

# ACA Competition Council Ocean Racing Committee Meeting Agenda Friday, October 25, 2024

Last Revised: November 20, 2024

---

## Conference Call Information

Microsoft Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 293 464 741 153

Passcode: vPdsBp

---

## 1. Session Commencement

- a. Time: 05:05pm Eastern / 02:05pm Pacific
- b. Attendance
  - i. Geoff Pearson
  - ii. Jesse Lishchuk
  - iii. Matt Drayer
  - iv. Greg Barton
- c. Pre-Read Materials
  - i. [September ORC meeting minutes](#)
  - ii. [November Competition Council meeting agenda/notes](#)
  - iii. [ACA Competition Council Operating Procedures \[Revised\]](#)
  - iv. [ORC Bylaws \[Proposed\]](#)
  - v. [ORC Email Newsletter #6](#)
  - vi. [USA Canoe Ocean Racing Rulebook \[Draft\]](#)
  - vii. [Notes from discussion w/ GHCKRT](#)
- d. Call for [Additional Topics](#)
  - i. Jesse: Timelines + Milestones for Producing Nationals Bids
  - ii. Jesse: Surf Lifesaving



## 2. Session Goals

- a. Vote: Approve September ORC meeting minutes [approved!]
- b. Vote: Approve ORC Bylaws
- c. Review Ocean Racing Committee activity + NDP progress since last ORC meeting
- d. Determine ORC 2024-Q4 focus + actions

## 3. Current Initiatives

### a. Community Representation

#### i. Organizational Representation

##### 1. International / [ICF](#)

- a. Ordinary Congress November 7-8 (Antalya, Turkey) — Beth attending.
  - i. Notes from various [read-ahead reports](#)
    1. Substantial funding allocated to development initiatives
    2. How can ACA/CC/ORC benefit from these resources?
  - b. Ocean Racing Technical Committee
    - i. Matt working to establish closer relationship with the committee
    - ii. Per Colin Simpkins, Michele Eray stepping down from ICF Ocean Racing Committee – no USA / Western Hemisphere representation + ICF committee member nominations period closed in August
    - iii. [ICF Chair election contest](#)
      1. Colin Simpkins (RSA) [Resume](#) / [Video](#)
      2. Marian Sarbu (BEL) [Resume](#) / [Video](#)
    - iv. Per Suz Britt, ORC needs to instruct Beth on who to support - elections are held at November 8th session.
      1. ACA ORC supports Colin Simpkins as Chairperson
    - v. [ICF ORC 2024 Report](#)
    - vi. [ICF ORC 2025 Rules Changes](#) (“extensive revamp”)
    - vii. [ICF ORC 2023-24 meeting minutes](#)

##### 2. Continental / [COPAC](#)

- a. COPAC has been organizationally-quiet this month – very little news posted on the site, event calendar is empty, no emails received @ ORC account or forwarded from ACA National Office.
- b. Matt sent inquiry to Suz Britt – meeting room reserved for COPAC at ICF Congress, but unsure of agenda/topics. Otherwise, no meetings or discussions held/planned, recommends connecting with COPAC ORC.

##### 3. National / [ACA](#)

- a. [ACA Regional Activity Council](#)
  - i. The RAC is hosting their [first annual meeting](#) on November 12th
  - ii. RAC State Director nominations window closed October 15th
- b. [ACA Paddle America Clubs](#)
  - i. Still need to figure out engagement w/ PACs



