



~ 30 years of ROGAINING ~
1976-2006

ROGAINING: 2010 & Beyond

Strategic plan for the sport of rogaining

Plan stratégique pour le Rogaining

Strategický záměr pro Rogaining

Strategisk plan för rogaining

Rogaini strateegiline arengukava

Стратегический план развития рогейна

rogainingin kehittämissuunnitelma

ロゲイニング長期計画

Стратегічний план розвитку Рогейну

Rogaininga attīstības stratēģiskais plāns

תכנית אסטרטגית למרתון הרים

Der strategische Plan für Rogaining

Strategieplan für Rogaining

Produced for the sport of rogaining by the International Rogaining Federation Inc. in consultation with national, state, and regional rogaining groups.

Description of the sport of rogaining

Rogaining is the team sport of long distance cross-country navigation. The championship rogaine is of twenty-four hours duration, but there are many shorter variants. Teamwork, physical activity, endurance, competition, self-reliance, and an appreciation of the natural environment are features of the sport. Rogaining involves route planning and navigation between checkpoints using a variety of map types.

Rogaines are generally day and night events in which teams of two to five members travel entirely on foot, navigating by map and compass. Teams normally select their own order of visiting checkpoints, in terrain that varies from open countryside to hilly forest. The sport also embraces other cross-country navigation activities of different duration and means of transport such as canoe, bicycle or skis, and where there is emphasis on navigation, teamwork and the environment.

At many rogaines, a central base camp provides hot meals and teams may return at any time to eat, rest or enjoy the fellowship. Teams travel at their own pace, and anyone from children to grandparents can experience the personal satisfaction that comes from cross-country navigation at one's own level of competition.

The benefits we offer as a sport (our *value proposition*)

Rogaining provides:

- a relatively inexpensive, wholesome 1-2 day outdoor activity
- easy access under safe conditions to bushwalking areas in various parts of the world
- access to some areas not easily accessible to the general public
- communal awareness of the need to care for the natural environment
- physical exercise for individuals leading to a more healthy community
- development of teamwork skills, and cross country navigation skills
- development of self-reliance and leadership skills in outdoor settings
- elite cross-country navigation competition.

We want rogaining to be your outlet for physical and mental team activity in the natural environment. We want rogaining to provide new challenges including the opportunity to enhance your navigational skills. Our rogaining associations and events can become your passport to global rogaining.

Our values: Every participant knows if and when they have competed fairly, and honour comes from competing well and within the spirit and law of the sport.

A. Our mission:

is to provide the opportunity for ROGAINING in as many parts of the world as practicable.

B. We will pursue our mission by:

- Expanding rogaining to new regions and countries, and within existing areas.
- Increasing participation at both elite and recreational levels.
- Raising the quality of all rogaines, especially international championships.
- Promoting and developing high-quality World Rogaining Championships.
- Developing and growing sustainable rogaining associations.

C. Strategic platform

The sport appeals to a wide range of *members*, by providing quality *rogaining events* that are organized through a structure of *associations* and that rely upon *financial resources*. This strategic plan for international rogaining is built on these four major components: members, rogaining events, rogaining associations, and financial resources.

CI. Members

Four member groups can be recognized who are important to the sport:

Participants are our *raison d'être*. They are core to our success, and make up the bulk of rogainers by number. Participants in a rogain come from diverse backgrounds and include hikers, bushwalkers, runners, orienteers, adventure racers, eco-challengers, search and rescue personnel, outdoor groups, Scouting personnel, school teams, hunters, military teams, police and fire department teams, local landowners, friends and family.

Elite competitors are those who aspire to win rogaining championships. This group may be small in number compared to the participant group, but their presence adds credibility to each rogaining championship and sets and extends the standards of achievement in the sport. This group also drives the expectations for professionally run events with top quality courses and organization.

Volunteer organizers of rogaining events and the associations are essential for maintenance of the sport, organizing activities, and leading the associations.

Legacy-leavers include innovators who take the sport to new levels, founders of the sport in various regions, and founders of associations. These members supplement the organizers' group by providing a long-term perspective, and lead changes within the sport that contribute to growth, relevance and excitement.

