



IRF World Rafting Championship Regulations & Organising Criteria

Effective from January 2022

Organisations intending to bid to host an International Rafting Federation World Rafting Championship (hereafter referred to as the *WRC* or *Championship*) **must** comply with the [IRF Race Rules](#) and these WRC Regulations and Organising Criteria that follow. The only exception to this are those annotated as “desirable” or “optional” in which case their non-provision is subject to approval by the IRF Executive Committee. These criteria are considered constituent of any Bid Contract or Agreement signed by an Organisation intent on hosting a WRC.

If the Bid is accepted and the venue is selected for a WRC, the Contract & Declaration of Indemnity, these Regulations & Organising Criteria, the IRF Race Rules, and all documents, addendums, emails or attachments submitted by the Organiser in support of the Bid will be binding as part of the overall Bid Contract.

If during the preparation or hosting of the Championship, an Organiser is unable or unwilling to comply with one or more of the conditions required in this document or presented in their Bid, they shall be considered in breach of the Bid Contract and subject to the specific penalties contained in these Regulations & Organising Criteria. Organisers may apply to the IRF for an exemption or adjustment to these terms if done in a timely manner. Exemptions or adjustments are not valid or approved without the express written consent of the IRF Executive Committee. Valid and approved exemptions or adjustments will become an addendum to the Bid Contract.

Detailed Plans

The Regulations & Organising Criteria set out in this document outline the structure for an Organiser’s detailed plan for hosting a WRC. The detailed plans must include all aspects of the organisation, supporting infrastructure, technical and equipment specifications and financial arrangements for hosting the WRC. These plans must meet the minimum requirements stated in this document before they will be presented to the IRF Executive Committee for a full assessment.

Definitions / abbreviations used:

- IRF - International Rafting Federation
- IRF Executive Committee - IRF Exec Com
- IRF Media Rep = IRF Media Representative
- IRF Representative - a person nominated and authorised by the IRF Exec Com to represent the views of the IRF for a specified purpose
- IRF Race Rules - the published IRF Race Rules that are current at the time of the event
- Event - the dates of the Championship as agreed in the contract and these criteria

- Head-to-head - H2H
- Championship - IRF World Rafting Championship
- Organiser - Organising Committee or Body responsible for the Championship

1. Technical Organisation

- 1.1 **Requirements.** The Organiser shall provide the racing venue(s), equipment and technical facilities described in this document and shall comply with the requirements of the IRF Race Rules.
- 1.2 **Control.** The Organiser shall be subject to the control of the IRF Exec Com and the Head of Jury for the Championship.
- 1.3 **Event Officials.** All Event Officials are defined in Section K of the IRF Race Rules and must meet final approval by the IRF Exec Com. The Event Director, Race Director, Safety Director and Time keeper/Timing Team are to be appointed by the Organiser, however, all Officials are subject to IRF Exec Com approval as only experienced, qualified persons are acceptable for these positions at IRF A and B level events. If the Organiser is unable to appoint suitable persons to one or more of these positions, they shall be appointed by the IRF Exec Com. All Technical Race Officials and Judges shall be appointed by the IRF Exec Com. Further information regarding Technical Officials including Judges can be found in Section 9 of these Regulations & Organisation Criteria.
- 1.4 **Communication.** Reliable and regular communication between the IRF and the Organiser is mandatory. Organiser communication with the IRF must be directed to the office of the IRF Secretary General and/or the IRF President. The IRF will communicate with the Organiser through the Event Director or a mutually agreed upon representative.
- 1.5 **Pre-Worlds.** An event is to be run one year before the actual WRC. It does not need to be at the scale of the WRC. It is a test run for the organisers so they can see what improvements they should make to their WRC plans. An IRF appointed Official is required to attend the event so as to do the final assessment and final approval. The costs for this person to attend the event are at the expense of the Organiser.

2. Finance / Sponsorship / Media

- 2.1 **Funding.** It is the responsibility of the Organiser to fully fund the costs of hosting the Championship, to the minimum standards required in the IRF Race Rules and in these Regulations & Organising Criteria.
- 2.2 **Championship Insurance.** The Organiser must purchase or acquire adequate event insurance. The level of insurance coverage should be approved by the IRF. In addition to accident coverage, the insurance must include indemnity coverage for Championship cancellation due to force majeure, local political instabilities, late Championship cancellation (6 months or less), or Championship changes due to low or high water or unsafe conditions. The IRF further recommends that the Organiser purchase insurance that will in the case of cancellation or rescheduling, reimburse (in part or in full) forfeited air fare and/or team entry

fees or other Championship attendance costs already paid by Teams or Officials. The IRF cannot be held liable for expenses that are a result of inadequate insurance. In all cases, the Organiser will be solely and personally liable for any and all expenses or debts that the recommended insurance policy would have covered.

