



USA Canoe Ocean Racing National Team

2024 ICF World Championships Participation Requirements

April 14, 2024

Greetings, USA Canoe Ocean Racing Participant,

Thank you for your interest in representing the United States of America at the 2024 ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Championship in Madeira, Portugal! This year's competition, hosted by [Associação Regional de Canoagem da Madeira](#) on behalf of the [International Canoe Federation](#), is shaping up to be an outstanding experience. Competition week runs from September 30th through October 6th

The 2024 registration format is open-entry, however the International Canoe Federation requires National Federation membership and eligibility verification for all athletes in order to participate in any competition event/category/class. The [American Canoe Association](#) is the USA's National Federation, and the ACA's Ocean Racing Committee will assist you in meeting the requirements for this international championship.

[Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) of this document include information designed to help you successfully navigate each ACA and ICF requirement, respectively. [Part 3](#) features a set of optional items we recommend you consider. Finally, in [Part 4](#), we have included a list of helpful references such as the latest version of the ICF Canoe Ocean Racing Competition Rules and links to any competition bulletins issued to-date.

If at any time you require additional information, clarification, and/or guidance, please contact the ACA Ocean Racing Committee (orc@americancanoe.net) and/or the ACA's membership coordinator, Michelle Flynn (mflynn@americancanoe.org) as soon as possible.

Thank you again – we look forward to supporting you!

Geoff Pearson (FL)
Greg Barton (WA)
Jesse Lishchuk (FL)
Matt Drayer (MA)

American Canoe Association Ocean Racing Committee | <https://americancanoe.org>
2024 ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Championships | <https://www.madeiraoceanchallenge.pt/>

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Part 1: American Canoe Association (ACA) Requirements

1. Competition Participant Membership

- a. The ACA requires a “Competition Participant” membership for all athletes wishing to participate in national team trials, national championships, continental-level competitions, and international-level competitions.
- b. How to do this:
 - i. If you are not currently a member of the American Canoe Association, you must [join](#) the ACA as a new Competition Participant (\$40).
 - ii. If you are currently hold an alternative membership type, please email the ACA’s membership coordinator, [Michelle Flynn](#), requesting to have your profile annotated.
 - iii. If your existing ACA membership has expired, you must [renew](#) as a Competition Participant membership type (\$40).
- c. Note: All ACA Competition Participant memberships expire at the same time on December 31st of the current year.
- d. Note: The ACA recommends configuring your profile for auto-renewal to avoid a lapse in your membership status.
- e. Note: For membership-related questions please contact the ACA’s membership coordinator, [Michelle Flynn](#).

2. Discipline Indication

- a. The ACA requires all Competition Participant members to specify a primary discipline and optionally a secondary discipline within the ACA system.
- b. How to do this:
 - i. [Log in](#) to the ACA member portal.
 - ii. Access the [profile editing screen](#).
 - iii. Scroll down to the primary/secondary discipline fields at the bottom of the form
 - iv. Select “Ocean Racing (Surfski)” for either your primary or your secondary discipline (primary is preferred).
 - v. Click the red “Save Changes” button.
- c. Note: If you are unable to select “Ocean Racing (Surfski)” because you have selected two other disciplines which cannot be changed, please email the [ACA Ocean Racing Committee](#) to discuss.

3. Competition Member Classification

- a. The ACA requires all ocean racing Competition Participant members to specify their member classification type.
- b. How to do this:
 - i. [Log in](#) to the ACA member portal.
 - ii. Access the [profile editing screen](#).
 - iii. Scroll down to the “Competition Member Classification” field.
 - iv. Select the following options from the list:
 1. “Athlete”
 2. “Athlete-National/International competition in any Olympic, Paralympic, or ICF discipline”

- v. Click the red “Save Changes” button.

4. Athlete Code of Conduct

- a. The ACA requires all Competition Participants to review and sign the “Athlete Code of Conduct”.
- b. How to do this:
 - i. [Log in](#) to the ACA member portal.
 - ii. Review and complete the [Athlete Code of Conduct Submission Form](#). (Scroll all the way to the bottom of the page)
 - iii. Access the [profile editing screen](#).
 - iv. Scroll down to the Athlete Code of Conduct agreement field at the bottom of the form
 - v. Select “Yes” from the dropdown selector.
 - vi. Click the red “Save Changes” button.

