

MEETING NOTES

Meeting of representatives from Adventure Racing countries to discuss the formation of the new International AR Association and tasks to be done.

Wednesday, 7 June 2023 @ 20h00 CET

held on Zoom

Attendance

1. Australia - Kim Beckinsale
2. Brazil - Samuel Eloy
3. Canada - Alex Provost
4. Czech Republic - Marek Navratil
5. Finland - Kati Vehmas
6. France - Romuald Viale
7. India - Ajita Madan
8. India - Paridhei Singh
9. India - Sayeesha Kirani
10. Ireland - Cormac Mac Donnell
11. Netherlands - Ruurd Noordhuis
12. South Africa - Lisa De Speville
13. UK - Damon De Boor
14. UK - Paul McGreal
15. UK - Ross Philips
16. Uruguay - Alen Pujol
17. Uruguay - Nicholas Davyt
18. USA - Adrian Crane
19. USA - John Harris
20. USA - Mike Garrison

SUMMARY

The initial AR Countries Working Group with Cormac, Lisa, Damon and Lars has fulfilled its original requirements of contacting and polling Adventure Racing countries. While this group is now essentially dissolved, Cormac and Lisa are still involved in a coordination capacity with scheduling meetings, bringing countries together, and guiding task groups until the election of a committee for the new international body that will then take over these functions.

From the survey and poll held in earlier in the year, the decision was made by countries actively involved in the sport of Adventure Racing to create an independent international body for the sport of Adventure Racing. The countries are in agreement that this decision has been made and should be acted on and progressed.

Congratulations were given to Kati Vehmas from Finland who announced the formation of the Finnish Adventure Racing Union, which unites 10 different associations. Kati is the chairperson for this union.

With thanks to technology like Facebook, Messenger, Zoom and Google Meets, it is now easier for countries to connect and to work together to create this international body.

With thanks to work from Uruguay, we have steps to follow with regards to the establishment of the new association.

To use an analogy of building a house: Our objective now is to lay a foundation and put the roof and walls on the house. The rooms will be decorated and completed within this structure.

With these steps in mind, two task groups were formed at the meeting to create the following content for the new body:

TASK GROUP 1

This group is led by Alen (Uruguay) with contributions from Marek (Czech), Damon (UK), Ruurd (Netherlands), Kim (Australia), Sayeesha (India), Romuald (France) and Nicolas (Uruguay). This group is tasked with creating the guidelines / rules needed to validate a national adventure racing federation / association / union as a valid adventure racing entity that can become a member of the International Adventure Racing Association.

TASK GROUP 2

This group is led by Samuel (Brazil) with contributions from Lisa (South Africa), John (USA), Mike (USA), and Adrian (USA). This group is tasked with developing the Vision and Mission of the new international body. They must also create a base definition for the sport of Adventure Racing.

Task groups are connected into a shared Google Drive to collectively work on and save their work.

Documents created by these Task Groups will be available for comment and contribution from country representatives. Keep in mind that documents are organic and will evolve with the growth, development and evolution of the new body. For now, a foundation is required. Task groups will be needed within the official body structure, sub-contracted by the elected committee.

We are aware that task groups can experience challenges in terms of coordinating meetings across time zones. We should keep this in mind when creating task groups.

We are fortunate to have many people with varied experience and expertise in our community and we are thankful for their willingness to volunteer to be involved.

Optimal task-group size is 3-4 people for efficiency and ease of communication. With many tasks required to be fulfilled over the coming months, you will have the opportunity to be part of a group for a task that requires your experience and knowledge. Also, base documents created will be circulated and your input will be needed to edit, amend, add to and refine these documents.

From further discussions post-meeting, we have the following notes to add for consideration in this process and to keep in mind:

- It is important that the process of forming this association is done quickly and efficiently to maintain our attention. Any process that drags on gets boring for all involved and loses momentum.
- We see the importance of electing the first committee by the end of August 2023.
- Information on the new international body will be presented at the AR Conference, which is being held at the Adventure Racing World Championship in South Africa in October 2023.
- It is difficult for task groups to create material from scratch. This also would take an unnecessary amount of time and effort. Established national bodies will be contacted for copies of their documents for specific elements, which can be edited, amended and added to according to the services and requirements of the new body.
- We are learning and adapting as we go along.

To create the international body we need:

- Name for the Federation (suggestions are welcomed)
- Constitution (draft base in progress)
- Membership criteria (Task Group 1 - in progress)
- Mission (Task Group 2 - in progress)
- Vision (Task Group 2- in progress)
- Definition of AR (Task Group 2-in progress)
- Values
- An AGM to elect a committee (founding committee can be 4 people – like an AR team). Secondments can be incorporated in the first year and other committee positions can be defined then too as the roles and activities of the Body are established.

MEETINGS

- Our Zoom meetings have to be punchy, quick and to the point.
- 45-minutes
- On a set topic/agenda.
- Info must go out 3-4 days in advance of meetings for people to read and to bring their contributions to the meeting. Deal with the topic and move on. Each meeting must confirm / define / resolve something - and fast.

SUGGESTED TIMELINE – July and August are AR Federation months. 7-8 weeks of action.

- Friday, 7 July 2023 – send out date for next meeting with notes from previous meeting.
- Monday, 10 July 2023: Task Group 1 and 2 documents sent out to AR Countries.
- MEETING: Wednesday, 12 July 2023: Task Group content presentation
- Friday, 14 July – send out draft constitution to country reps for their contributions
- MEETING: Wednesday, 19 July 2023 – topic: constitution
- Monday, 31 July: Notice of Establishment AGM date. Countries are asked to have representatives at the AGM, to submit nominations (need a deadline) and for people to be prepared to stand.
- Wednesday, 2 August: circulate edited constitution to official countries for last contributions
- Sunday, 13 August – send out content related to Wed meeting, including the constitution that will grow with the federation
- Wed, 16 August: Pre-AGM meeting of member country representatives and agreement on constitution, mission, values, membership criteria
- AGM: Wed, 23 AUGUST – to elect a committee
- Work in the federation to establish other policies and services will continue with task groups.
- October: presentation of the Federation at the AR Conference at ARWC.

If you are not on the Messenger group, please let us know so that you can be added.

Enquiries, comments & suggestions can be sent to to **arcountries@gmail.com**

and copied to:

Cormac Mac Donnell (Ireland) - cormacmacdonnell@gmail.com

Lisa de Speville (South Africa) - lisa@adventurelisa.co.za

ENDS