



BRITISH CANOEING

Slalom Committee

Twentieth

Annual Consultative Meeting

25th November 2023

Commencing at 10:00

Location: British Canoeing HQ, National Water Sports Centre,
Adbolton Lane, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, NG12 2LU

Minutes



1 Welcome by the Chair

The chair welcomed 39 people to the meeting, representing 34 Clubs, holding 86 votes issued.

Dee Paterson (BC President), Ashley Metcalfe (BC Chief Executive Officer) and Mark Ratcliffe (BC Performance director) were welcomed.

1.1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Neal Underwood (The Sharks) and Chris Wilde (Frome Canoe Club).

1.2 Appointment of Tellers

David Lindesay and Peter Curry agreed to act as tellers for the meeting.

2 Minutes

2.1 19th Annual Consultative Meeting (to be accepted)

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Jason Humphries of Seren Dwr, seconded by Duncan Berriman of Kingston Kayak Club and were then accepted nem con.

2.2 Matters arising from those minutes.

2.2.1 SUP in Slalom (2022 Motion 6.8)

In the light of the establishment of a British Canoeing SUP whitewater group the slalom working group did not meet during the year, wanting to build on, rather than contradict the governing body stance. Hence there is no motion to the ACM this year.

There was a comment that the slalom community should raise this and include Kayak Cross development.

2.2.2 Plastic Boat Event (ACM 6.5 / MA)

Although not advertised greatly after the ACM, and with some minor confusion about who could compete, 16 events were run with 24 paddlers competing during the year. It was decided not to bring forward any motions on this subject this year.

Open events can be run alongside events and prizes can be awarded for any required subset, e.g. plastic boats.

2.3 2022/2023 Committee Meeting minutes (tabled online for information)

The committee meeting minutes had been circulated after each meeting and were made available electronically before this meeting.

3 Reports

3.1 Chair's Report

What a year 2023 has been: Whilst there have been and remain various challenges, 2023 has been a great year with great racing at all levels, which everyone involved should feel proud to have been a part of.

I must start off with a big **THANK YOU** to everyone involved in this sport, at whatever level, whether on the bank and on (and sometimes in) the water. I am always impressed by the paddlers at all levels who get on and show everyone why the sport is so special, with such dedication and drive. Equally, I am in awe of the volunteer effort that is required and selflessly given by so many people every day to the sport and its participants, whether it be on the water supporting beginners, coaches on the bank, club volunteers, the race organisers, officials, bib officers and/or the myriad of unseen teams of people providing the infrastructure for our racing season and/or problem solving behind the scenes...

Following similar notes in previous year's reports, participation remains the key concern and numbers at the entry level must remain the key focus of our efforts going forward. It has been great to see and be involved in the various discussions that have been ongoing through the year about participation, and I look forward to further thoughts and discussions at the ACM, at the coaching conference tomorrow and in the coming months at all levels.



As many of you know we started the year trying to garner several working groups. Thank you everyone who has been involved in the groups directly and/or who have provided information and feedback to group members. In particular, I would like to thank and acknowledge the progress made by the Participation Working Group leading to motions to be discussed later and for prompting many other conversations which are helping to unpick the questions we need to be considering. It is fair to say there has been a mixed level of progress; not due to lack of will but time and energy as people balance their various other roles and – shock horror – actually paddling. I would encourage any interested persons to get involved and join a working group, by either speaking to the relevant leads here at the ACM, on the riverbank or by email; the more input and discussion we have, the more we can identify the specific problems and consider practical solutions – however revolutionary – and develop the best strategic way forward.

One topic of note relates to slalom sites, notably the unfortunate and sad events at Grandtully leading to the current hiatus on access for slalom, and the continued loss of Washburn – two vital sites for both local paddlers and the wider slalom community. On a positive note, 2024 sees the much welcome return of racing at Abbey Rapids and Fairmile. Thank you for all those who are working hard to maintain our slalom sites (despite the British weather's best attempts) and develop relationships with landowners and other stakeholders to secure access to key training and racing sites.

In the current climate, it is also important to acknowledge and consider the other significant barrier to participation affecting not only athletes and their families but also volunteers - the current 'cost of living crisis'. This relates to the entry fees / venue costs / membership costs, but also the associated costs with travelling to and attending events, as well as affecting the amount of time that people can contribute to events and the running of our clubs as they are required to work more. This is a difficult issue which we need to be aware of but have relatively limited ability to control.

On the international racing front, as noted in other reports tabled for the ACM, 2023 has been a very successful year of results and medals at all levels, in both canoe slalom and Kayak Cross. Congratulations to all involved! An outstanding season overseas was topped by the excellent ICF Senior World Championships held at Lee Valley, where we truly had success on and off the water. It was a fantastic world class level exhibition of our sport and something that we should all be proud of, noting it would not have happened without the dedication and hard work of 100's of volunteers (a number of whom have asked about volunteering at other races and events going forward having never been involved in slalom before), the paddlers and their support teams, and the British Canoeing Events team.

I would also take this opportunity to thank the wider teams throughout British Canoeing for their support, assistance and discussions over the past year. I look forward to working together to develop a coordinated strategic future for the sport.