- 2.3 **Team Entry / Registration Fees.** Once set and approved, the amount of the Team Entry Fee cannot be raised without the express written permission of the IRF Exec Com. The Team Entry Fee must NOT include accommodation or any additional fees or charges. Additional fees or charges, (that may vary per team), must be presented and charged as a separate item.
- 2.4 **Sponsorship, IRF Fees and Media.** The IRF retains full ownership rights over the WRC at all times. Conditions regarding sponsorship, advertising, media coverage, general publicity and IRF remuneration, are subject to negotiation with the IRF Exec Com and the IRF terms and conditions pertaining to Commercial Sponsorship, Television and Internet broadcasting and distribution rights for the Championship. The details of any contracts covering such matters must be approved and finalised by the IRF Exec Com.
- 2.5 **Commercial Sponsorship - Sponsorship Areas.** For a WRC, the IRF reserves the right to license or allow sponsorship for any or all of the following (subject to IRF Exec Com approval):
- a) Advertising Banners around the Championship venue(s)
 - b) Sponsors flags, banners and/or signage around the Championship venue(s)
 - c) Podium backdrop for Medal Ceremonies
 - d) Advertising in the Championship programme
 - e) Presentations in conjunction with Medal Ceremonies
 - f) Sponsorship of Championship souvenirs and memorabilia
 - g) Title sponsorship of the Championship
- 2.6 **Agencies.** The IRF reserves the right to license or appoint an Agent to raise money or obtain sponsorship for the Championship and shall allow an Organiser to do the same. The IRF Exec Com will act on behalf of the IRF in all negotiations with potential Agents and the Organiser.
- 2.7 **Title Sponsorship.** If an Organiser obtains major sponsorship for the Championship, the IRF shall permit the sponsor to have 'Title' to the Championship. The Title Sponsorship shall be subject to an agreed percentage of any sponsorship fees which shall then be paid directly to the IRF. In all cases, the IRF name and logo must remain prominent in all Championship media in accordance with the IRF Brand Guidelines. The definition of a major sponsor is one that covers the majority (over 65%) of all the costs of the Championship including international television coverage.

3. Media

- 3.1 The IRF Media Rep is an IRF Official appointed to handle all media related to the Championship.
- 3.2 **Media Rights.** All Broadcasting and distribution rights, whether such distribution is through Television, Cable, Internet or other means, is and shall remain the exclusive property of the

IRF and may only be released or licensed with the express written permission of the IRF Exec Com. The IRF shall have right to obtain without payment or recourse, copies of any and all television, photographic, film, video or any other type of media recorded at the Championship by the organiser, their partners, sponsors, or representatives.

- 3.3 **Contracts.** As the exclusive owner of all media distribution rights, the IRF must be materially involved with all media contractual discussions. Furthermore, any and all media contracts must bear the signature of the IRF President, Secretary General or Head of Communications. Any violation of this clause will be considered a violation of the rights pronounced in Clause 3.2 above. Should the Organiser, the IRF or its agents or members, negotiate a contract for media broadcasting or distribution of the Championship in which any fee payment or remuneration is paid, an agreed percentage must be paid directly to the IRF.
- 3.4 **Still Photography.** For the duration of the Championship, the Organiser must engage an action sports photographer(s) who will make available for distribution, a digital copy of 100 to 200 good quality, high resolution, still photographs at the end of each day. These photos will be supplied to the IRF free from copyright and/or any watermarks and must not be distributed, sold or used for any purpose other than those expressly agreed with the IRF Media Rep - this includes publication on social media or websites other than those of the IRF. These photographs must feature every Team attending the Championship. These photos are to be made available to the IRF as agreed with the IRF Media Rep, which may include the IRF granting access to the IRF's social media platforms and cloud storage for the photographer to post remotely. The IRF has a pool of suitable persons they can recommend.
- 3.5 **Television/ video coverage.** A 52-minute-long production of the Championship, suitable for international TV distribution, is to be made and distributed to world-wide networks. This is to be done through the IRF production house, 1080 Media. Different options regarding resources and pricing are available through 1080 Media which can be provided on request. Exclusivity may be granted to regional or national television broadcast or cable networks or media companies with prior approval from the IRF Exec Com. If exclusivity is granted to one of these, this exclusivity will only apply to their specific regional or national area.
- All raw Championship footage taken during the event must also be supplied to the IRF Media Rep on the same or next day as filming. Edited / published media may be supplied up to 48 hours after production. At the conclusion of the event, all raw, edited and published media must be supplied to the IRF Media Rep within five (5) days. All media must be recorded or transferred to a common, high-definition format that may be easily edited for future productions (both with and without embedded layers such as text / flyovers transitions, etc).
- 3.6 **Live-streaming.** It is desirable to have daily live-streaming of the Championship races made available for internet viewing to a worldwide audience, particularly the H2H discipline. Live-streaming may be published on the Championship website, or through social media channels with prior agreement of the IRF Media Rep.
- 3.7 **Daily press release in English.** The Organiser is responsible for engaging a professional media company or person to produce daily press releases, written in English and in the relevant local language(s). The daily press releases are to be written at the end of each day's competition. The press releases must follow standard international Press Release formats

