

ACA Competition Council

Ocean Racing Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Last Revised: October 20, 2025

Conference Call Information

Meeting link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/dl/launcher/launcher.html?url=%2F_%23%2F%2Fmeetup-join%2F19%3Ameeting_OGQ4YTdiOGItYjY4MS00ZDZmLTlhZjMtNzhlZDQzZDZkNzFk%40thread.v2%2F0%3Fcontext%3D%2527b%2522Tid%2522%253a%2522d6c6f21e-b338-46a9-b9d1-8e10e118a57e%2522%252c%2522Oid%2522%253a%2522a35a1afd-e6cb-42c2-9d42-832f93587df2%2522%257d%26anon%3Dtrue&type=meetup-join&deeplinkId=2a023593-7a6f-4d09-a632-46e5d0c4d59e&directDI=true&msLaunch=true&enableMobilePage=true&suppressPrompt=true

Meeting ID: 217 428 394 348 3

Passcode: K7me6qQ2

1. Session Commencement

- a. Time: 07:00pm Eastern / 04:00pm Pacific
- b. Attendance
 - i. Geoff Pearson
 - ii. Greg Barton
 - iii. Jesse Lishchuk
 - iv. Matt Drayer
- c. Pre-Read Materials
 - i. Final: [August 27 ORC meeting minutes](#)
 - ii. Final: [2026 USA COR National Championships RFP](#)
 - iii. Draft: [2025 ICF COR Rulebook Analysis](#)
 - iv. Draft: [2026 USA COR Organizer's Playbook](#)
 - v. Draft: [2026 USA COR Athlete's Playbook](#)



- d. Call for [Additional Topics](#)
 - i.

2. Actions Overview

- a. Vote: Approve August ORC meeting minutes for distribution
- b. Vote: Approve 2026 USA COR National Championships RFP for distribution to ~200 organizers
- c. Vote: Approve ACS Rubric v2.2 proposed changes

3. Current Initiatives

a. Community Representation

i. Organizational Representation

1. International Representation / [ICF](#)

a. ICF discipline rule changes

i. May 2025 - November 2025

- 1. NFs should consult with stakeholders (athletes, coaches, organizers, officials)
- 2. Review [2025 ICF Canoe Ocean Racing rulebook](#)
- 3. Capture feedback/suggestions in the [Analysis Sheet](#)

ii. December 2025 - March 2026

- 1. NFs submit rule change requests to ICF ORC
- 2. Submission format currently unclear, Matt working on it

b. Interesting discussions with Marian Sarbu (ICF CORC Chairperson)

- i. Pan American Continental Championships
- ii. USA COR National Series + Athlete Classification System
- iii. Potential Paddle Australia / AOCRA integration ([ref](#))
- iv. 2026 World Cup venue selections ([ref](#))

2. Continental Representation / [COPAC](#)

a. General assembly was at end of August

(<https://copaconline.com/news/68b5dfdd1dfab1fe62795e82>)

b. COPAC CORC

i. What is going on with COPAC CORC?

- 1. Marian has connected with Denis Simoes – sounds like Denis needs help.
- 2. Unsure when committee nominations/elections are (2026?) but we should prioritize nominating a USA candidate
- 3. MolokaBRA will be World Cup in 2026
(<https://copaconline.com/news/68ca9a601a6b01ba6424ad2c>)

3. National Representation / [ACA](#)

a. [ACA Safety, Instruction, and Education Council](#)

b. [ACA Regional Activity Council](#)

c. [ACA Paddle America Clubs](#)

