



# **NATIONAL SPRINT REGATTAS**

**Sprint Racing Annual Consultative Meeting.**

**17<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

## **Regatta Committee 2020 Report**

Well, what a year!

We are so sorry that the 2020 racing season was cancelled in its entirety due to the impact of COVID-19. Despite our best efforts, the combination of many factors, not least with the HPP centre being closed for most of the season with most of their staff being on furlough, it ended up being impossible for any of the events to take place. Fortunately, we didn't incur any contracted cancellation fees.

Having cancelled the September Regatta, we had hoped to run a late season event. Despite initially received strong interest from the racing community, the combination of insufficient projected entries and not having enough experienced regatta officials to run the event, meant that it just wasn't viable to go ahead.

We have, however, had the opportunity to do some detailed planning around running COVID-aware regattas. This was based around British Canoeing's detailed guide for organising events considering COVID-19. This planning puts us in a good position for the 2021 season.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank several people for their significant input and support throughout the season in preparing for events in the hope that they could be run.

- Cathy Wynne, John Hoile, Wendy Dodson, Louise Clive, and Paul Edwardes on the Regatta Committee
- Rich Stacey-Chapman, Gemma Wiggs, Andy Maddocks, and Anna Gray from British Canoeing for their significant input, guidance, and help
- Ann Hoile and Martin Hook as Regatta Officials and all the Officials who volunteered their time for the cancelled events and took part in the early season training day
- Alan Laws and the SRC for their support and guidance
- John Ball from Hudson and Ball
- Jack Garner and Kay Tuck from Serco

### **Actions following 2019 ACM**

Several items raised at the 2019 ACM were passed to the Regatta Committee for review.

#### *Introduction of 200m K1 races for Lightning and Under 12's*

The Regatta Committee was asked to consider 200m rather than 500m races for the under 12's.

The Regatta Committee considered the implications of this request. The Committee proposed that we can alternate between the 200m and 500m races in the April, June, July, and September regattas in 2020.

This would allow Lightning paddlers to trial racing over 200m but also allow them to have a chance to be promoted at both the June and September regattas.

The proposal was approved by the SRC for implementation in 2020 and was included in the Racing Schedules. The same approach will be adopted for the 2021 season.

#### *To change the qualifying times for Women's Masters B*

The Regatta Committee was asked to consider if it was possible to align the Women's Masters B standard time to be the same as Girls D, similar to the Men's Masters D being in the same band as Boys D.

In 2019, the Standards for Sprint Racing included two Women Masters classes, Women Masters A (MVAK) and Women Masters B (MVBK). The ACM request to adjust the MVBK minimum standard time to be the same as Girls D (GDK) was discussed by the Regatta Committee. During the discussion on this 'band adjustment' the issue extended to include a general dissatisfaction that there are only the two Women Masters classes. A further request was received to add two additional classes to the Standards for Sprint Racing, Women Masters C (MVCK) and Women Masters D (MVDK). This would mirror what is already in place for Men Masters and encourage more Women Masters paddlers to enter National Competitions. Women Masters paddlers with current MVAK and MVBK classes were regraded. Existing MVAK classes were regraded to MVBK, and existing MVBK classes were regraded to MVDK. Women Masters A and B would move to Bands 3 and 4 respectively, and Women Masters C and D would be added to Bands 5 and 6 respectively. The combination of these two changes addressed in full the original request.

This proposal was approved by the SRC for implementation in 2020. It has subsequently been reconfirmed by the SRC for implementation in 2021.

#### *To publish an explanation for the promotions system*

The Regatta Committee was asked to include an explanation of how promotions are calculated at the National Regattas for inclusion in the 2020 Handbook. This explanation was included on Page D3 of the 2020 Handbook.

### **Other changes implemented for the 2020 racing season**

#### *Adjustment in the Standard for Racing for Women and Girls*

During the 2017 ACM, a group of female paddlers requested that the SRC use a separate table for Women's and Girl's racing standards from the Men's and Boys' table when determining ability classes and promotions and demotions. This request reflected the difference in times averaged over a suitable time period (currently 13%). An adjusted separate table was trialled during the 2019 regatta season. It didn't create any increase in workload for the promotions team. Whilst not having any impact on selections, its adoption would improve moral and motivation and allow more Women and Girls to progress to the A classes than previously. It would also lower the entry requirement for each class by approximately 3 seconds.

As a result, and with SRC approval, for the 2020 season, as a trial to be reviewed at the end of the season. We separated out the Men's and Boys' Standards for Sprint Racing from the Women's and Girls' equivalent and implemented revised times for Women and Girls.

This proposal trial is still valid for 2021 as we have no additional data from the 2020 season to work with. The SRC has re-confirmed this trial for the 2021 season.

#### *Introduction of BIK/GIK intermediate classes*

We introduced U12 500m races in the 2018 season. These allow junior paddlers to race in any sprint K1 boat, where these paddlers have not yet achieved times that allow them to be promoted in the D classes. These classes were also introduced to provide a transition between the Lightning and D classes.

The Regatta Committee recommended that we replace the existing BU12 and GU12 Classes with two new classes, Boys Intermediate Kayak (BIK) and Girls Intermediate Kayak (GIK). These would allow any U14 paddler who has not yet achieved the minimum time for D class events to race in sprint K1 boats at the National Regattas. Like the U12 Classes, the BIK and GIK classes are designed to provide a transition for our younger paddlers. The new classes would support U12 paddlers who are already racing sprint K1s, U14 paddlers who are too old for Lightning events, and new U14 paddlers who have never paddled Lightnings. We wanted to avoid demotivating young paddlers and any associated drop-outs during this transitional period. Paddlers need to meet revised 500m minimum times of 2:46 for Boys and 2:59 for Girls. The minimum time is currently 3:30, which is the same time that needs to be achieved for Lightning A. The BIK and GIK classes would race over 500m. Events would be run at the June, July, and September regattas.

This proposal was approved by the SRC for the 2020 season. It is still valid for 2021 and has been re-approved by the SRC.

#### *New Plastex K4*

The Performance Department generously donated a previously used 'new' K4 to add to the SRC stock for use at the Regattas.

#### **2021 events**

Planning for the 2021 season is already well underway. The dates are as follows:

- 17-18 April. This regatta will have a 3-week entry deadline, instead of the normal 2-weeks, as the cut-off date coincides with the DW weekend.
- 5-6 June
- 10-11 July
- 4-5 September

Phil Caisley on behalf of the Regatta Committee