One last look back at 2023 on a personal note: Despite having been on the slalom committee for a few years, the last twelve months have often been an eye-opening experience and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the committee and the slalom community for their assistance, patience and feedback. Thank you also to Nick Penfold, Duncan Berriman, Dee Lindesay and Dave Spencer for keeping the IT systems working!

I will have undoubtedly forgotten to thank some people in this report – apologies. However, one person I cannot fail to thank and recognise is Colin Woodgate, who is stepping down as secretary to the slalom committee. He has kept me and the rest of committee in line for many a year. Thank you, Colin!

So, what about 2024 and onwards? My key question is how we go about developing the slalom community in the UK? We are all here, at races, training, in clubs, and on the riverbanks for a common reason – the love of the sport and wanting to see people and the sport grow from strength to strength, as well as the friendships and sense of identity and pride with the sport. The development of that community is crucial for the growth and sustainability of the domestic sport; it is the buildings of friendships and fun experiences that develop from the moment paddlers first sit or kneel in a boat, and then continues throughout their involvement in the sport, even hopefully after they stop paddling.

So how do we do this? This is the key strategic question which needs development with all stakeholders. The following are some immediate questions that need a review:

- How can the community support clubs and regional / national slalom (e.g. England Slalom Committee) groups to allow them to support and develop our clubs, current paddlers and future generations of paddlers?
- Is it possible to simplify the route in to coaching?
- Can we consider different types of events / competition weekends, e.g. combining standard racing with team events, shorter course races and/or kayak cross events, pre-race coaching...?



How do we enhance the paddler (noting a single class paddler spends only 3-5 minutes actually racing a day) and the spectator experience, without (i) diluting the sport, and (ii) overloading the volunteers?

Should we counteract some of the negative side-effects of technology (i.e. the staring at results on mobile phones rather than milling around with other people looking at a results board)?

How can we support our volunteers and maximise their experiences at events?

How can we increase the exposure of the sport on social media / YouTube and in the wider media?

We cannot forget that 2024 also brings about some fantastic opportunities that we need to harness the benefit of:

Paris 2024 – Not only a great opportunity to see top class racing, but we also need to consider if / how we can capture people's imagination and benefit from the 'Olympic bounce' as interest is raised when TeamGB win those medals.

Kayak Cross – Need to further develop models how this can be rolled out in a safe and fun way at all levels, so that we can make use of this as it appears on television for the first time.

Rebranding of British Canoeing.

Community events – Interclubs' is back (thank you, Donna Hawkins et al) and plans are afoot for a multi-race weekend event at the Tryweryn – watch this space!

So, in summary, thank you everyone, congratulations to all the paddlers for the successes of 2023, and all the very best for 2024!

3.2 Treasurer's Report

The accounts presented cover the year ended 31 October 2023 and show a surplus of income over expenditure of £9,420 (2022 £6,870). Levy income has fallen from £29,364 to £28,864. Taking into considering inflation, this represents a decrease in levy income of approximately 6%. A significant factor was the loss of levies from cancelled races at Grandtully, Matlock & Symons Yat. Additionally, £7,173 of unused historical accruals have been released from the balance sheet.

English Slalom Committee

All funds of the ESC currently remain within, and are overseen by, the Slalom Committee. As of 31 October 2023, the balance of funds held by the Committee on behalf of the CESC was £20,706, as shown in note 4 in the published accounts.

Bib Credits

The introduction of bib credits replacing paper vouchers means we now have an accurate total of credits outstanding, which, as of 31st October 2023, was 1202 implying a balance sheet provision of £12,020. The reported figure in note 4 of the published accounts of £18,887 is clearly an overestimate and this will be corrected in the 2024 accounts to better reflect the actual liability with any surplus released from the balance sheet.

Slalom Bib System

The bib system is working smoothly but with the increase in postal charges and general inflation the costs to post out a bib will rise from £2.25 to £2.95. This is still less than the postal charge to send an SAE (£2.40 + £0.75 = £3.15). Bib Officers continue to offer taking bibs to an event at no cost to the paddler.

Audit

The accounts are currently unaudited. The BC auditors will audit them during December 2023.

The Officers of the Slalom Committee approved the accounts on 24 November 2023 for presentation to the Annual Consultative Meeting on 25 November 2023.

British Canoeing was thanked for the finance and account support during the year.

A motion to accept the account was proposed by Jason Humphries (Seren Dwr) and seconded by Mike Mitchell (Llangollen). This was passed nem con.

3.3 Other Reports

The reports were made available electronically before the meeting. No questions were raised regarding the reports.

3.3.1 Reports from Working Parties & Co-ordinators (Tabled, reviewed en bloc)

Competition & Safety, BC Performance, Calendar, Officials, Participation, SUP



3.3.2 *British Canoeing and Home Nations (Tabled, reviewed en bloc)*

British Canoeing (Richard Ramsdale), Scotland (Stuart Pitt), Wales (Mark Abbott).

There has been no Northern Ireland representative during the year, so there will be no report.

3.3.3 *Athlete Representative (Zac Allin)*

No report was available at the time.

