

Notes from 7-28-23 meeting of the ACA Ocean Racing Committee – General Discussion

- I. What is the brand of the ocean racing committee?
 1. Is the focus supposed to be craft oriented or context oriented.
 - a. Decision: Our focus will be on surfski only.
 - b. Matt: I believe we decided on “USA Ocean Racing” as the brand, versus “USA Surfski” or “USA Canoe Ocean Racing”, correct?
 - a. After discussion it appears our goal is to increase the participation of US athletes in the ICF ocean [racing] world championship representing the United States of America
 - a. Matt: I agree this is our overarching strategic goal. Perhaps we aim even higher than basic participation for a vision/mission?
 - b. Part of the focus should be collaboration with existing events.
 - a. Matt: This would be an implementation detail in support of the vision/mission.
 - c. Part of the focus should be to come up with common race rules for qualifying events that are in alignment with the ICF World Championships.
 - a. Matt: See my recent email re: rules review. I agree we need to devise a USA/ACA competition playbook that derives from, and rolls up to, the ICF rules.
- II. Should surfski racing be ocean only or for all bodies of water while competing on a surfski?
 - a. Matt: I believe we discussed (decided?) that the scope would be all bodies of water in order to enable broad community/competition inclusion. This will need to be considered as we begin composing the USA/ACA rulebook.
- III. ACA support to the OR Committee
 1. As a side note the ICF dedicates about 8 or 9% of its activities to surfski
 - a. Matt: How is this measured? Is this funding or elbow grease (eg, marketing)?
 2. There was discussion on using some of our budget for promotion in media and social media.
 - a. Matt: After we determine what our annual operating budget is and how it is planned/approved.
 3. As the budget is determined another focus will be for a subsidy to the United States national team for assisting in attending the ICF world surf ski championship
 - a. Matt: There are very specific rules about how nonprofits are allowed to manage and distribute funds. We need to understand how the ACA works within these rules in order to make funds accessible to Ocean Racing athletes.
 - b. Matt: Example shared by Geoff post-meeting:
<http://www.uscanoe.com/icf-travel-scholarships/>
 4. The question being, can some of the membership fees come back as a subsidy to the national team.
 - a. Matt: Maybe a good question for Steve Kelly – likely this will need to be a part of the committee’s budget.
 5. In addition to finding out how much or what in kind support that the ocean racing committee might receive from the ACA, we should investigate fundraisers and donations at a

minimum that will provide uniforms to the athletes attending the Annual ICF Ocean Racing world surfski championship.

IV. ACA Membership types for a typical surfski paddler

- a. ACA Rules indicate that an \$80 competition license is not needed for domestic general racing.
- b. The \$40 basic competition ~~license~~ membership is required and makes sense to purchase for paddlers who will attend four or more races.
- c. The ~~other~~ minimum option is a \$10 per-race competition license for the athlete.

V. Value to surfski paddlers – new

- a. Create a point series to be done under the auspices of the ACA contributing to national ranking. This being similar to the ACA freestyle group that operates as its own entity.

VI. DECISION: Safe sport certification is required for ocean racing committee members.

- a. Safe sport also appears to be required for anyone who purchases the add on \$80 competition license.