and include a short race report, daily race results and a selection of 3 or 4 high resolution event photographs, with captions, taken during that day.

An IRF Representative will be made available to review the Press Release prior to distribution each day.

The professional media company or person is required to develop a comprehensive distribution database which includes all potentially interested local, national and international media sources (sports, news, etc) including those provided to the Organiser by the IRF. This is to be presented to the IRF at least two (2) weeks before the event for approval. Failure to produce a comprehensive list will result in the IRF using the event deposit to pay for press release distribution to the correct channels.

- 3.8 **Website.** The IRF will create a dedicated micro website for the Championship. The website will be published and publically accessible at least six (6) months before the Championship start date. The basic details of the event will be provided by the IRF. All content pertaining to athletes, accommodation, transport, food, meals, entertainment, local rules & regulations, health or other medical requirements, registration and any other relevant information must be provided by the Organiser at least five (5) months prior to the Championship,

The website will be updated by the IRF Media Rep or another appointed person. The Organiser is responsible for ensuring that all content on the website is accurate and updated in a timely manner. Daily press releases will be published to the website by the IRF along with any IRF specific content to be shared.

- 3.9 **Media monitoring.** Before, during and after the Championship, all news articles, videos, and other local media and television publications must be digitally copied, recorded and an itemised summary produced. No later than thirty (30) days after the Championship has concluded all such material must be provided to the IRF Media Rep.

- 3.10 **Media Database.** The IRF has the right to distribute all Championship media via its own distribution channels and media outlets.

- 3.11 **Media liaison.** A representative from the Organiser, who can speak English fluently, must be responsible for all media contact. This person is required to work closely with the IRF Media Representative on creating a full Media Plan. The Media Plan must be concluded and approved by the IRF Chair of Communications at a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the Championship start date.

- 3.12 **Media Facilities.** A Media Centre must be provided at the Championship for journalists, and radio and television commentators as advised by the IRF Media Rep. The Centre must include high speed reliable Wi-Fi connection, desks, chairs, room lighting, photocopier, printer, and stationery.

A suitable area/site for Daily Media Briefings and interviews must be provided. Such a site should typically include a large photogenic backdrop or one which depicts the IRF logo and the various IRF and Championship sponsors logos.

4. Hosting and Support Services

- 4.1 **General Terms.** It is highly desirable (but not obligatory) that Hosting and Support Services (as detailed in 4.3 - 4.5 below) are subsidised or provided free of charge to the competing Teams and all Race Officials. If this is not possible, the Organiser must provide competitors with information as to where they may obtain these essential services, or they may offer a fee based Host Package that includes these services. All the below options and their costs are to be detailed in the bid documents so that IRF bid Assessors can establish costs that will be incurred by participants at the Championship.
- 4.2 **Host Package (optional).** If the Organiser wishes to provide a fee based package of accommodation, meals and transport to the participants, they may list in their bid document a Host Package (HP). The HP cannot be a part of the Team Entry/Registration Fee, but must be listed as a separate cost item. It is highly advised that the design, presentation, selling, and administration of HPs be managed by a person or team very familiar with the particular needs and expectations of raft race athletes - which are often very different than that of a normal tourist. An HP may include budget, standard and deluxe package options for teams to choose from, however HPs which are priced identically must include identical (or near identical) package inclusions and detailed information about the type and quality of accommodation and services offered. HP fees should be based on an inclusive cost, per person, per day. When an HP deposit is charged to a team, the maximum deposit shall be 10% of the total, payable no more than ninety (90) days in advance.
- 4.3 **Accommodation.** Accommodation that is of a standard acceptable to the IRF must be easily available for Teams, their support crews and spectators, and all official IRF volunteers. Accommodation options can range from basic camping to 5 star hotel/resorts, but at minimum all options must be clean, safe and secure, and in good working order.
- 4.4 **Meals.** Eating correctly is of vital importance to athletes and so meal choices must be sufficient in quality and quantity. Meals should predominantly be locally sourced and sustainable to local communities.