- ii. Jesse + Geoff: Report on conversations w/ Tim Burdiak, SDCKT/[GHCKRT](#) coaches
        - 1. Jesse: Unsure how/where Lifesaving fits in at present?
        - 2. USLA meetings are November 4th
          - a. Action: Geoff will attend/report
    - c. ACA Competition Council
      - i. Next session November 7th, Matt will attend/report
      - ii. CC [Operating Procedures](#) revision effort almost complete
    - d. [ACA CC Ocean Racing Committee](#)
      - i. Approve [September meeting minutes](#) [approve]
      - ii. Approve committee [bylaws](#)
        - 1. Action: Matt will revise and send email to committee, hold electronic approval vote.
      - iii. Begin work on [2025 rulebook](#) ahead of drafting Nationals RFP
        - 1. Action: Matt will schedule committee working session
      - iv. (S)elect officers by end of year
      - v. Produce annual report for Competition Council, BoD, National Office
        - 1. Action: Matt will compose a draft ahead of November ORC meeting
      - vi. Produce season recap webinar for community
        - 1. Geoff: Live or recorded webinar?
        - 2. Matt: Was assuming it would be a live webinar.
        - 3. Action: Matt will share webinar outline ahead of November ORC meeting + schedule date in December w/ Kaycee
      - vii. Expand the ORC
        - 1. Matt: Added recruitment [CTA @ USASurfski.com](#) + [email newsletter](#)
        - 2. Particularly need to achieve gender balance and add [Athlete Representatives](#) (although we are okay for both AEA and EA)
4. Regional / Local
  - a. Matt
    - i. Local Community [GSD, NR2, BEC, League]
    - ii. World Championships [Madeira]
  - b. Jesse:
    - i. Nada this month
  - c. Greg:
    - i. Narrows Challenge [Gig Harbor, WA]
  - d. Geoff:
    - i. Many races canceled in FL due to storms – weekly races continue, however



ii. Member Representation

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

a. Metrics/KPIs

- i. 242 relevant ACA members (up from 212)
- ii. 134 unique “ocean racing” ACA competition discipline members
  1. [57 active primary](#) (up from 57)
  2. [77 active secondary](#) (down from 85)
- iii. [108 ACA “non-discipline” members](#) (up from 80)
  1. 56 competition members (up from 45)
  2. 52 individual members (up from 35)

b. 2025 Member Drive

- i. Expired ACA Ocean Racing Competition Members
- ii. Connect with National Series Participants
  1. Non-Discipline Members (easy, Michelle can contact)
  2. Non-Members (hard, need contact info)

c. Athletes

- i. 172/849 (20%) National Series participants are ACA members

d. Coaches

- i. 25 unique “ocean racing” coaches
  1. [5 primary tagged as coach](#) (no change)
  2. [21 secondary tagged as coach](#) (down from 22)
- ii. Action: Connect with these 5+21 coaches to understand their needs, how to support them, and how to grow the overall base of coaches.
  1. September Action Report: Jesse to connect w/ interested coaches
  2. Post a NDP Coach List @ USASurfski.com – who? How to vet?
- iii. [ICF Vice President report](#): “The ICF has delivered a large number of Seminars for coaches Level 1, 2 and 3. In 2023 more than 500 coaches were educated through our system”
  1. Is this just for Sprint?
  2. How do we tie into this program to develop ocean racing coaches?

e. Organizers

- i. [184 domestic competitions](#) currently tracked (up from 179)
- ii. September Action Report: Matt to schedule meeting/webinar w/ interested organizers by end of year.

2. Member Communication

a. One-Way Communications

- i. [ACA Ocean Racing Page](#)
  1. July minutes posted



- ii. [ORC Email Newsletter #6](#)
    - 1. [Fall issue draft](#) will be sent by end of month
    - 2. NDP, Worlds highlights
  - iii. [USASurfski.com](#)
    - 1. Updated Continental Championships page for 2025
    - 2. Updated World Championships page for 2025
    - 3. Added “Join the Ocean Racing Committee” call to action
  - iv. [USA Surfski Facebook Page](#)
    - 1. 94 likes (up from 68), 175 followers (up from 129)
    - 2. Why aren’t more people following our page?
- b. Two-Way Communications
- i. [USA Surfski Community Facebook Group](#)
    - 1. 0 group members
  - ii. [ACA Ocean Racing Networks](#) (Google Groups)
    - 1. 35 Athlete Network members (up from 29)
    - 2. 12 Coach Network members (up from 11)
    - 3. 11 Organizer Network members (no change)
    - 4. 14 Club Network members (no change)

