



## 1. Attendance

### 1.1 Present

|                              |                       |                               |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Andy Grudzinski [5/6] Chair  | Karen Crowhurst [6/6] | Mark Abbott [5/6] Wales       |
| Dave Spencer [6/6] Treasurer | Donna Hawkins [5/6]   | Gareth Wilson [5/6] Paddle UK |
| Les Ford [6/6] Secretary     | Mike Mitchell [4/6]   |                               |
|                              | Peter Curry [5/6]     |                               |
|                              | Mark Haylett [5/6]    |                               |
|                              | Dee Lindesay [5/6]    |                               |

### 1.2 Apologies

|                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sally Atkinson [4/6] Vice Chair | Vacant [3/6] Scotland          |
|                                 | Zac Allin [3/6] Athlete Rep    |
|                                 | Alison Longhurst [3/6] England |
|                                 | Matt Crowhurst [5/6]           |

## 2. Committee Communication

Recent communication around a working group was reviewed by the committee, and with reflection it was agreed to learn lessons for the future.

## 3. Participation Survey and Strategy Development

The initial report by TASS was circulated in advance of the meeting to enable and shape a discussion on the future of the sport and begin to develop a strategy. Thanks were extended to GW, TASS (& their researcher), those involved in shaping the survey, and to all those who took the time to engage and respond to the survey and participate in the focus groups. TASS noted that the response rate far exceeded any they had seen in similar projects in other sports, providing robust data.

A final report is to be prepared and published by the end of August. This will then start a process of engaging with the slalom community via online webinar(s) to gather feedback and to progress discussions.

A wide-ranging discussion looked at the various issues raised in the report and possible solutions that could enable the sport to address many of these and move forward. This has been captured and will be circulated around the committee for further consideration and feedback. **Action: GW.**

These discussion and feedback will be drawn into some more firm proposals on the future shape of the sport for circulation to and to gain feedback from the wider slalom community.

## 4. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.



## 4.1 Kayak Cross Update

Discussions are ongoing to draw together learning from those that have run various forms of Kayak Cross. Proposals for different formats of this event were also considered and will be developed further for circulation and to elicit feedback with the hope of encouraging more events to offer this in 2025.

## 4.2 ITO Expenses

The policy has been rewritten to be clear that there is support for ITO attendance at level 1 & 2 events. This has been circulated to all ITO's.

## 5. Calendar Updates

### 5.1 2024 Calendar

A request has been made to make September's Graveyard race into a Prem/1 race. This would not add another weekend for volunteers as it was already a Prem race. The rules allow Prem & Div 1 competitions to be added where a race has been cancelled, and we have lost 4 races at Grandtully this season. After discussion and a vote this was agreed (with 2 abstentions). **Action MA & DL.**

A request from Seren Dwr to run an evening Div 4 on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Sept. was approved

### 5.2 2025 Draft Calendar

Further discussion was held on proposals to reduce the number of Prem/1 races on the calendar. We need to better understand the implications for all affected organising clubs before a final calendar can be taken to the ACM. A follow up email will be sent to clarify the current position and requesting feedback from these organisers. **Action: AG.**

2025 Interclubs – there are discussions ongoing about the date and venue for the 2025 event.

The online draft calendar for 2025 is closed as application should have been submitted by the start of July. Matlock CC will be asking to make their event into Div 2/3, while Bradford & Bingley want to add a Div 3/4 race. Its thought there are a few other races that have not submitted their applications.

**Action: Any further applications should be emailed DL.**

## 6. Potential ACM Motions

We already have several ideas circulating for possible motions to the ACM, which need to be considered and motions developed if these are to be taken forward.

It was felt that some of these ideas are best picked up in the discussion and development of strategy for the sport. These can be considered closer to the ACM as the strategic direction of the sport and any proposals for the future of the sport become clearer.

The following potential motions were discussed, and actions agreed:

### 6.1 Division 4 Promotion

This change was a trial for 2024. After discussion it was agreed that this should be retained (no action required as it is already in the rules).

### 6.2 Multiclass Discount Trial

This change was a trial for 2024. After discussion it was agreed that there is currently very little evidence of this increasing participation, therefore this should not be continued and a motion to remove this should be drafted. **Action: LF.**

This could be reconsidered prior to the ACM if there is more evidence of a positive impact during the season.



