

ACA Competition Council

Ocean Racing Committee Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 30, 2025

Last Revised: October 30, 2025

Conference Call Information

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Meeting ID: 257 784 313 319

Passcode: y32UC3W3

1. Session Commencement

- a. Time: 07:00pm Eastern / 04:00pm Pacific
- b. Attendance
 - i. Geoff Pearson
 - ii. Greg Barton
 - iii. Matt Drayer
- c. Pre-Read Materials
 - i. Final: [September 30 ORC meeting minutes](#)
 - ii. Draft: [2025 ICF COR Rulebook Analysis](#)
 - iii. Draft: [2026 USA COR Organizer's Playbook](#)
 - iv. Draft: [2026 USA COR Athlete's Playbook](#)
 - v. Draft: [2026 USA COR PAC Championship Proposal](#)
- d. Call for [Additional Topics](#)
 - i.

2. Actions Overview

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



3. Current Initiatives

a. Community Representation

i. Organizational Representation

1. International Representation ([ICF](#))

i. News

1. OC1 to become an official medal category in 2026 World Cups ([ref](#))

ii. Discipline rule changes

1. May 2025 - November 2025

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

2. December 2025 - March 2026

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

2. Continental Representation ([COPAC](#))

i. News

1. MolokaBRA will be 2026 ICF COR World Cup competition

ii. Canoe Ocean Racing Committee

1. What is going on with CORC?
2. When are nominations for the committee?
3. When will the 2026 COPAC Pan American COR Championship be announced?
4. Who can answer these questions?

3. National Representation / [ACA](#)

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

b. [ACA Regional Activity Council](#)

- i. RAC director will be attending next Competition Council meeting

c. [ACA Paddle America Clubs](#)

- i. Have received an inquiry from Matt Wyatt about starting up a youth-focused COR program in the Bay Area – connected with Jesse.

d. ACA Competition Council

i. September Meeting ([agenda/notes](#))

1. Goal setting exercise – proposal submitted to National Office
2. Waveski has been added as an official discipline
3. New coach directory available @ [americancanoe.org](#)
4. Standardized age groups + geographic regions still WIP



- ii. Next meeting Tuesday, November 25th ([agenda/notes](#))
 - 1. USA Paddling branding update
 - 2. Discipline rulebooks
 - 3. Persona-based working groups (athletes, coaches, officials, organizers, clubs)
 - e. [ACA CC Ocean Racing Committee](#)
 - i. **Action: Approve [September meeting minutes](#)** unanimous approval
 - ii. Committee Member Terms
 - 1. Per Competition Council operating procedures, current ORC member terms are ending on December 31, 2025.
 - 2. We will need to hold an election before end of year, for members interested in going another cycle (2026-2027)
 - 3. We should also consider increasing the size of the committee. Unlikely to expand scope of development work in 2026 w/o adding ORC members.
 - 4. Regional / Local Community Representation/Engagement
 - a. Matt: Downwind this weekend! Race on November 9th
 - b. Jesse:
 - c. Greg: Worlds! Narrows Challenge + Mercer Island – Sound Rowers racing starts again in late winter
 - d. Geoff: Tuesday + Wednesday series have wrapped for the season. Jupiter club has three races, Ft Lauderdale club has three races, good community cross-section (Surfski, OC, SUP)
- ii. Member Representation
 - 1. Member Identification ([ACA Competition Member Tracking](#))
 - a. 185 Primary/Secondary Ocean Racing Members (3rd place, -9)
 - b. 87 Primary Ocean Racing Members
 - c. 98 Secondary Ocean Racing Members
 - d. 199 Additional Relevant Members
 - 2. Member Support
 - a. Athletes
 - i. Facilitated Greg Barton, Ronald Rivera, Rowan Sampson @ 2025 ICF COR World Championships in Durban, South Africa!
 - ii. What's next for [Athlete WIIFM](#)?
 - b. Coaches
 - i. New Coach Directory @ [americancanoe.org](#)
 - ii. **Action: Notify Ocean Racing Coaches Network**
 - c. Organizers
 - i. What's next for [Organizer WIIFM](#)?
 - d. Officials



- i. Need to figure out when the next ICF COR ITO workshop will be held + where
 - ii. Geoff thought - Rulebook: Officials should be responsible for ensuring a clean (read: fair) start + finish
 - iii. Bring back the hotspot! It's exciting :)
 - iv. How to encourage spectator-friendly events (more turns, closer to shore, etc.)
 - e. Clubs
 - i. What's next for [Club WIIFM?](#)
 - ii. [2026 USA COR PAC Championship Proposal](#)
 - f. [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. A bit of 2026 Worlds chatter in the Athlete Network!
- b. Competition Promotion/Production
 - i. [International-Level Competition \(ICF\)](#)