Local area cuisine should feature in meals; however if local options are considered internationally “exotic”, more internationally known meal choices should be made available.

When not being provided by the Organiser, meals must be easily available through restaurants or other establishments where participants can purchase them at reasonable local prices.

- 4.5 **Transport.** To travel from their international port of entry to the Championship location and to and from the race venues, participants need to have access to public transport or transport services provided by the Organiser. Rental vehicles may be considered an option but should be limited unless sustainable vehicles are used (electric cars, car-pooling etc). All options need to be safe, easy, convenient, and sustainable to use. Where it is impractical or impossible for participants to utilise public transport options, the Organiser must provide suitable transport.

- 4.6 **Fee Increases.** Fee increases on Hosting and Support Services after the bid has been accepted and approved is heavily discouraged. The IRF wishes to prevent profiteering (the raising of fees above the normal local market rates) in essential services which will add extra financial burden to the teams. If fee or price increases are unavoidable, the Organiser must notify the IRF and justify the reason for the increase, and must inform and update all Championship participants who were previously provided Hosting and Support Services information that included the original price.
- 4.7 **Wi-Fi.** Free or inexpensive Wi-Fi connections must be available at the Championship headquarters, Media Centre and the Championship's central gathering location(s). It is also essential that there is Wi-Fi at the race sites. Ideally Wi-Fi should also be available at all Team's accommodation(s). Connections may be password protected, but should be of sufficient bandwidth to allow reasonable access to all Teams, Officials and media.
- 4.8 **Changing and Toilet Facilities.** Adequate changing and toilet facilities must be provided, at the Championship venues for all competitors, Officials, guests and team supporters.
- 4.9 **Medical Facilities and Staff.** A Medic Team as defined in the IRF Safety Document (Addendum 2 to the [IRF Race Rules](#)) must be available at the race venue(s) at all times during the Championship. The facilities and equipment necessary to treat injuries, emergencies, and medical evacuations must also be available. It is highly recommended and desirable that one or more medical doctors be on staff.
- 4.10 **Safety & Rescue Plan.** A Safety & Rescue Plan incorporating (but not limited to) 4.9 must be designed and followed by the Organiser. A draft of the Safety & Rescue Plan, which includes a Risk Assessment, as per Race Rule K.3.c is to be delivered to the IRF for approval six (6) months prior to the Championship.
- 4.11 **Hospitality and Ceremonies.** Opening (optional), Closing, and Medal Presentation Ceremonies must be provided by the Organiser. The format of these Ceremonies must be provided to the IRF Exec Com for approval. Ceremonies don't need to be extravagant, but as a minimum, must be functional and entertaining. All Medal Presentation Ceremonies must be open to the general public and media, and have adequate lighting and sound amplification. If meals and/or entertainment or other activities are included as a part of the Medal Presentation Ceremonies and a fee is collected for these services, the Organiser must provide a means so that persons who only wish to view the Medal Presentation may do so for free. For more information on trophies, medals and medal ceremonies see Section O of the Race Rules.
- 4.12 **Mementoes and Memorabilia (optional).** The Organiser may provide mementoes and memorabilia associated with the Championship. All such items if offered for sale, must receive written prior approval by the IRF Exec Com
- 4.13 **Liaison Officers and Interpreters.** Where the local language is not English and interpreters are regularly required, the Organiser must provide at least one Liaison Officer / Interpreter that shall remain available and accessible to Teams for the duration of the Championship. It is highly recommended that the Organiser should provide to each Team a Team interpreter who speaks the Team's native language, and who shall be available and accessible for the

duration of the Championship.

