

Competition Management 2018

2018 has seen a continuing number of challenges in terms of financing particularly sites with significant water fees, lack of water and cancellation of races.

Extremes of weather continue to be an issue across the UK from the Beast from the East to prolonged periods with no precipitation.

Safety has continued to be planned for and no races have been cancelled for lack of safety / risk management plans.

We have seen two hospitalisations from races reported late in the season.

One with a dislocated shoulder (a repeat dislocation). Paddlers and organisers are reminded that provision for and use of adequate warm up capacity should be used to try and mitigate this known risk of paddling. This may be particularly important at races early and late in the season when it is cold and paddlers are potentially delayed on the start line.

We also had a hospitalisation for burns from bailer twine. I am not aware that this is common problem, certainly not as bad as was reported. It would therefore be prudent to suggest that all should give consideration to the use of appropriate gloves when handling race construction / alteration or take down.

At the time of writing initial plans have been provided for racing in 2019 for:

- Aberfeldy
- Dart
- Fairnilee
- Grandtully
- Nene
- Shepperton
- Symonds Yat
- Tees Barrage
- Washburn

To be properly compliant all plans should be in place before the ACM and the ACM will have to give thought to the lack of plans before approving the calendar. Plans from previous years may be “reused” however it is important that they are actually reviewed and updated. Plans are both site and date specific as issues are different at different locations and weather issues are different at different at different times of the year e.g. you are unlikely to get sunburnt at Tully in early March. Plans should therefore include both the location that they cover and the date of the relevant race. There is no such thing as a standard plan but help is available if required. BC does not require any particular format and is cognisant that many site owners do have standard formats that they require, these will be acceptable.

Could I remind organisers that the Slalom Committee expects that when deciding an entry fee it will be planned to be adequate to cover the cost of racing and that they should not plan to have support from the slalom committee. If there are unusual circumstances that could not be foreseen then obviously it is still possible to apply to the slalom committee for assistance and this should be done as soon as possible and not wait until after the event. Help is available if required in planning a budget for racing.

Lastly the committee should always be made aware of any significant injuries or issues requiring hospitalisation of paddlers, volunteers or spectators. These do not need to identify the individual but should include where appropriate the outcome and any thoughts as to future mitigation.

Peter Curry
19th November 2018