



SLALOM COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 17 June 2021

Via videoconference

Attendees: Dave Spencer, Chair; Peter Curry; Deborah Catty; Karen Crowhurst; Dee Lindesay; Martyn Setchell; Andy Grudzinski (AGz); Mark Abbott; Les Ford; Mike Mitchell; Colin Woodgate

Apologies: Anna Gray (AG); Rich Ramsdale (RR); Fraser Glasgow

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated for final sign off after the meeting

2. Matters arising

The statement regarding no demotions had been published. It was noted that promotions are starting to happen.

The process for how potential coaches access funding for training has been discussed, with CW finalising details with BC.

Work on the bib allocation system is ongoing.

3. Return to racing

PC discussed the delay in opening up / easing of lockdown. The original dates for opening up had been put back, with Scotland likely to delay until the end of July. Key points of note were:

- there was the possibility for rules to become more restrictive again.
- Vaccinations are not as effective for the Delta variant
- Children are unlikely to be vaccinated this side of Christmas
- Government regulations are now advisory rather than mandatory meaning that there are no penalties
- The rise in cases is exponential, with some areas experiencing a rise in critical care cases
- Div 3&4 races have been running successfully.
- The challenge for div 2s is that it encourages travel and geographic mixing.

Overall, whilst racing can, according to the regulations, go ahead, the question was posed as to whether the committee should encourage it

CW noted that the ICF has stated that there is no record of anyone getting covid so far at a race.

There was significant debate regarding whether or not div 2 races should be supported to run. There were concerns expressed about how far paddlers would travel to race. At the recent Llandysul race, there were paddlers who had travelled from HPP. Whilst selection at HPP had worked well, it would be tricky for every venue to be able to comply as successfully.

It was however noted that other sports did not necessarily demonstrate the same concern for travel.

It was agreed that the committee should screen upcoming races to determine whether the site supported a safe event:

| Date | Venue | Support to go ahead? | Additional comments |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------------|--|
| 3/4 July | Stone | Agreed | |
| 10/11 July | Llandysul | Agreed | Numbers to be limited |
| 17/18 July | Bala Mill | Agreed | Numbers limited to 100; mitigations in place |
| 24/25 July | Persley | | Agreed subject to satisfactory risk assessment |
| 31 July / 1 August | Hexham | | Now cancelled, |

The late application races posted on the slalom website were approved to be added to this season's calendar

4. Promotions for Div 1 and Div 2

The possibility of amending rules to allow earlier promotion for some paddlers was discussed. CW identified that there were no rules to allow for this but rather would be using the powers of the committee. It was agreed to introduce rules for this season only as follows:

- A top 30% result in a paddle up race would be considered eligible for promotion. Application to be considered and confirmed by committee
- A div 1 paddler who is selected to the GB team or as a full reserve is automatically eligible for promotion.

Action: CW to draft relevant rules and circulate to the committee officers, and the ranking officer.

It was agreed that the new rules would retrospectively be tabled at the ACM. **Action: DC to note for ACM**

5. Vets championship

This is still under discussion by the vets.

6. Interclubs

DL shared an email regarding the future venue of the interclubs. There was a concern that if they didn't remain at Cardington, that the slalom site may be lost. It was agreed that this wasn't an issue for the slalom committee, rather for the clubs who attend to discuss and agree. If the interclubs was to remain at Cardington, it was likely that a new event organiser would be required.

7. Future calendar

With the calendar now being on line, there is an opportunity to manage requests for races differently, especially with respect to when events can be added. It was agreed that this needed further discussion.

Action: DC to add to future agenda

8. AOB

DS noted that at the previous meeting he had not shared the news that the junior team would not be going to the worlds. This had been an oversight and he apologised for it.

Senior selection will be going ahead on 7/8 August

MS shared that HPP had run some “come and try” sessions. This was followed up by a 4-week taster course. This had resulted in 37 new HPP members.

9. Date and time of next meeting

The date of the next meeting has been changed to **Thursday 15 July @ 7.45pm**