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REPORT **ICF Talent Identification Camp 2024**

World Ocean Racing Championships

Madeira Island, Portugal

September 27 - October 6, 2024



**2024 ICF CANOE OCEAN RACING
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**
 **PORTUGAL-MADEIRA ISLAND** 

Contents

REPORT.....	1
ICF Talent Identification Camp 2024	1
2024 Ocean Racing TIP Camp Report Back.....	3
Hosts:	3
Introduction	3
Attendees	3
Board and Lodging.....	4
Camp Program	5
Improvements from the 2023 Camp.....	7
Suggested Improvements for Future Camps	8
Conclusion.....	8
ADDENDUM A: SURFSKI GROWTH DISCUSSION	9
ADDENDUM B: RACE RESULTS.....	13

2024 Ocean Racing TIP Camp Report Back

Date: 27 Sept – 6 Oct 2024

Venue: Club Naval du Funchal, Madeira

Event: International Canoe Federation Ocean Racing World Championships 2024

Hosts:

- **Dawid Mocke:** Four-time World Surfski Series champion and founder of the Surfski School and MOCKE paddling gear.
- **Sebastián Cuatrin:** Brazilian Olympic canoeist with over 20 years of competitive experience, now ICF Head of Development and a leader in surfski development.
- **Colin Simpkins:** ICF Ocean Racing Chair.

Introduction

The second Ocean Racing Talent Identification Program (TIP) Camp took place from September 27 to October 6, 2024, at Club Naval du Funchal, Madeira, alongside the International Canoe Federation (ICF) Ocean Racing World Championships. Below is a detailed report summarizing the event, including attendee details, camp activities, and recommendations for improvement.

Attendees

A total of 12 athletes participated in the camp, representing the following countries:

- Slovenia: Simon Oven, Anže Urankar
- Hungary: Tamas Kulifai
- Great Britain: Toby Peyton Jones, Lena Kraus
- Ireland: Dave Horkan
- Estonia: Oleg Mozessov

- Denmark: Astrid Hjorth, Jette Baelum
- Greece: Eleftheria Kaminari
- Sweden: Chloe Nauta
- New Zealand: Grace Richardson



Board and Lodging

Athletes stayed at the Quinta da Ribeira Youth Hostel, with breakfast delivered daily. Lunch and dinner were initially provided by an official caterer, but later meals were enjoyed at the Race HQ. While meals were generally satisfactory, a few vegetarians found the options limited.

Lodging was satisfactory with dorm style sleeping. The Hostel provided enough common area for attendees to relax. The kitchen was not well equipped and those that had additional food preparation found it difficult.

Some of the athletes checked out of the provided accommodation early to join their respective teams, which created some additional space in the dorms.

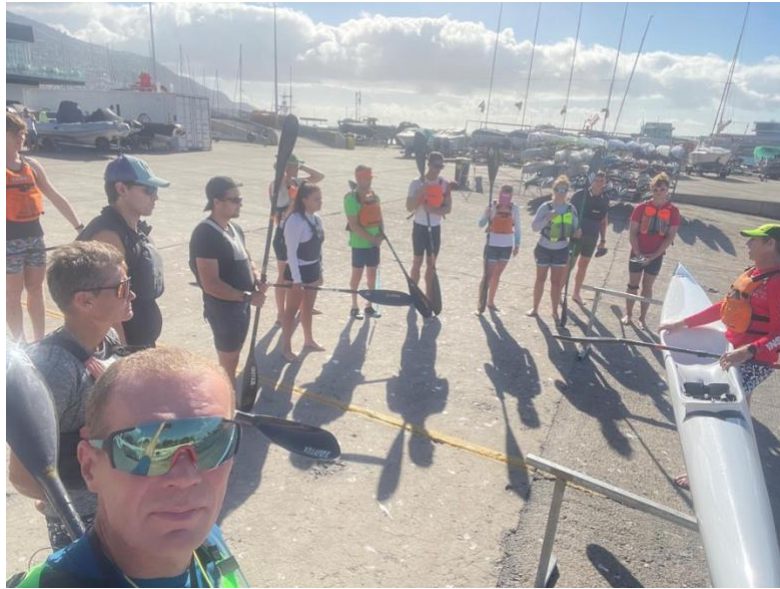
Sadly, Jette Baelum had to return home early due to a family emergency.



Camp Program

- **September 27: Meet & Greet** – Athletes introduced themselves, sharing their paddling journeys and favorite memories. The session also included boat setup, allowing time for preparation without pressure.

- **September 28: Baseline Skills Assessment** – Morning session focused on the 5 Essential Skills using the ICF Coaching Manual, followed by a downwind paddle, working on remounting skills and navigating the race finish.



- **September 29: Wave Skills** – Practicing surf entry/exit and wave-riding techniques on the North Coast. A fun knockout competition concluded the session.



- **September 30: Regional Development Discussion** – A Day off paddling, participants discussed strategies to grow surfski in their respective regions.

- **October 1: Rescue Techniques and Race Prep** – Morning sessions focused on rescue methods and secure paddling, followed by a paddle towards the alternate race route.

