



Executive Committee meeting

7 September 2026: summary notes

Key points discussed

Water safety

- The draft Water Safety Policy was reviewed by an external expert in governance and health and safety, with particular consideration given to its purpose, scope and the distinction between mandatory policy and guidance. It was agreed that further work is needed before the document is released.
- The importance of appropriate training and assessment for coaches and helms was discussed, with further communication to clubs planned.

National Championships

- Entries for the National Championships are coming in, with further communication planned to encourage clubs to complete their registrations.
- The proposal for livestreaming the event was approved. Dragon Scores will be incorporated into the livestream, which will be available through the BDA YouTube channel, with additional content produced for social media.

International matters

- An update was received from the recent IDBF Congress in Taiwan. New competition regulations and the introduction of Senior D were approved.
- Other proposals, including weighted voting and membership arrangements, were not discussed before the meeting was adjourned. An Extraordinary Congress is expected in February.

BDA 40th anniversary

- Planning for the BDA's 40th anniversary celebration is continuing, including the running order, table plan, menu, accommodation and arrangements for ordering drinks.
- Sponsorship packages have been prepared and options for anniversary T-shirts are being explored.

GB

- The BCP coaching position is now vacant and has been advertised.
- Meetings with Junior paddlers and parents have been completed, with individual follow-up letters to be sent to the Juniors.
- SEND training will be provided for key members of the GB Junior coaching team, funded by the BDA.

Club support and development

- Funding of £150 per person was approved to support four Windy Pandas members undertaking powerboat training.
- Bradford Barracudas were awarded £350 towards a PaddleMate system.
- Pershore were awarded £440 towards junior buoyancy aids.
- A previous request from Steel City Beavers for support towards a pontoon remains under consideration, with further information required.

Any other business

- The BDA has been approached about involvement in a proposed dragon boat festival in London over the late May 2027 bank holiday weekend, including a day of junior racing. Further information will be requested before the level of BDA involvement is considered.
- It was agreed to contact local Andy's Man Clubs in connection with International Men's Day, with a view to possible involvement and fundraising.
- A paper reviewing the current ELO ranking system, including its advantages and disadvantages, has been prepared and will be considered at a future meeting.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in person, with the date and location to be decided following a poll of Executive Committee members.