4 Elections

4.1 Vice Chair

Sally Atkinson has been proposed and seconded by the Slalom Committee. In the absence of any other nominations, she was elected unopposed.

4.2 Secretary

Les Ford was proposed by Llandysul and seconded by Kingston Kayak. In the absence of any other nominations, he was elected unopposed.

Colin Woodgate was invited to become an observer on the committee.

4.3 Committee Members

Term Expiring 2023: Dee Lindesay, Peter Curry. All have indicated their willingness to stand for a further term.

Jason Humphries stood down; Mark Haylett was nominated by the meeting.

All nominated were then elected nem con.

Jason Humphries was thanked for his work and assistance on the committee.

Term Expiring 2024: Donna Hawkins, Karen Crowhurst, Mike Mitchell.

4.4 Other Officials (normally elected 'en bloc')

Managed Calendar Officer	Dee Lindesay		
Ranking Status Officer	Nick Penfold	Entry Cards Officer	Les Ford
Ranking Officers			
K1 Men Premier	Tracy Wells	C1 Men Premier & 1	Oliver Snowdon
K1 Men Division 1	Les Ford	C1 Men Divisions 2 & 3	Nigel Evans
K1 Men Division 2	Craig Douglas	C1 Women Premier & 1	Sally Atkinson
K1 Men Division 3	Karen Crowhurst	C1 Women Divisions 2 & 3	Donna Hawkins
K1 Men Division 4	James Hastings	Canadian Doubles	Stuart Meakins
K1 Women Premier & 1	Sally Atkinson	Veterans All Categories	Paul Mew
K1 Women Divisions 2 & 3	Donna Hawkins	Officials Compiler	
		Annual Prize Co-ordination	Fiona Pennie

All were elected nem con.

Thanks were given to the Officials who had stepped down for all their work and assistance supporting the sport.

5 Ed Ecclestone award

5.1 Ed Ecclestone award

Previous Winners

2010 Irene Osbourne	2011 Ken Baillie	2012 Nick Penfold
2013 Ken Trollope	2014 Les Ford	2015 Johnny Brown
2016 Jacky Brooks	2017 Gareth Bryant	2018 Andy Hounslow
2019 Andy Grudzinski	2020/21 Mike Carter	2022 Neal Underwood



Nominees for this year:

Duncan Berriman
John Stoner

Patrick O'Hare
Colin Woodgate

Stewart Pitt

The award was decided by previous winners. Colin Woodgate was announced as the winner and received the perpetual trophy.

6 Motions

Unless specifically listed, the motions below are proposed by the committee. Wording in *Italics* are for explanation and do not form part of the motion. **Bold Underlined** text is to be added to rules; ~~Struck through~~ text is to be deleted.

6.1 Multi Division Races – Practice

Adopted

With the reintroduction of combined Premier / Division 1, there has been some confusion over the eligibility of those paddling different boats in the different divisions for organised and free practise.

A similar issue arises for veterans, being compared against a division with limited practice.

This motion has the effect that where an athlete completes in Premier in 1 class (no practice), and Canoe in Division 1 (or vice versa) they can take their official practice in the canoe, but not take any free practice in either boat.

A similar issue arises for veterans, being compared against a division with limited practice. Here if the veteran's run is to be compared with Premier runs, it should be under the same conditions of practice.

9.7 TRAINING

9.7.8 UK Where a competitor competes in more than one event, they may take any organised practice runs that are available for the class. If free practice is not available for one of the classes, they may not do free practice for either event.

9.7.9 UK Those competing in the veterans class are restricted by the practice rules for the highest-ranking division to which they are being compared.

The motion was introduced, then put to the meeting under the 75/25 arrangement. The motion passed with 79 for, 5 against and 2 abstentions.

6.2 Inquorate WC1 Points

Sheffield CC and seconded by CR Cats
Adopted

It is important to note the following, whilst this will affect the whole WC1 category, given current participation levels it is unlikely to be in use at prem and division 1 races.

In 2023:

- *In prem, every WC1 event was quorate.*
- *In division 1, every WC1 event was quorate.*
- *In division 2, just under a third of division 2 races had inquorate WC1 events.*
- *In division 3, over half of the races in 2023 had inquorate WC1 events.*

Analysis of the 2023 WC1 results was run using the current 1.28 against the MK1, the proposed 1.08 against the WK1 and the previously used 1.2 against the MK1. Each set of results has been run and converted to points using each of the afore mentioned conversions, providing a broad set of statistics to analyse.

Analysis of the results through the 2023 season show that using 1.08 against the WK1 would provide a more measured progression through the lower divisions at races that are inquorate. Further to providing a more measured progression for paddlers, it also has the potential to make more of the division 2 and 3 WC1 events quorate through the season, as analysis shows that it would reduce the number of paddlers with race winning points, therefore slowing promotion on 3 sets of full points.

For example, at one race this year, in WC1 positions 1-4 gained 250 points, whereas using the proposed conversion, only 1-3 would have gained 250 points, meaning the paddler in 4th would have not gained a set of points to potentially promote them on 'three wins. This would have led that paddler to compete in more races in division 3, therefore giving the potential to make more races in division 3 quorate.



