

British Canoeing Slalom Committee ACM report Competition and Safety Management

The 2020 – 2021 combined season has had its challenges. Significant numbers of races have had to be cancelled sometime late on, whilst the majority for reasons associated with Pandemic Rules some for lack of water releases.

Organisers are to be commended for getting racing going again in the latter half of 2021 and coping with considerable disruption and provision for COVID requirements. It is notable that race numbers have been somewhat limited at many races and this has limited points available for promotion for some paddlers. All this will have affected the financial viability of races.

It is notable that the application of the regulations surrounding the provision of food have been more actively pursued by local authorities who are responsible for their administration. There is unfortunately no standard approach. Organisers are advised for their own protection to consider registering (its free everywhere) should they be considering the provision of food and particularly if providing hot food. It should be done in adequate time before the event – generally at least 28 days. <https://www.gov.uk/food-business-registration> Since the responsibility lies with the Local Authorities the Slalom Committee will not be doing anything further. It would however be appropriate if providing food to include a requirement in Risk Assessment and Management plans that Pop up registration of food provision with the relevant Local Authority has been made. Should provision be by a commercial operator fixed premises or a commercial food van then the liability and responsibility rests with the operator and not the organiser.

WhatsApp groups for results and communication at races has worked well, rather than everyone crowding round control and notices. It would perhaps be welcome for this to continue. On line Judges meetings have also happened and also been successful.

A number of risk management plans have already been lodged for the 2022 racing season and organisers are reminded these should be in prior to the ACM if wishing to confirm races on the Calendar to be approved at the ACM.

It is likely that some ongoing consideration of COVID transmission may be required at least into the first half of the 2022 racing season however there is no clarity at the moment and in any case plans will need to be made relative to the situation as then pertains.

Peter Curry
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