



INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION Inc.

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Box 3, Central Park, 3145 Australia
www.rogaining.org
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IRF Team [end 2009]

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: Andres Käär, Lauri Leppik
Latvia: Guntars Mankus
Russia: Sergey Yashchenko, Evgeny Dombrovskiy
Ukraine: Efim Shtempler
Members from Australia: Alan Mansfield, Rod Phillips,
Neil Phillips.

Observer status

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: Sean Hassett
Israel: Dan Chissick
Japan: Kazuhiro Takashima
Norway: Ross Wakelin
Poland: Magda Czapluk
Russia: Syropyatov 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 2009

The International Rogaining Federation [IRF] is a not-for-profit association incorporated in the State of Victoria, Australia. This status involves some responsibility but also confers benefits on the IRF leadership and members. Two responsibilities are that the IRF operates under a Constitution and has audited financial records presented at its annual general meeting. The Constitution underpins the governance and elected representation of the IRF. One benefit of incorporation is the legal safeguard provided to leaders.

The mission of the IRF is to provide the opportunity for ROGAINING in as many parts of the world as practicable. We pursue this 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.

Rogaining has commenced in Finland, Hong Kong, France, Norway and Spain in the last three years. Each country has followed a different development path using established ideas from the sport plus innovative additions to adjust for their local conditions and cultures. Each has attracted large fields of new rogainers to the sport. Well-established rogaining associations also attract new rogainers such as Victoria has done through its Schools Rogaining Championships initiative.

The quality of major rogaining championships remains a focus for the IRF with established guidelines in place for the World Rogaining Championships [WRC] and European Rogaining Championships. Plans are underway to have similar guidelines for the North American Rogaining Championships in 2010. Uniform guidelines ensure that rogainers can experience quality events wherever they travel. The 6th European Rogaining Championships were the major rogaine for 2009 and were significant in being held north of the Arctic Circle in a country where the sport had only been active since 2007. This demonstrates that organising a major rogaining championship is within the grasp of many countries and that we have the flexibility to vary our sport to different climates and geographic challenges. The IRF will continue to play a significant role promoting our international rogaining championships and ensuring consistent standards of organisation and rules.

We have had very successful WRCs in recent years. Each has strengthened rogaining in the host country and has led to expansions to new countries in the years that followed. One example is the Hong Kong team at 7WRC in the Warrumbungle Mountains in Australia. They took many ideas home and have run successful rogaines in Hong Kong since 2007. The continued high level of interest in the WRC, as witnessed by the entries for 9WRC in New Zealand, has led to deliberations about WRC entry criteria.

Rogaining associations provide the framework so that the sport can continue and grow sustainably once key leaders rotate or retire. Establishment of rogaining in a new area requires risk takers prepared to work hard and inspire others. Having an association infrastructure in place means that the legacy of the early years of development and hard work lives on when the founders pass over leadership to others. The rogaining associations in New South Wales and Western Australia, each over 25 years old and each with a thousand members, are examples of the value and sustainability of the association model. Furthermore, the 43th Twalk 24 hour rogaine held in New Zealand during 2009 emphasises

the continued appeal of this event. Formation of the Japanese Rogaining Association in 2009 represents an important development in that country.

Internal communications have remained a high priority. There have been IRF Newsletters (6 in 2009), monthly Roles & Responsibilities summaries from the Executive (12) and the website led by Lisa De Speville. There are also ad hoc meetings when members visit other countries, and regular email discussion and news items. Each second year it is important that as many IRF Members and Observers as possible can attend each World Championship, meet one another and discuss common issues that will help their own planning later.

External communications have received more attention during 2009 with involvement in a sport-branding workshop hosted by the Victorian Rogaining Association [VRA]. This emphasis on our rogaining brand will continue through the VRA as they organise further workshops. The development of a generic rogaining shirt is aimed to provide a garment that can be worn with pride in neat casual occasions that shows our logo, names the sport, and provides a brief explanation of what we do. The IRF has provided a basic layout that can be modified for countries or used for major rogaining championships by having specific labelling around the basic design.

The special anniversary IRF Newsletter is for external audiences and describes rogaining activities on every continent. This Newsletter #150 has an external focus: it is designed to assist all rogaining leaders with their communication with government, businesses and potential sponsors. It can be used to support major rogaining championships at the bidding and planning stages, for land access permission, and for sporting grants.

