

# International Rogaining Federation

## WRC 2013 IRF Meeting Minutes 25<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Attendees: Richard Robinson (Aus), Sergev Yashchenko (Rus), Sergey Simakina (Rus Pres), Alexey Nikitin (Rus 2013 WRC Director), Alexander Shumsky (Rus), Guntars Mankus (Lat), Rod Gray (Aus), Jorge Virguitu (Sp), Eric Culom (Sp), Roberto Pascual (Sp), Sharon Crawford (USA), Rob Gardner (Aus)

Apologies: Rod Phillips, Neil Phillips, Bob Reddick, Jan Tjonar, Lauri Leppick, Jose Vargar, Marco Rossler, Oleksander Letyehvskyy, David Rowlands, David Baldwin, Bud Laird, Jose Nilton Silva Vargas

1. WRC 11 Status. A variety of terrains with some thick vegetation and some marshes with only a few people living in the villages. There may be a few people gathering berries and mushrooms. There are 6 water drops and the spring and lake water is also of good quality as there has been no agriculture for about 40 years. There are 730 competitors from 23 countries with a large proportion from Russia and adjoining countries. The Russian Army is being very supportive and providing showers, cooking, tents and other facilities. They have adopted the sport as part of their training program and also have several teams competing from different Divisions across Russia. The opening ceremony will commence at 5pm with music and the speeches at 7.30pm. There are no major outstanding issues. (A)
2. Technical Report. The items being considered for further assessment by the Technical Development Committee will involve the following issues and other items. Drafts will be prepared and refined and presented for further discussion to the Executive (**Action: SY**). Lauri Leppik prepared a draft set of revised Technical Regulations a little while ago and these are being used as a basis for a possible update. SY has established an IRF Technical Committee that includes Bob Reddick, Lauri Leppi, Jan Tjonar and David Baldwin. This committee with the input from others within their respective regions will be assisting in the reviews. The key issue is to ensure an event fair to competitors and simple to interpret and administer for the organisers. The major items are:
  - 2.1 Checkpoint Flag location – After the issues in 10 WRC the 11WRC has 7 checkpoints surrounding the Hash House which all have two markers and two SI units. All markers at close to eye level.
  - 2.2 Fluorescent Tape- For the 11WRC fluorescent tape is attached to all checkpoints as the vegetation is thick and this was considered necessary to make it fair in this particular event.
  - 2.3 Developments – how to incorporate GPS loggers and trackers for the benefit of spectators and marketing purposes. A great promotional tool but need to manage so as to avoid giving advantage to other competitors. It was generally agreed that the IRF needed to embrace the use of GPS loggers and trackers but need to ensure this was done in a way that maintained fairness
  - 2.4 CP recording and event/score management – using SportIdent C10 and 11 at this event. (SY)

### 3. World Championship Management.

3.1 Frequency – Russia, USA and Latvia believe they should be annual as elite athletes prefer a regular event, avoids a major gap in competing if one is injured or unable to travel and one always has to make a choice between events to attend. Spain prefers biannual with regional champs in alternate years which makes attendance and sponsorship easier. Australia recommends a review commencing after 2013 WRC and updated after the 2014 WRC event with a substantial survey of members and appropriate analysis. There was a general view that such a survey could be valuable and thus will be recommended to the Executive (**Action: RR** )

3.2 Rotation – All agreed with the principle of rotation around the world providing the events are of a high standard and have good participation. The current “informal” system appeared to work well for 2015 and 2016 selection. Australia was unwilling to run an event in 2015 which would have been in the normal sequence and it was opened to others (North Finland winning) but then received almost unanimous support for 2016 (Central Australia). There was general support for a more formal rotation policy generally in line with the suggestion in the discussion paper. A formal proposal will be brought to the Executive for review (**Action: RR** to work with Jan T to develop and draft)

3.3 Requirements and Host Selection– All agreed one needs a strong and solid organisation with considerable experience to ensure a good and fair event. Australia prefer that members run events or a non-member is actively supported by a member, Latvia consider countries should be encouraged to be members when wanting to run an event, Spain suggests a very broad and strong organisation also including promotional and fund raising skills. There was a general consensus that organising countries should be encouraged to be members of the IRF and that being a member would be an advantage. (**Action: RR** to work with Jan T to develop and draft a policy for review by the Executive)

3.4 WRC Selection Process and Timeline – The proposals contained in the discussion paper were supported. (**Action: RR** to work with Jan T to progress these items)

3.5 Spain Report – They are trying to develop a central organisation from the various regional groups which will include a technical support team which will hopefully apply to be a member in the near future. They hope to run an event in the Pyrenees involving groups from France as well. A meeting will be held shortly to try to inaugurate a Spanish National Peak Rogaining Body (RP,EC,JU)

4. Strategic Plan – The current 5-year plan is now 7 years old. Alan Mansfield will chair a committee to receive input and participation from all regions. David Rowlands will be a representative from Australia but ideally two representatives from Europe and one from North America are required and possibly others. (**Action: AM** to follow up)

5. Finance Report – Finance Reports previously circulated and approved for 2012. Only limited spending and income so far this year with the balance in the bank over A\$11,000. The Banking facilities now incur no bank charges and further changes will be made to make it a more electronic system and to receive more interest. (RG)

6. Financing System - The current proposal is a balance between income from major events and a base funding per competitor. Latvia, and others, are concerned about how to calculate the number of members. There was a general view that some IRF members would never be in a position to determine participant/member numbers. Russia asked what is the benefit to

the rank and file members who are being asked to fund this capitation fee? Russia suggested that consideration to be given to minimum and maximum payments and/or a tiered structure of fixed fees. It was also suggested that for event levies on National Championship the amount to be kept below \$3 / event so it is a minor part of the total cost. After extensive discussion RR to review and prepare a paper for further discussion by the Executive and others. **(Action: RR)**

7. Next WRC – RC North Dakota – Entries will open in mid-November with all the details becoming available shortly. The Forestry Dept. will confirm the maximum number of participants shortly.(SC)
8. General – Would like sport to be registered with the International Sports Federation or the Olympic Committee as this is required (to be an “Approved Sport”) for government support from Latvia, Russia and some other countries. Rogaining Victoria already is subject to government sports supervision (eg Drug tests)**(Action: RR to follow up)**  
Current registration is in Victoria – could be changed if there is a benefit.  
Hash House – agreed should punch in and out during the event for safety reasons