

ACA Competition Council

Ocean Racing Committee Meeting Agenda

October 27, 2023

Conference Call Information - Microsoft Teams:

1. Session Commencement

- a. 17:20 Eastern / 14:20 Pacific
- b. Attendance
 - i. Geoff Pearson
 - ii. Greg Barton
 - iii. Jesse Lishchuk
 - iv. Matt Drayer
- c. Pre-Read Materials / Homework
 - i. [ACA ORC Open Questions/Tasks](#)
 - ii. [ACA 2023-2028 Strategic Plan](#) (Draft)
 - iii. [ACA ORC 2023 Strategic Plan](#) (Draft)
 - iv. [ACA ORC Meeting Notes 2023-09-22](#)
 - v. [ACA ORC Competition Membership WIIFM?](#)

2. Current Initiatives

- a. Community Representation
 - i. International / ICF
 1. Matt connected with Colin Simpkins via email
 2. ICF Ocean Racing Committee Meeting in October
 - a. Beach Games
 3. Colin and Michèle will be at ICF COR World Championships
 - a. OCTOBER ACTION - Greg: Schedule a discussion w/ Colin and Michele @ WC's
 4. Jesse: Nathan Benderson Park is open to supporting surfski races
 - a. Heavily subsidizing large events to generate interest/scale
 - b. Hotel-based revenue stream, mall tax-revenue sharing
 - c. 30 minutes from the ocean
 - ii. Continental / COPAC
 1. COPAC Congress: Friday November 3rd

- a. Extraordinary meeting date of elections for vacant committee positions will be determined
 - 2. REPORT - September Action: Matt to follow up with Victor Ruiz re: COPAC ORC mission and chairperson role description
 - a. From Victor on 10/27:
 - i. Ensure the celebration of the Pan American championships according to the plans with the COPAC board of directors.
 - ii. The Committee must evaluate the proposals received for championships to propose to the COPAC executive the best place to hold the event.
 - iii. Alignment with the strategy of the International Federation and COPAC.
 - iv. Make a plan with the charman for training continental judges.
 - v. The commission should meet periodically to ensure that plans are being carried out as agreed.
 - vi. They must have meetings with the selected venues to ensure a good championship.
 - vii. A goal should be to insert ocean kayaking into the beach games of the different sports organizations in America.
 - viii. The federations must help the members of the commission financially.
- iii. National / ACA
 - 1. ACA
 - a. Waiting to receive minutes / report-out from October board meeting
 - b. REPORT - September Action: Matt to follow up with Kaycee Maas about how to modify the ocean racing page/area of the site
 - i. Pretty easy – we just tell Kaycee what we want to put on the site – generally she wants consistency with other discipline areas/pages, but we have some leeway.
 - 2. ACA Competition Council
 - a. Next meeting being coordinated for November – Matt waiting on confirmation from Risa.
 - 3. ACA Competition Members
 - a. Identification
 - i. ~80 “ocean racing” competition members
 - 1. [27 primary](#) (down from 36)
 - 2. [53 secondary](#) (down from 66)
 - ii. Why are numbers down from last month?
 - 1. October Action: Matt reach out to Michelle Flynn and Kaycee Maas to see if we can gain some insight on this.
 - b. Communication
 - i. One-Way Communications
 - 1. ORC Email #2: October Update scheduled for week of 10/30

2. Should we start our own ACA/USA Ocean Racing Community email list?
 - a. USASurfski.com already has an email list we could use (500 person max)
 - b. Include races around the country, useful resources/info
 - c. Help people with logistical issues, service awareness/access
 - d. Keep it lightweight, easy, for public awareness + community generation, then a heavyweight email which is the members-only email.
 - e. DECISION: Let's do it!
 - ii. Two-Way Communications
 1. Google Group, Slack, Discord, FB Group, etc
 2. Can we just "do" this???
 3. REPORT - September Action: Matt to follow up with Beth
 - a. Beth said we can generally do this although it would be best to work with the ACA team and ideally leverage what the ACA has established in terms of communication tools.
 - c. Generation
 - i. How to convince ocean racing community members to become ACA competition members?
 - ii. How to incentivize current ACA competition members to indicate ocean racing as primary discipline?
 1. ["WIIFM?"](#) benefits document
 - a. When to begin executing?
 - b. REPORT - September Action: Matt to ping Beth again
 - i. Beth stated that we are free to explore relationships but she needs to approve any binding agreements to ensure the ACA partnership is properly represented on both sides.
 - iii. How to incentivize current ACA competition members to purchase the additional \$80 competition license?
 1. This is only necessary for athletes competing at ICF international competitions
4. ACA RAC
- a. No idea what is happening here
 - b. Initiative seems to have lost steam
 - c. Jesse: Offer an open forum for regional/state directors on a specific date to present the ORC and describe our program, initiatives – just to see who shows up.
 - d. All four of us could present, we could maybe get some other people too.

