



International Rafting Federation

AGENDA – Extraordinary Congress 2014 11th and 13th Oct, Foz do Iguacu, Brasil

1. Opening;
2. Apologies, roll call/ establish delegates, establish a quorum
3. Discussions and resolutions on the proposals submitted by the BOD and National Federations:
 1. Budget for 2015 (attached)
 2. Membership fee structure for 2015 (below)
 3. World Rafting Champs 2016 and the future schedule of A and B level events (below)
 4. U19 and U23 – future (below)
 5. Guide Training & Education and river safety – the importance of each federation being supportive of it and growing it (below)
4. Any other business
5. Closing;

3.2. Membership fees - increases

The budget demands on the IRF have been growing steadily over the last number of years the biggest areas are for Sport & Competition.

However, our member base has not been growing and we have been specifically keeping member fees low so as to increase our membership numbers so as to satisfy requirements to join Sport Accord. Joining Sport Accord gives us a more professional base which is important when approaching potential sponsors. Also, we have kept the participation fees for the new decisions (U19, U23 and Masters) low so as to encourage and assist this sector to grow.

If we charge a set membership fee we will lose a number of members making it impossible for us to join the Sport Accord. Hence we base our membership fee on Established and Ordinary Membership options.

Unfortunately no financial sponsors have been found yet for our sport and we have not increased our Established Member fee since 2012.

Membership fee options at present:

Established Member (EM) = \$500 per year for 2014 OR

Ordinary Member (OM) =

- World Rafting Championships:
 - Open teams = \$200 per team
 - U19, U23 and Masters = \$100 per team
- Continental Rafting Championships:
 - Open teams = \$100 per team
 - U19, U23 and Masters = \$50 per team

Proposal for 2015:

Things that will not change:

- OM's will not be charged a fee unless they participate in A or B level event.

Things that will change:

- IRF race entry fees will be increased to adjust for annual inflation and to be a realistic contribution to the IRF. *For 2015 the proposed fees are:*
 - *WRC – Open teams = \$230; Youth, Junior, Masters = \$130*
 - *ERC – Open teams = \$130; Youth, Junior, Masters = \$70*
- **EM's fee for 2015 will be set at \$550.** EMs will now be required to pay IRF race entry fees up to a maximum per year for A and B level events but with a big discount. For 2015 the maximum race entry fee members can pay is \$200 with a discount of \$550. *(This means they will only pay more than \$550 if they are sending several teams to these events and no one will pay more than \$750 in total.)*
- This change is necessary because we have added 3 extra divisions to our races and neglected to fund these changes.

Reason - a proportionally scaled system is more fair than charging a flat rate to all EM's:

- Large active federations that send the most teams to races (and thereby require the most IRF services and support) will be asked to pay proportionally higher fees.
- Smaller federations who are not as active and use less IRF services and support, will be asked to pay a proportionally lower fee.

3.3 World Rafting Champs 2016 and the future schedule of A and B level events.

The future competition schedule at the moment is:

- 2015 (R6) = Indonesia; Euro Champs (R6) = BiH
- 2016 (R4) = no bids received; It is very late now to receive any bids and the only bids that could be realistically considered are ones at venues that are pre-approved and run by persons we feel totally confident with.
- 2017 (R6) = no bid yet, but only due end of this year. France indicated they were interested.
- 2018 (R4) = Slovakia?

Many people have been saying the cost is too high for teams and federations with a WRC every year, and for Euro teams, there is now the potential of a Euro Champs every year (alternating R4 and R6 the same as WRC).

Proposal: Have

- 2016 = Continental Champs,
- 2017 (R6) = WRC and optional continental champs
- 2018 (R4) = WRC and optional continental champs
- 2019 = Continental Champs
- 2020 (R6) = WRC and optional continental champs
- 2021 (R4) and repeat the schedule

3.4 U19 and U23 future

Some federations have expressed the opinion that having so many divisions (Open, Masters, U19 and U23) is putting too much demand on their finances. They have suggested dropping either U19 or U23.

To discuss this properly here follows some information:

1. NZ was only prepared to run the Youth/Junior World Champs if we could *guarantee* there would be 14 or more teams attending. This is because it is not possible for the U19 and U23 divisions to compete on the same courses as the Open and Masters. This has been expressed by other bidding countries. For Slalom the gates need to be adjusted meaning it is not possible to run everyone in the same day. For Downriver it is often on a totally different section of river. This adds at least 3 days to the schedule – 2 for practise and 2 for the races themselves.

2. Numbers attending have been as follows:

World Champs	U19	U23
2010	-	18 (U22)
2011	-	17 (U22)
2012	-	10 (U22)
2013	8	10
2014	12	16

Euro Champs	U19	U23
2014	13	14

3. The number of Youth teams for 2014 was initially about 15 but 3 of them could not get the funding they needed.
4. From these figures we can see that if we did not have the two age groups combined for a WRC the risk for the bidders would mean they would not be prepared to include them in the WRC. So this is a serious consideration.

So the questions are:

- a) Do we reduce the number of age divisions? If yes then continue to b). If no then end of discussion.
- b) Do we just drop one of these age divisions? If yes then which one?
- c) Or do we change the age range to U20 or U21 or U22?

3.5 Guide Training & Education and River Safety

Discussion on developing a much closer relationship with national federations running the IRF GT&E Scheme.

The advantage for the national federations is that it can create a new source of revenue through registration fees that they collect from guides that guide locally.

The other aspect is that this would streamline future acceptance by governments as the international standard.

Ensure safety at events is of an internationally acceptable standard.