5. Waiver & Release of Liability

- a. The ACA requires all Competition Participants to review and sign the “Waiver & Release of Liability”
- b. How to do this:
 - i. [Log in](#) to the ACA member portal.
 - ii. Access the [profile view screen](#).
 - iii. Confirm the status / expiration date of your waiver
 - iv. If your waiver has expired, or will expire before/during the competition, you must [resubmit the waiver](#).

6. Competition License

- a. The ACA requires all athletes 18 years or older participating in international competitions in any ICF discipline, and any qualifications/selections leading to these competitions (eg, National Team Trials), to purchase an additional Competition License (\$80)
- b. The \$80 Competition License fee covers the cost of [SafeSport training](#), [NCSI background checks](#), the ACA’s competition insurance program coverage (misconduct and accident insurance), and funding for competition-relevant services provided by ACA staff/volunteers.
- c. How to do this:
 - i. Log in to the [ACA member portal](#).
 - ii. Access the [ACA eStore](#).
 - iii. View the [Competition License product](#).
 - iv. In the provided text box, enter the following information:
 1. “Discipline: Ocean Racing (Surfski)”
 2. “Classification: Athlete”
 - v. Click the orange “Add Item” button, and complete the checkout/purchase process.

7. ACA Ocean Racing Athlete Network

- a. The ACA Ocean Racing Committee communicates with all participating USA COR National Team members through the Ocean Racing Athlete Network, which is currently implemented as an email-based Google Group. Please [email the ORC](#) to request an addition to the group.

Part 2: International Canoe Federation (ICF) Requirements

1. National Federation Membership

- a. National Federation Membership pertains to an individual's affiliation with a country's primary governing body for a specific sport or activity.
- b. According to the [2023 ICF Canoe Ocean Racing Competition Rules](#), for an athlete to be eligible to compete in an ICF Level 1 competition they must provide evidence of current membership in a club or association affiliated with, or designated as, their country's National Federation.
- c. How to do this:
 - i. This requirement is covered by [ACA Requirement #1, "Competition Participant Membership"](#)

2. Sports Data Platform (SDP) Registration

- a. The ICF maintains an online database known as the [Sports Data Platform](#) (SDP). This database tracks important information regarding ICF-level competitions and the athletes who participate in these competitions.
- b. All athletes participating in ICF-level competitions must be registered in the SDP.
- c. If you have previously competed in an ICF event, you are already in the SDP.
- d. If this is your first ICF event, or your information has changed since your last ICF competition experience, you will need to register in the SDP.
- e. How to do this:
 - i. Email the following information to the [ACA Ocean Racing Committee](#):
 1. Full legal name
 2. Birth date
 3. Birth location (City, State/Province, and Country)
 4. Current nationality/citizenship (Country)
 5. Clearly-identifying "head shot" photograph (JPG/PNG format)
 - ii. The ACA Ocean Racing Committee will ensure you are registered in the SDP system.

3. Anti-Doping Education Program

- a. The ICF mandates that all athletes competing in ICF level events must complete the WADA online International-Level Athletes Anti-Doping Education Program prior to competition.
- b. How to do this:
 - i. [Register](#) a new profile on the WADA online learning platform.
 - ii. [Enroll](#) in the International-Level Athlete Education program.
 - iii. Email a copy of your certificate of completion to the [ACA Ocean Racing Committee](#).

4. Competition Registration

- a. [Associação Regional de Canoagem da Madeira](#) is responsible for managing participant registrations across all events/categories for the 2024 ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Championship competition.
- b. All participants must complete the competition registration process, including payment, by 11:59pm Western European Standard Time (WEST) on September 20, 2024.
- c. How to do this:
 - i. Complete the registration process via ARCM's online service portal.

- ii. For registration-related questions or problems contact arcanoagem_madeira@netmadeira.com
- iii. Email the [ACA Ocean Racing Committee](#) confirming you have completed the process.

