



## Australian Rogaining Association Inc. (24 Hour Cross Country Navigation)

16 July 2007

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### RE: ARA Membership of IRF

Dear Neil,

The Australian Rogaining Association (ARA) is not currently a member of the International Rogaining Federation. The ARA believes that an International Rogaining Federation without ARA as a member is a significant restraint to the sport.

In September 2001 the ARA wrote to the IRF stating the ARA's position that an IRF should consist of National Peak Rogaining Bodies, not individuals. Over the past 18 months, representatives from the ARA and IRF Executives reached agreement as to the necessary constitution changes and a phase-in process.

Recently, the ARA Executive has canvassed the opinions of the ARA Council and their state associations in regards to a number of outstanding issues and final details identified during discussion with the IRF.

In conclusion, there has been a unanimous agreement on the following:

- IRF voting will be restricted to Members, the President, Secretary/Treasurer and Immediate Past President.
- Members of the IRF (Member category) should comprise representatives of the National Peak Rogaining Body in each country, not individuals.
- The end of the transition period to reach this position will be June 2008.
- Observer category should be maintained where a country does not have a Peak National Rogaining Body, to ensure a wide scope of voices on the IRF. These individuals will have no vote.
- States, provinces and regions with IRF Member status through Peak National Rogaining Bodies will not have additional Observer status.
- Members will receive 2 votes per country, as per the ARA Constitution.
- The location of World Rogaining Championships will be rotated between the 3 world regions (Europe / North America / AsiaPacific) every 2 years. A bidding selection process should be determined in conjunction with voting members (and observers) and then used to select the host organisation.

- For the time being, an annual membership fee payable to the IRF from each Member national association will be approximately \$US1 per member of each national rogaining association, or less; the fee will take account of the individual circumstances of each country. Membership fees will be determined by Council in discussion with each Member and can be reduced or waived during the early years of development of the sport in a country.
- The ARA's IRF delegates are elected by ARA Council annually and consist of the ARA President plus any Council member.

Please see the attached document **ARA Position for Final Aspects of IRF Relationship.doc** for a full list of the options discussed and conclusions reached.

Furthermore, as agreed during our meetings:

- Votes for changes to the IRF constitution should be altered from a 3/4 majority vote to 2/3 majority.
- The commercial operators and Founders positions will be removed completely.

The ARA, in accepting membership of the IRF, would support the mission of the International Rogaining Federation "to provide the opportunity for rogaining in as many parts of the world as practicable".

It will endeavour to pursue this mission by assisting in:

- Expanding rogaining to new regions and countries, and within existing areas.
- Increasing both elite and recreational participation in the sport.
- Raising the quality of all rogaines, especially International Championships.
- Promoting and developing high-quality World Rogaining Championships.
- Developing and growing sustainable rogaining associations.

The ARA's membership will provide the following advantages:

- Additional financial reserves which could be used by the IRF in the form of grants to new and fledgling associations to enable them to purchase infrastructure and fund marketing initiatives to grow their membership.
- Establishment of one peak organising body for the sport. In the past, without the ARA being a member of the IRF, there has been confusion about ownership of items such as the Rogaining Technical Regulations and Rules.
- Bring additional experience and resources to the IRF Council. ARA delegates have been associated with large rogaining associations for many years. They have day to day access to the knowledge, materials and resources created and developed by the rogaining associations in Australia over the past 30 years.

In summary, as a formal response to your invitation to join the IRF, the ARA would be happy to become a member if the IRF constitution is amended to reflect the points listed above.

We encourage you to publish the content of this letter in your next IRF Newsletter to advise the current IRF Council and Observers of the ARA's position.

Yours Sincerely,

Phillip Holman  
President  
Australian Rogaining Association