



International Rogaining Federation Inc.

Discussion Paper on the Potential for a

Rogaining World Series

For Discussion by the IRF Council

1. Background:

From 2020 onwards World Rogaining Championships (WRCs) will be conducted every two years unless and until the IRF Council makes a decision to adopt a different frequency. This could be seen as creating a gap in the international rogaining calendar but it could also be seen as creating an opportunity to introduce a new type of international rogaining competition that gives the IRF and the sport of rogaining a new vehicle to promote our sport and encourage rogainers to compete in events outside their home country and region.

Shorter, non-championship, rogaines have shown themselves to be very popular across the world over the past 10-15 years. The Rogaining World Series concept is to tap into this popularity by establishing and promoting a series of events across the rogaining world during each non-WRC year in which competitors can earn points towards a series title. The series should be set up such that competitors would need to compete in a variety of countries to be successful in the series but that success could be achieved by competing in less than half of the series events.

2. Strategic Intent:

If the IRF is to develop and foster some form of Rogaining World Series then we should be doing this in a form that is consistent with the IRF Strategic Plan approved in 2014. In reviewing this Plan there are a number aspects that are relevant to a potential Rogaining World Series. Key ones include:

Under Goals for Members:

- Attract more participants
- Attract elite competitors especially at major rogaining championships
- Achieve greater representation of nationalities at major international rogaining championships
- Foster a culture that encourages risk-taking with new developments in the sport

Under Goal for Events

- Provide consistent high quality events
- Offer fair and consistent competition
- Increase the number of countries organising rogaines
- Increase the number of rogaines being organised in existing countries
- Increase participation in existing rogaines

Under Goals for the IRF:

- Consolidate and grow the sport

Thus it is suggested that any Rogaining World Series should be focused on at least the following:

- Attracting more participants and particularly attracting elite competitors
- Attracting competitors to events conducted outside their home country and home region
- Demonstrating that rogaining and the IRF are prepared to innovate in developing the sport and developing forms of rogaining competition
- Ensuring consistently high quality and fair events across the series
- Ensuring a wide geographical spread of events

Some thoughts on how this may be achieved is set out below.

3. **Models:**

In considering this concept I have drawn from two potential models with which I have some close familiarity. These are:

- Queensland Rogaine Association (QRA), Rogainer of the Year (ROTY) competition
- International Orienteering Federation (IOF) Mountain Bike Orienteering (MTBO) Masters Commission, World Masters Series (WMS)

QRA ROTY System

The QRA ROTY system is the more complex of the two but has been designed specifically for rogaining. Details can be found at <https://qldrogaine.asn.au/results/seq-rogainer-of-the-year/> and the basic structure of the system is as follows:

- Points are awarded to individuals, not teams, meaning an individual can use a number of different teammates during the series. All members of a team get the same number of points for any given event.
- The points awarded for any event is the team's point score in the event divided by the overall winning score in the event multiplied by 100 and multiplied by the event duration in hours. Thus members of the winning team in a 24-hour event get $100 \times 24 = 2,400$ points for that event. The members of a team getting exactly half of the winning score in a 12-hour event get $50 \times 12 = 600$ points for that event.
- An individual's best 60 hours of competition during the year counts towards their overall score.
- There are no age categories, simply Female Rogainer of the Year and Male Rogainer of the Year.

The QRA system has some further complications in that it allows individuals to earn points for up to 24 hours of volunteering in any series. This was done to encourage and reward volunteering at the local level and is not considered necessary or appropriate for a World Series.

