



# International Rafting Federation

9 December 2014

Memo: To IRF National Federation Members and  
WRC Teams and Participants  
Subject: Brazil 2014 WRC and future WRC events

## **Brasil WRC 2014**

It is with deep regret that the IRF witnessed a disappointingly organised 2014 WRC, which was far below our established standard, and was of the lowest standard of any of our WRC's to date. This occurred despite our having made major improvements on organizational requirements — from bidding, to contracts, to monitoring and mentoring.

Many of the teams and National Federation representatives who attended the event were rightly outraged. Topping the long list of complains was the complete inability of the organisers to provide competitors with reliable, scheduled water flows on the Itaipu Canal venue, despite the many promises to the contrary that a failsafe plan for water was assured.

The IRF Board of Directors shares this outrage. We take great pride in offering the WRC to our members as the IRF's most prestigious event, and fully expect that any organizer who bids and wins the opportunity to host the WRC, will fulfil the promises and obligations to which they agreed. As a result of the disappointing failure of the CBCa to deliver a world class WRC to our members, and the callous disregard they showed of IRF requirements and policies, we have taken the following steps:

- The IRF President has sent an official letter of complaint to CBCa, along with letters of complaint from 4 of our National Federation members that attended.
- The IRF has exercised its right to retain the Organisers' deposit of \$10,000 for breach of contract.
- We have requested that the CBCa refund the event registration fees to all attending teams. The BOD firmly believes that these athletes were not given the competition that they were promised and that they deserve a refund.
- We have asked for a written and open apology from the CBCa to our membership admitting their poor performance.

On the positive side, all teams and officials at the event enjoyed the warm hospitality of the Brazilian people, and appreciated the sincere efforts by most of the staff to make the best of a bad situation.

The start of the Downriver discipline at the base of Iguazu Falls was spectacular and highly memorable, as was Iguazu National Park. This aspect of the event was well appreciated by all.

We also saw a significant improvement in the professionalism of IRF Judging over past WRCs. Improvements in standards, training, and selection criteria should continue to raise the bar in this area.

## **Indonesia WRC 2015**

Some background on the Indonesia organisers, and what the IRF is doing to ensure the 2015 WRC is organised according to our established standards:

- The Indonesian Rafting Federation (FAJI) has been fully vetted and has a proven record of organising national and international rafting events. FAJI typically runs a series of 2 to 3 national events each year throughout the country with up to 20 teams attending. They have organised international events since 2010, a number of them being World Cup events. Slovakia, Iran, Czech Republic, Russia, Kazakhstan and Malaysia have attended these events. The biggest event they have held was in 2001 with 82 teams attending. This year they ran a very successful U19/U23 event with 28 teams attending.
- The key organiser and Event Director is Amalia Yunita (Yuni), a long time IRF Assessor Judge who has officiated at many WRCs, several as a member of the IRF Jury. Yuni is well acquainted with IRF requirements for a WRC so we expect no surprises here.
- A pre-worlds event was conducted at the WRC venue in November 2014. The event was attended by IRF BOD member and Judge Assessor, Pieter Bekkers, who will be making a full report on how the event was run. Pieter has been appointed as event Race Director and will work closely with Yuni from now until the event happens at the end of 2015.
- The IRF Administration is in close contact with Yuni and Pieter, and will remain so as the date for the WRC approaches and the event develops. Currently all aspects of the event are moving forward as scheduled.

## Future WRCs

The IRF will be further tightening the bidding process and event requirements in an attempt to prevent organisational problems from reoccurring. These stricter requirements could mean that at some time in the future, the IRF may not be able to offer a WRC on a particular year if:

- no suitable bidder is found.
- a bid is awarded but the bidder withdraws because they are unable to meet the requirements.
- the IRF finds it necessary to cancel because of contract violations.

This will be regrettable, but based on membership feedback, the general consensus is that our members would rather not participate in a poorly organized or substandard WRC.

For all future WRC bids and WRC contracts, the following requirements will apply:

- If any of our National Federation members, or independent organisers wish to bid for a WRC, but do not have a successful track record of organising an IRF A-Level event, or top quality B-Level event, the IRF will require that an IRF team of advisors and managers must oversee any aspect of the organisation that is deemed inadequate.
- Event and Race Directors that are appointed by an Organiser will be measured against a standards benchmark that requires they possess the experience, knowledge, and proven aptitude for managing an event of this calibre. A detailed curriculum vitae is a requirement, and a personal interview may also be required. These are the same requirements we demand of our own IRF Judges and Safety Personnel. If Organiser-appointed directors prove to be unsuited to the task, the IRF will appoint qualified persons to fill these roles or cancel the contract.
- Future A- and B-Level Events are now required to provide IRF approved timing and scoring systems. This new requirement is a result of several reoccurring issues in past WRC's that is directly related to organisers who chose to provide timing systems that were inadequate, or

timing teams that were inexperienced or ill-prepared.

- The IRF has developed an Event Organisers Manual which organisers can now use as a guide and checklist so that they are fully aware of what is expected and how it is to be done.
- A system of administrative checks is in place to continually monitor the preparatory progression of a WRC. Organisers are required to provide us with regular reports during the year leading up to the Event so that we can be assured that all is in order. If necessary, the IRF may be making spot check visits to verify these reports. If at any time the IRF determines that the Event has fallen irretrievably short of our requirements, we will have the option of making an early decision to cancel the event.

Without a doubt, a WRC is a very challenging event to put together. But you can be assured that your BOD is working hard on your behalf to ensure that we can offer our members the most professionally organised WRCs possible in the years ahead.

On behalf of the IRF Board of Directors,



Joe Willis Jones  
President



Sue Lleil-Cock  
Secretary General