

## Competition and Safety report for ACM November 2022

This year has not been entirely normal as we are still suffering from the ongoing effects of the pandemic but we have had a generally successful calendar of events and competition.

I have not been informed of any serious injuries or other problems although as always a number of shoulder injuries have occurred most often it seems during training. Perhaps more thought may need to be given to warming up during training sessions. Please could coaches, organisers and safety officers let me know of any issues as only by reporting and collecting them together do patterns emerge. Incident reports should also be filed with British Canoeing or Devolved Nation Association.

I am aware though Public Health Contacts of a number of significant Weils Disease occurrences in participants in paddlesports. Please could all consider wearing footwear when on the riverbank at all times as this dramatically reduces the risk. Could organisers continue to post notices encouraging the wearing of footwear at races. On a subjective basis there does seem to be some improvement and there were very few bare feet at the British Open.

Rules around the provision of food particularly hot food has tightened considerably since the pandemic although it is different with each local authority. Falling foul of the local rules can have significant consequences. The slalom committee does not consider the provision of food other than support volunteers a constituent part of an event and consideration should be given to appropriate insurance. I will endeavour to answer questions or at least point to where answers may be found.

Risk plans need to be specific to location, event and consider local situation e.g. weather, mobile phone access and access to local medical facilities as these are increasingly challenged. They do not need to be complicated but most importantly if there is something in the plan it MUST be done or implemented as failure to do so and which is associated with a potential claim may be used to avoid insured liability. They must also be updated whenever issues are identified and before every new event. I am always happy to try and help with plan consideration and development. Also remember some commercial sites may have a requirement for a particular format. There is no perfect format so I am happy to consider any.

Please could you continue to ensure that consideration is given to mitigating cross infection during the 2023 season.

Reminder all draft / initial plans for 2023 should be with me before the ACM and before races can be confirmed on the Calendar.

Could clubs please give thought to the use of BAs as there are a number of very old ones particularly old GB team ones circulating. The closed cell foam which provides the buoyancy deteriorates with time and fails to provide adequate support.

Peter Curry  
November 2023