## 6.3 Course Requirements - Modifications in Exceptional Circumstances

There have been occasions where river levels make it difficult to construct a course that meets the course requirements in the rules (e.g. high water meaning not enough eddies for the correct number of upstream gates). It has been suggested a rule be added to allow variations in exceptional circumstances. After consideration, it was felt that where there are exceptional circumstances on the day it is within the remit of the Chief Judge to approve a course that doesn't meet the full course requirements. Therefore, it is not intended to bring a motion to the ACM.

## 6.4 Course Changes at Double Events

There have been comments regarding limited number of changes between the courses on Saturday and Sunday at recent events, and a suggestion that a rule be added for a minimum number of course changes. There has never been a rule requiring a set number of changes between days (there was previously between qualification and semifinals/finals, but that no longer exists).

It could be quite difficult to word a rule to define what constitutes a course change. Additionally, it was felt that it is within remit of Chief Judge to ask for more changes when approving the course if the second day's course is too similar to the first day's course. Therefore, it is not intended to bring a motion to the ACM.

Organisers, course designers and Chief Judges are recommended to discuss planned course changes for the second day ahead of changes being made to ensure courses will be sufficiently different.

**Action: LF**

## 6.5 Kayak Cross

There is a discrepancy between the ICF and UK rules that needs to be resolved. LF will compare these and identify these ahead of the ACM. However, it is also likely that ICF rules will be changed requiring UK rules to be updated for 2025. **Action: LF**

## 6.6 Rules Tidy Ups

Several minor errors and anomalies have crept into the UK rules from changes made at previous ACMs. LF is compiling these and will prepare a single motion to correct these. **Action: LF**

## 6.7 ICF Rule Changes

As we enter a new Olympic cycle there are likely to be some rule changes from the ICF that will need to be incorporated into the UK rules. These may not be fully agreed to meet the timeline for the ACM. Usual practice is to have a motion authorising the Secretary to incorporate changes into the UK rules once confirmed by the ICF. **Action: LF**

## 7. Judging Update

A number of things have been put into place over the recent weeks within the judging community in response to feedback from races this season. Below is a summary of things that have been put into place:

- A centralised judged meeting script has been put in place for Prem and Division 1 races, it is being explored how this could be used at lower division races as well. It is recognised that many clubs/organisers/judges have their own notes that they have built up through their years of experience and this is not designed to undermine these.
- Gaz Wilson undertook the role of a 'critical friend' at the recent HPP Prem/Division 1 race to provide feedback on the way we work as a collective and where improvements could be made moving forward, many of which have been or are in the process of being enacted. A massive thankyou to the volunteer team for facilitating this process.



- Chief Judges have been reminded about the posting of protests etiquette ensuring all paddlers know where they are being posted and that they are written up accurately.
- We are in the closing stages of collating a PowerPoint that is hoped to be rolled out in the second half of the year providing a clear explanation of the rules with photographic and/or video examples to provide a 'real life' element to the rules.
- There is ongoing development of a video judging education programme to help upskill judges and for use of a training facility.

Finally, it is worth remembering that all the judges and timing officials are volunteers and give a lot of their valuable time to the sport, and a lot of this is often unseen as a lot of work takes place in between races or, in the evening of races.

The committee thanked MC & SA for their work.

## 8. Home Nations Updates

### 8.1 Scotland

Grandtully - All works on the site are complete and the campsite is back open. The lease has been signed. Meetings between SCA and club chairs are ongoing to try to move forward towards reinstating training and racing at the site.

### 8.2 Wales

Funding is supporting work to refurbish the gates at Bala Mill. Several diseased trees need to be removed, so they are currently looking at options for stringing gates where these are being removed. A grant has also been awarded to Mold CC.

Sid Sinfield is now in post as Performance Manager, so there may be changes the performance programme in the future.

### 8.3 England

The slalom club support scheme for 2024/25 has now been launched with the ECSC supporting the England Talent Programme by adding £5000 raised from race levies, to create a combined fund of £15,000. The criteria for the funding have been tweaked to put more emphasis on encouraging young people into the sport and focusing on clubs, coaching and volunteers. Clubs can now apply for up to £2000 in a year.

