



AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION (ACA)

POLICY TYPE: *Governance*
POLICY TITLE: *Competition Council*
ORIGINAL: *4/17/2013*

POLICY NUMBER GOV-009
REVISION: 3
REVISED:

Purpose:

The Competition Council (“CC”) is an advisory group to the Board of Directors of the American Canoe Association (hereinafter the “Association” or the “ACA”) for all matters pertaining to paddle sport competition in the United States.

Mission:

The ACA, through the CC, is committed to developing and promoting athletic competition in paddle sports at the local, regional, national, and international levels. The CC shall enable United States athletes to achieve sustained competitive excellence in Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American, and other international competition; and to promote and grow ACA sanctioned paddlesports competition in the United States.

National Governing Body:

A member of the United States Olympic Committee (“USOC”), the ACA is the National Governing Body (“NGB”) for the Olympic sports of Canoe Sprint and Canoe Slalom as well as the Paralympic sport of Paracanoe. ACA is also the U.S. member of the International Canoe Federation (“ICF”) and the Pan American Canoe Federation (“COPAC”). Other paddle sports sanctioned by ACA include: Dragon Boat, Freestyle (whitewater and flatwater), Marathon, Surfski, Wildwater, Outrigger, Canoe Polo, Canoe Sailing, Downriver Kayak, Rafting, Open Canoe Slalom, Whitewater Open Canoe Downriver, the Collegiate Race Series, and Stand Up Paddle boarding.

Goals:

- Grow the recreational base of competitive paddlesports for youth and adults across all paddle sport disciplines. Develop new and innovative paths of access to competitive paddlesports that expand the base of participation
- Achieve sustained international competitive success by winning medals at premiere international events, including, but not limited to: World Cups, World Championships, the Olympics, and the Paralympics

- Expand the U.S.'s global paddlesports presence and influence by being a strong partner in the international paddlesports community

Governance:

The CC may author and maintain its own Procedures and Policies to govern its activities and that of its Committees subject to approval by the Board of Directors. The Procedures and Policies of the CC shall not supersede Association Bylaws, USOC Bylaws, or the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, in case of any conflict. The CC Secretary shall keep a copy of current CC Procedures and Policies for reference at meetings.

Voting CC members may elect CC officers subject to tenets of CC Procedures and shall, per Association Bylaws offer one nominee for one (1) position on the ACA Board of Directors.

Competition Council Composition:

The composition of the CC shall be determined by the CC Operating Procedures.

Meetings:

The CC and its committees shall meet as needed to conduct CC business subject to their own Procedures and Policies. Meeting procedures shall follow the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order.

Duties and Responsibilities:

The Competition Council shall:

- Oversee the affairs of the Competition Committees, Coaches Committee, and Officials Committee
- Relay the interests of these Committees to the ACA Board of Directors
- Oversee the development of all program plans and other reports generated by the Competition Committees
- Develop general procedures and protocols for these Committees as it deems necessary and appropriate
- Refer grievances and complaints of a competitive nature to the Grievance Committee in accordance with Grievance Committee's Procedures and Policies
- Seek and build relationships with new and developing Committees that have a competition focus where appropriate and as approved by the ACA Board of Directors
- Nominate one candidate for one (1) position on the ACA Board of Directors to be elected by the membership in odd numbered years
- Coordinate such other activities as shall be determined by its Procedures and Policies and/or the Board of Directors
- Work to maintain consistent rules and safety standards for ACA sanctioned paddle sport athletic competitions throughout the United States.
- Sanctioning of Events
- The CC shall coordinate such other activities as shall be determined by its Procedures and Policies and/or the Board of Directors
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Competition Committees, Coaches Committee & Officials Committee:

The CC and its Committees are responsible for development and implementation of ACA competition programs in specific paddling activities. These committees may change from time to time as new activities are added and others become inactive.

Refer to the Competition Council Procedures and Policies for a list of committees.

Grievance and Complaint Procedures:

Refer to the ACA Board Policy GOV-013: Grievance.

ACA Competition Department:

The ACA staff and Coach position(s) charged with coordinating, maintaining, posting, and archiving information managed by the Competition Council. This includes:

- Rules of ACA Sanctioned Competitions
- Records of ACA Sanctioned Competitions
- Transactions and Records of the CC
- All paperwork and reporting associated with:
 - o The USOC
 - o The ICF
 - o COPAC

Revisions:

Revisions to this policy shall be executed by the Competition Council, and be approved by the Board of Directors. All revisions must be consistent with the prevailing ACA Bylaws. The CC Secretary shall maintain historical versions of this document.

Revision History		
Rev	Description of Changes	Date
0	Original document	4/17/2013
1	Waiting for USOC and ACA Board approval	6/1/2017