

Participation Report 2021

Racing did not start for 2021 until late May for Division 3/4 with the higher divisions following on later in the year. Whilst numbers were varied, we still do not have a clear picture of how many paddlers will return to the sport across the 3 Home nations.

The geographical distribution of races was affected by the late start to racing, especially for Div 2 with no races for this division in the midlands and North of England. Training opportunities leading up to the start of racing varied across UK due to different covid restrictions that were in place.

Prior to racing re starting a lower division questionnaire was circulated, thank you everybody who responded. The club distribution was good, Scotland had the best distribution with paddlers from all active slalom clubs responding. Wales' responses was dominated by 2 areas, England had a good cross section of clubs represented in the responses.

All comments were considered and at Division 3/4 level most competitors want the event to be fun, with plenty of practice time prior to racing starting. There is a desire for team events to be included at this level where time permits.

The standard of div 2 water was a concern especially for non-junior paddlers within the division. This will be monitored over the coming season to see if the standard of water has an adverse effect on the retention of paddlers within the division.

A participation sub-group has been set up with view of looking into how we as a sport can attract more paddlers into the sport, and how we can improve our retention levels. Please contact me if you are interested in being involved in this sub-group.

Karen Crowhurst
14/11/21