

## 2025 OC GAME PLAN

The OC Committee would like to utilize 2025 as a building year for the OC Program. At the end of 2025, we will review our successes and failures and reassess.

### **Steers training**

We cannot build the program if the boats do not get out on the water. This will be our top priority. Each time the boats go out, seats 5 and 6 should be an experienced steer and a trainee. We need to use every opportunity to train. Tharin has agreed to run another training course. I will reach out to him and schedule at his convenience.

### **New OC Paddlers**

The committee would like to ask for an exemption to the requirement that new paddlers participate in DB before being allowed to try the OC6. Some potential new paddlers may not be interested in DB paddling and asking them to do that first and pay a membership fee before being allowed in the OC6 seems counterintuitive. The OC Coordinator/Steers would evaluate if the new paddler appears to be capable enough to bypass the DB requirement.

### **OC Open Practices**

Per [Standing Rules](#), there will be AT LEAST ONE open OC paddle scheduled per week. The ultimate goal will be three sessions per week - two during the week and one on the weekend. Three day a week sessions will be dependent on completion of steers training.

### **OC6 Outreach and Growth**

During Daylight Savings Months (April - October), we will schedule at least one of the following once per month. We may also sponsor these events at other times of the year, or more often, if possible.

- "Try the OC6" - Allow those interested in trying the OC6 to go out on a short stint with a group of experienced paddlers.
- "Try small boat paddling" - Club members willing to bring their own small craft down to the docks would share their boats, experience and enthusiasm with other club members who do not have their own small craft.
- "Club Race Day" - stage a short race for fun for small craft and/or OC6. This format is not rigid and we can adjust race lengths, etc based on interest.

## **OC6 Races and Teams**

For this 2025 building year, the committee would like to allow a combination of both Club Sponsored racing and also member selected racing. This would allow club members to gain more experience without penalizing more experienced paddlers from participating in advanced racing.

- **Club Sponsored Race**

The CPC Board may select a race open to all club members (with at least some minimum qualifications and experience). The Board would secure a captain and steer(s). The captain, with board approval, would decide how to select a team should there be more interest than seats available.

I will be happy to recommend a few "easier" races that would be good for first timers.

- **Member Selected Races**

The club would also allow member directed races and team self selection. The captain of the team would decide how to field the team (tryouts or selection of individual paddlers). Permission to use the equipment for practice and races needs board approval for each team for each race. Teams will disband after the race. The board will need to be approached for approval for each subsequent race/team. The board can and should consider each team member's participation in advancing the OC program and participation in fundraising/committee involvement/community service as part of approval.

If we are successful in allowing our club members to gain more experience in 2025, we can add additional club sponsored races in 2026.

Member selected teams must be able to function without major disruptions to the rest of the club. Their success or failure in this area will determine if they are allowed to continue under current guidelines.

In the future, as our OC paddlers grow in experience, the program would move toward more club sponsored races with a tryout format to earn a seat.

## **Future OC Committee Meeting items up for discussion**

- Evaluate any updates needed to the [OC Safety Plan](#)
- An OC Team Name (as Firebreathers is very DB-centric)
- Coaching
- Mentoring