



SLALOM COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 1 September 2021

Via videoconference

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

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

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous two meetings were agreed as correct.

2. Matters arising

The clubs have been informed of the requirement to continue with covid risk assessments for the remainder of the year, and have been sent a copy of the event guidance produced by PC.

DC has let the clubs know that the position of secretary will be vacant and will add it to the website as soon as possible.

3. Racing and racing infrastructure

Whilst it is positive to see racing taking places, it was reported that overall numbers are down, with this being apparent at Grandtully.

There remained some concerns regarding the water quality at Grandtully and so if anyone had become unwell following the racing, they should report it to PC.

PC highlighted that there were concerns regarding the sale of hot food at events, and suggested that organisers should as a minimum register with the local environmental health department, which was free and easy to do. The role of the committee in this was discussed, and it was agreed that the committee should signpost through the organisers handbook. The handbook was reviewed and the current wording appears sufficient. It was agreed that if there is any change, this needs to be clearly highlighted via a separate briefing.

Overall, covid cases are high in Scotland and there is the possibility of a travel ban. PC's view was that racing in September was unlikely to be impacted but races later in the season may be affected. It was agreed that people should continue to be asked to apply covid mitigation. To-date, people had responded well to such requests.

4. Participation

A small group of LF, MM, KC, Andrew Thomson and Jonathan Davies had met in Grandtully to discuss participation. It was agreed that they would form a sub-committee which would develop some options to be considered through a workshop at the ACM. It was suggested that the group clearly outline what the problem is that needs solving and then develop a broad range of options, including approaches such as restructuring the lower end of the ranking system; and distribution and number of races.

5. Committee structure and key activities

The committee needs to develop a four year plan, with key areas of focus for the shorter term. Committee member roles can then be developed and aligned to this.

It was agreed that a jam board would be set up, initially for the committee to populate with their thoughts. This could then form the draft plan for the future for wider consultation.

It was noted that LF has been invited to the BC strategy meeting for coaching. Part of the BC strategy appears to be that all coaches must be qualified in future. This will be problematic for slalom as the sport relies on paddlers coaching others, a model which is working well in a number of clubs.

6. Reintroduction of div 1/2s

A number of organisers have been requesting div 1/2 races, which are no longer allowed by the rules. However, with the number of participants in races dropping, this could make div 1/2s viable again.

There was a wide ranging discussion on this issue which resulted in an agreement that DL would email out to organisers of div 1 competitions to see if there would be support for the reintroduction of div 1/2 race. If so, a proposal would be taken to ACM.

7. Status updates

Bib application system: DS had sent out a short report prior to the meeting and asked for any comments to be sent to him in writing, copying the committee. **Action: all to read and send comments to DS**

Competition change requests:

- it was agreed that the Hatfield race scheduled for 12 September could be moved to Manvers
- it was agreed that the div 4 race due to be held at Aberfeldy on 25 September could be changed to a div 3/4 race
- it was agreed that Greenstar could run a div 4 race at Hatfield on 3 October with practice on 2 October

8. AOB

It was noted that the ICF rules on buoyancy aids will change in 2022, however the current domestic rules already differ from those of the ICF. The domestic current rules are “A buoyancy jacket must be EN/ISO certified for the athlete’s body weight”. It was agreed that a rule change would be drafted, as an amalgam of ICF and domestic rules. **Action: CW Vets/ masters championship:** this will take place the same weekend as the British Open, using the legacy loop on the Saturday for non-prem paddlers, and then the top boats competing on the Olympic course on the Sunday.

Panceltic: there will be a one off panceltic event held at Tees for 2021, with information on this published on the slalom website. It is intended to replicate this model for the next two years, with the one-off event held in Wales in 2022, and Scotland in 2023. **Action: MM to speak to MS about the trophy**

Calculation of prem ranking: there are a maximum of 6 prem races in the current season. Following discussion and a vote, it was concluded that the best 4 results would be used to calculate the end of year ranking, using the following formula: 50% of races plus 1 race. This formula can then be utilised in circumstances where there are less than 8 ranking races in a season.

ITOs: if a UK ITO is unable to travel as a result of testing positive for covid-19 before beginning their travel, it was agreed that the committee would cover their incurred expenses where they are unable to claim them elsewhere.

ACM: this will take place on Saturday 27 November, with the first committee meeting of the new committee being held either on Sunday 28 November or on 1 December. Whether or not the ACM is in person (at HPP) or online is to be confirmed.

9. Date and time of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is **Wednesday 3 November @ 7.45pm** via zoom focussing on ACM business only.