5. Attestation of Competence

- a. According to [2023 ICF Canoe Ocean Racing Competition Rule 10.11.1](#), before any athlete may participate in an ICF recognised event, they must provide a written acknowledgement from their National Federation that said athlete is capable of completing an ocean race meeting the following characteristics:
 - i. Length: 12.4mi to 21.7mi (20km to 35km)
 - ii. Wind: Beaufort 3 or higher (12mph / whitecaps visible) exposure for >50% of the course
 - iii. Waves: Douglas 2 or higher (2ft to 4ft) exposure for >50% of the course
 - iv. Fetch: 3.1mi (5k) of open wind/water exposure for >50% of the course
- b. How to do this:
 - i. Complete all of [Part 1: American Canoe Association \(ACA\) Requirements](#)
 - ii. Complete [ACA Requirement #4: "Athlete Code of Conduct"](#), in which you agree that you "will maintain a level of fitness and competitive readiness that will permit my performance to be at the maximum of my abilities;"
 - iii. Optional: Consider keeping a training/competition activity log throughout the year.
 - iv. Optional: Consider participating in one or more listed benchmark race [**not required**].
 - v. Email the [ACA Ocean Racing Committee](#) requesting a competency assessment for participation in the 2024 ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Championships competition.
 - vi. The ACA Ocean Racing Committee will compose an official statement which attests to your ocean racing competence.
 - vii. Note: Competency statements are typically composed for all championship-bound athletes in September. Competency statements can be composed earlier for USA athletes participating in ICF-sanctioned races (eg, World Cups) ahead of World Championships.
- c. Note: The ACA Ocean Racing Committee may, at its discretion, contact you to discuss your qualifications for participating in this ICF Level 1 international competition.

Part 3: Optional Considerations

1. Transportation/Entry Considerations

- a. Madeira is a small island located several hundred miles from mainland Europe/Africa, and there are only so many flights from Lisbon per day. Book your seats as soon as possible!
- b. Flights to Madeira @ [Priceline.com](#)
- c. Flights to Madeira @ [Expedia.com](#)
- d. [Entry Requirements](#)
 - i. Valid passport, with a minimum of two blank pages, expiring no less than three months post-trip.

2. Lodging/Accommodation Considerations

- a. Official ARCM Accommodation Information (TBD)
- b. [Airbnb - Funchal, Madeira, Portugal](#)
- c. [VRBO - Funchal, Madeira, Portugal](#)
- d. [Booking.com - Funchal, Madeira, Portugal](#)

3. Equipment Considerations

- a. Boat Rentals (TBD)
 - i. Official ARCM Boat Rental Information (TBD)
 - ii. CONFIRMED IN:
 1. [Carbonology Sport](#)
 2. [Elio \(Mazu\) Kayaks](#)
 3. [Fenn Kayaks](#)
 4. [Nelo Kayaks](#)
 5. [Nordic Kayaks](#)
 - iii. PENDING/TBD:
 1. [Allwave Kayaks](#)
 2. [Connect Kayaks](#)
 3. [Epic Kayaks](#)
 4. [Flow Kayaks](#)
 5. [Kai Wa'a](#)
 6. [Sipre Kayaks](#)
 7. [Stellar Kayaks](#)
 - iv. CONFIRMED OUT
 1. [Think Kayaks](#)
 2. [Vajda Kayaks](#)
- b. Online Equipment Retailers
 - i. [OceanPaddlesports.com](#)
 - ii. [TC Surfski](#)
 - iii. [Three Oceans](#)
- c. Paddles
 - i. Two-piece with operational lock/ferrule (consider a spare paddle or parts)
 - ii. Travel case options (Hard golf club cases may also suffice, confirm fit/dimensions)
 1. <https://surfski.info/forum/2-announcements/18993-airlines-and-paddles.html>