MTBO WMS

The MTBO WMS is simpler but may not be as well suited to rogaining. The basics of the system are as follows:

- There are a series of nominated events across the world that form the series. In 2016 and 2017 there were 15 events and in 2018 there are 17 events. The events for any annual series are normally nominated by the middle of the previous year. They are series events that are selected from events that are already planned, they are not events that are created for the series.
- A competitor's best 7 results in series events count towards their final score in the series.
- The same set of series points are awarded irrespective of the length of the event. Thus, the same result in each of a Long, Middle or Sprint event attracts the same points. Points are awarded on the basis of 35 points for 1st place, 33 points for 2nd place, 31 points for 3rd place, 30 points for 4th place, down to 1 point for 33rd place. The series scores can be found at: <http://www.astrois.hu/mtbo/2018/WorldMaster2018Scores.htm>
- Series points are awarded for each 5-year age class in each of Female and Male irrespective of whether the series event offered 5-year or 10-year age classes.

It is considered that elements of both the above models could be used to create a Rogaining World Series that will create greater interest in our sport and encourage rogainers to compete in more events outside of their home country and home region.

4. Some Fundamentals

Whilst all things are open to debate and challenge, in developing this paper I felt that there were a number things that could be considered as fundamental to the success of a Rogaining World Series. These include:

- The series would need to be supported and promoted by all IRF Members.
- It would not be practical for every IRF European Member to organise an event in every series.
- There should be at least one event in North America in each series, subject to their being a suitable event planned.
- Events hosted by non-IRF Members should be permitted to be included in the series subject to the IRF being satisfied the event will meet the required technical and organisational standards.
- Each series should include an event in New Zealand and more than one event in Australia. Australian events should be spread across different regions of that country.
- The series should be designed such that a competitor can only win if they compete in events outside Australasia (Australia and New Zealand).
- The series should include non-championship events particularly events shorter than 24 hours.
- Only traditional foot rogaines can be included in the series.
- To win the series a competitor would need to compete in between 40% and 50% of all series events.

I am very happy for any or all of the above to be challenged but felt it useful for people to understand my thinking.

5. Key Questions

In addition to any feedback that Members may have regarding the items set out in 4. above I think that the following are the key questions that we need feedback from Members on before further developing any Rogaining World Series model.

- a. Are IRF Members supportive of the development of such a series?
- b. Should the series include 24-hour events? There is a case to argue that as 24-hour events are the focus of WRC years that the World Series should focus on shorter events but equally there is a case that we want to encourage participation in 24-hour events.
- c. Should the series be set up so that it is possible to win without competing outside Europe?
- d. What should be the minimum length of event included in the series? "Rogaines" as short as 1-hour are being held in places around the world but some would argue that any event shorter than 6 hours is not worthy of the title "rogaine".
- e. Should World Series events all be of the same duration and if so what should be that duration?
- f. Should series points be awarded to individuals or to teams? The feedback from the QRA ROTY is that competitors like the points being awarded to individuals because it is often not practical to have the same team mate for multiple events.
- g. If the series points are awarded to individuals is there a need to separate scores earned in mixed teams from scores earned in same sex teams? This would add considerable complexity and substantially reduce the benefits offered by awarding points to individuals.
- h. Should points be based on both the competitive performance and the duration of the event as in the QRA ROTY or the competitive performance only as in the MTBO WMS?
- i. Should the competitive performance scoring be based on the score comparative to the winner as in the QRA ROTY or the placing in the event as in the MTBO WMS?
- j. Should there be a separate scoring for each age class (ie Y, O, V, SV, UV) or just an Open class?
- k. If there is separate scoring for each age class should this be based on their performance in their age class or their outright performance? Note that a system that is based on comparative performance within an age class (ie score based on the % of the age class winners' time) would add significant complexity to the process.

It is likely that there are a range of other questions and feedback items that Members will consider relevant and we would be pleased to get any and all feedback.

6. Forward Plan

Members, Observers and other rogaining groups are encouraged circulate this paper within their memberships and rogaining networks and obtain as much feedback as possible. All interested parties are encouraged to share their thoughts across the full IRF Council and beyond to create discussion.

After 31st October 2018 a survey will be made available to obtain feedback on this paper. Each Member, Observer and interested party will be requested to complete this survey. If there is strong support for the concept this feedback will then be used by the Executive to further develop the model for further review and discussion by Council.

Richard Robinson