



INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION Inc.

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Box 3, Central Park, 3145 Australia

www.rogaining.org

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IRF Team

President: Neil Phillips

Promotions and Development: Alan Mansfield

Secretary/Treasurer: Rod Phillips

Technical Manager: Lauri Leppik

World Rogaining Championships Manager: vacant

Members of IRF

Czech Republic (Miroslav Seidl, Jan Tojnar)

New Zealand (Alan Holdaway, Nick Collins)

Australia (David Baldwin, Richard Robinson)

Estonia (Lauri Leppik, Eduard Pukkonen)

USA: (Barb Bryant, Bob Reddick)

Individual members until end 2012

Murray Foubister - Canada

Guntars Mankus - Latvia

Sergey Yashchenko, Evgeny Dombrovskiy - Russia

Efim Shtempler - Ukraine

Observer status

Brazil: José Nilton Silva Vargas

Canada: Francis Falardeau, Allan Stradeski

Finland: Iiro Kakko

Germany: Marko Rößler

Great Britain: Jeff Powell Davies

Hong Kong: Patrick Ng

Ireland: Denis Deasy

Israel: Dan Chissick

Japan: Kazuhiro Takashima

Lithuania: Gediminas Trimakas

Norway: Ross Wakelin

Poland: Magda Czapluk

Russia: Syropyatov Valeriy

South Africa: Lisa De Speville, Ian Bratt

Spain: Felip Gili

Sweden: Bengt Nilsson

Switzerland: Dieter Wolf

VRA-IRF Liaison Officer: Rebecca Shaw

4th WRC: Pete Squires

6th WRC: Peg Davis

9th WRC: Grant Hunter

IRF President's Report 2011

This year has been highlighted by several new Members being admitted to the IRF under the 2010 Constitutional changes. These changes saw national rogaining associations becoming the main membership entities. Australia, Estonia and USA were welcomed, and the membership of Czech Republic and New Zealand was ratified. Individual membership of the IRF will cease at the end of 2012. The process to accept new applications for membership began in late 2010. By the end of March 2012 the Observer positions will all have been reviewed, and either replaced or renewed.

Two World Rogaining Championships were awarded during the year: 2013 11WRC to Russia, and 2014 12WRC to USA. It is planned to decide 2015 13WRC around the end of 2012 giving a two to three year lead for each event. The 32nd Australian Rogaining Championships were held in Tasmania, the 8th European Rogaining Championships in Latvia, and the 13th North American Rogaining Championships in British Columbia, Canada.

The IRF is an incorporated association registered in the State of Victoria (Australia) with its Constitution approved under this registration. The IRF also has a bank account in Victoria, and its finances are audited each year. The IRF has developed a good working relationship with the government department that oversees the incorporation due to our well-established and transparent governance. Discussions commenced this year with the Victorian Rogaining Association to establish an IRF liaison officer role within the VRA. This officer will assist with banking and

compliance activities for the IRF in the long term.

The finances of the IRF are in sound condition with \$11,465 (Australian dollars) at the end of 2011 (approximately US\$12,000). IRF revenue predominantly comes from levies at World Rogaining Championships. Discussions are well advanced to broaden the revenue base to include international rogaining championships and other rogaines, as well as a capitation fee. This broadening will provide a more regular revenue flow. It will also enable the IRF to enhance publicity and promotion of rogaining, assist new rogaining areas, and fund other agreed initiatives. IRF expenditure has been steadily rising since 2000 as the resources have become available to offer more support to member and non-member groups. The uneven annual revenue has been accommodated by a variable holding at the end of each year. The aim has always been to retain 1-2 years' expenditure rather than build up large contingency reserves. This practice provides a better use of member funds to grow the sport. We appreciate the work of the IRF Honorary Auditor Mr Shane Tanner for his advice and auditing of the annual financial records.

The IRF 2012 budget has been delayed whilst other matters for 10WRC were finalised. However, the aim should remain to have the annual budget in place and agreed before the start of each financial year. The budget is linked closely with the strategic plan so that activities recognised as important in the strategic plan are those that receive budget support.

Growth of rogaining remains critical and without care it is all too easy to find that we are standing-still and then slowly moving backwards. This would then bring a series of challenges like fewer entrants, fewer volunteers, occasional cancelled events, and difficult budgeting. It is quite possible that our focus on growth opportunities has diminished in the last one or two years as administrative matters consume Council time. However there have remained areas of pleasing growth such as throughout Europe and schools' rogaining in New Zealand. Growth of rogaining has many dimensions. One obvious way to grow is

through the expansion of the sport to new countries. There is plenty of scope for this and some excellent case histories within our international rogaining championships to learn from. Growth within active rogaining countries can involve new provinces and states, and here the sharing of administration and infrastructure can be effective. Growth is also important for well-established rogaining associations. There are several models for growth that are working: there is the Czech collaboration with German rogainers to hold combined events near their shared border. There is the Queensland model where the North Queensland rogainers from Townsville to Cairns share some infrastructure and are members of the QRA despite being 1700 km away from their base, and they have thrived using this model since 1992. Supporting local universities and schools to run their own rogaines can be an effective growth strategy that does not need to draw on the same volunteer pool every time. Alliances with Scout and school associations can also expose new members to the sport. There is a growing commercial side to rogaining with several camps providing rogaining as one of their offerings to adults and children: we can benefit by working with these groups.