Some goals:

- Attract more participants [*by*: greater community awareness of rogainng].
- Retain participants at subsequent rogaines [*by*: a friendly event atmosphere and the opportunity for self-improvement using rogainng publications, online resources and practice courses].
- Attract elite competitors especially at major rogainng championships [*by*: recognition of their achievements, quality events, fair competition, challenging courses].
- Achieve greater representation of nationalities at major international rogainng championships [*by*: confidence in the style and fairness of events, uniform rules, greater global community awareness of rogainng].
- Use volunteers' time effectively [*by*: seeking efficiencies in all our processes, sharing advancements on a global scale, re-using courses, encouraging new ideas].
- Recognize volunteers and legacy-leavers [formally and informally].
- Foster a culture that encourages risk-taking with new developments in the sport [*by*: encouraging a willingness to innovate and accepting that not all new ideas will succeed].
- Provide support for those who develop new rogainng associations [*by*: providing information, providing access to financial support, encouraging public support, providing administrative and other resources internationally, minimizing duplication of effort in different countries, recognizing successes].

C2. Rogainng events

The sport is built on the foundation that rogainng events should embody:

- interesting countryside in which to rogainne
- accurate, fair and challenging courses
- friendly hash house atmosphere, and
- excellent administration and presentation of events.

The overall quality of each rogainng event affects the level of participation by members, the attraction of the sport to elite competitors, the willingness of volunteers to be involved, the financial viability, the access to external funding support, and the level of community support for rogainng.

Land access is critical to every rogaining country and to every rogaining event. Land access is very much a community and environment issue. For the sport to be sustainable (i.e. operating in today's environment without jeopardizing the future of the sport), it must safeguard its relationships with its local communities and with the natural environment. Rogaining areas used in the past have been lost to the sport as land uses have changed. Other areas will come under increasing development pressure. Rogaining associations need to be able to take a long term view (years or decades) in planning their land access.

Some goals:

- Provide consistently high quality events [*by*: regular review, preserving and building on the four key elements of successful rogaines, making available written and on-line resources about the sport for organizers and participants, providing financial and other assistance, including billeting to key international rogaining organizers to encourage their attendance at major international rogaines].
- Offer fair and consistent competition [*by*: maintaining and promulgating uniform Rogaining Rules and Practices, i.e. the Rogaining Code, so that events held in different parts of the world foster similar culture, ideals and practices, and provide fair competition].
- Increase the number of countries organizing rogaines, especially 24-hour rogaines [*by*: wider recognition of the sport through international rogaining championships, supporting new organizers].
- Increase the number of rogaines being organized in existing rogaining countries [*by*: building volunteer resources and access to land, streamlining organizational requirements].
- Increase the number of regional rogaining centres within existing rogaining countries, i.e. develop organizational bases outside capital cities [*by*: discussing models for growth, and implementing these].
- Increase participation in existing rogaines [*by*: discussing various models for rogaining event size, reusing courses].
- Increase community awareness and support for rogaining [*by*: communicating regularly with the community, providing publicity to local and major media].
- Take a proactive role in encouraging members to respect the natural environment especially where rogaines are held [*by*: leading by example, newsletters, instructions and messages to participants].
- Provide a clear message to the land owners (government and private) that rogainers respect their land [*by*: continuing observation of the relevant rules and standards, emphasising this respect in communications with land owners, emphasising this respect and its importance in communications with participants, developing strategies to ensure that rogaining courses are left in better condition than they

- are found, promoting and publicizing these strategies – e.g. making aspects of land care a feature of events].
- Monitor land access issues globally [*by*: developing a strategy to retain and increase the land accessible to the sport].

C3. Rogaining associations

Rogaining associations provide the framework for membership, co-ordination, communication, history, learning, training, volunteering, and representation. They are not-for-profit entities operating under legal systems that vary somewhat between nations. Sustainable rogaining associations can survive changes of leadership, changes in community and legal environments and changes in member preferences by constantly monitoring each of these factors and adapting accordingly. Good governance is expected of all associations.

