

2020 Ranking Season

Following careful consideration of the impact of Covid-19 on the 2020 racing season, the slalom committee has made the decision that no further ranking races will be held in 2020.

As a committee, we are still working through the rule book to ensure we consider the full implications of this decision and a full statement on this will follow in due course

This has not been an easy decision but as we all know Covid-19 has significantly impacted on normal life over the past 3 months, and will continue to do so for some time. We don't know when it will be safe for everyone to resume paddling, nor when people will have access to their local training facilities both on and off the water. What we do know is that the impact will differ depending on where you live.

We do not believe that continuing to run ranking races against this backdrop is the right thing to do. As a competitive sport, people are rightly proud of what they achieve in their racing, and their overall ranking is reflective of this. Covid-19 has meant that we cannot have a meaningful racing season – by the end of July we will have lost over 60% of the 2020 races; and for the rest of the season people will continue to be impacted in different ways. On balance, this means that any racing and therefore ranking would not be based on a level playing field.

We believe that it is better to act early in making this decision. We know that British Canoeing have cancelled all events until the end of July to-date. We also know that people will require a number of weeks once training again, to get race ready and avoid injury in returning to our sport. In the best scenario, it would be September before racing could re-commence, and it is more likely to be October or November.

Taking an early decision on all ranking races gives organisers time to determine what should happen to their event. We recognise that in most cases, races will be cancelled. However, for events due to be held later in the year, we hope that some racing, possibly on a more regional basis, will be possible. Whilst these would not be ranking, organisers may be able to hold open or club races, if they are able to do so safely. We are organising a call for interested clubs and organisers to consider this further. This has provisionally been arranged for 12 June. Please see the FAQs for full details

What this means is that the 2020 start of season rankings are frozen, with bib numbers unchanged for 2021 with the exception of where promotions have already taken place.

We know that this decision will raise lots of questions, and we have developed FAQs to start responding to these. These will be added to as new questions arise and the situation becomes clearer.

So, if you have a point that you would like to make, or a question that you would like to ask, please email Dave Spencer on slalom.chair@vol.britishcanoeing.org.uk or Deborah Catty at: slalom.secretary@vol.britishcanoeing.org.uk

Keep safe

The Slalom Committee