



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

12 August 2001

Dear IRF Councillors,

There are a number of areas of the current IRF constitution which ARA Council feel are inappropriate for an international federation of rogaining bodies. For this reason, the ARA has been working with the IRF Executive towards producing an IRF constitution acceptable to both parties.

At a meeting held on 4 February 2001, representatives from both ARA and the IRF Executive met in Sydney, Australia, to work through the existing IRF constitution and identify areas of concern. As a result of this meeting several changes were made which led to a far stronger constitution.

Unfortunately, the majority of ARA Council still considered this amended constitution unacceptable, and a vote for the ARA to join the IRF in May 2001 was defeated.

The issues that ARA have with the current IRF constitution can well be summarised under the following three areas:

- Simplicity,
- Democracy,
- Encouragement of the formation of national rogaining bodies.

To further address these issues, ARA Council worked through the current IRF constitution and developed a document that they felt would be acceptable. **To this end, ARA voted on the following motion in July 2001:**

"That the Australian Rogaining Association Inc. (ARA) takes up membership of the International Rogaining Federation Inc. (IRF) effective immediately, and that the ARA proceed to appoint its IRF Council members at the earliest practical time subject to the IRF first agreeing to the following:

- 1. That the IRF Rules are changed to those attached. (see description on the next page)*
- 2. That elections for IRF Executive positions be held within six months of the ARA taking up IRF membership.*

Furthermore, that the ARA participate actively in the affairs and operations of the IRF and encourage other national peak rogaining bodies to do likewise.

Concurrently, the ARA IRF Transitional Committee shall be wound up."

This motion was passed by ARA Council, indicating that we would be happy to join the IRF subject to the above two conditions.

In order to fully digest the changes the ARA has proposed, a detailed description of the changes follow, together with the reasoning behind those changes. The ARA hopes that these notes make our position clear, and that you see fit to adopt the changes proposed. Hopefully we can all be working together very shortly.

Summary of Proposed Changes to IRF Constitution

What is a Rogaining Association?

The current constitution refers to "Rogaining Associations", and provides a definition of what is meant by that term. However, the ARA believes that it is still not clear on reading the constitution whether, say, an orienteering association can be classified as a "Rogaining Association".

The ARA's proposed constitution uses the term "National Peak Rogaining Body" instead of "Rogaining Association". The ARA believes this term implicitly encompasses all rogaining bodies, regardless of whether they have the term "Rogaining Association" in their title. As an example, the ARA sees the USOF and NZOF as currently being the appropriate National Peak Rogaining Bodies to represent the USA and New Zealand on the IRF. By making this change, there will be no doubt as to whether USOF or NZOF can be represented on the IRF.

IRF Member Structure - reduced voting power of individuals

Several changes are proposed by the ARA regarding the membership criteria of the IRF, and the voting rights of those members. The current and proposed structures are summarised in the following Table.

Current Constitution	Proposed Constitution
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rogaining Associations (RAs) (no vote)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Peak Rogaining Bodies (NPRBs) (no vote)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The IRF Executive (Pres and Sec/Treas vote)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The IRF Executive (Pres and Sec/Treas vote)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individuals representing National RAs (vote)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individuals representing the NPRBs (vote)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ex-officio members (vote)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ex-officio members (vote)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-opted members (vote)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-opted members (no vote)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individuals representing national groups in countries without a National RA (vote)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individuals representing national groups in countries without a NPRB (no vote)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commercial rogaining operators (vote)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No commercial rogaining operators
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A member elected by the founders of rogaining (vote)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No member elected by the founders of rogaining

The changes are:

- Co-opted members have no vote;
- Individuals representing national groups without a National Peak Rogaining Body no longer receive voting rights;
- Commercial operators are no longer eligible to be members of the IRF, and
- There is no longer a member elected by the founders of rogaining.

