban
 - 2. AND some paddlers are going to Cape Town in February!
 - iv. Michelle Flynn has info re: uniforms – sooner vs. later
 - b. 2026 - Villajoyosa, Spain (Date TBD)
 - c. 2027 - Tahiti (Date TBD)
 - d. 2028 - Cherbourg, France (Date TBD)
- ii. [Continental Competition Calendar \(COPAC\)](#)
 - 1. [Pan American Continental Championships](#)
 - a. 2025 - Fortaleza, Ceara, Brazil (August 22-31, 2025)
 - b. Matt: USA paddlers aren't signing up due to unknowns
 - c. Greg: MolokaBRA is very well organized – need to get in touch w/ RD
 - d. Geoff: Working to clarify package – house/ski rental, car+driver for 10 people
- iii. [National Competition Calendar \(USASurfski.com\)](#)
 - 1. 2025 USA COR National Series
 - a. 3 [competitions completed](#) (since Jan 1)
 - b. 5 tracked races (since Jan 1)
 - 2. 2025 USA COR National Championships
 - a. WE GOT THE GORGE!!!
 - b. 243 Surfski Registrations → 60 ACA members
 - c. Will work with the Gorge to communicate with registrants (some are int'l)
 - d. Matt and Greg are going!

c. Athlete Development/Qualification

- i. [USA COR National Development Program](#)



1. 2025 Focus Area: Competition Organizers
 - a. Competition Council: How do we make COs' lives easier?
 - i. Registration
 - ii. Insurance
 - iii. Event Planning Support
 - iv. Results Management (National Series, Classifications)
- ii. [USA COR National Series](#) (Status: External Pilot)
 1. [National Ranking Points \(NRP\) Rubric](#)
 - a. Current version: 1.4 (prev: 1.3)
 - b. No rubric changes since last meeting
 2. [YTD Metrics](#)
 - a. 31 "[Overall](#)" paddlers (since Jan 1)
 - b. 9 "[Members Cup](#)" paddlers (since Jan 1)
 - c. 4 [Female paddlers](#) (since Jan 1)
 - d. 27 [Male paddlers](#) (since Jan 1)
 3. Observations/Notables
 - a. Matt working to automate NRP calculation
- iii. [USA COR Athlete Classification System](#) (Status: External Pilot)
 1. [Athlete Classification System \(ACS\) Rubric](#)
 - a. Current Version: 2.0 (prev: 1.3)
 - b. No rubric changes since last meeting
 2. [YTD Metrics](#)
 - a. A: 0 total classifications earned (no change)
 - b. B: 0 total classifications earned (no change)
 - c. C: 0 total classifications earned (no change)
 - d. D: 0 total classifications earned (no change)
 - e. E: 1 total classifications earned ()
 - f. U: 0 current classifications (no change)
 3. Observations/Notables
 - a. All race field strengths YTD have been (U)nclassified
 - b. Matt working to automate ACS calculation
- d. Athlete Encouragement/Facilitation
 - i. [USA Ocean Racing National Development Fund](#)
 1. Current fund balance: \$290.00
 2. Sweepstakes Concept
 - a. Jesse: Not a worthwhile investment at this time
 3. Jesse: Keep an eye out for Nationals sponsorship/branding opportunities
 - a. Connect w/ Jed to learn how this works
 - b. Issue a "Seeking Sponsors" press release?
 - ii. Athlete Outreach
 1. National Team Recruiting (WIIFM?)



- a. Matt: We should announce a “National Team”
- b. Greg: History relates to closed entry
- c. Jesse: It carries a lot of weight even to just say “I’m on / was on the National Team”.

4. Additional Topics / Parking Lot Items

a.

5. Actions/Assignments Recap

a. Geoff

i.

b. Greg

i.

c. Jesse

i.

d. Matt

i.

6. Next Session

- a. Friday, February 28th @ 7:00pm ET / 5:00pm PT

7. Session Adjournment

- a. Time (Eastern/Pacific): 09:00pm ET / 07:00pm PT (N minutes)