We are also supporting several English athletes with funding for international events alongside paddlers working towards their slalom coaching award.

We would like to see more recognition and support of volunteers. Ideas suggested including also giving out volunteer awards at events like the Awards Evening so there is a greater visibility of gratitude to the volunteers. Perhaps looking at how the PUK awards could recognise event volunteers more. Free tickets to big events. Also ensuring volunteers aren't out of pocket. This really needs to be considered at a national level and not just in England.

The majority of the recent meeting looked at the lower division calendar as it stood in mid-June. Geographical distribution and the balance between the months were looked at. We are aware there are a number of factors that affect when a slalom can run at a given site, but we don't actually understand what those specific factors are for each site. Plans were made to collect this detail. Other considerations that we felt need to be looked at included:

- There is a shortage of division 3 & 4 races between April and September, therefore making recruitment harder through the summer.
- Create a clear calendar strategy (maybe for 2026?) with clear intentions and principles to aid decision making in the future.



- 'RAG' rate sites for annual availability to see where races can be run across the country.
- Encourage nations to organise some Div 2 races to clash so that they discourage people from long distances at this level.

The committee noted that it is pleased to see that the England committee is operating well again and thanked all those involved.

## 9. International Panel Representative

DS Dave's term as the Committee's representative on the IP is due to expire in the autumn and he has served the maximum 2 terms allowed. We need to propose a suitable replacement before September so they can be fully involved in the selection process for 2025-2028, The committee thanked DS for his contribution to the panel over the last 8 years.

**Action: AG to discuss with potential candidates.**

## 10. Any Other Business

### 10.1 Interclubs Update

Entries being run through the entries website system with fees coming to the slalom committee, and expenditure will also come through the committee **Action: DS & DH**

Bibs need to be sourced for the event. There are various sets in store at Lee Valley that could be used.

**Action: DH & GW**

### 10.2 Awards Evening Update

The working group are now finalising details for the event on the Saturday evening of the Lee Valley Prem in October. It is expected that tickets will be put on sales via Paddle UK in the first half of August.

### 10.3 Facebook pages

It was noted that while popular, the Canoe Slalom Training & Events facebook group is not an official committee or Paddle UK facebook channels.

We are looking to launch committee social media channels. **Action: LF & AG**

### 10.4 Standards of Deployment

Committee members were reminded that they need to have completed the required Safeguarding eLearning by the end of December. Details to be recirculated by LF. **Action: ALL**

It was mentioned that there is a code to access the Risk Management and risk Assessment e- e-learning code. LF to check that this is only required for the committee's safety officer. This will be required for organisers and event safety officers in the future as Standards of Deployment are rolled out, and clubs will be being made aware of this as those requirements begin to be introduced. **Action: LF**

### 10.5 Archives

DL has some digital archive material from Nick Penfold which will be shared with LF. **Action: DL**

### 10.6 Paddle UK Website content

Following a meeting, DL has created an automated feed from the entries website to enable events to be uploaded to the Paddle UK website events page. This is waiting on paddle UK to implement at their end. These will link back to the entries website for people wanting to enter races.



## Paddle UK Slalom Committee

Saturday 20th July 2024

Paddle UK HQ, Nottingham



The Paddle UK website will also have basic information on each discipline. LF is working with the Paddle UK team on slalom content with the intention of this being online before the Olympics.

**Action: LF**

### 10.7 ICF Calendar 2025

Communication has been received regarding ICF ranking races in 2025. **Action: AG**

### 10.8 Future Meeting Dates

Additional online meeting will be arranged for late August. LF to seek members availability and arrange the best date. **Action: LF**

- **Tuesday 27th August, 7:30pm - virtual (additional meeting re calendar)**
- Wednesday 18th September, 7:30pm - virtual
- Saturday 9th November, 10am - Paddle UK HQ
- **Saturday 30th November ACM**
- *Sunday 1st Dec – Slalom Coaching Conference (tbc)*
- Post ACM meeting tbc - Sunday 1st December or Wednesday 4th December