- 4.14 **IRF Meeting Facilities.** The Organiser must provide facilities for various IRF meetings and workshops and shall bear the costs for these facilities. These meetings may include the IRF Congress, held in alternating years, meetings of the IRF Board of Directors, and various other IRF Committees (if required). The meetings that will definitely take place include Captains' meetings, Jury and Judge meetings, Organiser meetings and facilities for running an IRF Judges Workshop. The locations and facilities for these meetings and workshops must be pre-visited by an IRF Representative and approved by the IRF Exec Com.
- 4.15 **Event Safety Workshop.** An Event Safety Workshop must be conducted for the Championship Safety Team before the Championship. This Workshop must be conducted by an IRF GTE Assessor or Instructor who has been certified to conduct an Event Safety Workshop, and the cost of the workshop must be negotiated and approved by the IRF Head of GTE or their representative. Participants in the workshop who successfully complete the course shall receive an IRF Event Safety Certification.
- 4.16 **Competitor Training Sessions.** During official and unofficial training, Teams must be given equal opportunities to train. All official training must be monitored by the Organiser. Teams which arrive at the venue early for unofficial pre-event training, may be allowed to use the official Championship rafts if they are available. In this case, all Teams must be given equal opportunities to access the Championship rafts.
5. **IRF Meeting/Workshop Delegates.** Delegates who attend the Championship in order to attend any Official IRF meeting (e.g. Congress) ideally are to be offered the same accommodation, meal and transport options as the teams and their support personnel.
6. **Communications Equipment.** Reliable communications equipment must be provided by the Organiser so that Jury, Judges, Timekeepers, Safety team, and other IRF & Race Officials can reliably communicate with each other during the Championship. This equipment may include handheld radios, mobile phones and wired communication devices. Communications equipment must be of a professional quality and use voice channels that are only open to Race Officials. Enough devices must be provided to allow Race Officials to conduct the race as required by the IRF Race Rules. Backup systems are highly recommended in case of technical failures.
7. **Electronic Timing and Scoring Personnel, Equipment and Facilities.** The costs of all timing and scoring systems and timing teams (system operators) must be funded by the Organiser. The Organiser must select one of the IRF's approved integrated electronic timing and scoring systems that comply with the IRF Timing & Scoring System Requirements (most recent version is available from IRF Admin). Alternatively, the Organiser can apply for approval of their own systems and system operators, however, the costs of this approval will be theirs and would entail an IRF official witnessing the system operators and system in action at a raft racing event that is run according to IRF Race Rules prior to the Championship event.

The timing and scoring system operators and the Chief of Scoring (see IRF Race Rules Section K.12) must be provided with suitable on-site facilities and environments that provide rain/sun protection, tables and chairs, access to electrical outlets, internet, and a printer at the Finish area so that

ongoing results, penalties, heat orders, etc. can be printed and posted for teams and the public.

Organisers are to work with the timing and scoring team to ensure they keep within the IRF Timing & Scoring System Requirements. The Event Director and Race Director should work together with Head Judge and Timing & Scoring team to place the latter in the most suitable position.

8. **Jury Equipment and Facilities.** The Jury must be provided with a suitable office work environment at or near the Finish area. The workspace must be protected from rain/sun and have electrical outlets, internet access and communication devices to communicate with all Judges. It must include tables, chairs, a suitable laptop, and a printer so they can manage, print, and post ongoing results, penalties, heat orders and other relevant race information.

WiFi or other reliable communication must be provided to the Jury such that they can communicate directly with the IRF Media Rep in order to publish results in a timely manner.

The workspace must also allow for private, closed hearing of penalty protests and disputes, and should include equipment for viewing race video evidence.

Other items to be supplied are listed under “Materials” in the IRF Judges Handbook (most recent version available from IRF Admin). The Head Judge will request these items three (3) months prior to the Championship.

9. **Rafts.** The Organiser is required to supply a sufficient quantity of rafts for the Championship as specified in Section H of the Race Rules. To meet this requirement, the Organiser must carefully assess race logistics to determine their needs. For example, some race locations have excellent turnaround times for all disciplines which will allow rafts to be shared between Teams. In other locations, logistical constraints prevent rafts from being shared; requiring each Team to be assigned their own raft. If an Organiser does not have access to enough rafts to meet these requirements, the IRF can assist in finding a suitable solution.

10. IRF Officials and Judges

10.1 Three (3) IRF Judges of Assessor or Chief Judge level will be selected and appointed by the IRF to serve as the Jury for the WRC. All costs for the Jury must be funded by the Organiser including, but not limited to, flights, transport, accommodation and meals from at least two days before the official start of the Championship until the end of the Championship.