- **October 2: Downwind Skills Training** – In-depth talk on downwind techniques, followed by a practical downwind paddle, joining the official practice on the race course. The first 20 minutes of the downwind was used to practice downwind drills.
- **October 3: Race Strategy and Short Course Race** – A morning off paddling with discussions on race tactics, followed by some athletes competing in the Short Course.
- **October 4–6: Ocean Racing World Championships** – TIP athletes competed in the World Championships and participated in race debriefs. Doubles races took place on October 5, and the camp concluded with a final debrief on October 6.



Improvements from the 2023 Camp

The following enhancements were implemented based on feedback from 2023:

- **Earlier Scheduling:** Holding the camp a week before the championships allowed for more focused coaching.
- **Higher-Caliber Athletes:** Attracting more accomplished athletes enabled a higher level of skill development.

- **Access to Craft:** Federally-arranged club boats significantly improved accessibility.
- **Dedicated Transport:** The availability of transport vehicles increased mobility and efficiency.
- **Meal Coordination:** The provision of meals by the federation reduced logistical stress for coaches.

Suggested Improvements for Future Camps

To further enhance future Ocean Racing TIP Camps, the following suggestions were noted:

- **Vehicle with Towbar and Craft Trailer:** This would allow the group to train in diverse conditions, crucial for skill development.
- **Improved Transport Logistics:** More than one vehicle or fewer athletes accommodating the entire group would minimize time spent on logistics.
- **More Individual Coaching:** Allowing for individual coaching sessions would help athletes improve more quickly, especially with varying skill levels within the group.
- **Attendees to be Coaches:** Based on some of the recommendations after the discussion around regional growth, it is suggested that future attendance should be for actual coaches or athletes actively involved in coaching.

Conclusion

The 2024 TIP Camp was a significant step forward in advancing surfski racing skills and regional development. With these improvements and suggestions, future camps can continue to nurture world-class talent in the ocean racing community.

ADDENDUM A: SURFSKI GROWTH DISCUSSION

Surfski Growth Discussion.

On September 30th, 2024, the International Canoe Federation (I.C.F) Talent Identification Programme (T.I.P) attendees conducted a focus group and discussion panel focussing on areas that could assist in growth of the discipline.

The following is a summary of the discussion highlighting points identified and suggestions made.

Key Problems Identified:

1. **Boat Availability** – There is a lack of boat availability for use, particularly for junior paddlers and in regions like landlocked countries.
2. **Coach Development** – Challenges with promoting coaches and ensuring they have the necessary skills and knowledge of what the discipline entails. If coaches don't know it, they won't promote it.
3. **Downwind Route Access** – Limited access to suitable downwind routes, especially in areas with short summers and cold temperatures (e.g., Adriatic Sea).
4. **Limited Water Access** – Many areas have limited access to suitable open water where surfski would be practiced. Eg. the Adriatic Sea's narrow width (40 km) restricts paddling opportunities.
5. **Investment in Juniors** – Clubs need to invest more in boats and support for junior paddlers.

6. **Lack of Awareness** – Many traditional kayak countries in Europe don't know what surfski is or how to get started.
7. **Limited Access to Waves and Shore Breaks** – Some countries, where other forms of paddling are popular, have limited access to wave or shore break conditions, making it harder for paddlers to transition into surfski.

Strengths. The following highlights the specific strengths of the discipline:

1. **Cross-Training Benefits** – Surfski offers excellent crossover training, particularly for flatwater paddlers. This could be a growth point.
2. **Transferable Skills** – Skills from other paddling disciplines can be easily transferred to surfski. Wild water / down river paddlers especially find their skills are easily transferred.
3. **Good Weather in Some Regions** – Greece offers ideal conditions, and the Adriatic sees waves during autumn and winter due to winds.
4. **Growth in certain areas** – The sport is expanding, especially among masters athletes who find it stable and fun, particularly in areas with large bodies of water such as Lake Balaton.
5. **Suitable to any body of water** – Surfskis can be used anywhere, not just in downwind. This makes it the perfect kayak to grow the entire sport as it offers a much lower barrier to entry than other kayaking disciplines. This could be a gateway discipline.

Suggestions/Opportunities:

1. **Winter Training Camps** – Organize camps during the off-season that focus on cross-training and marathon preparation. Use the cross training benefit of the surfski as new way to bring diversity into traditional European winter training camps.
2. **Boat Grants** – Provide boats to landlocked countries to foster the growth of surfski in those areas. By creating an incentive programme for certain clubs to receive entry level or junior surfskis, access to boats could be improved.
3. **Knock-Out Races & Open Training** – Host more competitive races and open training sessions to boost participation.
4. **Promotional Media** – Raise awareness through promotional videos such as “What is Surfski” to introduce the sport to new regions. This could be an extremely effective way to utilise development budget. A few well scripted and edited videos, available free of charge, can share basic skills as well as create awareness.
5. **Skill Training Videos** – Create basic instructional videos, such as how to perform re-entries, to help new paddlers build foundational skills.
6. **Federation-Led Events** – Encourage federations to organize events focused on skill development and surfski promotion.
7. **Flatwater Technique Integration** – Use flatwater paddling techniques to enhance surfski skills and performance.
8. **Selection & Development Trips** – Hold selection races to choose paddlers for development trips.