Effective decision making is critical to the functioning of the IRF Executive and Council. The regular addition of new members to Council is important so that diversity of ideas and approaches is maintained. Having said this, some of the decision processes of the last year were not perfect, and this remains an area we need to work on. We need to remain disciplined and on a single topic when that is the appropriate course. We need to avoid wanting a specific outcome in advance of assembling information and conducting the proper debate. To this end there have been some excellent contributions this year where objective data has been assembled to help address important decisions. There is little doubt that efficient decision making and Members researching topics effectively leaves more time for making and taking the growth opportunities ahead of us.

The year has seen an important devolvement of some of the daily operations of the IRF through the formation of sub-committees to advance

several areas. The extra roles accepted by Members and Observers of the IRF Council are greatly appreciated. This change also lets everyone become more familiar with the workings of the IRF Executive and Council. A membership sub-committee chaired by Alan Holdaway has considered application by national rogaining associations for IRF membership, and more recently has considered the role of IRF Observers and their renewal beyond March 2012. An executive structure sub-committee chaired by Richard Robinson is looking to optimise the size and structure of the IRF Executive and will be suggesting some constitution changes in 2012. The finance sub-committee chaired by Rob Gardner is developing a budget for 2012, reviewing the banking arrangements, and looking at longer term revenue sources for the IRF. A control marker sub-committee of David Baldwin and Bob Reddick is looking for guidelines to improve the standard and uniformity of markers in rogaines. The IRF Executive team plays a major role in each of the sub-committees and in the overall operation and strategy of the IRF. Lauri Leppik, Alan Mansfield and Rod Phillips are especially acknowledged for their substantial efforts during 2011 to guide and promote the numerous activities and decisions we need to make every year. Each puts a large amount of time into researching topics as we enter any decision making process.

On-going success factors for rogaining

When the IRF was first formed in 1989, a Code was included in the initial plan to enshrine some values and rules for the sport. With the addition of the Code of Conduct in 2007, these statements continue to effectively guide the rules of competition, standards of fairness, and expectations of personal interactions. The success of the Code is evident when competitors can attend rogaines on the other side of the world and find similar rules and operations to what they expect at home. The IRF Rules of Rogaining are used at World Rogaining Championships and most other rogaines, and there is usually a close collaboration when changes are made so as to ensure learning from the experience of other nations and maintenance of global uniformity.

The area of promotion and branding of the sport has received considerable attention over the last few years since public recognition of rogaining was identified in the strategic plan as requiring some attention. In a series of partly experimental initiatives, the IRF has produced business cards, car stickers, a special anniversary Newsletter, semi formal shirt and jacket with simple but informative logos, and all of consistently high quality. The ideal follow-up from various countries is to adopt the basic designs when producing their own products for international rogaining championships and the sport generally.

Land access is critical to the sport whether we rogain in farming land, national parks, general forests or deserts. Land access is largely a local issue which must be tailored for local situations. The IRF will assist and take a lead in those areas of common concern. The reputation of the sport locally and globally is one important component of land access and we need to safeguard this. Understanding land holders and their various concerns is important when seeking access for a major rogain; and taking a long-term approach means that we will be welcome back in three years and ten years to the same land. The findings from 9WRC (IRF Newsletter #172) and the VRA Land Access study (available as a PDF) are important documents available to all.

Safety of organisers, course setters and all participants remains paramount in the sport, and discussions continue on how to ensure there are no major incidents. Road accidents remain a high risk after long rogaines, and the provision of bus transport is always encouraged. The risk of relatively inexperienced teams competing in foreign lands without much knowledge of the local weather conditions continues to be a challenge for WRC organisers. The long-term pre-event weather guidance from organisers remains important. It is useful to know the reasonably-expected weather, but pre-event information must include extreme possibilities that need to be planned for before one arrives at the site. The importance of advisory versus mandatory lists of equipment to be carried differs for every event, and we need to be guided by event

organisers who have the extensive local knowledge. Mandatory equipment lists may have a role, but are little use if we have no way to enforce them or if teams are allowed to discard their safety gear and back-packs for part of the course.

The topic of entry criteria for World Rogaining Championships has become important with future WRCs likely to be fully subscribed within the 500-1000 participant levels. In developing criteria for who has entry priority, there are many reasonable and competing interests and some recognition needs to be given to the WRC guidelines concerning the focus on elite and non-elite participants. The best 50-100 rogainers in the world have legitimate claim to entry through their elite performance as do the key people organising the sport in each country who underpin the existence of the championships. The opportunity for local rogaining leaders to mix with other rogainers globally is a very effective way to adopt improvements, and to maintain event standards and uniformity of the sport. Beyond these two groups there is much difference of opinion as to who should have the right to enter WRCs. Several important questions that need addressing might include:

- is it reasonable to expect all WRC entrants to have participated in a 24-hour rogaine in the two-years before entry (considering both safety and loyalty)
- to what extent do we give priority to the adventurer who wants to enter a world championship but does not support their own national rogaining championships, is unlikely to volunteer, and may not be seen in the sport again
- might we alternate WRCs so that only every second WRC has age divisions for those who are very good for their age (but non-elite)?

As a volunteer-based sport, rogaining relies strongly upon the loyalty of its participants and especially those who set events and run the sport. The reliance on volunteer efforts keeps the cost of events within reasonable price ranges, but means special considerations need

to be given to retain and grow this volunteer base.

Neil Phillips
President
International Rogaining Federation