The reasons for these changes all stem from the same key idea, which is that the IRF should represent a "federation of national rogaining bodies". Therefore, the constitution should encourage the formation of such bodies. The ARA's proposed constitution does this by only allowing representatives of National Peak Rogaining Bodies, some of the IRF Executive, and ex-officio members the right to vote.

The amended constitution recognises the reality that not every country has a National Peak Rogaining Body, and allows such members observer status on the IRF Council.

Regarding commercial operators, the ARA believes that it is not in the interests of a sport that is almost exclusively run by volunteers to allow such operators to have a seat on IRF Council at this stage. Any commercial operator will have its commercial interests at heart, which may not coincide with the good of rogaining as we know it. The ARA believes that the National Peak Rogaining Body or Individual Member representing the country ought to have the responsibility of liaising with any commercial operators in that country and "bringing them into the fold" should they wish this to happen. Commercial operators would still be eligible to be elected as co-opted members if they were interested, but would not have voting rights.

Executive Term of Office - change from 4 years to 2 years

The executive term of office currently stands at 4 years, using a series of staggered elections to allow for gradual change in the Executive. The ARA proposes that this be changed to 2 years.

The reason for this proposal is that the IRF is currently a small group that is still obviously finding its feet as a constituted Federation. Therefore, the ability to change the Executive more readily, at least in this early stage, is desirable. Also, if Executive members want to stay on for 4 years, they can always stand for re-election after 2 years. If they're doing a reasonable job it is unlikely that they will not succeed in being re-elected.

Source of Revenue - no fees for Rogaining Associations

Currently the IRF receives sources of funding from running World Rogaining Championships, donations, and fees from Rogaining Associations. As there are no fees collected from individual members, the ARA sees this as a major discouragement for such associations to join. In the case of countries where no such association exists, the current constitution leads to a reduced incentive for a country to form one.

The ARA proposes to eliminate any fees for National Peak Rogaining Bodies, thus providing further incentive for countries to form rogaining associations and join the IRF.

Quorum - change from "3 members" to "60% of voting members"

The requirement for a quorum at an IRF council meeting currently stands at 3. Even with the current voting membership of about a dozen, this seems very small. If rogaining continues to grow, as we all hope it does, this number will become more and more inadequate.

The ARA proposes that this number be increased to 60% of voting members. Given that IRF councillors will be interested in the development of rogaining internationally, together with the advent of the internet and associated computing technology, it should not be difficult to assemble this number of voting members together to transact business electronically. Also, by increasing the quorum to 60%, any business transacted at a meeting will represent a more democratic view.

Constitutional Change - change from "3/4 majority" to "2/3 majority"

The current IRF constitution requires a 3/4 majority vote for change. The ARA proposes that this be changed to 2/3 majority.

The reason for this change is again related to the IRF being a constitutionally fledgling organisation. In these early stages of incorporation, the ARA believes that constitutional change should be easier to achieve, and that a 2/3 majority is more appropriate.

Removal of Preamble, and some further details

The ARA feels that the current IRF constitution includes details that are not relevant. In particular, it is proposed that:-

- The Preamble be removed, as it adds nothing to the content of the constitution, and
- Mention of the books "Rogaining", "Organising a Rogaine", and the 1994 Strategic Plan be removed, as the "fundamental principles and culture of rogaining" is a dynamic thing which should be defined in a separate document, and continually updated by the IRF.

Why Have the IRF Executive Stand for Re-Election?

The ARA recognises that any new organisation must essentially "pull itself up by its own bootstraps", and the IRF has done just this. However, as a consequence of this process the current IRF Executive have only been elected by a very small number of rogainers, some of whom have not been active in rogaining for quite some time.

It is hoped that by the IRF adopting the ARA's proposed constitution, the IRF will attract representatives from USOF and NZOF as well as the ARA. If this happens, then elections for the IRF Executive can be made by a group that truly represents rogainers the world over. The six-month timeframe will provide incentive for recruitment of members sooner rather than later.