10.2 A minimum of twelve (12) certified IRF Judges of minimum General Judge level will be selected and appointed by the IRF to serve as Official Judges. All costs for local accommodation, meals and transport for the duration of the Championship must be funded by the Organiser. Organisers who are able to fund additional expenses of some or all Official Judges, especially any flight expenses, will be given a higher consideration during the Bid evaluation process due to the fact that this will enable the IRF to appoint our most highly qualified Judges.

10.3 It is required that the IRF President, the IRF Secretary General attend the WRC. It is customary that all costs for their attendance be funded by the Organiser.

10.4 It is required that the IRF Media Rep attend the WRC. It is required that local costs for their

attendance are funded by the Organiser. It is desirable that costs for their travel to the location be funded by the Organiser.

- 10.5 IRF Safety Representative - see Section 11.
- 10.6 All other IRF Technical Officials / Judges (such as IRF Certified Volunteer Judges attend as volunteers) shall be hosted under the same arrangements as those provided to a Team's extra personnel.
- 10.7 An Organiser / IRF Official meeting must be held at least one (1) day prior to the start of the Championship, and must be attended by all key section heads (Event Director, Media Director, Race Director, Safety Director, Transport Director, Organiser's Team Liaison, Head Judge, Jury, IRF Media Rep)
- 10.8 A half day Judges Workshop for all Judges (Jury, Official, Volunteer and new Judges) will be held before formal racing starts. The Organiser must provide a suitable facility for this workshop (as stated in 4.14) which includes audio/visual equipment and display boards and/or white board.

The theory elements of the Judges Courses for all Judges are now run online. The IRF will appoint a qualified IRF Judge Assessor(s) and/or Chief Judge(s) to run a practical training session for all new and volunteer judges attending the WRC.

- 10.9 A minimum of fifteen (15) Judge Bibs must be provided by the Organiser. Each Judge Bib must be sized so that it can be worn over a PFD (Personal Floatation Device). In large print letters each Bib must clearly state the words 'IRF Judge'.

11. Championship Safety

- 11.1 Sections J and Sections K.3 and K.4 of the IRF Race Rules, as well as any Organiser or local (health & safety, legislative etc) safety rules and requirements must be fully complied with in the lead up to and during the Pre-Worlds and Championship.
- 11.2 The Safety Director in conjunction with the Organising Committee is responsible for delivery of the Risk Assessment and the Safety & Rescue Plan according to the IRF Safety Document (Addendum 2 to the Race Rules). A draft of the Safety & Rescue Plan must be delivered to the IRF for approval six (6) months prior to the Championship. Exceptions to this delivery timeline can only be approved by the Head of the IRF Guide Training and Education (GTE) Committee.
- 11.3 An IRF GTE Assessor must be at the Championship who serves in the capacity as the IRF Safety Representative. The Safety Representative shall act as the IRF advisor in all safety matters, will do a final check of the Safety & Rescue Plan, and must give final approval to the plan before the race starts.
- 11.4 The Championship (Organiser) Safety Director may also act as the IRF Safety Representative if they are a certified IRF GTE Assessor.
- 11.5 All costs for the IRF Safety Representative to attend the Championship must be funded by the

Organiser including, but not limited to, flights, transport, accommodation and meals for the duration of the Championship and any extra days immediately preceding the Championship that are necessary for them to perform their duties.

12. **Doping.** The IRF is a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code signatory. Doping tests at A-level Events are compulsory, and at B-level Events they are strongly encouraged. Championship Organisers are responsible for conducting doping tests under WADA guidelines and the IRF Anti-Doping Rules (See Section N of the [IRF Race Rules](#)), and shall be responsible for the costs and organisation of these tests unless the IRF Administration has granted a dispensation.
13. **Scouting Trip.** If a major IRF Event has not been previously held at the proposed venue(s) listed in the Bid, and/or the Organiser does not regularly stage rafting competitions at the venue(s), a scouting trip is required. A minimum of one (1), but ideally two (2) IRF representatives will carry out the scouting trip to assess the bid. All costs for travel, accommodation and meals for the IRF representative(s) must be funded by the Organiser.
14. **Naming of Championship.** The Championship must be named the 'IRF World Rafting Championships' and this name must be used in all promotional and/or informational material for the Championship. Exceptions to this requirement can only be given by express written consent by the IRF Exec Com.
15. **IRF Logo.** The IRF logo must be prominently displayed on all official print, electronic or internet publications, and all other official promotional, informational or entertainment media related to the Championship. To this end, the IRF logo must be positioned above all other logos and displayed in a manner that clearly indicates that the Championship is an IRF Event. Adherence to the [IRF Brand Guidelines](#) is mandatory for all use of the IRF name and/or logo. Exceptions to this requirement can only be given by express written consent by the IRF Head of Communications or IRF Secretary General.
16. **Championship Invitations.** Invitations to the Championship are solely controlled by the IRF to ensure only correctly selected and qualified teams are registered. Once a team's registration is approved by the IRF invitations can be sent by the Organisers, if required by the team. Any invitations prior to the team being registered must be approved by the IRF.

