

ARA Technical Sub-committee Report 2004-05.

Rules Review

Between January and May 2005, a review of the ARA Rules and Technical Regulations has been conducted. An agreement was reached with the ARA Executive and the IRF President to include a number of international participants in the discussions of rule changes. David Baldwin set up an email list for participants to use and all communication was by email. The discussion group included the following:

Committee: Gary Carroll (WARA rep), Andrew Murphy (SARA rep), Jon Potter (NTRA rep), Neil Smith (RT rep), David Baldwin (ACT rep), Peter Taylor (VRA rep), Richard Robinson (QRA), Mike Hotchkis (NSW rep and committee chair);

IRF nominees: Peg Davis (US), Gordon Birch (IRF), Anne Kennedy (NZ), Andres Kaar (Estonia), Neil Phillips (IRF);

Others: Phil Holman (ARA pres), David Rowlands (ARA sec), Di Young (VRA pres).

In addition to contributions from the above individuals and directed through state reps, Peg Davis and Neil Phillips passed on some contributions from the US and other countries.

Discussions were wide ranging and input was received at various times from all of the above participants. The most discussed issues were: the junior age category; water drops; punch cards and intentions sheets; event finish time. Generally a consensus or a clear weight of opinion was evident from discussions, so no formal votes were taken.

As a result of these discussions, a new version of the Rules and Technical Regulations has been drafted and circulated to the above.

Mike Hotchkis

Chair of sub-committee

15 May 2005

Suggested amendment to ARA Technical sub-committee charter

An issue of concern arising from recent Australian Championships is the provision of water drops (current regulation T14). Instances of water supplies running out occurred during the events in 2003 and 2004, to the detriment of the fairness of the competition. During the Rules Review, this issue was discussed thoroughly. The consensus view was that a mechanism was required to ensure that issues of this nature are dealt with effectively to eliminate such problems.

It is proposed that the ARA Technical Sub-committee perform this function by expanding its charter.

I propose that the following be added to the functions of the sub-committee:

“The sub-committee shall conduct a review following each Australian Rogaining Championships, drawing on the experiences of the organiser and the participants, to examine issues arising related to the standard of the event with respect to the application of the Rules and Technical Regulations.

The sub-committee, acting through the chair and relevant state representative, shall make contact with the organiser of the next Australian Rogaining Championships, to make the organiser aware of issues of concern regarding the application of the Rules and Technical Regulations.”

‘Issues of concern’ identified and acted on as above would also be reported to the ARA Council.

Mike Hotchkis

15 May 2005