1. Level 4 / Basic International Events - 2 listed
 - a. [Tigullio Ocean Race](#) - Italy - October 25-26 2025
 - b. [La Run Ocean](#) - Reunion Island - November 9-15 2026
 2. Level 3 / Continental Championships - 0 listed
 3. Level 2 / World Cups - 4 listed
 - a. [Kuantan](#) - Malaysia - July 3-5 2026
 - b. [Tahiti](#) - French Polynesia - July 31 - Aug 2 2026
 - c. [MolokaBRA](#) - Brazil - September 19-21 2026
 - d. [La Run Ocean](#) - Reunion Island - November 9-15 2026
 4. Level 1 / [World Championships](#)
 - a. [2025 - Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa - October 17-19, 2025](#)
 - i. Three USA paddlers - Greg Barton, Ronald Rivera, Rowan Sampson
 - ii. Greg placed first in 65-69 age group!
 - b. [2026 - Vila Joyosa, Spain - October 9-11, 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, 2026](#) (Unannounced)
 - i. We need to be WAY ahead this time, if we want USA participation
 - ii. Transportation
 - iii. Accommodations
 - iv. Boat Rentals
 2. Are there alternative "Continental-Level" COR competitions to consider?
 - a. Geoff has mentioned Martinique / St. Martin
 - b. Consider reaching out to COPAC ORC and other COPAC member federations about races
- iii. [National-Level Competition \(ACA\)](#)
1. [2025 USA COR National Series](#)
 - a. 172 Races Completed YTD
 - b. 180 Races Projected EOY
 - c. 2026 Expansion Concept: [USA COR PAC Championship](#)



- i. Similar to Formula One’s “Constructors Championship”
 - ii. National Series individual points will be rolled up by club
 - iii. Would require a mechanism for verifying PAC affiliations (eg, rosters)
 - iv. Unaffiliated paddlers would also be included in National Series
 - 2. [2025 USA COR National Championships](#)
 - a. **Action: Send an official thank you letter to HOC**
 - 3. [2026 USA COR National Championships](#)
 - a. Published: October 1st
 - b. Announced: October 3rd
 - c. Information Session: October 21st
 - d. Reminder email: November 1st
 - e. Response Deadline: November 14th
 - 4. [2026 USA COR Recognized Competition Organizers Playbook](#)
 - a. How-to guide for producing/executing an ACA-recognized 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)
 - 2. Interest from Alabama, South Carolina, some other areas
- c. Athlete Development/Engagement
- i. [USA COR National Development Program](#)
 - 1. Q1 focus was National Series and figuring out Nationals/Continental/Worlds
 - 2. Q2 focus was National Series and figuring out Nationals/Continental/Worlds
 - 3. Q3 focus was National Series, Nationals, and Continental execution, plus Worlds
 - 4. Q4 focus is National Series and Worlds execution, plus 2026 planning/prep for 2026
 - ii. [USA COR National Series](#)
 - 1. [National Ranking Points \(NRP\) Rubric](#)
 - a. Current version: 1.4
 - b. No proposed rubric changes since last meeting
 - 2. [YTD Series Metrics](#)
 - a. 715 Participating Athletes YTD
 - b. 858 Participating Athletes Projected EOY (12/10*715)
 - c. 239 Participating ACA Members YTD
 - d. 287 Participating ACA Members Projected EOY (12/10*239)
 - 3. Observations/Notables
 - a. Forecast: Overall athlete participation forecast -4% vs 2024 (858 vs 892)
 - b. Forecast: ACA member participation +59% vs 2024 (287 vs 181)
 - iii. [USA COR Athlete Classification System](#) (Status: External Pilot)
 - 1. [Athlete Classification System \(ACS\) Rubric](#)
 - a. Current Version: 2.1



- b. Version 2.2 (Rescinded)
 - i. Increase ACS degradation window to three years (currently two)
 - ii. Reviewed the data – currently only 21 paddlers with *24 classifications, versus 169 with *25 classifications.
 - iii. *Decision: Maintain two-year degradation schedule*

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: 130
 - i. A: 1 - A1 (0), A3 (1), A5 (0), A7(0) [2024: 1]
 - ii. B: 1 - B1 (1), B3 (0) [2024: 1]
 - iii. C: 13 - C1 (11), C3 (2) [2024: 2]
 - iv. D: 11 - D1 (7), D3 (4) [2024: 9]
 - v. E: 48 - E1 (32), E3 (15) [2024: 81]
 - vi. U: 56 - U (49) [2024: 100]

3. Observations/Notables

- a. 39 new races YTD, 5 classified - 2@C1, 2@E3, 1@E1
- b. 82 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. 2026 USA COR National Team Recruiting/Facilitation
 - 1. 2026 USA COR National Team @ Continentals (Brazil)
 - 2. 2026 USA COR National Team @ Worlds (Spain)

4. Additional Topics / Parking Lot Items

- a. Geoff: Surfski Tourism!
 - i. Tarifa – paddle from Africa to Europe – track the ferry/route
 - ii. What about a Tarifa + 2026 Worlds combo?

5. Actions/Assignments Recap

- a. Geoff
 - i.
- b. Greg
 - i.



- c. Jesse
 - i.
- d. Matt
 - i.

6. Next Session

- a. ORC Meeting: Thursday, November 20th @ 7:00pm ET / 3:00pm PT
 - i. Championships bid selections + standard committee meeting agenda
- b. ICF Rules Working Session: Thursday December 4th for next ORC meeting?

7. Session Adjournment

- a. Time (Eastern/Pacific): 8:57pm ET / 5:57pm PT (00 minutes)

