

ACA Competition Council

Ocean Racing Committee Meeting Agenda

Thursday, July 31, 2025

Last Revised: August 1, 2025

Conference Call Information

[GEOFF TO ADD]

1. Session Commencement

- a. Time: 06:00pm Eastern / 03:00pm Pacific
- b. Attendance
 - i. Matt Drayer
 - ii. Geoff Pearson
 - iii. Greg Barton
 - iv. Jesse Lischuk
- c. Pre-Read Materials
 - i. [June 12 ORC meeting minutes](#)
- d. Call for [Additional Topics](#)
 - i. Geoff: ACA Paddlesports endorsements for event organizers

2. Session Goals

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

3. Current Initiatives

- a. Community Representation
 - i. Organizational Representation
 - 1. International Representation / [ICF](#)
 - a. ICF rule changes
 - i. May-November = NFs consult with stakeholders (athletes, coaches, organizers, officials)



1. Review [2025 Ocean Racing rulebook](#)
 2. Capture feedback/suggestions in the [2025 Workbook Sheet](#)
- ii. December - March: NFs submit rule change requests to ICF ORC
2. Continental Representation / [COPAC](#)
 - a. COPAC ORC: Geoff - group is focused on MolokaBRA / PanAms
3. National Representation / [ACA](#)
 - a. [ACA Safety, Instruction, and Education Council](#)
 - i. SEIC Surfski: Nothing to report
 - b. [ACA Regional Activity Council](#)
 - i. RAC Surfski: Nothing to report
 - c. [ACA Paddle America Clubs](#)
 - i. PAC Surfski: Nothing to report
 - d. ACA Competition Council
 - i. Competition Council meeting, Thursday July 24th ([agenda/notes](#))
 1. Tanner Foreman (Southeast) new Marathon chair
 2. Revised Operational Procedures were approved
 3. US Waveski Association approved as discipline committee
 4. Rafting + Dragonboat juggling multiple international governing bodies, working toward consolidation
 5. Alignment efforts
 - a. [Age groups](#)
 - b. Geographic regions
 - c. Branding/Merchandise
 - ii. Next meeting Thursday, September 25th ([agenda/notes](#))
 - e. [ACA CC Ocean Racing Committee](#)
 - i. Approve [June meeting minutes](#)
4. Regional / Local Community Representation/Engagement
 - a. Matt: Local series, Blackburn, Bay State Games, Gorge/Nationals
 - b. Jesse:
 - c. Greg: Gorge/Nationals
 - d. Geoff:
- ii. Member Representation
 1. Member Identification ([ACA Competition Member Tracking](#))
 - a. Metrics/KPIs
 - i. Primary Ocean Racing Members: 88
 - ii. Secondary Ocean Racing Members: 192
 - iii. Additional Relevant Members: 155
 - b. 2025 Member Drive
 - i. Aside from Nationals have done very little campaigning
 - ii. Need to get a newsletter out in August!!!
 - c. Athletes



- i. Nationals!
 - ii. 62 member-athletes in first ever National Championships
 - iii. Several people joined/renewed during the lead-up to the race
- d. Coaches
 - i. Matt connected with some key coach-type people at the Gorge (Chris Norbury, Holm Schmidt, Zsolt Zsadvzski, Tod Cole)
 - ii. Matt working with Competition Council Coaching Committee to publish "Licensed Coaches" @ AmericanCanoe.org
- e. Organizers
 - i. Still working on ACA WIIFM offering for organizers (eg insurance)
 - ii.
- f. Dealers/Outfitters/Manufacturers
 - i. [Contact sheet](#) is now available
 - ii. ORC members provide contact info for dealers/outfitters
 - iii. Matt: Set up Google Group
- 2. Member Communication
 - a. One-Way Communications
 - i. [ACA Ocean Racing Page](#)
 - 1. ORC meeting minutes
 - 2. National team info (Continental, Worlds)
 - 3. ORC officer titles
 - ii. [ORC Email Newsletter #7 \(Summer 2025\)](#)
 - 1. World Championships
 - 2. Continental Championships
 - 3. National Championships
 - 4. National Series
 - 5. Athlete Classifications
 - iii. USASurfski.com
 - 1. Worlds Updates
 - 2. Continental Updates
 - 3. Nationals Update
 - iv. [USA Surfski Facebook Page](#)
 - 1. 118 likes (+6), 209 followers (+6)
 - b. Two-Way Communications
 - i. [USA Surfski Community Facebook Group](#)
 - 1.
 - ii. [ACA Ocean Racing Networks](#) (Google Groups)
 - 1. Have sent a few emails to Networks over past few weeks
 - 2. Call for Worlds/Continental participants
 - 3. USOPC coaching resources



b. Competition Promotion/Production

i. [International Competition Calendar \(ICF\)](#)