Some goals:

- Develop sustainable rogaining associations [*by*: providing successful case histories of how new associations formed, and incentives to improve].
- Monitor and upgrade communication to members [*by*: newsletters, books, websites, IRF meetings and informal connections].
- Have strong volunteer support base [*by*: identifying, attracting, training, mentoring, rotating and retaining capable leaders, regular succession planning].
- Develop learning processes to spread the benefits of new ideas throughout the sport [*by*: active communication networks within sport].
- Maintain active co-operation and dialogue between groups responsible for different delivery models for rogaining events [*by*: the IRF and national associations offering an inclusive approach covering rogaines run by formal not-for-profit associations, commercial rogaining style activities, and local informal rogaines such as within a school].

For the International Rogaining Federation Inc.:

- Aim for 100 percent compliance with incorporation obligations.
- Define, communicate and revisit its IRF Executive roles and responsibilities annually.
- Address the Strategic Plan on an annual cycle, revise the strategic plan every 3-5 years.
- Recognize and preserve those aspects of rogaining that confer *lasting advantage*, including the name, logo, website, history of events in Australia and other countries, World Rogaining Championships, publications, and reputation within the community.

C4. Financial resources

The sport relies on financial resources to deliver events for its members and for promotion and growth of rogaining globally. The sport has a responsibility to ensure that its funds are used legally, wisely and effectively. Sources of funding include:

- donors and granting agencies
- members' event fees
- members' capitation fees
- government grants
- co-funding of initiatives with various rogaining, and other, associations.

Some goals:

- Link the budget process directly to the Strategic Plan for Rogaining.
- Provide excellent reporting and transparency on financial activities.
- Achieve an appropriate balance between event fees, capitation fees, and other fund sources [*by*: consulting with Members].
- Ensure grants lead to strengthening of the sport [*by*: seeking alignment with the operational mission (in Part B), delivering on conditions attached to grants].
- Use funds held by rogaining associations effectively [*by*: reviewing use of longer-term funds in each annual budget process].

D. Programs

Choice of annual programs

To be decided on an annual basis for the International Rogaining Federation, and for individual rogaining associations and rogaining nations.

Appendix

Our history

The concept of rogaining as a sport in its own right originated in Australia and traces its origin to the first public twenty-four hour event in 1972 and the first *rogaine* in 1976, both run by Surrey Thomas Rovers. However, twenty-four hour walks were organized by the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club as early as 1947, and by Canterbury University in New Zealand from 1967. Twenty-four hour score events were run by Adelaide University Mountaineering Club as early as 1963. The Victorian Rogaining Association was formed in May 1976, and operated through a series of strategic alliances with Scouting, university, and orienteering organizations to co-host rogaines. The Australian Rogaining Association was formed in February 1979, and now acts as co-ordinating body for state and territory rogaining associations within Australia.

The International Rogaining Federation was formed in 1989 to promote rogaining and provide direction for the sport internationally. The International Rogaining Federation incorporated and adopted a formal constitution in 2000. Rogaining has spread from Australia to Canada (1986), USA (1989), New Zealand (1991), Czech Republic (1997), Sweden (1998), Ireland (1998), Russia (1998), Estonia (1999), Japan (2002), Latvia (2002), South Africa (2003), Lithuania (2003), Ukraine (2004), Israel (2005), Brazil (2006) and Germany (2006). Half these countries have run 24-hour rogaines.

The World Rogaining Championships are the premier international rogaining championships and are held each two years. World Rogaining Championships have been held in Australia (1992, 1996), Canada (1998), New Zealand (2000), Czech Republic (2002), USA (2004) and Australia (2006). Up to seven hundred competitors from thirty countries attend World Rogaining Championships. The three other major international championships are the Australian Rogaining Championships (27th ARC in 2006), North American Rogaining Championships (9th NARC in 2006) and European Rogaining Championships (3rd ERC in 2006).

Development of rogaining can be summarized as a decade to establish rules and protocols based on what worked well, a decade of growth in Australia based around the Australian Rogaining Association, and a decade of growth internationally based around the International Rogaining Federation and regular World Rogaining Championships. The sport now enters its fourth decade in 2006.

