



INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION Inc.

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Members of IRF

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Murray Foubister - Canada
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Observer status

Brazil: José Nilton Silva Vargas
Canada: Francis Falardeau, Allan Stradeski
Finland: Iiro Kakko
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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: Syropyatov Valeriy
South Africa: Lisa De Speville, Ian Bratt
Spain: Felip Gili
Sweden: Bengt Nilsson
Switzerland: Dieter Wolf
4th WRC: Pete Squires
6th WRC: Peg Davis
9th WRC: Grant Hunter

Participant feedback

9th World Rogaining Championships New Zealand, 20-21 Nov 2010

Compiled by Grant Hunter and Bob Reddick

The New Zealand Rogaining Association organised the 9th WRC, supported by the rural community of Cheviot in North Canterbury. WRC2010 attracted 521 people (251 teams) from 22 counties. The IRF invited participants to respond to a questionnaire. The 118 respondents told us what they liked about the event, and things that were not so good. The replies summarised here contain ideas to strengthen future events.

It was a well organised event and the time spent preparing everything beforehand was obvious. The entry system seemed to allow the top teams in while still allowing some more social rogainers to compete. At the WRC level, it is most important to have the strongest competitors in their category always given priority. Review is needed of junior grade age cutoff of 19 or 23 years, and to find ways to encourage more juniors.

Communication/website was excellent - informative, up to date, both pre-event and for results. It could provide for easier posting of event reflections and depiction of results.

Sales store handled orders well, but on-site sales were requested. Hash house (HH) area worked very well, with good flexibility offered by the school facilities. Great camping, but many wanted showers which were not available. Organisation was excellent, smooth and efficient. Very helpful and friendly organisers, caterers, and the local community. Most remarked that the food was excellent - nothing really special but very appropriate,

calorie-dense, tasty, and served promptly. Strong community involvement and support. Navlight electronic scoring worked really well, but more and quicker public display of results was desired.

Organisers provided a model course which helped orient visiting teams to NZ. Most of the comments on the WRC course concerned the base map used. Misleading features (e.g. roads, fences, vegetation), 20 metre contours (versus 5 or 10) made navigation difficult for those not familiar with NZ maps or the local terrain. The map was the best yet in an NZ event but still lacks detailed updating. Some missed features, like shelter belts of trees, were more than 15 years old. The information on roads and tracks and major obstacles (cliffs, high fences, water features, and vegetation) must be reliable as these influence route choices, which in turn may result in significant differences in leg split times. Course setting overall good, but around 90% of teams started in the same direction, which indicates limited strategic options provided by course setters. Queuing could be avoided by replicate e-punches near the HH. Hanging of controls was inconsistent. Some could be seen from kms away; others were in bushy trees and you could only find them on hands and knees looking up.

Views on the terrain and course were mixed: many thought it was great, and suitably challenging, a few thought it a runners' course. There was preference by some for a more natural area (fewer farms) and more forest than open land. There were too many high deer and electric fences. Lack of a 'Safety Route' used in many rogaines, where a team could go to if injured or exhausted to get transport back to the HH. Several teams bailed out during the cold, rainy night and could have used a lift. Organisers advised using the map for insulation crossing fences, but by morning maps became unreadable. Maps were not waterproof. Some liked the style of terrain, with open rolling hills and pockets of bush. Many thought the course was well set and gave a number of route choices.

The event centre in a small town meant it was close to other amenities, food, and accommodation. Non-rogaining partners also appreciated the location. Some thought the presentations were good, with recognition of

the organisers, the local community and the IRF. The opening and closing ceremonies were a bit chaotic and long-winded for some. Perhaps too much emphasis on organisers and too little on winners. Let the winners speak at prize-giving. It is their time and they deserve it. Photo-taking of winners disrupted the awards presentations. Pictures should have been taken at a point separated from the awards area. Not a great venue inside a gym for the prize giving - too hot, crowded, poor seating, and with some wait for results. Outside over lunch would have been better, given the great weather.

It would be good to be able to enter actual route with Route Gadget and measure actual distances as was done after the Estonia WRC. The Finland 2009 event had excellent ways to examine route choices. The spread of the controls and variety of terrain made it hard to plan an optimum route, as shown by the top teams all having quite different routes.

Getting a new map to replace tattered ones after the race was nice. Some liked there being no compulsory gear list, only a recommended list. But some teams carried no emergency space blanket or rain shelter, to their grief. This event made no provision for competitors to sleep after the event at the event venue.

Many teams liked the way the local people were involved and interested in the event like the fire brigade outside the station on Sunday morning giving encouragement, and a local woman who drove beside us for perhaps a km chatting through the car window as we walked wearily to the finish. By arranging adventure activities for competitors would enhance the tourism experience and encourage further social interaction with competitors. A campfire to stand around at Friday and Saturday night to socialise should be featured at every rogain.

A final comment received: Rogaining should always be fun, friendly, tough and celebrate the merits of the individuals/teams (not states and countries).

A more detailed summary is available upon request.