



INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION Inc.

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Newsletter No. 190 IRF meeting at 10WRC

Box 3, Central Park, 3145 Australia
www.rogaining.org
30 August meeting 2012

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)
Ukraine: (Oleksandr Letychevskyi, Efim Shtempler)

Individual members until end 2012
Murray Foubister - Canada
Guntars Mankus - Latvia
Sergey Yashchenko, Evgeny Dombrovskiy - Russia

Observer status

Brazil: José Nilton Silva Vargas
Canada: Francis Falardeau
Finland: Miia Hovi
Germany: Marko Rößler
Lithuania: Gediminas Trimakas
Spain: Felip Gili
Sweden: Bengt Nilsson
VRA-IRF Liaison Officer: Rebecca Shaw

IRF Meeting/forum - Thursday 30 August - Prebuz, Czech Republic

Minutes Secretary: Julie Quinn

Meeting will commence promptly at 1 pm
(there will be an informal lunch from noon across the street at the Pension restaurant)
Location: Prebuz Town Hall

AGENDA

Chair: Neil Phillips
Co-ordinator of agenda: David Baldwin

Brief Introduction/Summary from each country (1PM-1:30PM)

Welcome
2 minutes from each person at the meeting [serves as an introduction, what do they do, what are their issues at home and for this meeting]

Development of the sport of rogaining (1:30PM-2:15PM)

2006 Strategic Plan [need to update strategic plan, what do we do next?, decide what to do next but do not start on the plan here]
Growth [has 20-years of growth ended?, do we want to rekindle it? If so, how?] Encouragement of New IRF Members - operational models that work well, barriers, assistance, transition [summarise some successful rogaining models, explore some less-sustainable situations. Note IRF membership/voting transition from the end of 2012].

Marketing, publicity, branding [the role for each country, how can the IRF support everyone]

Resources - information sharing - e-mail, websites, forums, social media, IRF meeting, dissemination of ideas from Council [let us hear briefly what works for everyone]. Development strategies - training/coaching, novices, permanent courses [brief discussion/ideas - also relates to 'event innovation' item under Event organisation].

WRC and championships (2:15PM-3PM)
WRC Manager position [vacant]
WRC Frequency - annual or two yearly [inform meeting of discussion, invite any new input]
WRC Location Rotation Policy [inform meeting of informal existing process]
WRC Entry Criteria [inform the meeting of status, invite any comment from meeting.
Importance for given WRC will depend on entrant limit/location/publicity]

WRC Entrant Numbers [outline issue (pressure on course, potentially large numbers), invite ideas to address this]

Technical Standards/Rules (**Lauri Leppik**)
[inform meeting of status, current issues, how we make changes, local variants]
Age Categories - ultra-veterans, junior/youth/under 20/23? - WRC qualification implications [inform meeting briefly]
University Championship? [brief discussion - would inclusion of a WRC university category/trophy encourage younger teams?] Trophies - management [inform meeting of status, this is better done outside meeting]
Major event organisation requirements / models / processes - entry, communication, transport, accommodation, catering, related activities/facilities, media [brief discussion]

break/refreshments (3PM-3:15PM)

Event organisation (3:15PM-4PM)

WARA course setters & vetters manual, other documents/resources (**Bob Reddick**) [inform meeting of progress here, request the meeting to contribute to next stage]

Map making standards - processes, case studies, technologies – Global Positioning System [discuss how we should be addressing mapping standards and navigation rules, brief discussion]

Event innovations/formats - successes and disappointments - schools, geocaching, partnering with other organisations can be valuable [chance to hear bright ideas from anyone especially about alliances]
Volunteer recruitment and management [huge issue for sport –and we need to say just that, invite innovative approaches]
Risk management/safety [big issue for sport – invite innovative approaches]

Land access strategies [huge issue for sport – invite innovative approaches]

IRF organisational items (4PM-4:45PM)

IRF Executive Structure and Roles - new positions [inform meeting of proposed changes and reasons, plan way forward]

IRF Executive Succession Planning / recruitment [inform meeting of current activities, what can be done better]

IRF Council Workload Sharing [trend over recent years, where we are heading, assessment of the sub-committee approach]

IRF Council and non-important issues [how not to be distracted by the less important issues]

IRF Council decision making [a visible and rigorous approach to our decision making, education, clear objective thinking]

IRF Code of Conduct [the tension between representing a country, and representing an international sport]

Corporate history [recording and passing on what we do well so we do not re-invent the wheel]

IRF Revenue - capitation, levies – budget [inform meeting, discussion does not need to be at meeting].