9. **World Championship Preparation** – Offer shore break clinics using surf lifesaving skis before the 2025 SA World Champs for safety and retail opportunities.
10. **Youth Support Programs** – Create initiatives like SS2 races pairing adults with youth and supporting U16/U18 paddlers on downwind courses.
11. **TIP Camp Structure** – Run parallel camps for elite youth and community developers to ensure smaller, more focused training groups.
12. **Training Programs for Adult Beginners** – Provide sample training programs for competitive adults entering the sport.
13. **Promote Gender Equality** – Address the perception that surfski is male-dominated by ensuring equal prize money, participation in camps, and media coverage.

ADDENDUM B: RACE RESULTS

All TIP Athletes competed in the ICF Ocean Racing World Champs, barring Jette Baelum.

OCEAN RACING WORLD CHAMPS - MADEIRA 2024 RESULTS - TIP ATHLETES					
OVERALL POSITION	CATEGORY	COUNTRY	ATHLETE NAME	TIME	
77	SS1 Sen M	SLO	Simon OVEN	1:45:31.70	
110	SS1 Sen M	HUN	Tamas KULIFAI	1:49:22.87	
113	SS1 U23 M	GBR	Toby PEYTON JONES	1:49:40.81	
124	SS1 40-44M	IRE	David HORKAN	1:50:46.79	
142	SS1 Sen M	SLO	Anze URANKAR	1:53:28.95	
192	SS1 Sen W	GBR	Lena KRAUS	2:01:16.53	
211	SS1 45-49M	EST	Oleg MOZESSOV	2:04:07.67	
251	SS1 35-39W	DEN	Astrid HJORTH	2:11:55.67	
271	SS1 U23 W	GRE	Eleftheria KAMINARI	2:18:58.27	
298	SS1 Sen W	SWE	Chloe NAUTA	2:25:00.76	
308	SS1 Jun W	NZL	Grace RICHARDSON	2:28:40.71	
-	SS1 50-54W	DEN	Jette BAELUM	DNS	

OCEAN RACING WORLD CHAMPS - MADEIRA 2024 RESULTS - TIP ATHLETES					
CATEGORY POSITION	CATEGORY	COUNTRY	ATHLETE NAME	TIME	
02	SS1 35-39W	DEN	Astrid HJORTH	2:11:55.67	
04	SS1 40-44M	IRE	David HORKAN	1:50:46.79	
10	SS1 Jun W	NZL	Grace RICHARDSON	2:28:40.71	
11	SS1 U23 W	GRE	Eleftheria KAMINARI	2:18:58.27	
13	SS1 Sen W	GBR	Lena KRAUS	2:01:16.53	
17	SS1 45-49M	EST	Oleg MOZESSOV	2:04:07.67	
22	SS1 Sen W	SWE	Chloe NAUTA	2:25:00.76	
28	SS1 U23 M	GBR	Toby PEYTON JONES	1:49:40.81	
33	SS1 Sen M	SLO	Simon OVEN	1:45:31.70	
39	SS1 Sen M	HUN	Tamas KULIFAI	1:49:22.87	
49	SS1 Sen M	SLO	Anze URANKAR	1:53:28.95	
-	SS1 50-54W	DEN	Jette BAELUM	DNS	

OCEAN RACING WORLD CHAMPS - MADEIRA 2024 RESULTS - TIP ATHLETES						
CATEGORY POSITION	CATEGORY SS1 35-39W	COUNTRY	ATHLETE NAME	TIME		
02 – SILVER MEDAL	SS1 35-39W	DEN	Astrid HJORTH	2:11:55.67		

OCEAN RACING WORLD CHAMPS - MADEIRA 2024 RESULTS - TIP ATHLETES						
CATEGORY POSITION	CATEGORY SS1 40-44M	COUNTRY	ATHLETE NAME	TIME		
04	SS1 40-44M	IRE	David HORKAN	1:50:46.79		

OCEAN RACING WORLD CHAMPS - MADEIRA 2024 RESULTS - TIP ATHLETES						
CATEGORY POSITION	CATEGORY SS1 Jun W	COUNTRY	ATHLETE NAME	TIME		
10	SS1 Jun W	NZL	Grace RICHARDSON	2:28:40.71		

OCEAN RACING WORLD CHAMPS - MADEIRA 2024 RESULTS - TIP ATHLETES						
CATEGORY POSITION	CATEGORY SS1 U23 W	COUNTRY	ATHLETE NAME	TIME		
11	SS1 U23 W	GRE	Eleftheria KAMINARI	2:18:58.27		

OCEAN RACING WORLD CHAMPS - MADEIRA 2024 RESULTS - TIP ATHLETES						
CATEGORY POSITION	CATEGORY SS1 Sen W	COUNTRY	ATHLETE NAME	TIME		
13	SS1 Sen W	GBR	Lena KRAUS	2:01:16.53		
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Always moving forward

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