

The Slalom Calendar

1 Managing the Calendar

Traditionally the calendar has been referred to as the Managed Calendar. However, there is a limit to what can be managed because clubs, venues, the British weather and, most importantly, the availability of volunteers tend to dictate what can be run and when. So as much as we might have ideas of how the calendar could be better organised there really is a limit to what can be achieved.

In reality, management of the calendar is limited to:

- Limiting the number of Div 1s and Prem's based on the rule introduced last year.
- Helping negotiate with clubs to swap dates to avoid clashes with nearby competitions.
- Accepting or rejecting changes to the calendar after ACM approval.

2 Calendar Deadlines

- **1st May** - Prem/1 applications due – this year one Prem and one double Div 1 were late.
- **1st July** - Div 2/3/4 applications due – this year six competitions were late.
- **ACM** – Risk Assessments must be submitted in time for review before the ACM – this year we are showing clubs whose risk assessments have not yet been reviewed on the online calendar. At the time of writing, there are quite a few!
- **15th December** – Post-ACM clubs are asked for additional data which must be checked and submitted by mid-December to allow for printing, setting up the calendar on the website, and setting up competitions for entries – last year *35% were late*

3 Division 1 Races

At the 2022 ACM a new rule was passed to limit Div 1 races to 18 in any one season (and Prem to 11 races). This was partly in response to concerns that the number of div 1 races was increasing and that this was having an impact on volunteers available for running slaloms in the lower divisions, on volunteer officials' availability and on the number of competitors attending each Div 1 race.

In 2023 there were 18 Div 1 races on the calendar so this rule had no impact. This year there have been applications to run 24 Division 1 races in 2024. This meant the committee had the unenviable task of identifying races for withdrawal. It was a very difficult decision, not taken lightly, and the committee spent a long time deliberating and considering several factors including distribution and risks:

- The Washburn Double Div 1 was withdrawn at the organiser's request due to access issues.
- There were four days (2 weekends) of division 1 racing at Llandysul and the organiser was asked to withdraw two days (one weekend). This was accepted and the October race has been retained.
- There were also four days (2 weekends) of division 1 racing at Tully. The organisers were asked to withdraw the races on 6th/7th April.

The CR CATS committee declined to withdraw their races and, as provided in the rules, wish the ACM to rule on which races will be withdrawn. Additional information has been sent out to clubs and this will be discussed at the ACM.

The current distribution of Div 1s is illustrated in the map below. Note that there are currently 4 races at Grandtully, 3 at HPP and 1 at Tees Barrage. All the remaining sites currently have 2 races. Two races must be removed at the ACM.



4 Between the Seasons

You might be busy relaxing, celebrating Christmas, training for the next season, or repairing your kit from this one but there is also a lot of administrative work between the seasons, a lot of which depends on your input arriving on time.

This year I've created a chart that covers some of the key activities, dependencies and responsibilities.

