



International Rafting Federation

AGENDA – Congress 2017
4 & 5 October, Former Nishiu Elementary School Gym, Japan

- 1) Opening of Congress;
- 2) Apologies, roll call/ establish delegates, establish a quorum
- 3) President's Report
- 4) Reports on memberships applications, resignations, suspensions or expulsions:
 - a) Recommendations for Expulsion of IRF Full Members
 - i) The BOD recommends to Congress the expulsion of the “Asociación de Descenso de Ríos” as the IRF Member representing the nation of Mexico. This organisation no longer exists.
 - ii) The BOD recommends to Congress the expulsion of the Korean Rafting Association (KRA) as the IRF Member representing the nation of South Korea. This organisation has been unresponsive to any official communications from the IRF for more than 2 years, and has not fulfilled the membership requirements that are detailed in the IRF Bylaws.
 - iii) The BOD recommends to Congress the expulsion of the Spanish Canoe Federation as the IRF Member representing the nation of Spain. This organisation has been unresponsive to any official communications from the IRF for more than two years, and has not fulfilled the membership requirements that are detailed in the IRF Bylaws.
 - b) Advisement of new IRF Provisional Members
 - i) The BOD wishes to advise the Congress that they have accepted the application from the United Arab Emirates Rafting Federation to represent the nation of UAE as an IRF Provisional Member.
 - ii) The BOD wishes to advise the Congress that they have accepted the application from the Armenian National Federation of Rafting to represent the nation of Armenia as an IRF Provisional Member.
 - iii) If the current IRF Member representing the nation of Mexico is expelled, the BOD wishes to advise the Congress that they shall accept the Mexican Association of River Guides, A C., (AMEGRAC) as the new IRF Provisional Member who shall represent the nation of Mexico.

c) Resignations of IRF Full Members

d) The BOD wishes to inform the Congress that the Brazil Canoe Federation (CBCa) which represents the nation of Brazil, has submitted a request to resign their membership from the IRF. This request is currently under review and will be accepted pending a reorganisation of the CBCA rafting committee into a separate organisation suitable for obtaining IRF Provisional Membership status.

5) Management report by the Secretary General (attached or [here](#))

6) 2017 Financial report by the Secretary General (attached or [here](#))

7) Proposed 2018 budget by the Secretary General (attached or [here](#))

8) Reports from Heads of Committees (will be sent in a week)

NOTE: these reports will NOT be read during the Congress so please read them beforehand. They will be sent out directly. Otherwise request for them from IRF Admin. Any questions relating to these reports can be asked during this time.

9) Discussions and resolutions on proposals submitted by IRF Member Organizations, Executive Officers, and Committee Heads.

a) Bylaw Proposals (see below and attached)

i) Proposals and Updates - submitted by the IRF President

ii) Proposal to create an independent Ethics Committee which will be guided by comprehensive ethics policies. - submitted by the IRF President

iii) Proposals - submitted by the Serbian Rafting Federation

10) Other Business

a) SportAccord application update and steps forward (see below)

11) Election of Executive Officers and Committee Heads.

12) Adjournment of the Congress.

Proposals

1. General Changes and Updates to Bylaws (submitted by IRF President JW Jones and approved by the IRF BOD)

Please see the attached Bylaws document (showing changes using “track changes”) to see what the proposed updates and changes are. Or follow [this link](#) to see it.

Summary of proposed changes:

- A. New logo/emblem
- B. New structure of the BOD and Executive Committee to bring the IRF up to how most sporting bodies function - a BOD which oversees the broader things in general and an Exec Com that runs the general day to day processes of the federation, and Administrative Chairs/Heads who run their specific Committees.
- C. Replace BOD positions that have no committees to oversee, with ones that do oversee committees, so all positions are more functioning positions.
- D. Change BOD elections to 4 years as 2 years too short for Heads to do much (Ordinary Congress still every 2 years).
- E. Bring in position of Athletes Representative.
- F. Update Membership applications to ensure new members are nationally recognised.
- G. Include Olympic Charter observation.
- H. Improve some definitions.
- I. Some wording improvements for better clarity.

Please feel free to ask us if there is a specific Bylaw or Annex proposal that you'd like more info on.

2. Adaption of a comprehensive method for handling ethics issues within the IRF (submitted by IRF President JW Jones)

In past years when the IRF was a small, compact and immature organization, ethics complaints within the IRF were very uncommon and so were dealt with by the BOD via ad-hoc methods. As ethics complaints have grown along with the growth, influence and expansion of the IRF, these ad-hoc methods have sometimes proven themselves to be ineffectual and controversial. This proposal will institute a more professional, independent and objective system for handling ethics issues. It is the view of the IRF President that this proposal should be ratified by the 2017 Congress to address this need.

