

1 Attendance

Sally Atkinson (Chair)	Peter Curry	Alison Longhurst (England)
Matt Crowhurst (Vice Chair)	Dee Lindesay	Mark Abbott (Wales)
Les Ford (Secretary)	Helen Darby-Dowman	Gareth Wilson (Paddle UK)
	Karen Crowhurst	
	Richard Sterry	

1.1 Apologies

Dave Spencer (Treasurer)	Mikey Brown	Tony Leaver (Scotland)
		Zac Allin (Paddler Rep)

2 Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

2.1 Minimum Age for Ranking Status

Further to previous discussions it was confirmed that we are not taking forward a new rule to put a minimum age of entering the ranking. This has raised some issues around young children participating and some information will be published to raise awareness and inform the community around these issues. **Action: LF**

2.2 Future Structure of Slalom Update

An updated Core Motion, Supplementary Motions and new documents regarding points and rankings have been published. A big thank you to the group for all their hard work on the proposals

It was recognised that there was a lot of information being presented, and to help make the information easier to access the following actions were required:

- Amend wording on the website and make the published folder easier to navigate. **Action: LF**
- A summary document will be produced. **Action: GW**
- A Q&A drop in session will be arranged before the ACM. **Action: Working Group**

2.3 Priority Entry Deadlines / Waiting Lists

There has been correspondence regarding the way entries to a race had been taken from the waiting list. As previously reported a correction of the rules has been issued and a motion is to be taken to the ACM to add clarity on the procedure for accepting entries when places become available at events that have become full. **Action: LF**

2.4 Disciplinary Update

It was noted that a disciplinary case has been completed and an athlete suspended from the programme and competitions.

3 ACM Preparations

3.1 Meeting Arrangements

Arrangements are in hand and meeting information and the Agenda will be published in the coming week. **Action: LF**

3.2 Elections / Committee Vacancies

Various nominations have been made and will be published in the ACM Agenda.

Paddler Representative: It was agreed that ideally this role would consult with paddlers and represents a range of paddlers views at committee. This will be discussed with the person interested in the role. **Action: LF**

There was discussion about the size of the committee and roles. It was highlighted that Paddle UK are looking at Terms of Reference across disciplines and this may in the longer-term impact on committee roles and size

3.3 Strategic Priorities for 2026

It was agreed that this needed further discussion ahead of, and at the next committee meeting.

3.4 Motions

Committee and other motions were discussed and the Agenda will be finalised for publication.

Action: LF

3.5 Terms of Reference Update

Minor amendments were agreed, and an ACM motion will take this forward. Changes to the Terms of Reference require a 2/3 majority at the ACM and subsequent PUK Board approval. **Action: LF**

3.6 2026 Managed Calendar & Safety Plans

A query regarding the format of one event was highlighted and will be followed up with the organiser. **Action: GW**

All organisers are being reminded that Safety Plans for 2026 events must be submitted for approval prior to the ACM. It was confirmed that the planned Llandysul Kayak Cross event would require a safety plan. **Action: RS**

3.7 Discussion items

These were agreed and will be taken forward.

4 Annual Trophies

4.1 Trophy Coordinator Role

Fi Pennie is stepping down from this role so a new volunteer is needed, although it could be split across a couple of volunteers. Interested volunteers should contact the Secretary.

4.2 Trophy Repurposing

There are a number of gaps in our trophies. FP has suggested a few trophies that could be repurposed. It was suggested that we look at the cost of some new trophies to fill the gaps. **Action: LF/FP**

5 Strategy Development

5.1 Strategic Priorities for 2026

GW outlined some ideas on our purpose and strategic vision and priorities that will be developed at the meeting after the ACM

5.2 Recruitment and Growing the Sport

No further update.

5.3 Retention

WW camps have started and are successfully attracting paddlers outside programmes, so these are making a valuable contribution to retention of paddlers. There are some issues with getting coaches to commit. Further work is needed to look at how we invest in and grow the programme.

5.4 Succession Planning

A document of key roles and systems has been circulated for contributions. Further work needs to be put into this at future meetings.

6 Updates

6.1 Working Group Updates

Lower divisions group met at Tees to discuss issues with how people are entering the ranking system.

6.2 Home Nation Updates

England – recent actions include a few clubs being supported through recent funding round, looking to map where activity is happening through funded projects, slalom start, and funding coaches. England Committee would like to be able to post on to the committee's social media.

Action: LF

Wales – currently looking to invest in Kayak Cross equipment, Paddle Cymru aiming to start sessions for those that are not on programme to access coaching and ww sessions where there are spare places available.

Scotland – no update.

6.3 Paddler Rep Update

No update

6.4 Paddle UK Programme Update

Currently looking at how they can create a high-performance community for those who are just outside the squads giving access to LV water and gym.

7 Any Other Business

7.1 Funding Application to PUK for Selection

This had been submitted to Paddle UK

7.2 Slalom Disciplinary Regulations

PUK have updated their template regulations and are asking each discipline to adopt these. A few possible issues were highlighted in the proposed regulations which will be put back to PUK for clarification or amendment. **Action: LF**

7.3 Safety Update

A paddler death (non-slalom) from e coli possibly linked to river pollution was reported. The Environment Agency are looking to the whole issue of river pollution which may impact on water sports in the future. The best mitigation for paddlers is washing hands and face after paddling to reduce bacteria risk. We also need to continue to raise awareness around Weils disease and that the biggest risk is people not wearing shoes on the riverside and when paddling. **Action: LF/PC**

7.4 Discipline Chairs Meeting Update

There was a conversation about liability for volunteers, with the meeting assured that PUK are there to support volunteer through the processes that are being put in place for events.

James Hives is now PUK's Disciplines lead, and Steve Lindsey is the new Events & Competition lead. PUK stressed that they are listening to feedback from disciplines.

Trans Gender policy: – this is being revised and will restrict the female category to those female at birth.

7.5 Volunteer Survey

This has been launched, and all volunteers are encouraged to complete it to give their views. The survey and the link to complete it are being promoted widely through the slalom website and social media.

7.6 Future meeting dates (see below)

- **Sat 29th November – ACM**
- *Sun 30th November – Paddle UK Slalom Coaching Conference*
- **Post ACM meeting** – it was agreed that a face-to-face meeting was best, but not the day after the ACM. A poll to find the best date will be circulated. **Action: GW**

Proposed schedule of dates for the coming year:

- Sat 6th Dec or Sat 13th Dec – (face-to-face) *Date tbc*
- w/c 19th Jan (online)
- 14th Mar (face-to-face)
- w/c 18th May (online)
- 18th July (face-to-face) or w/c 13th July (online) – *tbc*
- w/c 14th Sept (online)
- 7th Nov (face- to-face) - prior to the ACM
- **28th November - Slalom ACM**
- Wed 4 Dec - after the ACM