The name *rogaining*

The word rogaining comes from *rogaine*, which was coined from the names of the organizers of a twenty-four hour hike in 1976. *Rogaining* was retained for subsequent events by the Surrey Thomas Rovers. When an association was formed in Victoria, its members adopted rogaining as the name of their sport of twenty-four hour cross-country navigation, and the word *rogaine* for each event. The word has entered English, American and Australian dictionaries, and been translated to a dozen languages. The rogaining logo of the mountain in sun and darkness was designed by Sue Grice in 1978 and epitomizes some of the characteristics that set rogaining apart from most other forms of human physical endeavour. This logo has been adapted by several countries to give a local flavour.

Rogaining aims to support and encourage people to develop respect for and enjoyment of rural and forest environments; and interact positively with local communities. Rogaining is closely related to orienteering and many people enjoy both sports. The key features that distinguish rogaining are:

- it is a team sport,
- rogaines are long duration events, usually 6, 8, 12 or 24 hours,
- teams choose their own route as there is no set course, and
- there is a strong emphasis on participation.

Various adventure sports embody aspects of cross-country navigation as a team.

Publications

Phillips' Rogaining – Cross country navigation, 2000, ORIA

Costigan's Organizing a rogaine, 1992, IRF.

World Rogaining Championships

As the sport's premier event, the World Rogaining Championship has significant drawing power for international entrants, sponsors, and elite competition. The World Rogaining Championships are for the benefit of everyone in the sport, for elite and non-elite competitors, for organizers, for administrators, and for the public: they also provide a meeting focus for rogaining enthusiasts. Three further international rogaining championships (Australia, North America, Europe) achieve similar outcomes to the World Rogaining Championship, but on a regional scale.

Each two years, the IRF awards the World Rogaining Championships to a National association or group, taking into account many criteria including the experience of the organizing group and the benefits of holding the Championships in that country. The World Rogaining Championships remain the championships of the International Rogaining Federation. At present, the World Rogaining Championships are held each two years. Discussions have been held about whether an annual event is warranted. Award of the World Rogaining Championships should be restricted to groups with a track record of organizing major rogaines, who actively want to stage the event and who can nominate a suitably experienced co-ordinator: if these criteria cannot be met for any particular year, the WRC should not be awarded.

The IRF does not expect extra facilities or activities beyond those normal to championship rogaines run by the particular host association. However, this does not exclude any WRC organizers from going *a little further*. The intent is to bring the staging of the WRC within the grasp of all groups who can demonstrate a history of running a series of successful rogaines and who want to stage the WRC.

The focus of a World Rogaining Championship is on:

- a. Interesting countryside in which to rogain
- b. Accurate, fair and challenging courses
- c. Friendly hash house atmosphere
- d. Excellent administration and presentation of events, and also:
- e. Wide cross section of participants,
- f. Elite and other levels of competition.

The first four criteria should be established features of rogaines run previously by a group before it is awarded the WRC. Significant departure from normal rogaines is not advocated for a World Rogaining Championship. The last two criteria (e and f) can be achieved by careful planning of the event date and

location, taking into account overseas participants and possible linking to related activities at the time of the World Rogaining Championship. These activities need not be part of the WRC program and may be better organized by separate parties, e.g. major adventure race or orienteering meeting. The extra publicity to attract overseas and/or elite participants to a WRC should utilize IRF expertise and should target particular interest groups and countries. Organizers are expected to provide a profile to describe rogaining in their area, and may include a model rogaine prior to the championship. The WRC will be run according to the IRF Code and Rules, and departure from these will require specific IRF permission.

Regional Rogaining Championships

There are three other international rogaining championships supported and promoted by the International Rogaining Federation, i.e. the North American Rogaining Championships, the European Rogaining Championships and the Australian Rogaining Championships. These rogaines closely follow the rules and guidelines of the World Rogaining Championships with scope for minor local variations. These four championships form the basis of a potential world rogaining championship circuit with elite achievement recognized by the IRF.

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