d. ACA Competition Council



- i. Next meeting Thursday, September 25th ([agenda/notes](#))
 - e. [ACA CC Ocean Racing Committee](#)
 - i. **Action: Approve [August meeting minutes](#)** [Unanimous approval!]
 - ii. Admin: It might be nearing time to renew committee membership
 - iii. We should also think about increasing the size of the committee (2-3 more people?)
 - 4. Regional / Local Community Representation/Engagement
 - a. Matt: End of season community celebration + won a race! (D25)!
 - b. Jesse: Was in UK, paddled w/ Richmond Canoe Club!
 - c. Greg: Wey-ah-Wichen (Canada), Lake Samish - Greg won! (C25)
 - d. Geoff: Damp weathah! Lifesaving races coming up, Clearwater Beach Classic coming up (solid startlist)
- ii. Member Representation
 - 1. Member Identification ([ACA Competition Member Tracking](#))
 - a. 194 Primary/Secondary Ocean Racing Members (3rd place)
 - b. 16 New-This-Year Ocean Racing Members
 - c. 90 Primary Ocean Racing Members
 - d. 104 Secondary Ocean Racing Members
 - e. 163 Additional Relevant Members
 - 2. Member Support
 - a. Athletes
 - i. Supported Dave Jensen @ Continentals w/ connections for accommodations + boat rentals (Epic Brasil)
 - ii. What's next for [Athlete WIIFM](#)?
 - iii. Geoff: 2026 member drive concept
 - 1. Work with an organizer (or organizers) to subsidize cost of event
 - 2. Use registration fees to purchase one-year ACA memberships for participants
 - b. Coaches
 - i. New Coach Directory @ [americancanoe.org](#)
 - ii. **Action: Notify Ocean Racing Coaches Network**
 - c. Organizers
 - i. Matt: New potential WIIFM opportunity
 - 1. [GeoTracks](#) (UK)
 - 2. Connected with Chris Hipgrave (GGC)
 - 3. Matt will be receiving some trackers to test as well
 - d. [Dealers/Outfitters/Manufacturers](#)
 - i. 70 dealers/outfitters (mostly USA)
 - ii. 30 manufacturers
 - 3. Member Communication



- a. One-Way Communications
 - i. [ACA Ocean Racing Page](#)
 - 1. ORC meeting minutes
 - 2. ORC officer titles
 - 3. Copy revisions
 - ii. [ORC Email Newsletter #7 \(Fall 2025\)](#)
 - 1. Really need to publish a newsletter
 - 2. Season recap, going into Q4 – topics include:
 - a. World Championships
 - b. Continental Championships
 - c. National Championships
 - d. National Series
 - e. Athlete Classifications
 - iii. [USASurfski.com](#)
 - 1. Worlds Updates
 - 2. Continentals Updates
 - 3. Nationals Updates
 - iv. [USA Surfski Facebook Page](#)
 - 1. 121 likes (+3), 212 followers (+4)
 - 2. Unsure if FB is best channel vs IG, etc
- b. Two-Way Communications
 - i. [USA Surfski Community Facebook Group](#)
 - 1. NTR
 - ii. [ACA Ocean Racing Networks](#) (Google Groups)
 - 1. NTR

b. Competition Promotion/Production

- i. [International-Level Competition \(ICF\)](#)
 - 1. Level 4 / Basic International Events - 5 listed
 - a. [Ohana Mana Cup](#) - Italy - September 18-21 2025
 - b. [Fortza Paris Cup](#) - Italy - September 26-28 2025
 - c. [Madeira Ocean Challenge](#) - Portugal - October 4-6 2025
 - d. [Semana Abanca](#) - Spain - October 12 2025
 - e. [Tigullio Ocean Race](#) - Italy - October 25-26 2025
 - 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
 - c. [Kuantan](#) - Malaysia - July 17-19 2026
 - d. [Tahiti](#) - French Polynesia - August 1-3 2026
 - e. [MolokaBRA](#) - Brazil - September 18-27 2026
 - 4. Level 1 / [World Championships](#)



