

International Rogaining Federation Inc.
Discussion Paper on the Future Direction
of
World Rogaining Championships
For Discussion in July 2013

1. Background:

The IRF Council has considered several aspects of the World Rogaining Championships over the past year or two. Some councillors have suggested the IRF needs a more formal process for WRC management. This discussion paper is to stimulate discussion of the key elements of WRC management.

2. Overview:

We want this discussion paper to be distributed by you to the rogaine organising committees and/or individuals in your country and for you to ask them to advise if they support the proposals contained in this document and if not to suggest alternatives. We want you to bring these ideas and feedback to the IRF meeting planned to be held at the Alol Tourist Centre on 25 July 2013 ahead of the 2013 WRC.

The 25 July 2013 meeting will not be used to make final decisions. The discussions at that meeting will be used by the IRF Executive to develop draft proposals for subsequent discussion and decision by the IRF Council.

This paper covers five key elements of WRC management:

- Frequency of WRCs
- Rotation of WRC Host Regions
- Requirements for WRC Hosts
- WRC Host Selection Process
- Timelines for WRC Host Selection

Each of these is expanded upon below

3. Frequency of WRCs

WRCs were previously held each two years. It is likely that from 2012 to 2016, a WRC will be held each year. To understand the impact of annual WRCs, we should review the entry patterns and rogainer feedback after WRCs have been held on an annual basis for a number of years. Also, as set out in Section 7 below it is suggested that in the future WRC hosting rights are awarded a minimum of three years ahead of the year in which the WRC will be held.

A suggested proposal is:

- If suitable willing hosts are available, WRCs will be held on an annual basis until at least 2018
- Immediately following the 2014 WRC, the IRF will commence a detailed study of the impact that annual WRCs has had on the pattern of entries and attitude of rogainers towards the WRC. Considerable work has already been undertaken in how such a study might be conducted.
- The results of the above study will help the IRF decide if annual WRCs should continue beyond 2018.

This should allow a decision to be made in early 2016, sufficient time to decide on whether a 2019 WRC should be held.

4. Rotation of WRC Host Regions

There is currently no formal policy on rotation of WRCs around the rogaining regions of the world. Historically there has been an informal view that to the extent practical WRC locations should be rotated through the three key rogaining regions (Europe, North America and Australasia) but this has not been particularly closely followed.

Hosting rights for WRCs have the capacity to provide a number of things to the host nation and region and the broader rogaining community including:

- Opportunity to experience different rogaining terrain and organisational approaches
- Opportunity to visit countries and locations that people would be unlikely to visit otherwise
- Provides an opportunity for rank and file rogainers from the host nation and region to participate in a WRC, something they may be unlikely to otherwise do
- Gives significant profile to rogaining and the WRC in the host country which may in turn aid the development of the sport there
- Provides the host nation with a recognition of their contribution to rogaining

The regular rotation of WRC host regions allows for a broader and more diverse participation in WRCs in the long term. It also assists the world's best rogainers to experience competition in a wide diversity of terrains and allows rogaining administrators the opportunity to learn from a broad range of event organisers.

A suggested proposal is:

- From 2014 onwards divide the rogaining world into four regions being:
 - Europe
 - North America
 - Australasia

- Other – Being all areas on the world not included in the above three regions
- Preference for WRC locations be rotated through the four regions with Europe allocated two WRCs and all other regions one WRC within each five-year period with a published fixed cycle
- For each WRC potential hosts from the “Preferred” region be given the first opportunity to provide formal expressions of interest (EoIs) to host that WRC
- If no suitable EoI is received the “Preferred” region then the EoI for that WRC will be opened up to all regions
- Awarding the hosting rights for a WRC to a “non-Preferred” region will not change the future rotation of “Preferred” regions
- The number and location of regions and allocation of WRCs to regions shall be reviewed not less than every five years with the first review not later than 2016

Adoption of such a policy will provide increased certainty to potential hosts in that it will allow them to focus on the years allocated to their region. It should also allow countries within regions to better co-operate regarding the development of WRC EoIs. It will also demonstrate to non-traditional roving nations that they have a genuine opportunity to host a WRC if they can demonstrate the capacity to do so.

5. Requirements for WRC Hosts

Peak sporting bodies usually restrict the hosting of major championships to members. This helps to ensure that high standards are maintained and also encourages membership of the peak body.

Currently, the IRF allows non-members to host the WRC. There will be a time when this is no longer appropriate. If the IRF is to continue to allow non-members to hold WRCs, then we need to ensure that non-members maintain high standards. We also need to continue to encourage such countries to join the IRF so that they can be part of the ongoing policy development and decision making process.

Feedback on this matter at the July 25 meeting is sought and if it is agreed that we should continue to allow non-members to host WRCs then it is proposed that this position be formally reviewed at least every two years.

6. WRC Host Selection Process

The establishment of formal published guidelines for selection of WRC hosts has already commenced with the bidding process for 2015 and 2016. Such guidelines will assist potential WRC hosts and make the selection process more rigorous and consistent.

To help WRC bidding and selection, we propose to develop:

- A. A standard request for Expression of Interest (EoI) for groups wishing to host a WRC that includes;
 - a. The items that must be included in the EoI
 - b. Mandatory requirements for the experience of key personnel in a WRC organising team
 - c. Other mandatory requirements for WRCs that proponents must demonstrate an ability to achieve
 - d. Optional items that may be included in the EoI

- B. A standard set of assessment criteria to be used by the IRF in assessing each Eol for the hosting of a WRC

Having the above documents publicly available will help both the bidding groups and the IRF to achieve a transparent and consistent process, and a good outcome.

7. Timelines for WRC Host Selection

Establishing a fixed timeline for selecting WRC hosts will greatly assist both the hosts and the competitors to plan.

We propose that a timeline be established to ensure that the host for any WRC is agreed not later than the end of the third quarter of the year three years before the year that the WRC will be held. For example, the host for a 2018 WRC, assuming one is conducted in 2018, will be agreed by the end of September 2015.

A suggested detailed timeline to support the above is as follows:

Activity	Date in Year (Y-3)*
Initial Call for Eols	End January
Submission of Eols	End March
Review of Eols and opportunity to seek further clarification	End April
Submission of second round Eols if required	End June
Review of second round Eols and opportunity to seek further clarification	End July
Voting	August (+ September if two rounds required)
WRC Host Announced	End September latest

* Year Y-3 is the year three years before the year of the WRC under consideration

Notes:

- i. The above suggested timeline assumes that the rotation process suggested in 4. above is adopted.
- ii. If no second round Eol is required then the vote would be taken in May with the host announced by the end of June