

1 Attendance

Sally Atkinson	[8/8]	Chair	Peter Curry	[8/8]	Gareth Wilson	[5/8]	Paddle UK
Matt Crowhurst	[8/8]	Vice Chair	Dee Lindesay	[8/8]	Mark Abbott	[6/8]	Wales
Dave Spencer	[8/8]	Treasurer	Helen Darby-Dowman	[6/8]	Tony Leaver	[3/8]	Scotland
Les Ford	[8/8]	Secretary	Karen Crowhurst	[7/8]			
			Richard Sterry	[6/8]			
			Mikey Brown	[7/8]			

1.1 Apologies

Alison Longhurst [3/8] England
Zac Allin [3/8] Paddler Rep

2 Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

2.1 Kayak Cross Levies

No further update. It is tricky to put a policy together as generally, except for selection, Kayak Cross is happening as part of existing events.

2.2 Summer Paddling Successes

The committee extended its congratulations to all the athletes that have been successful at World and European events at senior, U23 and junior levels over the summer.

2.3 Minimum Age for Ranking Status

Following requests to rank quite young paddlers there has been discussion about, and information shared with regards to whether there should be a minimum age for paddlers to enter the ranking system in slalom. There are concerns regarding the long-term impact of competing at a young age on the paddler, and liabilities from allowing young children to compete. Equally there are concerns that an age limit would impact on recruitment and could go against long term paddler development & slalom What it takes to Progress (WITTP) models. Further information will be collated for consideration and discussion. **Action: KC**

2.4 Bib Officer Guidance re Named Club

Following a complaint further guidance is to be given to all bib officers clarifying that requests to change or add a second club to a paddler on the ranking database can only be done if these come from the paddler or their parent. **Action: KC**

3 Calendar Updates

3.1 2025 updates

Pinkston J16 & Vet Championship – requested to run the C2 element of the championships on Sunday. This has no impact on the event, so has been agreed.

Scottish Championship – request to add this to the calendar on 1st November. This was agreed if the event is approved by Paddle Scotland.

3.2 2026 calendar

Various options to resolve clashes in the P/1 calendar, the implications for other events were discussed and options agreed in order of preference. Additionally, a number of queries with other events on the draft calendar were discussed. DL will follow these up with organising clubs and was thanked for her work on trying to resolve the calendar issues. **Action: DL**

The British J16 & Vet Championships should be hosted in Wales in 2026. The Paddle Cymru Slalom Committee will confirm a venue and date. **Action MA**

3.3 International Races

ICF Ranking races - 2025 races are going ahead at Lee Valley in October. This will now be Prem & ICF race on Sat and ICF race only on Sun, with no kayak cross. Paddle UK are looking to apply for ICF ranking races at Lee Valley in October 2026 alongside a Prem race.

Paddle UK are waiting to hear whether a bid for an ICF World Cup race in 2027 has been successful.

There has been initial discussions about being able to host ECA Junior Cup race(s) in the UK. To maximise uptake for European juniors this would ideally be 2 ECA races on consecutive weekends. This may be difficult to achieve in 2026 but should be considered for other years. Discussions are taking place to understand the process for applying/securing ECA junior cup races and the requirements for hosting these races. **Action SA & MA**

4 Future of Slalom Consultation

4.1 Progress Report

A draft motion has been prepared evolving the proposal based on the feedback received in the consultations. It is intended to publish this as soon as possible to enable discussion and engagement with the whole community well ahead of the ACM Agenda being published in November.

It was agreed that in presenting the proposed new structure it is clear that it will only come in (for the 2027 season onwards) if there is support for it at the ACM.

The draft motion and explainer videos will be shared via the slalom website and social media as soon as possible. **Action: LF to publish.**

We also need to ensure we fully engage key contacts and stakeholders ahead of the ACM, suggestions included:

- Emails to club contacts, coaches, other key stakeholders inviting them to look at the proposals.
- Look at Q&A Webinars in late Sept/early Oct. This could include sessions for specific stakeholder groups.
- Tailored information, summaries and clear details of benefits and drawbacks in addition to the full Draft motion

Action: GW to liaise with LF, HDD, RS and RM around getting information out and webinars

Action: All to contribute names/contacts that should be emailed

5 Strategy Development

5.1 Recruitment and Growing the Sport (RS)

This has been focussed on gathering information on what makes great events and how we can grow things in the community, with examples of what is working being compiled. The next steps will be looking to share details and start to get information out for next year. RS to provide a summary. **Action: RS**

5.2 Retention working group

A draft proposal had been circulated for White water camps to provide a programme of coached training opportunities for those outside the squads. The aim being that high quality training opportunities will bring paddlers together as a community and aid the retention of those outside programmes in the sport. This is likely to need some element of underwriting. It was agreed to support in principle although the costs need refining and confirming before support can be confirmed (and where from) and information published. It was also suggested this could at some point be made available across the home nations running at additional venues in Wales/Scotland.

There was also discussion of creating a Coach directory to help paddlers find appropriate coaching and groups to train with.

5.3 Vision and 4-year Strategic Plan (RS/DS)

This is likely to follow out of both the work on recruitment and growing the sport and the direction taken following the future of the sport proposals.

6 Updates

6.1 Home Nation Updates

No update

6.2 Paddler Rep Update

No update

7 Any Other Business

7.1 Funding Application to PUK for Selection

The committee are applying to Paddle UK for funding to cover the costs associated with running our Selection events (main costs to committee are additional judging expenses, water time for KX and video judging). This would be held if the committee accounts ring fenced to Selection.

7.2 Support for BUCS Slalom Championships

It was agreed to continue to offer the same level of support to the event and for CW to continue the coordination with BUCS. It was highlighted that we also need to consider succession planning for this event. **Action LF**

7.3 ITO Expenses Policy (DS – draft to be sent)

An updated draft policy to address the costs of supporting officials given reducing income from race levies. Discussion focused on the total cost of expenses to the committee given diminishing incomes and other calls on our funds, and the impact of the changes on volunteer's ability to attend events due to increased cost to them. DS and MC to revisit the policy to propose a compromise position.

Action DS & MC

It was also agreed that we need to consider and put a limit on the number of UK officials that are being selected for events by the ICF where expenses fall to the committee. MC to raise with ICF.

Action MC.

Also need to consider number of official that we are supporting - linked into the ongoing conversation with Paddle UK about supporting officials.

7.4 Entries System (DL)

7.4.1 Cardiff Fraud-Report update

Issues regarding misnaming entries to the Cardiff Prem were limited to Monzo back cards. The case has been won and determined that it was not our fault, however it has cost £20 to take and win the case.

7.4.2 Access to Paddle UK data (info only)

DL has asked PUK for membership data access directly as the British Open needs dates of birth details.

7.5 Parental Behaviour at events

Roll over to next meeting

7.6 Future meeting dates (see below)

- Tues 23rd Sept (virtual)
- Sat 8th November (face to face) - prior to the ACM
- **Sat 29th November – ACM**
- *Sun 30th November – Paddle UK Slalom Coaching Conference*
- Tues 2nd Dec - after the ACM