

Slalom Committee Athlete Representative Report ACM 2017

International Panel

Throughout the year, I have attended panel meetings as an observer to represent athletes.

Premier Race Formats

Discussions about the trial formats at the Graveyard towards the end of season have been taking place, however the comments have not yet been conclusive hence Mark Abbott's online survey. Recurring feedback was that the second run counts was received well within these formats with 7 & 3 going through to finals. This gives a second chance to make a final and keeps the day alive, with the disadvantage you may end up doing 3 runs. The other format of 10 going through on 1st runs only, retains 2 runs per class, although when a paddler already has 5 good results, not making the final means your 2nd run may not be able to replace results. Meaning the progress in the ranking finishes after 1st runs for this paddler. This format may work at the first 5 races but discourage paddlers after this stage.

Course and difficulty of water

Over the last few years the committee have tried to influence clubs to set the correct technical level of course, on suitable water. We require a progression through the divisions to maintain interest and with the increase in junior paddlers in div 1 and prem, the need for div 2 to provide a suitable stepping stone is important. I would urge clubs to reanalyse their events to ensure we maintain the interest at all levels. A good example of this was the HPP race run by Manchester CC with a div 1 & div 2 on different days with both challenging courses at each level.

Water access at centres

Water access remains a talking point within paddlers/parents and negotiations are being continued with centres. I would ask everyone to liaise with coaches as they are working with Andy Maddock so improvements can be made.

Paddler Etiquette

Comments have been made about start line etiquette and I would like to remind all paddlers to be considerate of others on the start line and in the start pool. This includes being respectful of others on the water even when training and changing room space off water to create a better paddler environment.

Selection Reminder

Please remember that you must register for selection in addition to sending an entry.

I have been asked by more paddlers than ever before to thank the Organisers and Volunteers for taking the time to make our sport possible.