Other Business/Summary (4:45PM-5PM)

Minutes of meeting

Thursday 30 August 2012 – Prebuz, Czech Republic

Attendees:

Neil Phillips (IRF President)
Lauri Leppik (IRF Technical)
Bill Kennedy (New Zealand)
Ann Kennedy (New Zealand)
Peter Squires (New Zealand)
Richard Robinson (Australia)
David Baldwin (Australia)
Julie Quinn (Australia)
Rob Gardner (Australia)
Derek Morris (Australia)
Ted van Geldermalsen (Australia)
Jan Tojnar (Czech Republic)
Miroslav Seidl (Czech Republic)
Martin Zácek (Czech Republic)
Juhani Isaksson (Finland)
Karli Kakkonen (Finland)
Alexander Letichevsky (Ukraine)
Vladimir Lipka (Ukraine)
Sergey Yashchenko (Russia)
Sergey Simakin (Russia)
Alexander Shumsky (Russia)
Raimonds Lapins (Latvia)
Bob Reddick (USA)
Eduard Pukkonen (Estonia)
Mairolt Kakko (Estonia)
Lea Leppik (Estonia)
Pieter Mulder (South Africa)
Roberto Pascual (Spain)
Jorge Urquiza (Spain)
Eric Colon (Spain)
Felip Gili (Spain)
Marko Roßler (Germany)
Wolfgang Pötsch (Austria)
Bengt Nilsson (Sweden)

Apologies

Rod Phillips (Australia), Alan Mansfield (Australia), Guntars Mankus (Latvia).

Thank you to Jan Tojnar and Miroslav Seidl who as our hosts ensured the proper arrangements for this meeting.

Item 1: Brief Introduction/Summary from each country

Each person was provided an opportunity to give an introduction and to indicate what his or her country is seeking for rogaining, both nationally and internationally. Below are a few points that were recorded.

- Spain is running the ERC in 2013. As a country they have only been rogaining for a few years but the sport is growing with many 6 hr events. They are seeking further promotion in Spain. Their next event is in December.
- South Africa has been introduced to rogaining. It is a small country with permission and insurance challenges. To date only 8 hr events or shorter have been held. Pieter displayed a GPS tracking device that could be issued to competitors to track their course without being able to provide navigational assistance.
- Germany has been rogaining for 10 years but it is still a small sport within the country. There is no formal rogaining association. They would like to run the ERC within the next five years. Events have been run in collaboration with the Czech Republic.
- Australia outlined their desires from the IRF. Would like to settle on a policy for the WRC including frequency. Australia would like to see international rogaining growing and they have established an International Rogaining Fund to support the sport. They noted the need for executive succession planning in the IRF.
- New Zealand is a modest sized association that is growing, especially in the shorter events. They are establishing a structure to allow people to organise events separate from the association.
- Russia runs several events each year, including a 24 hr event. The region in the west near St Petersburg is the most popular venue.
- Czech Republic desire to be the core of rogaining in middle Europe. They collaborate with Germany and Poland to run events. They are running their second WRC.
- Austria is interested in developing rogaining in their country.

