

2006 CORA Race Survey Results

							Total Responses	
1	Do you think the CORA race schedule , in general, has:	Too many races	8	Not enough races	6	Is just right	24	38
			21%		16%		63%	
2	Do you think the CORA race season , in general, is:	Too short	6	Too long	4	Is just right	27	37
			16%		11%		73%	
3	Do you think the CORA OC6 race schedule has:	Too many races	8	Not enough races	3	Is just right	28	39
			21%		8%		72%	
4	Do you think the CORA OC6 race distances are:	Too long	2	Not long enough		Just right	32	34
			6%				94%	
5	Do you think the race fees for CORA OC6 events are:	Too expensive	3	Not high enough	1	Just right	30	34
			9%		3%		88%	
6	What do you think is a reasonable race fee for CORA OC6 race events?	<p>On average, most paddlers felt that race fees of \$10-\$20 are very reasonable. Additional costs are justified for escort boats and for meals. Anything higher than \$20-\$25 per paddler makes it difficult for teams with transportation and/or accommodation costs. The fees should be consistent between events. For example: \$10 without food, \$15 with food and \$25 for races that require more services. As is, many paddlers feel Gibsons is too expensive.</p> <p>A few comments of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Fees are not the issue. Recruitment of younger paddlers is what we need. o Up to \$25 a racer is very reasonable.. larger events could charge more o Let's help clubs to keep the cost down to \$15 to \$20 expensive race prizes are not necessary. 						
7	For bigger and better race prizes for OC6 events, would you be willing to pay higher race fees:	Yes	6	No	28			34
			18%		82%			

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8 What do you think would attract more paddlers to CORA OC6 race events ?	<p>The prime suggestion was changing the race schedule to include more varied distances, add sprints, and hold more 'fun' races for junior, novice and recreational paddlers.</p> <p>Junior development is a real concern, as is the need for general development through clinics and mentoring. There was little interest in bringing in elite crews. As several respondents noted, "They just intimidate other paddlers."</p> <p>Several people mentioned the lack of social events connected with races, and many thought it would be good for clubs to mingle on an informal post-race basis.</p>						
9 As a paddler, would you consider yourself a:	Distance racer	16	Sprint racer	1	Both	20	Total Responses 37
		43%		3%		54%	
10 Do you think the CORA Small Boat (OC1, OC2, surfski) race schedule has:	Too many races	4	Not enough races	11	Is just right	14	29
		14%		38%		48%	
11 Do you think the CORA Small Boat race distances are:	Too long	1	Not long enough	2	Just right	26	29
		3%		7%		90%	
12 Do you think the race fees for CORA Small Boat events are:	Too expensive	1	Not high enough	2	Just right	26	29
		3%		7%		90%	
13 What do you think is a reasonable race fee for CORA Small Boat race events?	<p>Most comments were the same as for OC6 race entry fees – that the fees are acceptable as they are. The ranges of comments were from \$10 - \$20, with one paddler suggesting \$5! There were the usual notes such as \$10 for an average event, \$15 for big events requiring more work from organizers. We even had one big spender!</p> <p>o \$35-\$55 does not seem unreasonable as it requires a great deal of man power to run an event</p>						
14 For bigger and better race prizes for Small Boats events, would you be willing to pay higher race fees:	Yes	4	No	23			

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		15%		85%			
15	What do you think would attract more paddlers to CORA Small Boat race events? (i.e. mass starts). Please comment:	<p>There were a few prominent themes here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o having a short course/long course option o including more activities to attract less experienced paddlers o planning pre/ post race fun/social and events o holding clinics and mentoring <p>The one item most asked for is the inclusion of a variety of courses such as a short/flatwater course and a long/openwater course. This will challenge experienced paddlers and hopefully lure novice and rec paddlers. Paddlers asked for more variety, with fun events, lap courses that bring paddlers past spectators, relay races, offering sprints while long distance races are on and weather permitting, more downwind surf runs!</p> <p>It is felt that there is a need to focus on developing the sport — to get more new paddlers out and introduce youth to the sport. Suggestions included expanded development programs, clinics, marketing and promotion of the sport, cross advertising across paddling disciplines, mentoring and socialising before and after races.</p> <p>Mass starts are generally supported as more exciting and interesting, particularly when the numbers are low for a women’s race. It is more fun to race in a larger field of paddlers.</p> <p>Newer OC1 paddlers asked for more opportunity to borrow or rent boats, including clubs offering their small boats for rec paddlers to try before they buy. This will encourage paddlers that don't have their own boat or an appropriate vehicle to transport one. Race directors were also asked to try and facilitate secure small boat storage for traveling paddlers. Handicap starts were also requested – just so we don’t always finish last.</p> <p>Security was also a concern with requests for support boats at the back of the pack. More so than in the OC6 category is the request to sponsor elite paddlers. Imagine having a Danny Ching in a race!</p>					
16	Do you think CORA races would benefit from splitting the Small Boat and OC6 racing into two seasons (possible Small Boat events from January through to May followed by the OC6 season from May to September)?	Yes	7	No	23		Total Responses 30
			23%		77%		