Promotion on 3 sets of full points:

Promotion on 3 sets of full results does not necessarily mean three wins. As can be seen in the WC1 in-quate results, many of the 'wins' are not gained by winning the race as in other quorate events. This has led to a disproportionately high percentage of WC1 competitors being promoted when compared to other classes. As can be seen below.

Div 3 -Div 2:

12 of the 18 (66%) 3-2 promotions went up on 3 sets of 250 points. Only 6 finished in 1st place for each 250 points earned.

WK1: 8 on three wins of 22 promotions (36%)

MK1: 8 on three wins of 38 promotions (21%)

MC1: 4 on three wins of 12 promotions (33%)

Div 2 -Div 1:

9 of the 11 (81%) promotions went up on 3 sets of 500 points, only 5 on finished 1st for each 500 points earned.

WK1: 7 on three wins of 14 promotions (50%)

MK1: 5 on three wins of 19 promotions (26%)

MC1: 5 on three wins of 8 promotions (62%)

Why compare to WK1 not MK1?

1.08 against the WK1 has been proposed as this is the conversion used between MC1 and MK1. Comparing the WC1 to the WK1 means that the WC1 competitors are scored against other female competitors, as opposed to male competitors.

What if the WK1 is In-quate?

In the case where WK1 event is in-quate using the formula outlined in rules 6.6.3 and 6.7.1, the WC1 score would be calculated and then the points divided by 2, meaning they have a halved points score. This then remains to be consistent with the MC1 compared to the MK1 in the case of the MK1 being in-quate. Whilst it is understood that WK1 events are in-quate more often than MK1 events, it would be inconsistent to have a different rule and calculation for MC1 and WC1 competitors in this instance.

Divisional Progression Impact

By providing a more measured progression through the lower divisions of the sport, paddlers would be able to develop the skills they need to tackle the higher division venues and courses. This slower progression would also make the course design process easier at higher level races, as designing a course that is challenging enough for the top end MK1 competitors and not demoralizingly difficult for the WC1 competitors can be challenging.

6.7.1 In the case where a Men's Kayak **Singles** event is in-quate, the points obtained using the quorate calculation will be divided by two before allocation.

6.7.2 In the case where a Women's Kayak **Singles** or any Men's Canoe **Singles** event is in-quate, points awarded will be those given to the athlete in the corresponding Men's Kayak event whose score matches the athletes modified score, which is calculated by dividing by the following factor and rounding down to the accuracy of the competition.

Women's Kayak Singles. 1.11

Men's Canoe Singles. 1.08

~~Women's Canoe Singles. 1.28~~

Note: Where the athlete's modified score does not correspond exactly with an athlete in the corresponding Men's Kayak **Singles** event, then the points awarded to the next highest placed Men's Kayak athlete will be used. In the case that the modified score matches the score of more than one athlete in the Men's Kayak **Singles** competition then the points awarded to the higher placed Men's Kayak athlete will be used. Multiple division competitions will be ranked against the highest corresponding Men's Kayak results.

6.7.3 Points are calculated against the Men's Kayak **Singles** scores to decide which phase the athlete would have reached, and that is used to allocate points. For example: Points are calculated against the Men's Kayak qualification result unless the modified score of the athlete in the qualification phase is equal to or less than the score of the last placed Kayak Man qualifying from the heats.



6.7.4 Inquorate Women’s Canoe Singles

6.7.4.1 In the case where a Women’s Canoe Singles event is inquorate, points awarded will be those given to the athlete in the corresponding Women’s Kayak event whose score matches the athletes modified score, which is calculated by dividing by the following factor and rounding down to the accuracy of the competition:

Women’s Canoe Singles. 1.08

Note: Where the athlete’s modified score does not correspond exactly with an athlete in the corresponding Women’s Kayak Singles event, then the points awarded to the next highest placed Women’s Kayak athlete will be used. In the case that the modified score matches the score of more than one athlete in the Women’s Kayak singles competition then the points awarded to the higher placed Women’s Kayak athlete will be used. Multiple division competitions will be ranked against the highest corresponding Women’s Kayak singles results.

6.7.2 In the case where a Women’s Kayak singles event is inquorate, the points obtained using the quorate calculation will be divided by two before allocation.

$[\text{div max}] - ((\text{position}-1) \times ([\text{div max}]/\text{No. of host div comps}))$ Then divide the answer by 2.

6.7.3 Points are calculated against the Women’s Kayak scores to decide which phase the athlete would have reached, and that is used to allocate points. For example: Points are calculated against the Women’s Kayak qualification result unless the modified score of the athlete in the qualification phase is equal to or less than the score of the last placed Kayak Woman qualifying from the heats.

6.2.1 Amendments

Adopted

An Amendment to the motion was proposed by The Sharks Canoe Club, seconded by Sheffield CC.

Motion 6.2 raises valid issues experienced in several inquorate WC1 events and proposes a solution by changing the comparator class from MK1 to WK1. Further analysis of 2023 race results has allowed a deeper investigation of the issues and recognised a simpler and more effective solution applicable to all inquorate events.

