

American Canoe Association, Inc.
National Whitewater Open Canoe Committee
By-Laws

Chapter I - NAME

This committee shall be known as the National Whitewater Open Canoe Committee of the American Canoe Association, Inc. (WWOC).

Chapter II - BY-LAWS

These By-laws provide information and procedures for the organization and function of the **National Whitewater Open Canoe Committee**.

A. National Whitewater Open Canoe Committee Mission and Purpose

The Constitution of the American Canoe Association, Inc. states: The purpose of this Association is to unite all persons interested in canoeing and thereby through our organization to provide educational, informational and training services to increase safety, enjoyment and skills of those canoeing on rivers, lakes, estuaries and other bodies of water. The purpose of the WWOC is, ATo encourage, sanction and sponsor amateur competition in ...whitewater open canoe ... at local, regional, national, and international levels. This shall be our mission.

The **National Whitewater Open Canoe Committee**=s (WWOC) purpose is to fulfill the American Canoe Association, Inc. mandate to, promulgate and enforce the Racing Rules and Regulations of the Association governing our branch of the sport, and shall include in such rules the definition of an amateur competitor, standard classification of hulls and rigs, specifications of courses, designation of necessary officials with the duties and powers allotted to each, method of conducting races and awards of points or prizes, procedures for appeals from decisions of officials, set registration fees, and any other rules necessary to the proper conduct of competition. And further, the members of the **National Whitewater Open Canoe Committee** shall cause annual, National Championship Regattas, to be held at such time and place as it may select.

B. NATIONAL WHITEWATER OPEN CANOE COMMITTEE BY-LAWS REVISIONS

1. Amendments to the **WWOC** By-laws shall be by a majority vote of the **WWOC**.
2. Any proposed amendment must be presented initially to the **WWOC** Chairman.

3. A 30-day written notice of proposed amendments shall be provided to **WWOC** members; the notice shall state the exact wording of the proposed amendment and the rationale for the change.

Chapter III - NATIONAL WHITEWATER OPEN CANOE COMMITTEE

A. NATIONAL WHITEWATER OPEN CANOE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Voting members of the **WWOC** shall consist of the **WWOC** Chairman, **WWOC** Divisional Representatives and **WWOC** Members-at-large. At least 20% of the **WWOC** Committee shall be made up of individuals who are actively engaged in whitewater open canoe competition.

Divisions that have not conducted a **WWOC** Divisional Championship, or has not been represented by one or more competitive participants in the **WWOC** National Championship Regattas in any of the three preceding years, shall have voice but no vote in the Committee.

B. NATIONAL WHITEWATER OPEN CANOE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

1. The term of office of the **WWOC** Chairman shall be two years beginning the first day of the calendar year following the election. The Chairmanship may not be filled for more than four (4) consecutive years by members from any given Division; two years must elapse before members from that division are eligible to fill that office; this rule may be waived by 2/3 vote of the Committee.

2. Every two years, the incumbent **WWOC** Chairman shall seek nominations for the office of **WWOC** Chairman. During the year, the incumbent **WWOC** Chairman shall conduct (or have conducted) a vote of **WWOC** members (registered **WWOC** members) for the selection of **WWOC** Chairman. The vote shall be completed on or before the meeting of the ACA Congress in the winter.

3. A majority vote of the **WWOC** shall be necessary for the election of Chairman.

4. The **WWOC** Chairman shall be an ACA Governing member thoroughly experienced in that activity and a Registered **WWOC** Committee member.

5. The duties of the **WWOC** Chairman shall be to call and to preside over **WWOC** meetings, to maintain the records of the **WWOC**, and to act on behalf of the **WWOC** between **WWOC** meetings. The National **WWOC** Chairman, (or his/her deputy) as a member of Council, should attend Council Meetings.

6. If the **WWOC** fails to fulfill its role in electing a **WWOC** Chairman, then a **WWOC** Chairman shall be designated by the President of the American Canoe Association, Inc.

7. If a **WWOC** Chairman is unable to complete the normal term of office, a **WWOC** Chairman shall be designated by the President of the American Canoe Association, Inc.

C. NATIONAL WHITEWATER OPEN CANOE COMMITTEE DIVISIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

1. The **WWOC** Divisional Representatives shall be a Governing Member of the ACA, and a Registered Committee Member.
2. The **WWOC** Divisional Representatives shall be elected annually from the qualifying members of each Division. The name of the **WWOC** Divisional Representative shall be forwarded to the **WWOC** Chairman and the ACA National Office prior to December 15th of each year. If no **WWOC** Divisional Representative is named, then the Division shall have no vote on the **WWOC**, unless a **WWOC** Member-at-Large is from said Division.

The **WWOC** Divisional Representative shall be responsible for promoting an annual Divisional Whitewater Open Canoe Regatta, attending annual National **WWOC** Meetings, and assisting at the National Whitewater Open Canoe Regatta.

D. NATIONAL WHITEWATER OPEN CANOE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

1. **WWOC** Members-at-Large are nominated by the **WWOC** Chairman and approved by the **WWOC** itself, by majority vote. They must be ACA Governing Members, and Registered **WWOC** Committee Members.
2. The numbers of **WWOC** Members-at-Large shall not exceed five individuals, no more than two shall be from the same Division.
3. The term of office of **WWOC** Members-at-Large shall be two years, with the exception of the immediate past Chairman, who will remain in office until a new Chairman is elected.
4. The immediate past **WWOC** Chairman shall be a **WWOC** Member-at-Large without the election requirement, and will remain a Member-at-Large until a new Chairman is elected.
5. **WWOC** Members-at-Large are voting members of the **WWOC**.
6. The duties of the **WWOC** Members-at-Large shall be to support and to promote the activities of the **WWOC**. They may be selected to represent special interests such as manufacturers or publishers, or slalom or downriver paddlers.

E. NATIONAL WHITEWATER OPEN CANOE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1. The **WWOC** Chairman shall call at least two **WWOC** Meetings annually. A general meeting of all **WWOC** Members and the **WWOC** during the National **WWOC** Regatta, and the Annual Meeting of the **WWOC** just prior to the winter ACA Congress.
2. A 30-day notification of the meetings and an agenda shall be provided to all registered **WWOC** members.
3. If the **WWOC** Chairman is unable to preside at the meeting, the immediate past Chairman of the **WWOC** shall preside at the meeting.
4. A quorum shall be 25% of the voting members of the **WWOC** Committee.
5. The permanent agenda shall include:
 - a. Financial report, and budget
 - b. Election of **WWOC** Members-at-Large
 - c. Location and timing of **WWOC** Meetings
 - d. Revisions to the **WWOC** Bylaws
 - e. Revisions to the **WWOC** Racing Rules
 - f. Consider National Regatta site bids
6. An absent **WWOC** Member may have an ACA Governing Member carry a proxy or act as a deputy. The proxy shall be in writing, dated, and signed. The proxy shall state the name of the person authorized to carry the proxy and the extent of authorization given the bearer on behalf of the absent **WWOC** Member.

F. NATIONAL WHITEWATER OPEN CANOE COMMITTEE VACANCIES

1. In the event of a vacancy occurring in the **WWOC** Committee a successor for the unexpired portion of the term shall be elected by a majority vote of the members of the Committee. The vote may be held by mail, and conducted by the Chairman. If such vote is not conducted within thirty (30) days, after the vacancy, the President is empowered to appoint a successor for the unexpired portion of the term.

Chapter IV - ENACTING AND SAVING CLAUSE

These By-laws shall become effective, June 1, 1992.