Item 2: Development of the sport of rogaining

- (i) Strategic plan. The current plan was written in 2006 and requires updating. There will be a request for 2-3 people to update the plan as a priority in 2013, once the constitutional change has been enacted.
 - (ii) Growth. There are options for building participation through looking broader to alternative sports (e.g. adventure racing) or relationships (e.g. joint Czech-German rogaines or within regions of larger countries). Lauri Leppik still sees growth potential for the sport with more established countries organising new styles of event and geographical extensions with new countries picking up the sport (e.g. Poland, Spain).
There are different groups of participants in rogaines: social, serious, and elite. Discussion was held on how to run events and increase participation for these groups. In summary we need to look after the elite competitors and make the sport attractive to them but there is also a need to look after the other 90% of the competitors. The serious and social competitors are the base of the sport and where the volunteers to run rogaines come from. There is a huge market in the social element. One of the key difficulties for building the sport will be getting access to terrain – either access to forests or non-public land or areas where there are few people/towns.
 - (iii) Encouragement of new IRF members. Neil Phillips indicated that he hoped this meeting would provide links between countries. A few models were suggested to allow countries to form some sort of national organisation for rogaining that would then allow them to join the IRF. It was noted that there were 28 countries represented at the WRC but only 6 countries were full members of the IRF.
- (i) Frequency of events. There were concerns that holding the WRC too often would mean fewer people attending each event. Estonia has done a survey of their rogainers and found that 75% are interested in annual world rogaine championships. Many considered nearby countries would be good but were also interested in farther afield countries. Lauri Leppik suggested other countries might also find it useful to survey their members. The meeting discussed a wide survey following the WRC.
 - (ii) Technical regulations. There are many contradictory ideas from different countries, including different philosophical views about how to apply rules. There is a need to apply rules flexibly for local events where there are different circumstances but for championship events the rules should apply strictly.
 - (iii) Age categories. The meeting recommended to the IRF Council that there be an Ultra-vet category from 2013. Age 65+ and with men, women and mixed categories. Discussion was held on options to combine categories where there are insufficient numbers of teams.
Junior category. This is currently under 20 years. Discussion was held about the lower age limit because in some countries under 16 year olds are legally not allowed out alone at night: this could be handled by a local variation to the Rules.

Item 3: Event organisation

- (i) Course setters and vetters manual. The Western Australian Rogaining Association (WARA) has a manual that countries can adopt or adapt for their own needs. Note that this will need to have electronic punching included.
- (ii) GPS devices on phones. There is the problem that phones can be a useful safety device for competitors to carry but can be abused if the GPS features are used for navigation. Also, some competitors are wishing to carry GPS

tracking devices for course analysis post-event. Pieter Mulder showed a small data-logger (www.iphone.gotyou.com) that competitors could carry for tracking and David Baldwin showed a sample of an opaque sealable bag that may be useful for phones. Compliance by competitors and organisers is the issue with GPS devices. Honesty for this rule (and all rules) is still a problem and it is important that all national organisations promote the culture of honesty with their members.

Item 4: IRF organisational items

- (i) Proposed constitutional change. There is a proposal to change the IRF Executive structure to the following: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Technical, Promotion, IRF-VRA Liaison Governance, WRC Manager. In particular, the Treasurer's role needs to be set up with global banking and formalised. Neil outlined the process for elections. There are formal votes from the member countries but observers were welcome to express opinions. It was noted that you do not need to be from a member country to be on the Council or Executive. It was requested that the Executive puts up more detailed role descriptions; or indicates where these can be found.
- (ii) Succession planning. Neil Phillips indicated he wishes to step down from the President's role and indicated the value of planned succession.
- (iii) Sub-committees (membership, finance). The finance sub-committee has been forwarded a funding options paper for discussion from Australia. The two levy option for countries was outlined: a. levy on members via the national organisation and b. levy on the major event in the country. To date each country nominates their preferred option. The forward funding options paper suggests a move from b. to a. over about 5 years for new rogaining countries. Currently the ERC pays a levy on events it runs, and NARC is

(iv) about to start to do so. New Zealand has paid a capitation fee for several years. There is no contribution from Australia. However, Australia has been putting funds (essentially capitation amounts) aside into a development fund for international rogaining. Balance of representation on the IRF. It was acknowledged that there is value having a balance of representation from around the world, but there may be competing pressures in countries new to rogaining where local leadership takes priority to service on the IRF Council. This situation has been recognised for some time and is addressed by a diverse Council membership, and an Executive drawn from areas that have the capacity to contribute such resources.

Item 5: Other business

Branding. Neil Phillips displayed polo shirts and a polar-fleece jacket that had the rogaining logo and the words 'cross country navigation' (for non-rogainers). It was suggested each country use this branded material to make its own version to promote the sport. The ideal situation was to base labels and designs around the threefold logo, name, and description style.

END