



Australian Rogaining Association Inc.

Proposal for a Australasian Rogaining Championships

Background

The Australian Rogaining Championships (ARC) currently forms one of the three key regional rogaining championships that provide pre-qualification for the World Rogaining Championships (WRC). The other two are the European Rogaining Championships (ERC) and North American Rogaining Championships (NARC)

Thus, the ARC is unique in that it is the only national championship event that is regarded as a "regional" championship.

The Concern

With the ongoing rapid development of rogaining elsewhere in the world, and particularly in Europe, there is concern that the concept of the ARC being considered as a "regional" championship may become seen as an anachronism. There is a risk that countries such as Russia, who already are reported to hold more 24-hour rogaines annually than Australia, may form a view that their national championship should have "regional" status because Australia's does.

Whilst it is reasonable to expect that such a claim would be resisted by the IRF the logical step by the IRF would be to look to establishing a championship rogaine in our region that was demonstrably "regional".

Proposed Solution

Ignoring this issue and/or resisting a change if it is driven from outside of the ARA has a significant risk of having its control taken out of the ARA's hands. In addition, doing something proactive about it before it is even identified as an issue demonstrates that the ARA is taking a true leadership role in international rogaining that goes well beyond simply protecting internal ARA interests.

It is proposed that an Australasian Rogaining Championships be established. Four years in every five this would be the ARC and in the fifth year it would be the New Zealand Rogaining Championships. It is not proposed that there would be any separate trophies or the like involved, it would simply be a title and would be the regional WRC qualification event.

Preliminary informal discussions have been held with the NZRA who have indicated that they are supportive of the concept.

Longer Term

There is an inevitability that the ARC cannot be the “regional” WRC qualifying event forever as rogaining grows in this region. We now have a very active rogaining community in Japan and further growth in Asia, certainly north Asia, seems likely. It is likely that if we adopt the Australasian Rogaining Championships approach over time this will ultimately morph into an Asian Rogaining Championships or similar.

However, it is considered that the ARA is better placed to try to show the leadership to take control of this issue rather than ignore it and potentially have another solution that we neither like nor control forced upon us.