- a. [2025 - Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa - October 17-19, 2025](#)
 - i. Four confirmed USA participants
 - b. [2026 - Vila Joyosa, Spain - October 10-12, 2026](#)
 - i. Lots of interest in this event from GDC paddlers
 - ii. Potential for a large USA contingent
 - iii. We need to start the marketing machine sooner vs. later on this
 - 1. Email newsletter
 - 2. Direct inquiries to ACS-classified athletes
 - iv. Logistics!!!
 - c. [2027 - Tahiti - Date TBD](#)
 - d. [2028 - Cherbourg, France - Date TBD](#)
- ii. [Continental-Level Competition \(COPAC\)](#)
 - 1. [Pan American Continental Championships](#)
 - a. 2025 - Fortaleza, Ceara, Brazil - August 22-31, 2025
 - i. Dave Jensen attended as sole USA paddler - placed 4th overall!
 - ii. General: Incredible race course/conditions, some logistical friction
 - b. 2026 - Likely MolokaBRA again - September 18-27
 - i. We need to be WAY ahead this time, if we want USA participation
 - ii. Transportation
 - iii. Accommodations
 - iv. Boat Rentals
 - 2. Are there other "Continental-Level" COR competitions to consider?
 - iii. [National-Level Competition \(ACA\)](#)
 - 1. [2025 USA COR National Series](#)
 - a. 143 Races Completed YTD
 - b. 175 Races Projected EOY
 - 2. [2025 USA COR National Championships](#)
 - a. **Action: Send an official thank you letter to HOC**
 - 3. [2026 USA COR National Championships](#)
 - a. **Action: Approve RFP for distribution to ~200 race organizers.**
 - b. Distribute: October 1st
 - c. Response Deadline: November 15th
 - 4. [2026 USA COR Sanctioned Competition Organizers Playbook](#)
 - a. How-to guide for producing/executing an ACA-sanctioned COR competition
 - b. [Draft playbook](#) has been created, please provide feedback/comments
 - iv. Regional-Level Competition (ACA)
 - 1. 2026 Northeast Regional COR Championships - [Blackburn Challenge](#) (July)
 - v. State-Level Competition (ACA)
 - 1. 2026 Massachusetts State COR Championships - [Bay State Games](#) (July)
- c. Athlete Development/Engagement
 - i. [USA COR National Development Program](#)



1. Q1 focus was National Series and figuring out Nationals/Continentials/Worlds
 2. Q2 focus was National Series and figuring out Nationals/Continentials/Worlds
 3. Q3 focus was National Series, Nationals, and Continentals execution, plus Worlds
 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 proposed rubric changes since last meeting
 2. [YTD Series Metrics](#)
 - a. 606 Participating Athletes YTD
 - b. 808 Participating Athletes Projected EOY (12/9*606)
 - c. 194 Participating ACA Members YTD
 - d. 258 Participating ACA Members Projected EOY (12/9*186)
 3. Observations/Notables
 - a. Forecast: Overall athlete participation forecast -10% vs 2024 (808 vs 892)
 - b. Forecast: ACA member participation +7% vs 2024 (194 vs 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 (Finalized)
 - i. Revised labels and descriptions for clarity
 - ii. "External Pilot" status → "Completed/Accepted" status
 - c. Version 2.2 (Proposed)
 - i. Increase ACS degradation window to three years (currently two)
 2. [YTD ACS Metrics](#)
 - a. Athletes: 223 classified athletes (91 ACA members)
 - i. A: 7 classified athletes (4 ACA members)
 - ii. B: 10 classified athletes (4 ACA members)
 - iii. C: 23 classified athletes (12 ACA members)
 - iv. D: 53 classified athletes (22 ACA members)
 - v. E: 129 classified athletes (49 ACA members)
 - vi. U: 139 unclassified athletes (all ACA members)
 - b. Competitions:
 - i. A: 1 - A1 (0), A3 (1), A5 (0), A7(0) [2024: 1]
 - ii. B: 1 - B1 (1), B3 (0) [2024: 1]
 - iii. C: 10 - C1 (8), C3 (2) [2024: 2]
 - iv. D: 9 - D1 (7), D3 (2) [2024: 9]
 - v. E: 44 - E1 (29), E3 (15) [2024: 81]
 - vi. U: 49 - U (49) [2024: 100]
 3. Observations/Notables



- a. 14 new races YTD, 5 classified - 2@C1, 2@E3, 1@E1
- b. 76 N/A races YTD (no surfskis, no results posted, 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?
 - 3. How to increase it?
- ii. USA National Team Recruiting/Facilitation
 - 1. 2025 USA National Team @ Worlds (South Africa)
 - a. Registered athletes
 - i. Greg Barton
 - ii. Nicholas van der Meer (not attending, Jesse to confirm)
 - iii. Ronald Rivera
 - iv. Rowan Sampson (attending, might not participate, Jesse to confirm)
 - b. Notification email sent regarding ACA/ICF requirements
 - c. Attestation letters need to be drafted
 - i. 3/4 of athletes currently listed in 2025 National Series
 - ii. 3/4 of athletes are currently ACA members
 - iii. 2/4 of athletes currently hold ACS classifications (C25, E24)
 - iv. What to do about people who are not currently listed in National Series and/or do not hold ACS classifications?
 - 2. 2026 USA National Team @ Continentals (Brazil)
 - 3. 2026 USA National Team @ Worlds (Spain)

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, October 25th @ 6:00pm ET / 3:00pm PT

7. Session Adjournment

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

