



CORA RACE RESULTS REPORT (AGM) 2020

OVERVIEW

The CORA Race Results Report (AGM) 2019 noted that year-over-year 2018 / 2019 had seen an increase in overall total OC6 / OC9 / V12 dates and an increase in overall total OC6 / OC9 / V12 participation, but a decrease in average OC6 / OC9 / V12 participation – fewer paddlers were attending each OC6 / OC9 / V12 event. This drop-off in average participation was most noticeable in CORA Cup Series OC6 events. However, there was an increase in small-boat event average participation.

CORA Board introduced several measures at the 2019 CORA AGM as an incentive to boost average participation at CORA Cup Series OC6 events:

- CORA Board secured sponsorship to provide for \$1000 in prize money to be awarded at each CORA Cup Series OC6 event
- CORA Board increased the number of CORA Cup Series OC6 events from five to six with an additional event on Vancouver Island in recognition of the continued increase of membership in this region
- CORA Board amended the CORA Cup Series Race Rules to account for participation in all six events instead of best three results

<https://canadianoutrigger.ca/new-cora-long-distance-race-rules/>

CORA continues to support small-boat racing by providing subsidized small-boat racing numbers at zero cost to host clubs.

SHORTENED SEASON

The 2020 Racing Season became a series of unprecedented events that we can hopefully look back on as one that will hopefully never reoccur in our lifetime.

CORA clubs were only able to host **four sanctioned events** before the pandemic of 2020 arrived with full force in early March and forced a continual succession of postponements / cancellations of all remaining CORA 2020 in-person sanctioned events. Training camps for World Sprints paddlers were ended when IVF Hilo 2020 World Sprints was cancelled. Training camps for World Distance paddlers were ended when IVF Samoa 2021 World Distance was postponed.

- The fourth consecutive year of La Niña winter weather and hazardous driving conditions forced the first ever postponement of the Lotus Ice Breaker since its inception in 1993, resulting in a reduction in attendance to 35 from highs of 45-48 double-hull crews in past years.
- The Fairway Gorge V12-V21 event also experienced weather-related reduced attendance to 16 from highs of 20-24 double-hull crews in past years.

- The 2019 Jericho PNWORCA Winter Series Race was cancelled due to successive snowstorms days before the event. Yet the 2020 Jericho PNWORCA Winter Series Race had a combined 50 long / short course entries (on par with 2018 participation) on Saturday morning before a Pineapple Express arrived late on Saturday night to meet an Arctic Express and cover Jericho Beach with snow on Sunday morning.
- The 2020 False Creek PNWORCA Winter Series Race had reduced participation of 67 long / short course entries in comparison to the 2019 False Creek PNWORCA Winter Series Race with participation of 86 long / short course entries.

RACING OPTIONS

Although CORA sanctioned in-person big boat and small-boat events came to an end in early March, there were many alternatives for paddlers to continue self-directed training / racing.

Organized virtual racing became increasingly prevalent in Canada, West Coast USA, and Hawaii as a means for paddlers to maintain a training program throughout the COVID crisis. Virtual event organizers were conscientious in their promotions that paddlers should be respectful of local health authority regulations while participating in these virtual events.

Some of the many virtual distance racing events that Pacific Northwest paddlers participated in included:

- Maui Jim Social Distance Virtual Relay: <https://www.kanakaikaika.com/events/maui-jim-social-distance-virtual-relay/>
- Gorge Downwind Champs – Vortex Virtual Race Series: <https://paddleguru.com/races/GorgeChampsVortexVirtualPreSeason/results>
- Deep Cove Virtual Tuesday Night Racing: <https://www.deepcovekayak.com/category/race-result/>
- Kikaha O Ke Kai Chicken Long Rice Relay: <https://www.webscorer.com/race?raceid=221301>
- Virtual Indian Arm Challenge: <https://www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=221849>

SUMMER PADDLE SERIES

The Jericho Wavechaser Race Series is not a CORA sanctioned event and has been hosted by Jericho Sailing Centre Sailing Association (JSCA). This Summer Paddle Series is mentioned as this was the only in-person Paddle Series that took place through-out the summer of the pandemic of 2020. JSCA with the assistance of volunteers from Jericho Paddling Club (JPC) were able to host a 13-event Paddle Series open to outrigger, surfski, and SUP paddlers that adhered to BC Provincial health authority regulations and provided a model for hosting safe and successful small-boat races. As many CORA paddlers as the 50-person cap would permit, made use of this Summer Paddle Series as part of their training for IVF Samoa 2021 World Distance.

RACE RESULTS

- With the new CORA website and a reorganization of content, for 2020 and going forward, Race Results PDFs are now named as YEAR Club Event (2020 FGPC Wetdashe): <https://canadianoutrigger.ca/races/race-results/>

RACE RESULTS FORMAT

- Race Results continue to be collected and reported in various formats including PDFs and Google Sheets and WebScorer and Photographs and unformatted emails.
- CORA hopes to address this concern by introducing a standardized Race Results template that will facilitate CORA Cup Series Points tracking and reporting.

CORA CUP SERIES

The long-time CORA Cup Series Points Officer recently resigned from the CORA Board. The effort to coordinate the CORA Cup Series Points Results has become increasingly simplified courtesy of this former CORA Board Member. CORA Board is actively recruiting volunteers to contribute to the support of this important outrigger canoe racing initiative.

2021 PLANNING

CORA Board is optimistic that we will return to normal by the beginning of the 2021 season. CORA Event Sanctioning requests will continue to be accepted until April 2021. However, CORA Board recognizes that the ongoing COVID concerns create uncertainty with regard to 2021 early season big boat (V12 / OC6) events. The current BC event gathering 50-person cap is not likely to be raised until BC enters Phase 4, but has provided an avenue for clubs to host one or more small-boat events over the course of a day. CORA Board will be coordinating a 2021 CORA Small-Boat Racing Winter Series on a regional basis. A guidance document has been published and the website has a page dedicated to this series with an "Intent To Host" form that had attracted seven host clubs as of early November. <https://canadianoutrigger.ca/races/cora-2021-small-boat-racing-winter-series/>