1. Level 4 / Basic International Events - 7 listed
2. Level 3 / Continental Championships - 0 listed
3. Level 2 / World Cups - 2 listed
 - a. [Eurochallenge](#) - Spain - May 1-3 2025
 - b. [La Run Ocean](#) - Reunion Island - November 10-16 2025
4. Level 1 / [World Championships](#)
 - a. [2025 - Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa - October 17-19, 2025](#)
 - i. Greg will be attending as (currently) sole USA paddler
 - ii. Michelle Flynn has info re: uniforms – contact sooner vs. later
 - b. [2026 - Vila Joiosa, Spain - October 10-12, 2026](#)
 - i. Lots of interest in this event from paddlers @ the GDC
 - ii. We could potentially have a large USA contingent
 - 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. Dave Jensen will be attending as (currently) sole USA paddler

iii. [National Competition Calendar \(USASurfski.com\)](#)

1. [2025 USA COR National Series](#)
 - a. 118 Races Completed YTD
 - b. 185 Race Projected EOY
2. [2025 USA COR National Championships](#)
 - a. A very well-run event (collaboration w/ GDC)
 - b. Positively received by surfski community
 - c. Need to schedule a debrief with HOC
 - d. Need to send a thank you letter to HOC
 - e. Need to add update to [USASurfski.com](#)
 - f. Need to add update to AmericanCanoe.org
3. 2026 USA COR National Championships
 - a. Aim to send out the RFP at beginning of September
 - b. Responses due back to ORC by end of October

c. Athlete Development/Qualification

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

1. Q1 focus was National Series, Nationals, and figuring out Continentals/Worlds
2. Q2 focus was National Series and ironing-out Nationals, Continentals, and Worlds details
3. Q3 focus is National Series and Nationals + Continentals execution
4. Q4 focus will be National Series and Worlds execution, plus planning/prep for 2026



5. Unlikely to expand scope of development work in 2026 w/o adding ORC members
- 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 Series Metrics](#)
 - a. 525 Overall Athletes Participated YTD
 - b. 900 Overall Athletes Projected EOY (12/7*525)
 - c. 170 Members Participated YTD
 - d. 291 Members Projected EOY
 3. Observations/Notables
 - a. On track to exceed 2024 overall count (892)
 - b. On track to exceed 2024 member count (181)
- iii. [USA COR Athlete Classification System](#) (Status: External Pilot)
 1. [Athlete Classification System \(ACS\) Rubric](#)
 - a. Current Version: 2.1 (prev: 2.0)
 - b. Version 2.1 details
 - i. Revises content for clarity
 - ii. External Pilot status → Completed/Accepted
 2. [YTD ACS Metrics](#)
 - a. Athletes - 333 overall (202 members)
 - i. A: 7 overall classifications (4 members)
 - ii. B: 10 overall classifications (4 members)
 - iii. C: 23 overall classifications (13 members)
 - iv. D: 50 overall classifications (21 members)
 - v. E: 124 overall classifications (48 members)
 - vi. U: 143 member classifications
 - b. Competitions
 - i. A: A1 (0), A3 (1), A5 (0), A7(0) [2024: 1]
 - ii. B: B1 (1), B3 (0) [2024: 1]
 - iii. C: C1 (8), C3 (1) [2024: 2]
 - iv. D: D1 (5), D3 (2) [2024: 9]
 - v. E: E1 (24), E3 (12) [2024: 81]
 - vi. U: U (37) [2024: 100]
 3. Observations/Notables
 - a. 10 new races YTD
 - b. 32 N/A races YTD (no surfskis, cancelled events, etc)
- d. Athlete Encouragement/Facilitation
 - i. [USA Ocean Racing National Development Fund](#)
 1. Current fund balance: \$290.00
 2. What to do with it?



- a. Plastic ACA QR Code “join cards” \$70
 - b. Stickers for Nationals medals \$90
- ii. Athlete Outreach
 - 1. National Team Recruiting
 - a. Worlds + Continentals
 - i. Worlds Interest: 0
 - ii. Continentals Interest: 3
 - iii. There is bureaucracy to navigate
 - iv. Logistics need to be figured out
 - v. Who will be on-site team leads?
 - b. Set dates for announcing the 2025 National Teams.
 - i. Probably should be before international competitions
 - c. National Team?
 - i. What’s our criteria?
 - ii. What’s really in it for them?
 - iii. What do other countries do (UK, RSA, AUS, etc.)

4. Additional Topics / Parking Lot Items

- a. ACA Paddlesports endorsements

5. Actions/Assignments Recap

- a. Geoff
 - i.
- b. Greg
 - i.
- c. Jesse
 - i.
- d. Matt
 - i.

6. Next Session

- a. Wednesday, August 27th @ 6:00pm ET / 3:00pm PT

7. Session Adjournment

- a. Time (Eastern/Pacific): 07:20pm ET / 04:20pm PT (80 minutes)