With motion 6.2, athletes in an inquorate WC1 event would receive half points more often in future because WK1 is inquorate more often than MK1 (9 inquorate WK1 vs 1 inquorate MK1 event in 2023). Continuing the practice of deriving points through comparison to positions in another event could still result in all racers in an inquorate event getting the same points as each other despite having different.

The Amendment was taken in three parts:

1- Inquorate to calculate the first place only.

Use the current Inquorate process to derive points for first place only, then use those first place points as the parameter 'div max points' when applying the quorate event formula to calculate points for the remaining places in the Inquorate event.

Points = $[\text{div max}] - ((\text{position}-1) \times ([\text{div max}]/\text{Number of competitors}))$

The intention is to ensure the winner’s points are justified and thereafter maintain the practice of awarding points by race position. Athletes present would gain no undeserved advantage from the race being inquorate. This change to the Inquorate process would apply for WK1 and MC1 as well as WC1.

This amendment to the motion passed nem con.

2- Amend Multiplication Factors

Revise the multiplication factor for each event, to match the median of values for all quorate div 2 and div 3 races in 2023, per event, as shown in the table below.

Event	2023 Factors	Proposed Factors
WK1	1.11	1.17
MC1	1.08	1.13
WC1	1.28	1.25

Factor = Event Winning Score / Winning MK1 Score

This amendment to the motion passed nem con.



3- Calculate as though there were 5 competitors when inquorate.

In place of the actual number of competitors when applying the points formula in (1) above, set the number of competitors to 5 (i.e. the minimum number for a quorate race), to reflect that absent competitors might have finished behind those present, so that those present are not disadvantaged by the lack of competitors compared to a quorate event. The intention is to incentivise entries.

This amendment to the motion passed nem con.

The effect of the three amendments removed the need for a vote on the original motion.

6.3 Age Group Prizes

Adopted

In the UK age groups are currently quoted as Junior 16, Junior 14 etc. This can (and has) lead to some confusion in whether the age groups are exclusive. E.g. of the fastest paddler under 16 is actually 13, are they eligible for the Junior 14 prize?

To clarify / simplify this, age groupings should be changed to Under 14, Under 16 etc. This affects rule 2.6, 6.1.6, 20.8.4, 20.8.5 as a minimum. It is not proposed to re-engrave any of the perpetual trophies.

Junior age grouping names will be changed to 'Under x' throughout the rules.

The motion was introduced, then put to the meeting under the 75/25 arrangement. The motion passed nem con.

6.4 Multi Class Discounts

Adopted

Now that we have removed discounts for a second class, for junior paddlers and for double events, the expense of competing in both K1 and C1 has for some, become a serious obstacle, and may be constraining the take-up of C1. The expense for an individual is becoming significant; for a family the cost can be unacceptable. For example, a family of three competing at a double event in both K1 and C1 at Division 4 would need to have paid £6.60 x 12 - nearly £80 in 2023. Once in Division 2 this would have amounted to £14.30 x 12, or just under £172! For those on a limited budget, this outlay can be difficult to justify.

So, in the interest of increasing participation in C1, and more importantly, enjoyment of the sport, a significant reduction in cost when competing in both K1 and C1 is proposed. Previous changes to the fee structure have been made largely in order to simplify our charges, and the option proposed below considers this. It is proposed to halve the fee for entry in a second class - to align with what is already in place for C2. This is proposed for divisions 3 and 4 only, including division 2 would make the, already steep, rise to division 1 competitions even more extreme.

6.2.1 Entry Fees are listed on various web sites or may be confirmed by email to the Slalom Committee Treasurer. The entry fee for the team event is at the Organiser's discretion but may not be higher than that listed in the published details.

6.2.2 Where an athlete enters two singles classes at the same competition / day, and at least one of those entries is in division 3 or 4, the lower one of the two entry fees is halved.

e.g. an athlete enters division 2 K1 and division 3 C1, the entry fee for division 3 is halved.

Then renumber following rules.

An amendment was put that the discount will be funded by the slalom committee. Proposed by Stafford and Stone and seconded by Wydean. This was approved nem con.

A second amendment was put that, in line with C2 reduced entry fees, the discount only applies where an enhanced fee is not being charged. Proposed by Northampton and seconded by Halifax. This was approved with 85 for and 1 objection.

A further amendment suggested that this should be a one-year trial. Proposed by CR CATS and Sheffield seconded by Sheffield this was accepted nem con.

The substantive motion then read:



6.2.1 Entry Fees are listed on various web sites or may be confirmed by email to the Slalom Committee Treasurer. The entry fee for the team event is at the Organiser's discretion but may not be higher than that listed in the published details.

6.2.2 As a trial for the 2024 season, where enhanced fees are not charged, and an athlete enters two singles classes at the same competition / day, and at least one of those entries is in division 3 or 4, the lower one of the two entry fees is halved.

e.g. an athlete enters division 2 K1 and division 3 C1, the entry fee for division 3 is halved.

The discounted amount may be reclaimed by the organiser from the Slalom Committee

Then renumber following rules.

