



INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION Inc.

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Box 3, Central Park, 3145 Australia

www.rogaining.org

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IRF Team [end 2010]

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

Canada: Murray Foubister

United States of America: Bob Reddick,

Eric Smith

Estonia: Eduard Pukkonen, Lauri Leppik

Latvia: Guntars Mankus

Russia: Sergey Yashchenko, Evgeny Dombrovskiy

Ukraine: Efim Shtempler

Members from Australia: Alan Mansfield, Rod Phillips,

Neil Phillips.

Observer status

Australia: Richard Robinson, David Baldwin

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

Norway: Ross Wakelin

Poland: Magda Czapluk

Russia: Syropiyatov Valeriy

South Africa: Lisa De Speville, Pieter Mulder

Spain: Filip Gili

Sweden: Bengt Nilsson

Switzerland: Dieter Wolf

USA: Barb Bryant

4th WRC: Pete Squires, 6th WRC: Peg Davis

9th WRC: Grant Hunter

A President's report is compiled to accompany the Annual Report of the International Rogaining Federation. The intention now is to publish the annual President's Reports in a series of IRF Newsletters.

President's Report 2010

This year has been highlighted by a successful World Rogaining Championships in New Zealand, an important change to the International Rogaining Federation [IRF] Constitution, further growth of the sport especially in Europe, and an increasing workload for the Executive that is being shared progressively with various working groups and sub-committees. In view of the Constitutional change, no new members were admitted to the IRF during 2010.

The 9th World Rogaining Championships [WRC] were held at Cheviot, South Island, New Zealand and attracted 521 participants from 22 countries. The terrain included exceptional coastal views with a mix of forest, farmland and hills. Heavy rain during the night tested many teams. A highlight of 9WRC was the close working relationship that Grant Hunter and his team of organisers had developed with the local Cheviot community who provided their school as a base for the event, land access to 70 farms, and some of the catering support.

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 that have 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 to ensure learning from the experience of other nations and maintenance of global uniformity.

During the year the IRF Constitution was amended so that the future IRF membership would be national rogaining associations rather than the current mix of associations and individuals. A transitional arrangement for two years is already underway. The result will be that after 2012 all IRF Members will be national rogaining associations. The process to accept new applications for membership or ratify existing membership began in late 2010.

The IRF is an incorporated association registered in the State of Victoria (Australia) with its Constitution approved under this registration. Incorporation provides official recognition and some protection for leaders of the sport. The IRF also has a bank account in Victoria that must be audited each year to maintain its status of an incorporated association. Continued timely reporting with our recognised and well-established governance means that the IRF has developed a good working relationship with the relevant department that oversees the incorporation. Discussions commenced this year with the Victorian Rogaining Association, which is also incorporated under the same rules as the IRF, to establish an IRF liaison officer role within the VRA that might assist with residence status and compliance activities for the IRF in the long term.

Leadership of international rogaining, and day-to-day operations and decisions, reside with the IRF Executive, and the Executive has a small but talented group with diverse skills and a high degree of collaboration and mutual respect. Some changes to the Executive are being foreshadowed with the need for transitional stages to leadership and an orderly succession plan and succession implementation. This year continues the pattern of Council members being involved with the Executive through sub-committee decisions, and the time is approaching when some further Executive positions need to be considered: these might be less-structured than the current ones and so allow the Executive to distribute

tasks according to available talents and interests. The succession planning can bring new ideas into the Executive and help to question past practices that may not be optimal into the future.

The finances of the IRF are in sound condition with \$11012.90 (Australian dollars) at the end of 2010 (audited. Note an Australian dollar ~ US Dollar). IRF revenue predominantly comes from levies at World Rogaining Championships and so has come every second year. Discussions are well advanced to broaden the revenue base to include international rogaining championships and other rogaines and some capitation fee; this will provide a more even revenue flow and also provide the IRF with additional resources 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 depending whether it is a WRC year, 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, as the former practice provides a better use of member funds to grow rogaining. Thank you again to the IRF Honorary Auditor Mr Shane Tanner for his advice and auditing of the annual financial records.

The IRF 2011 budgeting process has been brought forward so that it is complete before the relevant year starts; and this means that the budget process stays clear of the completion of financial reporting from the previous 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. Each year the IRF plans to make funds available for activities such as WRC Manager travel to assist World Rogaining Championships, but in many years these funds have not been used and instead individuals have managed such travel themselves. There has been some promotional expenditure that has significantly exceeded budget, and this has been deliberately done to provide promotional materials to individual associations so they can

further the reach of the promotion exercises. The extra material has been sold at cost and shows in the financial statement as extra expenditure and revenue above budget.

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 current 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.

The area of promotion and branding of the sport has received considerable attention over the last two 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 follow the basic designs when producing their own products for international rogaining championships and the sport generally.

Land access takes on many different forms depending upon the country. It is something that can never be taken for granted, and we already have some great success stories where local organisers have established strong relationships with towns, government departments and farmers. We need to share and build on these successes such as 9WRC, and the VRA Land Access study (available as a PDF).

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 pre-event weather guidance from organisers remains important but must include extreme possibilities that need to be planned for, as well

as expected average conditions. 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.

The topic of entry criteria for World Rogaining Championships is becoming an important issue 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 without whom the championships would not exist; beyond these groups there is much difference of opinion. Several important questions that need addressing might include:

- is it reasonable to expect WRC entrants to have completed at least two 24-hour rogaines before entry
- 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
- how useful is home country 24-hour rogaine experience in preparing an entrant for the safety challenges of competing abroad
- do we still need age classes for the non-elite when the WRC field is full
- does a mixed section have any role at the elite level, and could it be concatenated into the women's or men's category
- 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)?

The strength and progress of rogaining depends considerably on the quality of decisions we

make as leaders. Smart and efficient decision making requires focussing considerable effort into some decisions whilst recognising which can be quickly agreed without unnecessary debate. The diversity of backgrounds and experience represented on the IRF Council is important so that we are not tunnelled towards poor choices or miss important opportunities: it is important each person contributes their views and speaks up strongly if a wrong direction is being pursued. The IRF Code of Conduct provides guidelines of acceptable interactions amongst members. IRF Council members are elected to represent rogainers both in their home country but also globally. They have the complex task of balancing the need to keep in touch with their constituencies and consult when appropriate, with the need of efficient and timely decision making processes.

The IRF Executive in 2010 remained as it was in 2009 providing a strong team who work together well and manage a large number of concurrent and complex activities. Thank you Alan Mansfield, Lauri Leppik and Rod Phillips for your enormous efforts towards the development of roganing; and to these three names I might add the various important contributions during 2010 to sub-committees and special projects from other members of the IRF Council.

Neil Phillips
President
International Rogaining Federation