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	Comments	<p>Most respondents cited that keeping the structure of CORA events as they are would be beneficial from a financial standpoint, as traveling to one destination and having the opportunity to race both big and small boat races in the same weekend allow paddlers to get more paddling bang for their buck.</p> <p>Many respondents also mentioned that the paddling season is too short to allow two separate seasons. It was mentioned that the only paddlers able to benefit from the situation as suggested would be in the lower mainland. This would serve to alienate many CORA paddlers.</p> <p>A number of respondents also mentioned that paddlers benefit from training in small boats during their OC-6 paddling season, and so to separate the season may serve as a detriment to the numbers of attendees to either race season.</p> <p>Those who did reply in favour of item 16 noted that this may be a good idea and worth a try, however most of those respondents also mentioned that doing so may not be popular with the majority of CORA paddlers.</p>						
17	Do you think CORA races would benefit from splitting the Small Boat and OC6 racing into separate events? For example, one weekend per month dedicated to Small Boat races?	Yes	8	No	20	Yes/No	6	Total Responses 34
		24%		59%			18%	
	Comments	<p>The vast majority of respondents mentioned travel costs as the major hurdle in supporting this initiative. Most felt that if they are traveling to a race, they might as well participate in two days of events (big boat racing on Saturday and small boats on Sunday). To break races up even further would likely serve to decrease participation. The general feeling was that OC6 races attract paddlers to the associated small boat events.</p> <p>Those who did support this notion expressed that it would allow paddlers to race at full intensity in each event, rather than to be fatigued for the second event.</p>						

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18	Are you happy with the locations currently being offered by CORA? Is your clubs interested in hosting a race for the approaching season? Please comment:	<p>In general, paddlers said that they were very happy with the race venues. They appreciate the well run, easy to get to, parking, accessibility etc However, at these venues, they would love to see either some new race courses or a variation on the old themes. More race security was mentioned a number of times with proper lead and chase boats for all events.</p> <p>One paddler stated that they would like less flat water venues and more challenging / downwind races. If only we could control the weather! Another race idea was a distance race from White Rock to Crescent Beach.</p> <p>A few paddlers made special mention of Jericho and Lotus for their continued support of races but that they would like to see other clubs in the Lower Mainland host events. Pogue? Pacific Reach? FCRCC? Delta? Perhaps the clubs can even get together to help put together one big race.</p>							
19	Are you interested in OC6 and/or OC1 Sprint racing?	Yes	28	No	7	Total Responses	35		
		80%		20%					
20	As a race director , does your club have access to the right conditions for a Sprint race? If so, are you interested in hosting a Sprint race?	Yes	8	No	5	Total Responses	13		
		62%		38%					
Comments		<p>Sprint races – current location are Lotus and Victoria. Suggestions included Elk Lake in Victoria, Nanaimo has an established infrastructure on the Island for sprint races, Delta may be interested and why not False Creek?</p> <p>For scheduling, alternate existing races with other clubs. Start Sprint races in September after the "long" distance racing schedule. Could OC1/OC2 be included in existing sprint Canoe/Kayak regattas at least for small boats?</p>							
21	As a race director , if CORA would guarantee your race weekend, would you be willing to schedule your race every other year?	Yes	2	No	4	Maybe	2	Total Responses	8
		25%		50%		25%			

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	Comments	As most clubs rely on races as fund raisers, this question was answered with some curiosity but not a lot of enthusiasm. An interesting idea and nice options for the directors of the race but can clubs survive without hosting annual races? That would have to be answered on a club by club basis. The preference was to remain as an annual season.
22	Please add any other comments that you think are relevant to CORA races:	<p>Comments included lots of appreciation for Cora volunteers and their initiatives to better the sport.</p> <p>Race development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The overwhelming comment was asking for more development programs. Provide or promote clinics for sprint races, steering, new paddlers, and junior paddlers. Need to provide resources to develop paddlers and keep the sport alive. * Develop sprint races to draw spectators and hence media and sponsors. More paddlers are dropping out of distance racing and would like choice to continue in V6 Sprints. Also sprint racers (and dragon boaters) would like the opportunity to cross over. Build sprint racing into current race schedule as other countries do. * Individual clubs need to recognize racer development and junior programs to attract new members. <p>Race specific comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Relating to the high cost of Howe Sound Iron compared to other races. No expensive prizes required. * Asking to change up to race courses for variety or consider laps to provide spectators more opportunity and racers more motivation. * A few comments for addition of age averaging to help smaller clubs form teams. * Suggested to start season later and extend further into summer for better weather and water safety