The amended motion was accepted nem con.

6.5 Rule 20.2.3 – Financial Support

Adopted

The rules refer to the slalom committee offering financial support to organisers in two circumstances:

Where a competition shows a deficit (20.2.3.b)

Losses resulting from cancelling a race (20.6.2 with an incorrect reference)

The proposal is that these are merged for simplicity, and that in all cases accounts for the competition must be provided if support is sought.

20.2.3.b If the accounts for a competition show a deficit, the organising group may make an application to the Slalom Committee who may consider giving limited financial assistance to offset costs necessarily incurred. To support any such application, full accounts for the competition must be supplied.

20.6.2 If there is no result for an event, entry fees will be refunded in full, to all entrants in that event, by the organising club or group; ~~after that time no entry fees will be refunded.~~

Unless, on receipt of a report of the circumstances, the Slalom Committee determines otherwise.

~~If as a result of making a refund of entry fees, the organising group finds itself making a loss on that competition (see 19.2.3.b), it may make application to the Slalom Committee which is empowered to give limited financial assistance to offset costs already and necessarily incurred.~~

The motion was introduced, then put to the meeting under the 75/25 arrangement. The motion passed nem con.

6.6 British Canoeing Rebranding

Adopted

It is understood that British Canoeing are undertaking a rebranding exercise. This will involve the renaming of the National Federation and, it is understood, the National Associations. This should be reflected in both the Rules and the Terms of Reference.

Terms of Reference changes will need to be approved by the National Federation, so it will need to be changed before any other change will be accepted.

This meeting authorises the Secretary to amend both rules and Terms of Reference to reflect any rebranding exercise by the Governing bodies.

The motion was introduced, then put to the meeting under the 75/25 arrangement. The motion passed nem con.



6.7 Officials Competition

Adopted

The rules for the Officials Competition are extremely complicated and hard to administer especially when a competitor was promoted from one division to another.

It will still be possible to identify a winner of the Division B award by looking for the highest ranked div 2 paddler. The trouble this year was with the VETs. When looking at a set of results, I put the fast VETs in Div A and the slow VETs in Div B. This isn't very objective and will be harder if they are all in one list. The same problem will apply to unranked paddlers.

2.11.2 There is a competition series for Officials based on results at Officials' Competitions at UK Ranking Competitions.

2.11.3 ~~For the purpose of this series entrants shall be divided into three divisions:~~

- a) ~~Premier and Division 1,~~
- b) ~~Division 2 and 3,~~
- e) ~~Division 4.~~

(Renumber the following rules)

2.11.6 Points will be awarded in accordance with the athlete's result in the Officials Event regardless of category. ~~Maximum points for each Division (A, B and C) will be 50 Points and Points~~ will be calculated in accordance with the formula: Points = 50 – (position in event – 1)

e.g. the second-place athlete ~~in Division A~~ would score 50 – (2 – 1) = 49

The fourth placed athlete ~~in Division B~~ would score 50 – (4 – 1) = 47

~~The fourth placed athlete in Division C also would score 50 – (4 – 1) = 47~~

2.11.8 Where an athlete wishes to compete in multi disciplines in the Officials Competition this will be at the organisers' discretion and subject to completion of the official's duties.

2.11.9 At the end of the season the points will be totalled for each athlete ~~in accordance with their current division~~ and prizes awarded as appropriate. In the event of a tie, the athlete with the greater number of entries will be considered to be the winner. If the result is still a tie, reference will be made to the best scoring results of the athletes concerned, and the next best, etc until the tie is resolved.

After some debate the motion was introduced, then put to the meeting. The motion was adopted nem con.

6.8 Use of Pronouns

Adopted

The rules refer in many places to 'he' or 'she' this should be changed to 'they' for EDI purposes, unless specifically referring to an athlete in a gender specific class (e.g. rule 2.10.4.c).

1.12.4 UK The Chief Judge may discipline any athlete or official whose behaviour is detrimental to the proper and orderly conduct of the competition. The Chief Judge must notify the Jury, who may after continued offences by the person, disqualify ~~him/her them~~ from the competition (DQB).

2.10.2.b Any such athlete must first declare to the Veteran Ranking Compiler ~~his/her their~~ year of birth and current divisional status (if any).

3.8.5 * Each athlete is responsible for ~~his/her their~~ start number.

4.2.4 * An athlete may participate in a team event different from ~~his/her their~~ individual event.

7.5.3 * The Chief Judge is the final arbiter on all judging matters. When there is official television or official video of the competition, they may avail ~~himself/herself themselves~~ of the television or video footage to assist in their determination of any relevant matter or protest.

10.3.2 * The Start Judge determines if a second start is given and notifies the Chief Judge of ~~his/her their~~ decision.

10.16.1 If an athlete competes in a boat or with equipment, which does not conform to the rules, the Chief Judge should disqualify ~~him/her them~~ for that run. (DSQ).



10.16.3 The following is considered as “outside assistance”:

- Any aid given to an athlete or to ~~his/her~~ their boat.

