

# ACA Competition Council

## Ocean Racing Committee Meeting Agenda

### September 22, 2023

#### Conference Call Information

Microsoft Teams meeting

#### 1. Session Commencement

- a. 17:03 Eastern / 14:03 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 2023-08-30](#)
  - v. [ACA ORC Competition Membership WIIFM?](#)

#### 2. Current Initiatives

- a. Community Representation
  - i. International / ICF
    1. [Colin Simpkins ICF presentation](#)
    2. "We have submitted a proposal" – new name/brand for "Canoe Ocean Racing"?
  - ii. Continental / COPAC
    1. COPAC ocean racing committee/person/representation is nonexistent.
      - a. USA (ie, ACA ORC) is able to submit one or more nominations.
      - b. Should we plan to nominate a candidate?
        - i. We feel Spanish language familiarity is a requirement
        - ii. We could possibly bring in more disciplines as well
        - iii. Greg: MolokaBRA organizers are very interested in growing the community/sport



- i. ORC: We want to aim for a monthly newsletter
        - ii. New benefits for people to take advantage
        - iii. “National Standings/Rankings”, pick a few significant races.
        - iv. or (maybe simpler) “Celebrating Notable Accomplishments”
      - b. Two-way? (Google Group, Slack, Discord, FB Group)
      - c. Can we just “do” this???
      - d. 9/18: Matt has an email thread going with Beth
    - iii. How to incentivize current ACA members to switch from “regular” to “competition” membership?
      - 1. Seems like a bigger ACA communication question
      - 2. Topic for next Competition Council meeting
      - 3. Greg: What’s the incentive for becoming a “Competition” member?
    - iv. How to incentivize current ACA competition members to indicate ocean racing as primary discipline?
      - 1. Why should they do this? What makes being an ACA ocean racer special in terms of membership?
      - 2. [“WIIFM?”](#)
    - v. How to incentivize current ACA competition members to purchase the additional \$80 competition license?
      - 1. Michelle Flynn appears to have insight into status
4. ACA RAC
  - a. [State Directors](#), where the heck is everyone?
  - b. Unsure what to do about this...
    - i. Matt: Should we go over the RAC SD layer and work directly with RAC leadership?
      - 1. Andrea White (Chair)
      - 2. Ryan P epper (Competition Chair)
  - c. Maybe we come back to this in 1H of 2024
5. ACA PACs
  - a. 600+ clubs in ACA database (Brendan Nelson @ RAC sorting it out)
  - b. [Ocean Racing Competition Clubs](#)
    - i. [Hawaii CKT](#)
    - ii. [River Town Racers](#)
    - iii. [San Diego CKT](#) (Matt has connected)
    - iv. [Seattle Canoe & Kayak Club](#)
    - v. [Twin Cities Paddlesports](#) (Marsh Jones)
    - vi. [Ikaika Hawaii](#)
  - c. Outreach to these clubs as early ORC adopters/partners?
    - i. **Jesse: Will reach out to Ikaika, Seattle CKC, Hawaii CKT, River Town, SDCKT**
    - ii. **Matt: Reach out to Twin Cities Paddlesports**

6. USA Ocean Racing / Surfski Community:
  - a. [SurfSki USA Facebook Group](#) (?)
    - i. We still don't have access to this
    - ii. Should we create our own ACA-branded one? (open question w/ Beth)
    - iii. **Matt: Follow up w/ Beth again for answer**
    - iv. **Greg: Follow up w/ Michèle Eray about intentions/accessing group**
  - b. ACA Paddlesports page
    - i. Whitewater, Sprint, and Slalom
    - ii. Jesse's personal page post was re-posted by ACA page
    - iii. We don't currently know who operates this page
    - iv. **Matt: Follow-up with Kaycee about this page**
  - c. Website?
    - i. [www.usasurfski.info](http://www.usasurfski.info) (Michèle)
    - ii. [www.usasurfski.com](http://www.usasurfski.com) (Matt)
    - iii. <https://americancanoe.org/competition/teams/icf-sports/ocean-racing-surf-ski/>
    - iv. **Greg: Reach out to Michèle about FB and then see if can parlay into website intentions, synergies w/ ICF, etc.**
- b. Competition Promotion
  - i. Competition Organizers: [Identification](#) / "WIIFM?"
    1. ACA Competition Calendar
    2. 17 upcoming competitions @ PG
    3. 573 past competitions @ PG
  - ii. 2023 Events
    1. Currently [17 upcoming "surfski" events in PaddleGuru](#)
    2. 2023 ICF WC + Cup Competitions mentioned in ORC email
  - iii. 2024 Competition Schedule
    1. Need to assemble a master list
    2. Can we partner with a race organizer to have an "ACA National Championship"
      - a. Or at least "plug in" to the ACA "races that matter" framework, somehow
- c. Athlete Qualification
  - i. 2023 Events
    1. How are we actually qualifying people for 2023 ICF competitions?
      - a. ICF World Cup @ Madeira, Portugal
        - i. Seems like this one is a lost cause.
        - ii. Matt: Figure out email address/FB/IG and see if we can get a list of people (assuming no one).
        - iii. Jesse: Considering attending!
      - b. ICF World Championships @ Perth, Australia
        - i. Geoff: No updates shared from Paddle Australia
      - c. Matt: Connect w/ Kaycee about messaging specific ICF competitors re: Qualification Checklist