2. <https://www.delta.com/us/en/baggage/special-items/sporting-equipment>
 3. <https://www.united.com/en/us/fly/baggage/sports-equipment.html>
 4. <https://www.jetblue.com/help/sports-gear>
 5. [Mocke Deluxe Paddle Bag](#)
 6. [NRS Two-Piece Kayak Paddle Bag](#)
 7. [Hornet Watersports Kayak Paddle Bag](#)
 8. [Vaikobi Paddle Travel Bag](#)
- d. PFD / Life Jackets
- i. Plan to travel with your PFD unless you pre-purchase one from a vendor who will be present/available during competition week.
 - ii. [Mocke Flow PFD](#)
 - iii. [Mocke Racer PFD](#)
 - iv. [Nelo PFD](#)
 - v. [Vaikobi Ocean Performance PFD Life Jackets](#)
 - vi. [PFDs @ TCSurfski.com](#)
- e. Boat Leashes
- i. Pack a backup leash in case you lose or break your primary leash.
 - ii. [Epic Deluxe Leg Leash](#)
 - iii. [Epic Pro Leg Leash](#)
 - iv. [Mocke Life Line Calf Leash](#)
 - v. [NK Leash](#)
 - vi. [Stellar Leg Leash](#)
 - vii. [Vaikobi Ocean Ski Calf Leash](#)
- f. Paddle Leashes
- i. [Epic Paddle Leash](#)
 - ii. [Mocke Paddle Leash](#)
 - iii. [Mocke Wrist Paddle Leash](#)
- g. Nutrition/Fuel
- i. Consider Pre-Competition, In-Competition, and Post-Competition fueling
 - ii. [Hammer Nutrition](#)
- h. Hydration
- i. Water bottles with straws, or bladder/reservoir with tube(bring spare)
 1. [Camelbak](#)
 2. [Nalgene](#)
 3. [Platypus](#)
 4. [Ultimate Direction](#)
- i. Exposure Management
- i. Tops
 1. SPF50+ long-sleeve sun shirt, ideally with hood
 2. The ORC is working on a team jersey, stay tuned for details
 - ii. Bottoms
 1. Paddling Shorts (Neoprene, [Funky Pants](#), etc)
 2. SPF 50+ sun leggings
 - iii. Headwear
 1. Wide-brim hat
 2. Buff/headsock
 3. Lanyard

- iv. Sunglasses
 - 1. Two pairs!
 - 2. Case
 - 3. Lanyard/croakies
- v. Sunblock
 - 1. SPF 50+
 - 2. Reef-safe
- j. Communication
 - i. Radio
 - 1. Marine VHF
 - 2. Waterproof w/ lanyard
 - ii. Phone
 - 1. International calling/data plan
 - 2. Waterproof case w/ lanyard
 - 3. Suggested Mobile Apps
 - a. [Windfinder](#)
 - b. [Windy](#)
 - c. [Surflin](#)
 - d. [MyRadar](#)
 - e. [Waze](#)
 - f. [Uber/Lyft](#)
 - g. [Life360](#) (email the [ACA ORC](#) to be added to the 2024 WC circle)
 - iii. Noisemaker / whistle (pea-less)
 - iv. Signaling mirror
- k. Additional Considerations
 - i. Camera
 - 1. Waterproof case w/ lanyard
 - 2. Extra memory cards
 - 3. Extra batteries + charger
 - 4. Camera mount(s)
 - ii. Microfiber/Pack Towel
 - iii. Field/gear bag (packable)
 - iv. Repair Kit / Spare Parts
 - 1. Rudder
 - 2. Paddle
 - 3. Pedals/Steering
 - 4. Hydrophilic tape
 - 5. Tools
 - v. First Aid Kit
 - 1. Waterproof bandages
 - 2. Blister management kit
 - 3. Prescription medication
 - 4. OTC medication
 - a. Allergy relief
 - b. Pain relief
 - c. Gastrointestinal relief
 - d. Sea-sickness relief

- e. Sunburn relief

4. Insurance Considerations

- a. Medical
 - i. Confirm international coverage with your provider
- b. Accident
 - i. Confirm scope of ACA Competition License insurance coverage
 - ii. ACA Insurance Coordinator: Kristal Pastell (kpastell@americancanoe.org)
- c. Travel
 - i. Consider purchasing travel insurance
- d. Equipment
 - i. Consider purchasing personal equipment insurance
 - ii. Talk to boat vendors about options
- e. Misconduct
 - i. Confirm scope of ACA Competition License insurance coverage
 - ii. ACA Insurance Coordinator: Kristal Pastell (kpastell@americancanoe.org)
 - iii. ACA Athlete Safety & Compliance: Azusa Murphy (amurphy@americancanoe.org)

5. Financial Considerations

- a. Share travel dates/itinerary with Credit Card company
- b. Share travel dates/itinerary with Bank
- c. Consider converting currency in USA (better exchange rate)

6. Emergency Considerations

- a. Email designated emergency contact information to [ACA Ocean Racing Committee](#)
- b. Share photos/copies of important documents with your designated emergency contact
 - i. Passport
 - ii. Birth certificate
 - iii. Plane tickets / boarding passes
 - iv. Service/rental confirmations
 - v. COVID/vaccinations card

7. OPTIONAL: SafeSport Training

- a. The U.S. Center for SafeSport is an independent nonprofit committed to building a sport community where participants can safely work and learn together. The Center develops resources and policies to safeguard athletes from bullying, harassment, hazing, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and sexual misconduct.
- b. The ACA requires adult Competition Participant members who are (a) in a position of authority over or (b) have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors to complete the 90-Minute SafeSport™ Core training. Additional 20-minute refresher courses are required annually.
- c. This policy specifically includes adult athletes 18 years and older representing the USA in sanctioned national and international competitions.
- d. USA participants in the 2024 ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Championships are **not required** to conduct SafeSport training, however this service is available to you as part of your Competition License.