20.3.5 Trade Stands/Trading. Where an Organiser permits either Trade Stands to be set up and/or trading to take place ~~he they~~ should ensure that the traders have the necessary Public Liability Insurance cover. A minimum of £500,000 cover is recommended. The Organiser is entitled to insist that the trader show them shows him the Insurance Certificate. A photocopy would be satisfactory.

The motion was introduced, then put to the meeting under the 75/25 arrangement. The motion passed nem con.

6.9 Promotion from Division 4

Adopted

Early in the 2023 season a group was set up to identify ways to improve participation in canoe slalom. We have had several formal meetings and multiple riverside conversations and have decided that action at division 4 is needed as priority.

The numbers entering the sport at division 4 has fallen dramatically and of those promoted to division 3 less than half apply for a bib. We feel that there may be a better retention level if paddlers are able to experience more races at the entry level before they must enter the ranking system with associated expense of home nations membership, bib deposit and increased entry fee.

Any unranked paddler has the option of racing in the Novice event. The event is open to all beginners to slalom. There is no automatic promotion to division 3. Any paddler not previously ranked can apply for a division 3 bib and ranking. Whenever they or their coach feel they are ready, they can apply for their division 3 bib.

Any paddler that is achieving consistently good results and would be placed in the top 50% of Division 3 should be encouraged to enter the divisional system by their coach or ranking officer. Immediate entry to division 3 is an option for any unranked paddler.

1.3.2 To compete in a Novice event Division 4 (as an entry level event), you must satisfy one of the following –

- be a member of a National Association (BC, Canoe Wales, CANI or SCA) and this membership does not need to have competition rights OR
- be registered with the National Association as an associate club member of an affiliated club OR
- have day membership by completing the National Association taster form (this form covers you for competing on both days at a double Novice event Division 4)

...

1.7.1 UK An individual or a team event is declared quorate when at least 5 athletes or 5 Teams in Premier, Division 1, 2 or 3 or at least 3 athletes or 3 Teams in Novice Division 4 start in that event.

...

~~2.9.3.b The normal entry route into slalom is to compete at Novice levels until the athlete (or coach) feels they are ready to be ranked. They can then apply directly to the ranking officer to be ranked in division 3. is upwards, through promotion, from Division 4, and is most suitable for young athletes and those with little moving water experience. However, for athletes who are already capable, direct entry into a higher division better suited to their paddling ability may be appropriate.~~

...

2.11.3 For the purpose of this series entrants shall be divided into ~~three~~ two divisions:

- Premier and Division 1,
- Division 2 and 3,
- ~~Division 4~~

....

3.8.1 Numbered bibs, supplied by the Slalom Committee, are to be used at all Ranking Competitions ~~except Division 4. Bibs are not supplied for use at Novice events.~~

3.8.3 Organisers may supply bibs at Novice Division 4 events. Where bibs are not supplied, start numbers must be put on the front and back deck of the athlete’s boat.

...

5.1.2 ~~Division 4 Competitions Novice Events - Single division events, open to novices and other Division athletes. Open to paddlers not previously, or currently ranked in that category.~~ May be free-standing or combined with Division 3, Division 2/3 events and open events.

...



- 6.1.3 Late entries made after the closing deadline will only be accepted:
- at the discretion of the Organiser and,
 - where there is space on the published timetable and the entry limit has not been reached.
- A late entry fee is payable, unless the athlete has been promoted after the closing deadline. The organising club retains the extra charge in each case and may waive the charge at their sole discretion. There is no late entry charge for ~~Division 4~~ **Novice** events. The late entry fees are linked to inflation as in Rule 6.2.4.
- ...
- 6.1.6.b Current bib number MUST be quoted, if known. If this is not known, then EITHER details of the slalom where promoted to the current division, OR details of entitlement to compete at the event concerned (e.g. the granting of ranking status - state RSC and enclose copy of letter giving status). ~~Division 4~~ **Novice** athletes do not complete this section.
- ...
- 6.4.1.d ~~Newcomers to slalom, and any who have not been promoted from Division 4 and compete in Division 4 events, are not ranked until promoted to Division 3 or ranked into a division by the Ranking Status Officer in accordance with rule 6.4.2. Those paddling in Novice events are not ranked.~~
- ...
- 6.4.4 New athletes
- ~~6.4.4.a New individual athletes must compete in Division 4. Those of proven ability may apply for Ranking Status giving full supporting evidence why they should not have to begin in Division 4.~~
- 6.4.4.a New individual athletes may compete at Novice levels until the athlete (or coach) feels they are ready to be ranked. They can then apply directly to the ranking officer to be ranked in division 3 or above as appropriate for their paddling ability.
- ...
- 6.6.3 All Divisions ~~(except Division 4)~~
- ...
- ~~6.8.1 Promotion from Quorate Division 4 competitions (See Rule 1.7)~~
- ~~6.8.1.a Promotion is achieved as follows:~~
- ~~All Quorate Events: 1 in 5 (or part thereof).~~
 - ~~If in WC1 they would have been promoted in either the WK1 or MK1 event.~~
 - ~~In quorate events, if their score would have gained promotion when compared to another quorate event.~~
 - ~~In all cases if their score is better than that of an athlete awarded more than 100 points in the corresponding division 3 event.~~
- ~~6.8.1.b In all cases where two, or more, athletes are tied on best run scores for the last promotion place from Division 4 then all such athletes are promoted.~~
- ~~6.8.2 Promotion in all other Divisions~~
- Renumbering the following rules.*
- 6.8.3 End of season results
- Ranking positions are calculated using the best five results. In the event of a tie, refer to Rules 2.7 (championship tie break) or 10.18 (ranking tie break). ~~Division 4 athletes are not ranked.~~
- ...
- 9.4.1 * The course for ranking events ~~above division 4~~ **(not Novice events)** must consist of a minimum of 18 gates and a maximum of 25 gates, of which six (6) or eight (8) must be upstream gates.
- 9.4.1.a UK At ~~division 4~~ **Novice events** the course must consist of a minimum of 12 gates and a maximum of 25 gates, of which 4, 6 or 8 must be upstream gates.
- ...
- 11.2.5 UK Protest form deposit
- 11.2.5.a UK The Chief Judge or Enquiry Desk will accept a protest from upon receipt of a deposit. The deposit is returned if the protest is upheld. If the protest is not upheld, or the protest is withdrawn, it shall be donated to a pre-designated charity (not to be the club itself) of the Organiser's choosing. The amount of the donation shall be recorded on the summary sheets sent to the Slalom Treasurer pursuant to rule 19.7.9.
- At Selection, and Premier events the protest fee is £10.
 - At Division 1 and 2 events the protest fee is £5
 - At Division 3 events the protest fee is £3