- e. Keep it casual, cover the concepts, what we're looking to accomplish in 2024
- f. Invite people to be part of the ORC?
- g. OCTOBER ACTION - Matt: Figure out a date/time that everyone can do this
- 5. ACA PACs
 - a. [ACA Ocean Racing Competition Clubs](#)
 - b. Outreach to these clubs as early ORC adopters/partners?
 - i. REPORT - September Action: Jesse + Matt to connect with clubs
 - 1. Gig Harbor – interested in collaborating
 - 2. San Diego – interested in collaborating
- 6. USA Ocean Racing / Surfski Community:
 - a. [SurfSki USA Facebook Group](#)
 - i. REPORT - September Action: Matt to follow up w/ Beth again for answer
 - ii. REPORT - September Action: Greg to follow up w/ Michèle Eray about intentions/accessing group
 - 1. She wants to keep the FB group
 - 2. Greg to discuss clarifying messaging for group (and website) at WC's
 - b. ACA Paddlesports Facebook page
 - i. REPORT - September Action: Matt to follow-up with Kaycee about this page (still open)
 - c. Websites
 - i. www.usasurfski.info (Michèle)
 - ii. www.usasurfski.com (Matt)
 - 1. Website has been updated to reflect relationship with ACA
 - iii. <https://americancanoe.org/competition/teams/icf-sports/ocean-racing-surf-ski/>
 - iv. REPORT - September Action: Greg to reach out to Michèle about FB group and then see if can parlay into usasurfski.info website intentions, synergies w/ ICF, etc.
 - 1. More talking to be done at WC's
- b. Competition Promotion
 - i. Competition Organizers: [Identification](#) / "WIIFM?"
 - 1. ACA Competition Calendar
 - a. Calendar submission form isn't working properly
 - b. Matt troubleshooting with Kaycee
 - ii. 2023 Competitions
 - 1. Currently [12 upcoming "surfski" events in PaddleGuru](#) (down from 17)
 - 2. 2023 ICF COR WC is the next/last Big Competition of the year
 - iii. 2024 Competition Schedule
 - 1. Use USASurfski.com for aggregating surfski races
 - 2. Highlight upcoming races in email newsletter(s).
- c. Athlete Qualification
 - i. 2023 Competitions

1. ICF World Cup @ Madeira, Portugal
 - a. Only one USA national participated (Carl Slifer), in Portuguese National Cup category
 - b. Lives in Madeira – could be a good resource for 2024 ICF COR WC
 2. ICF World Championships @ Perth, Australia
 - a. [ACA ORC ICF COR WC Qualification Checklist](#)
 - b. 10 USA athletes currently registered as of October 24th
 - i. 10 have been contacted
 - ii. 6 cleared by ORC
 - iii. 2 in progress
 - iv. 2 not started
- ii. 2024 Planning
1. Need to define 2024 athlete qualification plan
 2. REPORT - September Action: Matt to create a Google Doc to come up with “what works for us” in terms of capability assessment (eg, list of races)
 - a. [2024 ACA ICF COR USA National Team Competition Qualification Pro...](#)
- d. Athlete Facilitation
- i. [2023 ICF Ocean Racing World Cup @ Madeira, Portugal](#) (October 5 - October 8)
 1. REPORT - September Action: Matt + Jesse: Recon (Boat rental, list of participants)
 - a. Matt
 - i. Was able to connect with the USA expat competing in Madeira
 - ii. Not much facilitation was necessary – connected him with race organizer via email to line up hydration system
 - iii. Athlete ended up competing in the Portuguese National Cup category, which made sense given timing and administrative overhead.
 - b. Jesse:
 - i. There is a surfski community currently in Madeira; no USA athletes races there earlier in October. Jesse has a contact that lives there, Raf Amorim, that can support with boat rental closer to it - but the ICF will start to work bring a container of skis closer to the event.
 - ii. [2023 ICF Ocean Racing World Championships @ Perth, Australia](#) (November 30 - December 3)
 1. We need to let Paddle Australia know what we are doing.
 - a. September Action: Matt + Geoff to connect early next week to discuss PA comms
 - b. September Action: Matt + Geoff: Draft email to USA athletes participating in ICF-COR World Championships
 2. REPORT - September Action: Jesse do logistics recon (Boat rental, list of participants)
 3. ICF Ocean Racing Talent Identification Program (TIP) Camp
 - a. September Action: Matt to learn more about this (in spare time)
 - i. Matt connected with Colin Simpkins and Michèle Eray about TIP.