b. Competition Promotion/Production

- i. [International Competition Calendar \(ICF\)](#)
  - 1. Level 4 / Basic International Events
  - 2. Level 3 / Continental Championships
  - 3. Level 2 / World Cups
  - 4. Level 1 / [World Championships](#)
    - a. 2024 Recap
      - i. Madeira, Portugal (September 30 - October 6)
      - ii. Eight USA Athletes
        - 1. Swetish [WA, U23]
        - 2. Drayer [MA, Masters, Team Leader]
        - 3. Greene [WI, Masters]
        - 4. Handler [MN, Masters]
        - 5. Leshner [MA, Masters]
        - 6. Markin [HI, Masters]
        - 7. Murray [MI, Masters]
        - 8. Sanborn [MN, Masters]
      - iii. Outcomes + Observations
        - 1. Great group of people – key community members, strong athletes participated
        - 2. The ORC’s Requirements Guide is invaluable
          - [2024 ACA ICF COR USA National Team Participation R...](#)
        - 3. The Team Leader is a critical role



4. Having a dedicated Google Group was very useful
  5. We did pull together a Team Presentation kit (hats, visors, jerseys, decals), which was well-received.
  6. Madeira was a wonderful, accessible venue
  7. Air transportation was somewhat tedious (people missed flights/connections, airlines lost some bags, etc.)
  8. Some had difficulties with boat reservations, pickups
  9. Very challenging 21k course ( $\frac{1}{3}$  downwind,  $\frac{2}{3}$  upwind)
  10. Event registration + age categories (senior vs masters) was a mess
  11. Disorganized starting procedures created fleet anxiety on race day
  12. Ana placed 2nd U23 Womens + 3rd Overall Womens!
  13. Matt followed up with Colin Simpkins, he recommended to hold on in-depth discussions until after ICF elections on November 8th.
- b. 2025 Planning
    - i. Durban, South Africa (October 17-19, 2025)
    - ii. [USASurfski.com World Championships page](#) is updated
    - iii. Already seeing social channel posts about reserving boats, lodging
  - c. 2026 - Villajoyosa, Spain (Date TBD)
  - d. 2027 - Tahiti (Date TBD)
  - e. 2028 - Cherbourg, France (Date TBD)
- ii. [Continental Competition Calendar \(COPAC\)](#)
    1. COPAC event calendar is totally empty...
    2. [Pan American Continental Championships](#)
      - a. 2025
        - i. Venue will be Fortaleza again
        - ii. Geoff working on USA participation package
        - iii. Matt is strongly considering attending (vs. Worlds @ Durban), although may have a schedule conflict
      - b. 2026
        - i. COPAC suggests USA host Pan Ams.
        - ii. [10/17 working session](#) report-out + next steps
      - c. Strategy: Promote Continentals as a development milestone to Worlds
        - i. [USASurfski.com Continental Championships page](#) is updated
        - ii. Will include 2025 Pan Ams CTA in Fall [email newsletter](#)
  - iii. [National Competition Calendar](#) (ACA / [USASurfski.com Race Calendar](#))
    1. 2024 USA COR National Series
      - a. 140 [competitions completed](#) (up from 113)
      - b. 175 tracked races (up from 129)



- i. 26 tracked races in September (peak)
    - ii. 13 tracked races in October to-date (forecasting 20)
  - 2. 2025 USA COR National Series
    - a. Organizer outreach to begin in November (2024 competitions)
  - 3. 2025 USA COR National Championships
    - a. [10/17 working session](#) report-out + next steps
    - b. Several host organizations have already indicated interest
      - i. Redwood Water Sports (Redwood City, California)
      - ii. Gorge Downwind Championships (Stevenson, Washington)
        - 1. Greg: Spoke w/ Carter Johnson + Chris Hipgrave
        - 2. Interested in a combined Gorge + Nationals (category)
          - a. Need to consider categories/age groups
        - 3. Matt: What about OC paddlers?
- iv. [State Games of America](#) Partnerships ([member states](#))
  - 1. [National Congress of State Games](#)
    - a. [Presentation](#) delivered to NCSG on September 24th
    - b. Well-received, some contact information shared, unsure of next-steps — Matt sent inquiry to Cal State Games org (San Diego) re: 2025 competition
    - c. Feels like this might be more of a Competition Council thing, vs. the ORC?