- At ~~Division 4~~ Novice events there is no fee to register a protest.
...
- 20.1.5.d Short Notice ~~Division 4 competitions~~ Novice events may be added. Applications for such competitions to be made to the Slalom Committee in advance.
...
- ~~20.8.3 All promotees are to receive a memento, supplied by the Slalom Committee. Division 4 promotees must send the application form given to them by the Competition Organiser.~~
Renumbering the following rules.
...
- 20.8.7 Canoe athletes who have been in Division 1 (C1 or C2) are not eligible for prizes at ~~Division 4~~ Novice C2 events in a new pairing.

There was an amendment to the original motion not to rename to “Novice” but to retain the name “Division 4.” This was put to the meeting and the amendment was passed nem con.

There was an amendment to force promotion into Division 3 after winning three races. Proposed by Breakout, seconded by HPP. This was put to the meeting and the amendment was passed with 78 votes for, 5 objections, and 3 abstentions.

A further change to the motion so that the motion should also apply to paddlers who have never raced in this category was proposed by Breakout, seconded by HPP, this was adopted with 78 votes for, 5 objections, 3 abstentions.

It was also proposed that this should be trialled for a single season. This was agreed nem con.

After some debate, the substantive motion (as amended) was introduced, then put to the meeting. The motion was adopted nem con.

7 Approval of the Calendar for 2024

The meeting discussed the application of rule 20.1.8 as adopted by vote at the 2022 ACM, which limited the number of Division 1 races to 18.

Applications received to run Division 1 races in the 2024 Season exceeded this limit. The committee had prior to this ACM discussed the matter and recommended that three weekends should not proceed, comprising the Washburn weekend, the first of the two Llandysul weekends and the first of the two Grandtully weekends. This had been accepted by two organisers, but after consideration, the Grandtully race organisers appealed to the ACM to have their races reinstated and therefore another site removed from the 2024 calendar.

There was a vote to accept the committee recommendations for division for 30 votes, 33 against and 23 abstentions.

A long discussion followed and a calendar recommendation was accepted by way of a vote of all clubs present, that resulted with both Grandtully races being allowed, but the Division 1 race at Shepperton not being granted ranking status for 2024. This provides a total number of 18 races in accordance with rule 20.1.8.

The meeting agreed that a Special Consultative Meeting was to be called as soon as reasonably possible after the ACM to discuss the application of rule 20.1.8 for the 2024 season and consider whether it could be suspended.

The ACM agree that:

- (i) if the motion to suspend rule 20.1.8 is accepted at the ACM, the calendar will be approved with the inclusion of any of the three removed races, provided that their reinstatement is confirmed by the relevant Organisers within 7 days;
- (ii) if the motion to suspend rule 20.1.8 is rejected at the ACM, the calendar as approved at the ACM will be approved.

The Calendar was reviewed. Where events have not yet submitted risk assessments they will be given only until the Special Consultative meeting to submit their risk assessments.

The formal part of the ACM ended at 16:35.



8 Discussion areas for 2024

8.1 Ranking system

Topics outlined included.

- 'Super Prem': merge Prem/1 for main races but have super prem for the defined athletes it smaller with less races.
- French model
- How many divisions? 4, 3, or open entry
- Are rolling points better?
- Only end of season promotion/demotion

The intention of this was to stimulate discussion in the winter season, with the aim of understanding the future direction for four-year planning and to derive initial motions for the next ACM.

8.2 Event Format Options

Due to the time in the main meeting and the overlap with 8.1 above there was no discussion on this.