

DRAFT

SOUTH REGION – BACK ON TRACK (2)



RACING WILL BE DIFFERENT.

At the time of writing, as the UK is in the midst of a second full lockdown and as we approach both the anniversary of the start of the Covid pandemic as well as the start of what should be the 2021 BMX summer series race season, it's hard to predict what might happen.

But it's worth a shot, so here goes.

It looks as if there will continue to be disruption to 'normality' for several weeks yet, with the prospect of any racing before May highly unlikely. With this in mind, and looking back to our collective experiences in 2020 and building on the way in which almost every club in the south region got riders back on track and even back to club racing, here are some options for this year's South Region race calendar.

It's not clear as yet what criteria may be set for things like British Champs qualification and it's far from certain that these larger events may even be able to take place. But we have worked on the assumption that there will be some form of qualifying criteria (if only to manage or at least know the numbers of riders at larger events!) and included this in our thinking.

Last but not least, the most important thing is to get riders back on track, supporting the grass roots of our sport and at all times acting responsibly for the greater good.

Plan A (optimistic)

A series of 6 dates across five venues with two held as 'double points' rounds, with 5 from 8 to count for British Champs/other qualification purposes and 7 from 11 to count for final regional rankings. This front-loads the series utilising venues that have sufficient space for social distancing etc, and enough rounds for Brits qualification etc, assumes a June 2021 delayed start to the season with the series concluding after the Brits in September and October 2021, potentially at venues that are less able to accommodate social distancing depending on government guidance etc.

Under this scenario, we would encourage all clubs to host club races where possible, recognising that these may be able to be run sooner, but also that the summer weekends will be crammed with regional and national events.

All dates and venues are tbc/for discussion only at this stage (National dates included for reference):

- National 1 & 2: 10-11 April, Birmingham
- National 3 & 4: 15-16 May, Cumbernauld
- Regional 1 and 2: 6 June, Cyclopark
- National 5 & 6: 12-13 June, Cyclopark
- Regional 3 and 4: 27 June, Bournemouth
- Regional 5 and 6: 4 July, Gosport
- National 7 & 8: 17-18 July, Gosport
- National 9 & 10: 7-8 August, Telford
- Regional 7 and 8: 22 August, Hayes
- British Champs: 28-29 August, Leicester
- National 11 & 12: xx September, Manchester tbc
- Regional 9: xx September, venue tbc
- Regional 10: xx October, venue tbc
- Regional 11: xx October, venue tbc

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Plan B (achievable and flexible)

Using the same available dates as above, clubs hold their own race series for existing local primary club members, with a view to running 5 club races each with 3 to count towards qualification for Interclub and, later, South Champs (number of qualifying riders per age group per club tbc) – similar to last year's successful return to racing across the South Region.

Club races or the Interclub events can be used to provide British Champs qualification data if required under this scenario (which would likely mean no or delayed national events if regional events cannot take place at national standard/spacious tracks).

Under this scenario, numbers are limited and all our regional riders can get back to racing as soon as it's safe to do so, supporting the grass roots of our sport.

South Region has demonstrated that it can hold club series and Interclub events safely and responsibly in accordance with tiering/post-lockdown national and local requirements.

Dates:

- Club race series - June/July
- Interclubs - August
- South Champs - September