



International Rogaining Federation

Informal meeting

2-5PM, Friday 21 August 2015

Fell Centre Restaurant, Kiilopää, Finland

Present

Richard Robinson, President

Rob G has list of other names

Item 1 Introductions (R. Robinson)

Introductions were made.

Item 2 Update on 13 WRC2015 (J. Isaksson)

- The organisers have tried to make the event fair for everyone. They have put out a training area and kept the event area open until 20 August. The latter allows people to compete in other events being held in the area over the summer and for people to visit the area because many Finnish people are likely to be familiar with the terrain.
- The local search and rescue people have stipulated safety equipment that must be carried and the organisers have said that there are areas >20 km from the nearest road. Compulsory equipment will be checked at the start and sealed bags will be checked at the finish.
- Details on the requirements from the National Parks were made after the proposal for the event was accepted by the IRF.
- Controls will have small 360° reflectors.
- Data from the GPS tracking devices that some teams will carry will not be publicly available until after 12 pm on Sunday. The organisers noted there was a lack of clear guidance from the IRF on data from tracking devices.
- The organisers have the ability to check whether phones are turned on (the requirement is for them to be off and in the sealed bags).

Item 3 Strategic Plan Implementation

a. Background (R. Robinson)

The IRF is now looking for ideas on continuing the implementation of the Strategic Plan, noting limitations of volunteers and money. The concept is

to determine what, if anything, the IRF could and should do to achieve this implementation

b. Members (L. Leppik)

There are currently nine IRF Members (countries) which represents the geographical spread where rogaining and organisations are strong. There area also a number of other countries, such as Finland, who are not members. Other countries who have also recently contacted the IRF including Colombia and Argentina. The IRF endeavours to help these countries where the request is genuine.

The number of countries where rogaining is held is about 20 and this has been static for about 10 years and Lauri posed the question of how to get other countries interested in a proactive way. Discussion was held with two ideas to be put forward for IRF consideration:

- (i) IRF members organise events in other countries; and
- (ii) IRF members specifically target individuals who do well in related sports to attend rogaines.

Action: IRF Members and rogaïne **event organisers** to consider using one or both of the above options

Recognition of the input of volunteers is undertaken in different ways by members including free entries, virtual accounts for use on equipment or event entries, or recognition at events. It was noted that some members are able to access other volunteer resources such as National Guards.

c. Events (S. Yashchenko)

There are four key issues for high quality rogaïne events: (i) interesting terrain; (ii) accurate, fair and challenging course; (iii) increasing the number of countries holding events & (iv) good presentation of events.

To assist produce high quality events it is suggested that the IRF establish a panel of event advisors (10-15 people) that an organiser can contact to get support for technical and/or organisational issues. It was generally agreed that this is something that the IRF should do

Action: Richard to look to facilitate the establishment of such a panel

A workshop has been organised in association with the current WRC on setting and vetting rogaines.

It was mentioned that the IRF does not grasp opportunities around rogaïne events to provide additional technical and social opportunities. It was felt that providing additional opportunities would help people to develop personal contacts which would in turn assist them to be able to tap into a broader knowledge base.

The IRF has a technical sub-committee where suggestions from countries on rules – changes and interpretation – should be sent. It was noted that

there are universal, established rules for rogaines and these rules must be applied at world, regional and national championships.

Increasing the enjoyment of rogaines for spectators through incorporating rules that allow technology for on-line tracking. There may be a need for further work on some of the rules to allow this, which will be an issue for the Technical Sub-committee. Estonia has used on-line tracking in a recent event and did not hear of any problems of misuse. The meeting noted that in most cases abuse of the rules will not occur but it may be possible. Spain registered interest in using on-line tracking in the next ERC in 2016. It was noted that online tracking of orienteering was now standard at the elite level.

Action: The **IRF Technical Subcommittee** to review the Rules and propose any changes they consider appropriate to allow the use of online tracking in major championship rogaines without compromising fairness

Issues around respect for nature and land access were noted as being specific to local areas. The IRF has provided structural elements to guide these issues.

There was a brief philosophical discussion on whether the IRF rule state minimum or maximum requirements, and this needs further clarification. A previous version of the strategic plan stated that the organiser might go further. It was noted that this should not be confused with technical requirements.

Action: The **IRF Technical Subcommittee** to ensure that the next revision of the Rules is very clear that these are the **requirements** and cannot be changed, even for a single event, without the appropriate authority. For WRCs that authority in the IRF Executive

d. International Rogaining Federation (R. Robinson)

The IRF is seeking to consolidate and grow the sport. Each country does well but the IRF has been limited in the ability to publish and report on statistics. It was noted that the IRF has limited promotion at most events.

There has been lots of discussion by the IRF on maintaining the reputation of rogaining. Richard sought suggestions about things the IRF can do.

Juhani requested reports of some detail on the organising of WRC so that future event organisers can learn and understand what the exact expectations of the IRF are.

There is a stable financial base for the IRF with general funds and the Australian Rogaining Association International Development Fund.

e. World Rogaining Championships (J. Tojnar)

All events have problems and this event has not been any different. The IRF are able to help advise. It was suggested that organisers have some experience of a WRC and/or expertise in organising events.

Item 4. World Rogaining Championship Frequency (R. Robinson)

The current wording of the Strategic Plan is that the WRC will not be held more often than annually. The IRF is planning to take another formal vote on this wording later in 2015 to clarify the position about whether there will be champs at a definitive time interval.

Action: Richard to work with the Executive to prepare a motion for Council on this matter that will allow a policy decision to be taken before the end of 2015

There have been no proposals received by the IRF to host a WRC in 2018, and as such there will be no WRC in 2018.

Jan provided some statistics on participation at the WRC by different countries and regions.

Item 5. Other business

a. IRF joining the World Anti-Doping Association (WADA)

Latvia have proposed that the IRF join WADA to (i) demonstrate fairness of the sport, and (ii) so that WADA can give better support to individual countries.

In some countries there is a requirement for the IRF to be a member of WADA so that the country association can access government support for rogaining. Latvia tabled key points from the WADA code.

Richard requested information to be provided to the IRF on the benefits and costs to the IRF and members of joining WADA.

Action: Richard to prepare a brief Terms of Reference for a review of the value of the IRF joining WADA. **Guntars**, with the support of people from the Victorian Rogaining Association (VRA) in Australia to prepare a paper on the issue for the IRF

b. Latvia IRF advisor for the WRC. An event advisor is needed. Lauri Leppik agreed to take on this role