



SLALOM COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 9 February 2021

Via videoconference

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

Apologies: Colin Woodgate; Richard Ramsdale; Anna Gray (AG); Fraser Glasgow;

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as correct

Matters arising

Committee members were reminded to complete the declaration of interest form and return it to DC. Action: DC to send a reminder to those who haven't returned the form

A statement regarding demotions at the end of the season still to be drafted and published. Action: DC

FG and DC to send photos to Nick Penfold for the website.

Length of season

There was discussion regarding whether, in usual seasons, the length of the season was too long.

Based on analysis of previous seasons, it was concluded that the season length hadn't changed but the distribution of prem and div 1 races had changed with a focus on start and end of season, which led to the perception that the season length had grown.

Particular areas of note were:

- Distribution of races at prem/ 1 level with a focus in the beginning and end of season. It was recognised that there were reasons for this – water levels of natural courses, costs of hiring courses during high season. This tied in to:
 - Greater manpower and kit required for prem / 1 races
 - February races can clash with half term which can impact on volunteer availability
 - What kind of water the paddling community wants to paddle on
 - When clubs are prepared to run races, and their flexibility, which impacts on:
 - The ability to manage the calendar

Managing the calendar: points considered were:

- whether there were too many div 1 races which caused capacity issues and potential clashes for volunteers
- if additional timing kit would help
- whether there were too many races at div 2 / 3 / 4 level

Overall, it was felt that from the athletes and officials perspective, having races on consecutive weekends was not an issue.

In conclusion, it was felt that the length of the season was not an issue, that the number of races could be maintained at the current level (recognising that there was some, limited ability to manage the distribution of races), but the key was broadening the volunteer base and looking at creative ways of doing so. This will be kept live on the agenda.

It was agreed to open the calendar for 2022, with cut off dates for organisers of 1 July (div 1/prem) and 1 September (div 2/3/4).

Return to racing

There was extensive discussion regarding the potential for return to racing.

It was agreed that whilst there were plans for schools to return over the next month, it was likely that only once schools were back safely that lockdown restrictions would begin to ease. The decision was therefore taken to cancel all ranking races in April. **Action:** DC to circulate statement

It was noted that the position in relation to senior selection, due to be held on 23/24 April would be determined separately.

PC presented a paper exploring options for the remainder of the season, from continuing with the ranking system as per usual years, through to focussing on racing at regional rather than national ranking level. This led to extensive discussion, concluding that at this point no firm decisions should be made.

In the interim, whilst no or limited paddling was taking place, it was agreed that LF would coordinate pulling some videos together, to link to from the canoe slalom website. **Action:** LF to send links to DC

Funding support for races:

There was discussion regarding whether the committee could underwrite a percentage of potential cancellation costs for races where an early decision was required by a centre. The outcome was that requests would be looked at on a case by case basis, with the general approach that the committee would continue to look to support with unforeseen costs as per previous seasons. Later in the season, the committee could possibly provide financial support to improve the viability of a return to racing. Currently it was too early in the season to make such a decision.

Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 9 March at **7.30pm** via zoom

