

ACA Competition Council Ocean Racing Committee Meeting Agenda Friday, September 6, 2024

Last Revised: September 13, 2024

Note: There was no official ACA Ocean Racing Committee meeting held in August 2024.

Conference Call Information

Microsoft Teams

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Meeting ID: 253 519 814 362

Passcode: mbKYP3

1. Session Commencement

- a. Time: 5:04pm Eastern / 2:04pm Pacific
- b. Attendance
 - i. Geoff Pearson
 - ii. Greg Barton
 - iii. Jesse Lishchuk
 - iv. Matt Drayer
- c. Pre-Read Materials
 - i. [July ORC meeting minutes](#)
 - ii. [August Competition Council meeting agenda/notes](#)
- d. Call for [Additional Topics](#)
 - i.

2. Session Goals

- a. Vote: Approve July ORC meeting minutes
- b. Review Ocean Racing Committee activity since last ORC meeting
- c. Review Ocean Racing National Development Program metrics/KPIs
- d. Determine 2024-H2 focus + committee member actions

3. Current Initiatives

a. Community Representation

i. Organizational Representation

1. International / [ICF](#)

- a. April BoD meeting minutes: ICF rebranding to “Paddle Worldwide”

2. Continental / [COPAC](#)

a. [Pan American Continental Championships](#)

i. 2024

1. Recap

ii. 2025

1. Venue will be Fortaleza again
2. Group package accommodations/travel arrangement for 2025
3. Geoff to pick up planning in February
4. Matt considering attending (needs to decide vs. Worlds @ Durban)

iii. 2026

1. COPAC suggests USA host Pan Ams – how to achieve this? Should we achieve this?
 - a. Need to identify a hosting organization
2. [Working document here](#) (**Matt Action: Schedule a working session**)

b. Promote Continentals as a developmental pathway to Worlds

- i. Similar to Sprint progression model
- ii. Can additionally serve as a PR opportunity (eg, team announcements)

3. National / [ACA](#)

a. [ACA Regional Activity Council](#)

- i. Haven't yet figured out how to engage with RAC/SDs
- ii. **July Action: Schedule a meeting/webinar w/ RAC/SDs (Owner?)**
 1. **9/13 follow-up from Matt D – the RAC is hosting their first annual meeting on November 12th – based on the RAC's presentation we'll come up with a plan for collaborating with the RAC in 2025.**

b. [ACA Paddle America Clubs](#)

- i. Haven't yet figured out how to engage with PACs
- ii. July Action: Schedule a meeting/webinar w/ PACs (Jesse + Greg)
 1. Need more backend/services/resources development before moving forward with this (eg, race production recommendations)
 2. Need to figure out how to attract junior/youth to surfski (offer bridges from sprint)
 3. Geoff: USLA participants (16-19) struggled w/ surfski @ Australia

a. **Action: Jesse + Geoff to connect w/ Tim Burdiak**

4. Action: Jesse to connect with coaches @ SDCKT + GHCKRT

c. ACA Competition Council

- i. CC Quarterly Meeting 8/29 ([agenda/notes](#))
- ii. Official CC Committee Google accounts
 - 1. oceanracingcc@americancanoe.net
- iii. Official [CC Google Drive](#)
- iv. Official [CC Google Group](#)
- v. CC Operating Procedures major revision

d. [ACA CC Ocean Racing Committee](#)

- i. Approve [July meeting minutes](#)
- ii. Discussion: Expanding the ORC
 - 1. Greg: Biggest obstacle is finding people
 - 2. Particularly need women to represent
 - 3. Action: Matt include calls for committee membership in online stuff**
 - 4. Jesse: Might be people declined from ACA elections – could offer alternative options
 - 5. Matt: Post some info on USASurfski.com about committee membership/expectations, and how to get involved.

4. Regional / Community Engagement

a. Matt

- i. Nahant Bay Surfski Invitational
- ii. Salem League Series
- iii. National Series
- iv. World Championships Team Leader!

b. Jesse:

- i. US Sprint Nationals (lots of races + medals)

c. Greg:

- i. The Gorge!
- ii. Great Cross Sound was canceled (storms)
- iii. Sound Rowers events coming up

d. Geoff:

- i. TBC

ii. Member Representation

1. Member Identification ([ACA Competition Member Tracking](#))

a. 2024 Athlete Drive

- i. 134/716 (19%) National Series participants are ACA members
- ii. 142 unique “ocean racing” ACA competition discipline members
 - 1. [57 tagged as primary](#) (up from 50)
 - 2. [85 tagged as secondary](#) (up from 83)
 - 3. Discipline indications +61 (+75%) YTD
- iii. [80 ACA “non-discipline” members](#) (up from 69)