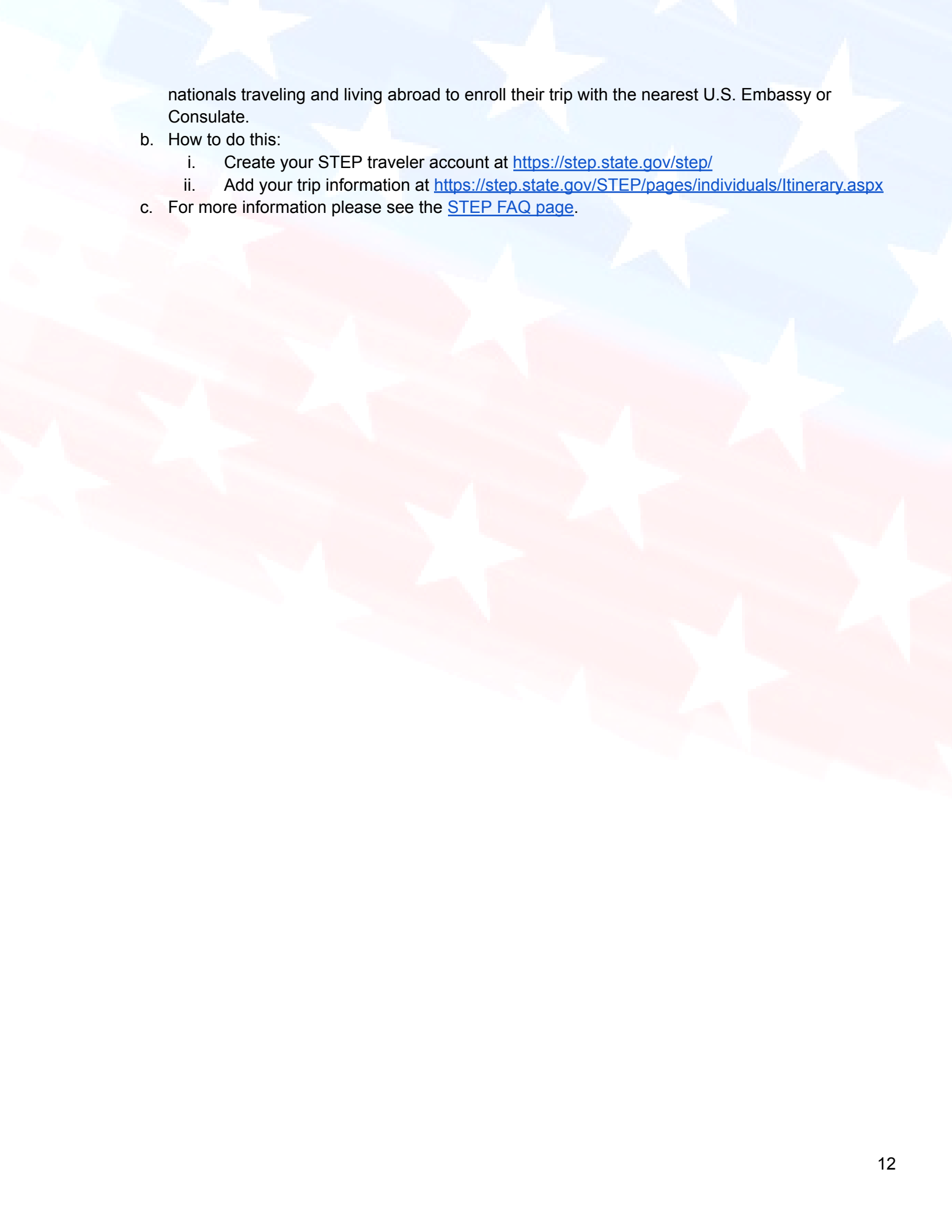
- e. How to do this:
 - i. First-time SafeSport users (90-minute course): [Create an ACA SafeSport Account](#).
 - ii. Returning SafeSport users (20-minute refresher): [Log in at safesporttrained.org](#) and follow the certification refresh instructions.
 - iii. For minor athletes (17 and younger) and parent training, the Center offers optional [age-appropriate modules](#).
- f. For more information visit the ACA's [SafeSport Online Resource Center](#), or contact the ACA's Athlete Safety and Compliance Manager, [Azusa Murphy](#).
- g. Note: Holders of valid SafeSport training provided by other organizations (eg, USA Hockey) may email a copy of your current certificate to the ACA's Athlete Safety and Compliance Manager, [Azusa Murphy](#).