Governance is a topic on which the IRF has had strong focus since 2000, and an area of some considerable pride. There has been a deliberate and evolving positioning of the IRF somewhere between the style of an ad hoc start-up at one extreme and a conservative non-growth organisation at the other extreme. Necessarily, the IRF's position may shift with

time. The governance focus in recent years owes much to the contribution from the *Wartook meeting* of the IRF and Australian Rogaining Association in 1997. Three requirements were agreed upon for the IRF, i.e. representative membership with voting, financial system, and legal safeguards - summarised in IRF Newsletter #47.

No changes have been made to the IRF Constitution during 2009. One change from 2008 was disallowed in early 2009 under the Incorporations Act. This rejected change had been voted on and passed by members in late 2008 asking for a two-thirds majority for Constitutional changes.

No new Member countries joined the IRF during 2009 but there was rotation and addition of individuals and observers.

Future membership structure of the IRF has been discussed in the later part of 2009. This has focussed on whether membership should be restricted to national rogaining associations. The value of the IRF structure developed in 2000 is demonstrated by the rapid growth of the sport over the last ten years. Many of those who bring rogaining into a new area or country have expressed their lack of interest in, or ability to, establish national rogaining associations, but they certainly can organise rogaining events. For the long-term sustainability of the sport, rogaining associations are very useful as demonstrated by groups in Australia, New Zealand and the Czech Republic. The latter ran their 11th Czech Rogaining Championships during 2009. Hence there exists a balance between a less-structured arrangement whilst the sport grows in an area and a more structured association once growth has occurred. We also need to recognise that rogaining in each country is at a different stage of this development path.

Financially, the IRF is in a sound position with AUD\$7,000 in its bank account. Sources of funding for IRF activities include levies related to World and European Rogaining Championships and national contributions by the New Zealand Rogaining Association. There are discussions with North American rogainers to strengthen the North American

Championships and have an IRF levy attached to this major event. Through 2009 we have underspent in direct WRC areas, but allocated much of the investment into indirect assistance such as the Special Newsletter and shirts that both aid longer-term publicity. Annual budgeting follows a process of closely aligning planned investment with the mission and goals in the Strategic Plan for Rogaining. Shane Tanner continues to act as our honorary auditor and offers advice when appropriate.

There are significant issues ahead of us. As the IRF and Rogaining take our next steps, we will require some secretarial support, enhanced media coverage and promotion, travel of WRC co-ordinators, and additional website development. Land access will continue to be critical for the sport and an area of our investment. For this reason we are developing ways to better inform the community about rogaining and to emphasise the responsible approach to private property and community forest adopted by organisers and participants at all levels. Sources for funding include government(s), national rogaining association contributions, and a broader contribution from international rogaining championships.

Many of the practices of the IRF and especially of the Executive are being recorded for longer term reference by all rogaining leaders. These include: Role of the Executive Team (Newsletter #136), Annual Business Cycle (#137), Annual Country Plans (#139) and Land Access (#146). These add to the IRF statement on national rogaining associations (#131) outlined in 2007. Interesting aspects of the sport are similarly recorded for any country to draw upon for its media or community information, e.g. Age is no barrier (#141), Young Rogainers (#143), and Lost (#144). The Code of Conduct for Rogaining adopted in 2007 continues to provide a basis for fair, open and respectful dealing between rogainers at all level.

We have many thousand hard working volunteers in over twenty countries, and we recognise the contribution that these volunteers make. Ultimately, it is the quality and dedication of the volunteer leaders of this organisation that determine its future direction

and achievements. Rogaining is unique with respect to its volunteers. No other sport has the ability to recognise volunteers by giving them some priority in World Championships entry criteria. You cannot have a successful 100 metres swimming world championship with volunteers competing side-by-side with elite swimmers. But in rogaining we can. This unique advantage allows us to acknowledge our dependence on volunteers by having them compete at the highest level. It also strengthens the sport by ensuring that our leaders and administrators are in close communication and do not lose touch with competitors and participants.

On behalf of all rogainers, my gratitude to the IRF Executive team that works tirelessly for the IRF and the sport, and to IRF Members, Observers and other volunteers, for your on-going support and work within the IRF and at national level. Thank you.

Neil Phillips
President
International Rogaining Federation