1. ACA members observed participating in National Series competitions
 2. Most are "Individual" memberships
 - b. 2024 Coach Drive
 - i. 26 unique "ocean racing" coaches
 1. [5 primary tagged as coach](#) (no change)
 2. [22 secondary tagged as coach](#) (no change)
 - ii. **September Action: Jesse to connect w/ interested coaches**
 - c. 2024 Organizer Drive
 - i. Organizer Outreach (YTD)
 1. [184 domestic competitions](#) currently tracked (up from 179)
 2. Most competitions concluded by early November
 3. How about hosting a webinar/town hall for Ocean Racing competition organizers? We have email addresses.
 4. **September Action: Matt + schedule meeting/webinar w/ interested organizers by end of year.**
2. Member Communication
- a. One-Way Communications
 - i. [ACA Ocean Racing Page](#)
 1. April + May minutes posted
 - ii. [ORC Email Newsletter #5](#)
 1. [Summer issue draft](#) published/sent
 2. Went to discipline-tagged members, but also to non-discipline members (thanks MacKenzie!)
 - iii. [USASurfski.com](#)
 - 1.
 - iv. [USA Surfski Facebook Page](#)
 1. 68 likes (up from 56), 129 followers (up from 104)
 - b. Two-Way Communications
 - i. [USA Surfski Community Facebook Group](#)
 1. 0 group members
 - ii. [ACA Ocean Racing Networks](#) (Google Groups)
 1. 29 Athlete Network members (up from 24)
 2. 11 Coach Network members (up from 10)
 3. 11 Organizer Network members (up from 10)
 4. 14 Club Network members (no change)
- b. Competition Promotion/Production
- i. 2024 Ocean Racing Competition Calendar
 1. [2024 ICF Competition Calendar](#) (13 competitions)
 - a. 11 Basic International Events (no change)
 - b. 2 Continental Championship (+1)
 - c. 0 World Cup Events (no change)
 - d. 1 World Championship Events (no change)
 2. [2024 COPAC Competition Calendar](#)


- a. [2024 Pan American COR Continental Championships](#)
 - i. Event is officially announced/published ([Bulletin 1](#))
 - ii. 30 August 2024 (Friday) to 8 September 2024 (Monday)
 - iii. Fortaleza, Ceara, Brazil (MolokaBRA course)
 - iv. Notice sent to Athlete, Coach, and Club member networks
 - v. [Info page](#) posted at USASurfski.com
 - 3. [2024 ACA Competition Calendar](#)
 - a. 8 upcoming events (down from 8)
 - 4. [USASurfski.com Race Calendar](#)
 - a. 112 competitions listed @ [USASurfski.com Race Calendar](#)
 - b. ~90 competitions have occurred YTD (107 events/races)
 - 5. USA Surfski Facebook Event Calendar
 - a. 99 events added to [Event Calendar](#) (all caught up)
 - b. Tagged organizer pages as co-hosts
 - c. Wednesday shout-outs for upcoming weekend races
 - 6. Additional Domestic Races
 - a. [PaddleGuru.com](#): 27 “ski” competitions currently listed (down from 30)
 - b. [SurfskiRacing.com](#): 10 COR competitions currently listed (down from 11)
 - c. [NewEnglandSurfski.com](#): 20 COR competitions currently listed, plus two weekly summer series (no change)
 - d. [SoundRowers.org](#): 14 COR competitions currently listed (no change)
 - ii. 2024 [State Games of America](#) Partnerships ([member states](#))
 - 1. [State Games of West Virginia](#) paddling competition!
 - 2. [National Congress of State Games](#)
 - a. Jed very interested in a potential partnership
 - b. Matt continuing to explore via Bay State Games connection
 - iii. [National Senior Games Association](#) (HQ - Clearwater, FL)
 - 1. [2025 National Senior Games](#)
 - 2. Suggested Action: [Contact NSGA](#) about including paddling competitions (any discipline – is this actually an ORC thing? (we think it’s CC or ACA)
 - iv. 2025 COR National Championships
 - 1. Need to start doing some loose thinking on this – timing, location
 - 2. **September Action: Schedule working session for October to dig in**
- c. Athlete Development/Qualification
 - i. [USA COR National Development Program](#)
 - 1. July Action: Schedule working session to determine Coach Development go-forward plan (hold off for Jesse’s discussions w/ coaches/clubs)
 - 2. Matt: Competition Council is currently working in this area as well
 - a. Currently Alyson Mrozinski (Sprint), Lee Leibfarth (Slalom), and Matt Drayer (Ocean Racing)
 - b. Concept: Coaching Resource Center @ AmericanCanoe.org
 - c. Lee discussing collaboration w/ ACA SEIC chair
 - 3. Greg: ICF has Sprint coach levels, curriculum