8. OPTIONAL: NCSI Background Check

- a. The ACA follows the Athlete Safety Policy of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee which requires all individuals in regular contact with or authority over minor athletes to pass a background check. The USOPC policy applies to all ACA staff, volunteers, coaches, officials, board members and other covered individuals. Covered individuals include all athletes and alternates, training partners, and guides 18 years of age or older who are selected by ACA to participate in national or international team activities and competitions.
- b. The ACA uses the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee's preferred vendor, [NCSI](#), to conduct background checks.
- c. USA participants in the 2024 ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Championships are **not required** to conduct a background check, however this service is available to you as part of your Competition License.
- d. How to do this:
 - i. Access the [ACA's NCSI Background Check portal](#) and complete the submission workflow.
 - ii. Use your full legal name as written on your current government-issued ID
 - iii. Verify that your social security number is correct.
 - iv. Use a valid email address when completing the background check and add "ncsisafe.com" to your list of allowed senders/domains to ensure you receive notifications from NCSI.
 - v. You will receive a confirmation at the end of the process with a 16-digit Applicant ID Number. Record this number in a safe place.
 - vi. The background check generally takes 10 business days to complete. Your background check must be completed prior to your trip departure.
 - vii. You may check your status on our website under the "Check Your Background Screening Status" link at [ncsisafe.com](#).
 - viii. Email applicantsservices@ncsisafe.com or call NCSI support at (440) 542-9833 or toll free (866) 833-7100.
- e. For more information please see the [ACA's Background Check Policy](#), or contact the ACA's Athlete Safety and Compliance Manager, [Azusa Murphy](#).

9. OPTIONAL: STEP Registration

- a. The ACA requires athletes to register their whereabouts with the U.S. State Department Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). STEP is a free service which enables U.S. citizens and

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nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

b. How to do this:

i. Create your STEP traveler account at <https://step.state.gov/step/>

ii. Add your trip information at <https://step.state.gov/STEP/pages/individuals/Itinerary.aspx>

c. For more information please see the [STEP FAQ page](#).

Part 4: Contacts/References

1. 2024 ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Championships

- a. [2024 ICF World Championships: Website](#)
- b. [2024 ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Championships: Bulletin #1](#)

2. American Canoe Association

- a. [American Canoe Association Website](#)
- b. ACA Ocean Racing Committee: orc@americancanoe.net
 - i. ORC Member / Geoff Pearson: surfskigp@gmail.com
 - ii. ORC Member / Greg Barton: greg.barton@epickayaks.com
 - iii. ORC Member / Jesse Lishchuk: jaylishchuk@gmail.com
 - iv. ORC Member / Matt Drayer: drayer.matt@gmail.com
- c. ACA Membership Coordinator / Michelle Flynn: mflynn@americancanoe.org
- d. ACA Insurance Coordinator / Kristal Pastell: kpastell@americancanoe.org
- e. ACA Athlete Safety & Compliance Manager / Azusa Murphy: amurphy@americancanoe.org
- f. [ACA Resources and SafeSport](#)
- g. [ACA Ocean Racing Athlete Network](#) (Contact the ORC to be added to the email group)

3. Associação Regional de Canoagem da Madeira (ARCM)

- a. [ARCM Website](#)
- b. Email: arcanoagem_madeira@netmadeira.com

4. International Canoe Federation

- a. [International Canoe Federation Website](#)
- b. USA Representative / Michèle Eray: eray.mich@gmail.com
- c. [2023 ICF Canoe Ocean Racing Competition Rules](#)

5. United States Government Services

- a. [United States Department of State Travel Advisory](#) (Portugal)
- b. [United States Consular Services \(Lisbon\)](#)