The proposal consists of three parts:

1. Creation of an independent Ethics Committee
2. Adaptation of an IRF Code of Ethical Conduct
3. Adaptation of a set of procedures and regulations to guide the Ethics Committee in its work

To be added to the IRF Bylaws under PART VI—ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

ETHICS COMMITTEE

1. The Ethics Committee is an independent body within the IRF structure, whose purpose is to investigate cases of alleged contraventions of the “IRF Code of Ethical Conduct” (the “Code”).
2. The Ethics Committee may initiate such investigations on its own initiative or as a result of a petition directed to the Committee.
3. The Ethics Committee is constituted and shall act according to the corresponding provisions in the IRF Bylaws and the procedural rules known as the “IRF Ethics Committee Regulations and Procedures”
4. The Ethics Committee is responsible to investigate possible contraventions of the Code and to report its verdict to the IRF Board of Directors or IRF Executive Committee, including a suggestion whether or not to impose any disciplinary action. The Ethics Committee itself cannot impose disciplinary action.
5. The Ethics Committee watches over the provisions in the Code and suggests amendments to the IRF Board of Directors or IRF Executive Committee, if necessary.
6. The Ethics Committee carries out its duties entirely independently and avoids any third-party influence on the course of an investigation.

To be adapted as policy documents (links to documents)

- [IRF Code of Ethical Conduct](#)
- [IRF Ethics Committee Regulations and Procedures](#)

3. Serbian Rafting Federation Bylaws Proposals

- a. Add to IRF Bylaws that one individual can only carry one function as a IRF representative (one person one function or official).
- b. Request that IRF Ordinary Congress is held once a year.

4. SportAccord Update and Steps Forward (Sec Gen - Sue Liell-Cock)

Proposal: Commitment from all IRF Members to commit the time, energy and resources needed for the IRF to become members of SportAccord / GAISF.

SportAccord/GAISF and the IOC (International Olympic Committee) are the two most prominent umbrella organisations for sport federations. Since its inception, having rafting become an Olympic sport has been a tenant of the IRF Bylaws, and the IRF has had joining SportAccord/GAISF as one of our top goals for the last 4 years. Recognition by one or both of these organisations is important to the IRF for a number of reasons, the most important being that it will open up additional funding opportunities for all of our members, and it will allow the IRF to be recognised by governments and other sports federations as a legitimate sports federation.

SportAccord membership requires that the IRF meet several requirements, many which have changed from time to time. One of the difficult requirements for membership was that we had to have at least 30 member federations in the IRF who are officially recognised by their highest national sport authority or their NOC (National Olympic Committee). For many years the IRF worked hard to increase our membership rolls so as to reach that number. Unfortunately, shortly before this was achieved, SportAccord raised the requirement to 40 recognised members.

In November 2016 a meeting was called by the IRF President with a group of IRF leaders from various countries who had expressed interest in advancing the SportAccord agenda. A formal working group was created, a group leader was selected, and various tasks assigned to the group members. The primary purpose of this working group was to obtain an accurate idea as to how far the IRF was from meeting the 40 member requirement, how far away we were from meeting the other SportAccord membership requirements, and to develop a realistic plan and timeline to meet these requirements.

A survey was sent out to all IRF members, and the survey was followed up by contact with individual members to offer IRF assistance and information towards obtaining national recognition. This assistance is ongoing. As of August 2017 the IRF Administration has established the following:

1. Fifteen (15) IRF members are currently recognised by their NOC (National Olympic Committee)
2. An additional fifteen (15) IRF members are currently recognised by their nation's highest sports authority (National Sports Ministry or similar)
3. Amongst our remaining members there are five (5) IRF members who have informed the IRF Administration that they should obtain official recognition in their nation within 2 months to one year, and there are another two (2) IRF members who are working toward recognition but expect that may take longer than one year.

These figures have revealed that the IRF is very close to having 40 members officially recognised by their nations.

The second major requirement for SportAccord membership is that the IRF needs to become a signatory of the WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) Code. This requires that the IRF have a history of conducting WADA approved anti-doping tests at our top events for at least 2 years, implement a comprehensive set of Anti-doping rules that meet WADA requirements, create a website to inform our athletes and other individuals about WADA and our anti-doping requirements, and a few other lesser requirements.

In 2014 the IRF changed our race rules, making it a mandatory requirement to conduct drug testing at our major international races, and the first testing was held during our 2014 ERC and WRC events. We have been conducting drug testing since that time. A website was also created that is dedicated to anti-doping issues – www.IRFantidoping.com. In April 2017, IRF race rules were amended to include a comprehensive addendum of anti-doping rules (www.internationalrafting.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/IRF-Anti-Doping-Rules-Addendum-3-2017.pdf). These advancements mean

that the IRF is now in a position to sign the WADA Code in early 2018 assuming that WADA presents no additional unexpected roadblocks.

These achievements show that the IRF is on a solid path towards SportAccord membership. With a concerted effort put in by all members, it is expected that the IRF can meet SportAccord requirements within the next year. However it is very important that all IRF members understand that to achieve this goal, we must be united and working together, with each of our members doing their part to achieve official recognition within their nation. Each of us must also be willing to lend our fellow IRF members a helping hand and encouragement when needed, support the IRF Administration by providing requested data, and become proactively involved by lending the IRF volunteer assistance.

The IRF is not a single group of people, but is a collection of individuals around the globe working together to accomplish our missions and objectives.

Together we will be successful... divided we will struggle unnecessarily. We look forward to hearing from each of our members as to how you can contribute towards helping us meet these common goals.