### c. Athlete Development/Qualification

- i. [USA COR National Development Program](#)
  - 1. National Series + Athlete Classifications are well-received by community — for people who know about it.
    - a. Need to figure out how to reach more community members (webinar, social media, email, etc.)
  - 2. What's next on the development front?
    - a. [USA Ocean Racing Competition Rulebook](#)
    - b. USA Ocean Racing Competition Organizers' Guide
    - c. USA Ocean Racing Coaches' Guide
- 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. 851 ["Overall" paddlers](#) (up from 716)
    - b. 172 ["Members Cup" paddlers](#) (up from 134)
    - c. 159 [Female paddlers](#) (up from 131)
    - d. 691 [Male paddlers](#) (up from 584)
  - 3. Observations/Notables
    - a. New people continue to participate in competitions, even late into the year
    - b. New competitions are being announced, even late into the year



- c. Several people ranked highly in the overall category, who are not members, and seem unlikely to become members.
  - 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
      - c. Classification scenario labels aligned with classification counts — much more logical (E1, A7, D3, etc.)
    - 2. [YTD Metrics](#)
      - a. A: 7 classifications (no change, 7 current, no change)
      - b. B: 9 classifications (no change, 9 current, no change)
      - c. C: 12 classifications (up from 11, 12 current, no change)
      - d. D: 24 classifications (up from 18, 21 current, up from 16)
      - e. E: 153 classifications (up from 113 | 78 current, up from 55)
      - f. U: 141 classifications (up from 103 | 129 current, up from 92)
    - 3. Observations/Notables
      - a. Several people who are clearly stronger than their current classification indicates (e.g. Humberston C24, Small D24), they just haven't gone to the right comps — some conflicts with Sprint, Olympics, USLA, Life :)
      - b. Need to tie coaches into the ACS — define this part of the game.
  - d. Athlete Encouragement/Facilitation
    - i. [USA Ocean Racing National Development Fund](#)
      - 1. Current fund balance: \$290.00
      - 2. Donation Fund QR Code posted @ USASurfski.com, FB, and email newsletter
      - 3. Action: Schedule November working session to devise 2025 fundraising plan.
    - ii. Athlete Outreach
      - 1. National Series Shout-Outs
        - a. Members Cup Participants
        - b. Classified Athletes
        - c. Letters? Certificates?
      - 2. Athlete Development Pathways/Programs (Local to Worlds)
      - 3. National Team Recruiting (WIFM?)

#### 4. Additional Topics / Parking Lot Items

a.

#### 5. Actions/Assignments Recap

- a. Geoff
  - i. Action: Attend November 4th USLA meeting and report notable items
- b. Greg
  - i.
- c. Jesse





- i.
- d. Matt
  - i. Explore ways to cut down on meeting time
  - ii. Revise draft bylaws and send email to committee, hold electronic approval vote.
  - iii. Schedule a committee working session for the 2025 rule book.
  - iv. Compose a draft annual report ahead of November ORC meeting
  - v. Share webinar outline ahead of November ORC meeting + schedule date in December w/ Kaycee
  - vi. Schedule November working session to devise 2025 fundraising plan.

## 6. Next Session

- a. Friday, November 22nd @ 5:00pm ET / 2:00pm PT (Geoff to confirm)

## 7. Session Adjournment

- a. Time (Eastern/Pacific): 07:05pm ET / 04:05pm PT (120 minutes)

