



INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION Inc.

A0040409P

Newsletter No. 102

Box 3, Central Park, 3145 Australia

www.rogaining.com

February 2005

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Rules of Rogaining: Objectives

The IRF has made available the Rules of Rogaining to all nations for the last decade, and more recently these have been downloadable from <http://www.rogaining.com/rules.html>. They have been translated to other languages where appropriate.

One of the five aims upon founding the International Rogaining Federation in 1989 was to establish and maintain an international Rogaining Code, and it is encouraging the way most countries have adopted this code. The benefits of a unified code extend to competitors worldwide who know what to expect of rogaines in different countries. Groups starting rogaining in their own locality can draw upon a tried and tested set of rules and practices.

The Rogaining Code covers the rules of the sport for competitors, and the Technical Regulations for the organization of rogaines. The Code also covers the many other practices and ways of doing things that make up the culture of rogaining. These include the expectations of the hash house and its atmosphere, and the sense of fair play expected in rogaines. Much of this culture has been captured in Costigan's *Rogaining Organizers Manual*, and Phillips' *Rogaining-Cross country navigation*.

In 1994, the strategic plan of rogaining expanded on the Rogaining Code concept under the heading of Culture of Rogaining. The Strategic Plan states:

CULTURE OF ROGAINING

- Maintain an International Code and set of Rules.
- Encourage consistent rules and event styles.

Ensure that rogaines conform with the International Code and Rules, except where a deliberate decision to introduce variety is explicit. The application of the rules needs to be consistent with the culture of the sport, and the nature of the particular event. Close adherence is recommended for 24 hour rogaines, whereas some latitude is accepted in shorter rogaines.

Rules of Rogaining: current status

With more people traveling to international rogaining championships, the need for unified rules and practices has increased.

Major rogaines are expected to follow the Rules of Rogaining wherever possible. If the Rules are modified, this needs to be made clear to all competitors well in advance. Reasons for modifying the Rules of Rogaining could include safety concerns, land owner requests and requirements, or local laws.

Two recent rule changes are discussed below (see also IRF Newsletter #88).

Junior category: Currently, 'junior' is under 18 years of age on the first day of a rogaïne. For World Rogaining Championships, the age limit is under 20. The ARA sub-committee is discussing this rule at the moment and appears likely to propose an age increase from the 18 years, and possibly a change to the category name.

From http://www.rogaining.com/rules_C.html

C15. There shall be three gender classes of competition: Men's teams, Women's teams, and Mixed teams, the latter being all teams that contain at least one female and one male rogaïne. Within each gender class, all teams are in the Open age category. In addition, some teams will be eligible for restricted age categories as follows:

- a) Junior: all team members must be under 18 years of age on the first day of competition. (Note: under 20 for World Rogaining Championships)

Finish rule: The Rules of Rogaining stipulate that a rogaïne finishes at the advertised finish time, and that this finish time is not extended if a rogaïne starts late. This rule was introduced for 6WRC in Arizona. It is simple and easy to administer even when competitors do not hear or understand details at the start of an event – as often happens. It also allows for any major delay at a rogaining championship where bus and flight connections may not be flexible. It requires a single process to co-ordinate clocks and watches.

Organizers are also alerted to make provision for route planning changes if a rogaïne is substantially shortened.

From http://www.rogaining.com/rules_C.html

B27. No team shall start until the organizers announce the start. The event shall finish at the advertised finish time as determined by the organizers' clock. Teams finishing late will be penalised at the rate per minute or part thereof specified in advance by the organisers. Teams finishing more than thirty minutes late shall be deemed ineligible for a placing and their result shall be recorded as LATE.

2005 Review of ARA rules

The Australian Rogaining Association began a process in early 2005 to look at the rules for the Australian Rogaining Championships, and other Australian rogaines. Five representatives of the IRF are part of that sub-committee (Andres Kaar - Estonia, Peg Davis - USA, Gordon Birch - WRC Manager, Ann Kennedy – New Zealand, Neil Phillips – IRF President).

This sub-committee is looking at a review and some relatively minor changes to ARA rules, but in the process has stimulated a number of discussions about the different approaches and different challenges to rogaïne organizers in different countries.

Once the ARA sub-committee has completed its deliberations it will report back to the ARA for a decision on the suggested changes. It is likely that several of these changes will also be relevant to the international community and will be brought to IRF Members for consideration and possible adoption.