

Coaching Coordinator Report 2021

The continued disruption and restrictions of Covid made it difficult to get part Slalom Coach course running during the early part of the year. Fitting courses around tutor and trainee availability in the condensed racing season also contributed to difficulties of getting courses running. However, several courses have been run adding further to the number of trainees working towards their Slalom Coach qualification. It is also pleasing to report several coaches that have successfully completed their assessment during the summer – not an easy task building their experience over the last 18 months.

The slalom committee has continued to make funds available to support slalom coach training and assessment. In the last 12 months this has supported 11 people to Slalom Coach training courses and 4 to do their assessment. This funding has now supported 66 coaches to attend training and 9 to compete assessments since the new qualifications were launched in January 2018.

Financial support is only one aspect to increasing the number of qualified coaches in the sport. A significant challenge is to engage and support those that have completed training and new trainees so they can gain the knowledge, experience and confidence in their ability to go forward to a successful assessment. Every trainee's needs will be different, and developing as a coach needs a considerable time commitment from volunteers, and support and encouragement along the way. I encourage anyone (or any club) in need of support to get in touch to see how we can help, and help us better understand how we can grow the number of qualified coaches in our sport.

I have represented the Slalom Committee on the BC Slalom Coaching Technical Group during the year which has been active in reviewing and proposing new resources to be added or created for the BC's digital library, and considering safety issues as part BC's safety education review. An important part of this is ensuring that resources and content reflects the development needs of all those current and aspiring coaches, including those new to coaching and parents taking coach training to help in clubs with little personal experience of the sport.

I've also been involved in a consultation of the forthcoming BC strategy with regards to coaching with coaching reps from across the competitive discipline. All have similar concerns and issues to a greater or lesser degree than slalom. However, this was a good opportunity to make the Coaching department aware of our issues we face and issues that such a long period without a suitable Coach Award/education pathway has created for competitive disciplines.

Les Ford