- ii. The program is for countries who do not currently have an ocean racing program and are interested in starting one
 - iii. Mainly intended/designed for crossover athletes from other disciplines (eg, Sprint, Wildwater)
 - iv. Doesn't make sense to send USA athletes to TIP – we should focus on our own development program.
- e. Additional Initiatives
 - i. Jesse: Align local outfitters with race organizers to provide access to boats
 - 1. Local outfitters actually hold their own events here in Tampa. Their alignment with other race organizers does not add direct value but will obtain more information. Will find out after November 11th for boat rentals, if viable, to support race organizers.
 - ii. State Games of America Partnership
 - 1. [State Games of America](#)
 - 2. [National Congress of State Games](#)
 - 3. September Action: Jesse to connect with John Edwards (Sunshine State Games)
 - a. John does not have dates yet for this and it will be available some time in Q1. He is open to collaborating to support for Ocean Racing for the Sunshine Games. (Not just Flatwater events)
 - iii. 2024 Planning Exercise
 - 1. What's our actual / real responsibility?
 - a. We have to support people who want to do ICF stuff
 - 2. What (if anything) do we want to accomplish beyond this minimum?
 - 3. [ACA 2023-2028 Strategic Plan \(Section 7: Competition\)](#)
 - 4. [ORC Strategic Plan \(Draft\)](#)

3. Additional Topics

- a. We are definitely feeling blocked on Beth. We need to understand from her what our boundaries/parameters are.
 - i. REPORT - September Action: Matt to follow-up with Beth re: open email thread, decision points)
 - 1. Matt heard back from Beth, we can move forward now
- b.

4. October Actions Recap / Assignments

- a. **Jesse: Report on September Actions, determine October Actions**
 - i. Update 10/30: Developed relationship with Stand up community and local outfitters. Next step to broach Boat Rental support for SUP and SKI. November 3rd attending online meeting (if available) for COPAC with two candidates, one in Brazil another in Puerto Rico. Will send a link to the candidates once available
- b. **Greg: Connect with Michèle to discuss clarifying messaging for “USA Surf Ski” FB group and “usasurfski.info” website**
- c. **Greg: Schedule a strategic discussion w/ Colin and Michele @ WC's re: 2024 ocean racing topics, USA ocean racing, ICF alignment, coach development program/framework, etc.**

- d. **Geoff: Analyze domestic race production space, determine candidates for “2024 races that matter”**
- e. **Matt: Share Competition Council meeting info when received**
 - i. Update 11/03: Working with Risa to determine date – likely week of November 27th
 - ii. Update 11/07: Meeting scheduled for 11/27 at 7pm Eastern
- f. **Matt: Reach out to Michelle Flynn and Kaycee Maas to see if we can gain some insight on decrease in primary/secondary discipline counts.**
 - i. Update 10/30: Emails sent!
 - ii. Update 11/03: Michelle reported that she has no insight to offer.
 - iii. Update 11/03: Kaycee to compare email #1 recipients to email #2 recipients
- g. **Matt: Figure out a date/time that everyone can attend an information session with RAC/SDs**
 - i. Update 11/03: Aiming for week of December 18th.

5. Session Adjournment

- a. 18:53 Eastern / 15:53 Pacific