17. Team Entry/ Registration

17.1 Team Entry/ Registration Process

Team entry and registration is managed by the IRF. These processes include the collection of all team and competitor data relevant to racing. This also includes collection of the Team Entry Fee. Team Entry must be completed by the Registration Closing Date. The IRF will pass all Team Entry Fees (less any administrative costs) to the Organiser after the Registration Closing Date and prior to the commencement of the Championship.

No competitor or team can register for the event by any other means than those published by the IRF.

17.2 To comply with IRF Race Rules requirements

Through the Team Entry/ Registration Process the IRF will ensure that each team (and its

individual competitors):

- a) is a member of their national organisation, and that the national organisation is a member of the IRF and eligible to send Teams to the Championship,
- b) have been selected by their national organisation through a fair and credible national selection process,
- c) meet the nationality or residency eligibility requirements for the Championship,
- d) meet the age and gender eligibility requirements for the division and category in which they are registering;

17.3 **Registration Closing Date.** The final date for receiving Team registrations must be no more than seventy-five (75) days (2.5 months) and no less than 2 months before the Championship start date. Teams who report that they are struggling with efforts to secure sponsorship or entry visas, or are experiencing similar critical hardships, must request an extension from the IRF and must be allowed to register and pay entry fees up until thirty (30) days before the Championship start date to ensure that they are not unduly prevented from participating in the Championship.

17.4 **Team Entry Fee.** The Team Entry Fee must be kept as low as possible to ensure that as many Teams as possible can afford to register. The final date for receiving Team Entry Fees must be no more than sixty (60) days before the Championship start date except in the case of critical hardships as described above in **Error! Reference source not found.**

17.5 **At-Event Registration** is the formal process, usually on the first day of the Championship, where teams present themselves in person to the registration area to confirm their identities and receive any welcome packs, have a team official photo taken, and other formalities.

The organiser must provide a meeting space suitable for this in accordance with 4.14 and at least nine volunteers to assist in the Registration Attendance process which will be managed by the IRF Secretary General or their appointed IRF Representative.

17.6 Teams are allowed to include their own advertising on their paddling clothing, paddles, helmets, lifejackets and their off-river clothing. They may display their sponsors' banners in positions approved by the Organisers.

18. **Sustainability.** The IRF is committed to ensuring rafting events are as sustainable as possible, and work around the aims of "Reduce, reuse, refuse, and recycle". Organisers must read and abide by the [IRF Practical Guide to Sustainability](#), and [Sustainability Ideas for rafting event organisers](#). Organisers are to work with the IRF's Sustainability Committee to draw up a Commitment Statement as well as how they will implement the sustainable steps at the event.

Under Race Rule F.22, the inappropriate discard of rubbish is considered an offence during the Championship and carries a fixed fine penalty for any competitor, official or volunteer. This applies to Organiser personnel also.

19. **Legacy.** The Organisers are to actively promote the sport of rafting amongst the youth and potential newcomers to the sport within their communities. Organisers should also look at ways to use the sport to uplift previously disadvantaged persons within their own communities.

The IRF strongly encourages activities during the Championship that engage with local communities to support their development and to share their identities and indigenous cultures with participants of the Championship.

20. Hosting Fee and Deposit. The following mandatory steps will be taken to ensure the Host's commitment to the Championship:

- 20.1 After a WRC Bid has been awarded by the IRF Board of Directors, the Organising Committee of the winning Host is responsible for paying to the IRF the WRC hosting fee. The amount of this fee can be obtained from IRF Admin. .
- 20.2 A \$10,000 USD deposit must be paid directly to the IRF (and held as an interest bearing deposit). This is to discourage cancellation of the Championship by the Organiser closer than a year to the Championship. This deposit must be paid on the following schedule:
 - One (1) year before the Championship - \$5000 USD
 - Six (6) months before the Championship - \$5000 USD