4. Jesse: ACA has adopted ICF officials training, resources exist, need to be assembled
 5. Jesse: Unsure if an ACA badged coach is legitimate – how to validate that someone knows what they're doing?
 6. Greg: ACA SEIC has good instructional curriculum (except surfski)
 7. Jesse: Train-the-trainer models, community/grassroots workgroups
- ii. [USA COR National Series](#) (Status: External Pilot)
1. [National Ranking Points \(NRP\) Rubric](#)
 - a. Current version: 1.4 (prev: 1.3)
 - b. No rubric changes since last meeting
 2. [YTD Metrics](#)
 - a. 128 [competitions completed](#) (up from 113)
 - b. 716 ["Overall" paddlers](#) (up from 683)
 - c. 134 ["Members Cup" paddlers](#) (up from 125)
 - d. 131 [Female paddlers](#) (up from 122)
 - e. 584 [Male paddlers](#) (up from 560)
 3. Notables
 - a. 17 tracked races in August
- iii. [USA COR Athlete Classification System](#) (Status: External Pilot)
1. [Athlete Classification System \(ACS\) Rubric](#)
 - a. Current Version: 2.0 (prev: 1.3)
 - b. No rubric changes since last meeting
 2. [YTD Metrics](#)
 - a. A: 7 classifications (no change)
 - b. B: 9 classifications (no change)
 - c. C: 11 classifications (no change)
 - d. D: 18 classifications (no change)
 - e. E: 113 classifications (up from 110 | 55 net-new, up from 42)
 - f. U: 103 classifications (up from 101)
- d. Athlete Encouragement/Facilitation
- i. [USA Ocean Racing National Development Fund](#)
1. Current fund balance: \$290.00
 - a. Matt recently received a thank you letter + ACA stickers from Michelle Flynn for making a donation
 2. Jesse: Possible inclusion of QR code for donations on organizer race sites.
 - a. Landing Page w/ QR quote PNG below sharable w/ race organizer race sites. <https://www.americancanoe.org/donations/donate.asp?id=23633>
 - b. Alternative landing page = <https://www.americancanoe.org/donations/fund.asp?id=23633>, which shows

the value statement for donation, downside is fewer clicks with the existing



QR Code!

- c. Matt: Pretty sure the new [Sport:80](#) platform supports this
- 3. July Action: Schedule working session to determine fundraising go-forward plan - focus for 2025 – Jesse: include in marketing campaign planning
 - a. Geoff: Are we driving more competitors to races, race organizers? Good signal to focus on fundraising.
- ii. [2024 ICF COR World Championships @ Madeira, Portugal \(September 30 - October 6\)](#)
 - 1. Current Athlete Roster
 - a. Swetish [WA, U23]
 - b. Drayer [MA, Masters, Team Leader]
 - c. Greene [WI, Masters]
 - d. Handler [MN, Masters]
 - e. Leshner [MA, Masters]
 - f. Markin [HI, Masters]
 - g. Murray [MI, Masters]
 - h. Sanborn [MN, Masters]
 - 2.  2024 ACA ICF COR USA National Team Participation Requirements
 - a. Latest information packet published
 - b. Includes local equipment retailer info
 - 3. Logistical support
 - a. Team Presentation (hats, jerseys, name/flag decals)
 - i. **July Action: Matt contact Beth re: surplus team wear**
 - 1. **Jesse: Shorts and Shirts (surplus)**
 - 2. **Matt: Connect w/ Michelle Flynn about available surplus**

4. Additional Topics / Parking Lot Items

- a. Geoff: Competition Council - Ocean Paddling sports collaboration?
 - i. Matt: Outrigger did attend the Competition Council meeting
 - ii. Greg: OC even has sub-disciplines (OC1/2/6, Va'a)
- b. Jesse: Florida State Games (Sunshine State Games)
 - i. Great cross-discipline example
 - ii. Sprint, distance, boat types
 - iii. Need to put together a “kit” that includes ~~how-to/directions~~ (“M1 story”) for format, etc.

5. Actions/Assignments Recap

- a. Geoff
 - i. Jesse + Geoff to connect w/ Tim Burdiak
- b. Greg
- c. Jesse
 - i. Jesse + Geoff to connect w/ Tim Burdiak

- ii. Jesse to connect with coaches @ SDCKT + GHCKRT
- iii. Jesse to connect w/ interested coaches
- d. Matt
 - i. Matt to schedule a working session re: [2026 Pan Am Continental Championships](#) [DOING]
 - ii. Matt to include calls for committee membership in online stuff
 - iii. Matt to schedule a meeting/webinar w/ interested organizers by end of year. [DOING]
 - iv. Matt to schedule a working session re [2025 USA National Championships](#) [DOING]
 - v. Matt to connect with ACA national office re: team wear [DONE]

6. Next Session

- a. Friday, October 25th @ 5:00pm ET / 2:00pm PT

7. Session Adjournment

- a. Time (Eastern/Pacific): 6:44pm ET / 4:44pm PT (104 minutes)