

British Canoeing – Slalom Committee

Competition Management and Safety report

We have had one incident in the last year during racing which was reported to me and which is worthy of comment. A paddler dislocated their shoulder during a race and remained in their boat. It proved challenging to get them out of the water and took almost 40 minutes until they were successfully extricated. Dislocated shoulders suffer increasing damage with increasing duration of dislocation. Therefore we should be looking to get them out of the water as promptly and safely as possible. I understand Les Ford has been covering this issue during coach training – sinking the boat to get them out. It is something clubs may wish to consider during practice sessions.

It has been a challenging year and I know some events have run at a loss and rescued by other activities e.g. catering. Organisers should plan their finances such that the event itself at least breaks even and should not need to include additional activities to enable this. The committee will support enhanced fees for events for this very purpose and the minimum fees published are just that, a minimum used to set the levies that are due. Obviously if events can run at the minimum fee it will be appreciated by paddlers.

COVID has not gone away completely and there are again increasing numbers and patients in hospital. We may still see significant numbers in the early part of next season. Long COVID is a real entity and has affected some of our number. The precautions do not need to be as they were when we restarted competition however the enhanced hygiene that all practiced should be continued and is a good thing.

Risk Assessments are much improved from when they were first introduced, some are getting quite long. They benefit from regular review and remember if there is an action noted it does need to be done, it is not about perfection it is about what you are actually going to do. Short is not necessarily bad. The first draft ones for next year all need to be forwarded before the ACM.

As always please let me know of incidents particularly ones we may all learn from.

Peter Curry
6th November 2023