21. Fulfilment

- 21.1 If the Organiser does not fulfil all terms of the Bid, or if the Championship encounters problems that can be solved financially, the IRF may at its discretion chose to draw on the Deposit to correct these problems (e.g. inefficient electronic timing system, insufficient or missing required equipment, inadequate accommodation for Judges, inadequate meeting venues, etc.).
- 21.2 If the Organiser does not pay the Deposit by the due dates, the IRF may at its discretion choose to withdraw its permission for the Organiser to host the WRC, and all agreements and contracts may be nullified.
- 21.3 If the Organiser agrees to, and abides by the terms and conditions set forth in these Regulations & Organising Criteria, and if all other related IRF contracts, agreements and conditions pertaining to this Championship are fulfilled, the IRF agrees to:
 - a) Sanction the Championship as the official IRF World Rafting Championship
 - b) Assist the Organiser where possible in promoting the Championship to teams, countries and interested persons
 - c) Ensure that the teams that attend the Championship are the officially selected teams of IRF member organisations
 - d) Respond to Organiser requests and queries
 - e) Offer assistance on the organisational side of the Championship
 - f) Qualify and choose the best possible Official Judges
 - g) Qualify and choose the best possible Jury
 - h) Assist in providing personnel and/or equipment as needed in accordance with the terms of these Regulations & Organising Criteria
 - i) Work with the Organiser to ensure that the Championship is a huge success for all those involved and for the future of rafting as a sport, recreational activity and tourist attraction

22. Final Confirmation.

The procedure towards Final Confirmation is as follows:

- 22.1 The IRF Sport and Competition Committee (S&C Com) will analyse and assess all Championship bids which meet the minimum criteria and regulations mentioned in these Regulations & Organising Criteria. After the assessment has completed, recommendations will be made to the IRF Board of Directors (BOD). The BOD will then review the recommendations and select the winning bid.
 - 22.2 The bid winner will be announced and a legal Contract will be signed between the Organiser and the IRF.
 - 22.3 One (1) year before the Championship, the Organiser must provide a Championship Status Report (CSR) that is based on the accepted bid documents. The CSR must inform the IRF of the Organiser's current progress status, whether the Organiser is on track to deliver its bid commitments, and highlight to the IRF any areas where IRF decision making or direct help is needed. Particular attention should be given to the financial budget, technical requirements and media issues. All bid commitments that have not yet been confirmed or finalised must include a timeline for completion.
 - 22.4 Six (6) months before the Championship, a second CSR must inform the IRF of the Organiser's current progress status with particular focus on the status of any deficiencies that were identified in the first CSR or in the WRC Pre-Worlds event. This CSR would be submitted along with the Risk Assessment and the Safety & Rescue Plan.
 - 22.5 The IRF may need to conduct one or more onsite inspections to confirm the CSR(s). Onsite inspections are ideally conducted at the WRC Pre-Worlds event, but may be conducted at other times if deemed necessary. Travel and hosting expenses for IRF Representative(s) are the responsibility of the Organiser.
 - 22.6 The Organiser is required to remain in regular contact with the IRF in the final months leading up to the Championship and ensure all deficiency issues are resolved. Final Confirmation of the Championship is only assured once the IRF Exec Com concludes its assessments of the CSRs, has completed any additional assessments it feels are necessary, and has made a positive recommendation to the IRF BOD.
23. If the Organiser does not comply with the procedures laid down in these Regulations & Organising Criteria to the satisfaction of the IRF BOD or IRF Exec Com, then the IRF shall not be compelled to honour the terms of these Regulations & Organising Criteria, Contract & Declaration of Indemnity or any previous agreements or Contracts with the Organiser relating to the Championship. In such circumstances the award of the Championship to the Organiser may be withdrawn, and all written or verbal agreements and contracts that award the Organiser rights to host the Championship shall become null and void. All deposits and Championship Hosting Fees held by the IRF will be forfeited, and the Organiser shall remain liable for any financial obligations that they have incurred for the Championship.

We the undersigned hereby agree to comply with the conditions set forth in these Regulations & Organising Criteria:

Signed _____ Name _____ Date _____

For the WRC Organising Committee

Signed _____ Name _____ Date _____

For the National Federation member to the IRF

Version Control for these Regulations & Organising Criteria:

- *Modified by the IRF S&C Exec Com May 2017*
- *Modified by the IRF Exec Com, Judge Chair and IRF Media Rep May 2018*
- *Modified by the IRF Exec Com, and IRF Media Rep March 2019*
- *Modified by the IRF Exec Com, and IRF Head of Communications January 2022*