2. [ACA ORC ICF Qualification Checklist](#)
    - a. Competition Membership (work with Michelle Flynn)
      - i. Ocean Racing (Surfski) as primary (ideal) or secondary discipline
    - b. ACA Annual Liability Waiver ([link](#))
    - c. Competition License (work with Michelle Flynn)
    - d. SafeSport Training ([link](#), work with Azusa Murphy)
    - e. Background Check
    - f. Medical Clearance
    - g. Capability Assessment
      - i. List of races that matter
        1. Safety / Capability
        2. Rubric
          - a. Open Water
          - b. Wind/Waves/Currents
          - c. Performance
            - i. Must finish race courses in X time/place
            - ii. leader offset? Average/Median completion time?
      - ii. Good Examples
        1. The Gorge
        2. Hawaiian Races
        3. Previous (recent-ish) World Champs/Cup events
        4. International events? (which ones?)
        5. ACA SEIC L4 Surfski Downwind Course
        - 6.
      - iii. Bad Examples
        1. Chattajack
        2. Blackburn? (Depends...)
  - ii. 2024 Planning
    1. Need to define our plan for athlete qualification in 2024
    2. Can't just be a doctor's note...
    3. **Matt: Start up a Google Doc to come up with "what works for us" in terms of capability assessment (eg, list of races)**
- d. Athlete Facilitation
  - i. [2023 ICF Ocean Racing World Cup @ Madeira, Portugal](#) (October 5 - October 8)
    1. **Matt + Jesse: Recon (Boat rental, list of participants),**
  - ii. [2023 ICF Ocean Racing World Championships @ Perth, Australia](#) (November 30 - December 3)
    1. Geoff: Have received initial list of USA registrations for the event
      - a. Need to follow up with all of these people
      - b. Matt: Intro email communication has been sent, so we can now connect with aspiring participants.
    2. We need to let Paddle Australia know what we are doing.
      - a. **Matt + Geoff to connect early next week to discuss PA comms**



- e. **Jesse: Reach out to Ikaika, Seattle CKC, Hawaii CKT, River Town, SDCKT re: ocean racing program discussion**
- f. **Jesse: Connect with John Edwards (Sunshine State Games)**
- g. **Jesse: Recon (Boat rental, list of participants) for Madeira World Cup**
- h. **Matt: Follow-up with Beth re: open email thread, decision points)**
- i. **Matt: Learn more about ICF TIP (not priority, in spare time)**
- j. **Matt: Get Madeira World Cup contact info for Jesse**
- k. **Matt: Start up a Google Doc to come up with “what works for us” in terms of capability assessment (eg, list of races)**
- l. **Matt: Follow-up with Kaycee about the ACA Paddlesports Facebook page**
- m. **Matt: Follow up w/ Beth again for clarification/permission re: branding, communications, partnerships**
- n. **Matt: Reach out to Twin Cities Paddlesports re: ocean racing program discussion**
- o. **Matt: Follow up with Kaycee Maas about how to modify this page/area of the site**
- p. **Matt: Follow up with Victor Ruiz re: volunteer position description**

## 5. Session Adjournment

- a. 19:05 Eastern / 16:05 Pacific