

NOTES FROM THE INFORMATION SESSION

Meeting of representatives from Adventure Racing countries to discuss
the international structure options available to the sport.

Thursday, 2 March 2023 @ 19h00 CET

Saturday, 4 March 2023 @ 19h00 CET

held on Zoom

DISCLAIMER

The information that we are providing is a brief overview and not detailed. Use this information, research further, discuss with your countries and add to this base.

Attendance

Thursday, 2 March 2023	Saturday, 4 March 2023
Brazil - Warley Costa	Australia - Chris Dixon
Colombia - Ricky Vélez	Australia - Liam St Pierre
Denmark - Lars Bukkehave	Australia - Paul Guard
France - Claire Grossoeuvre	Canada - Alexandre Provost
India - Shaukat Sikand	Czech - Dana (Dejna) Jahn Odvody
India - Ajita Madan	Finland - Kati Vehmas
Ireland - Cormac Mac Donnell	India - Paridhei Singh
Jamaica - Panna Utpol	Ireland - Cormac Mac Donnell
Netherlands - Ruurd Noordhuis	Japan - Masato Team East Wind
New Zealand - Andy Magness	Portugal - Pedro Pinto
Norway - Lars Bukkehave	South Africa - Lisa De Speville
Romania - Raul Fodor	South Africa - Steven Burnett
South Africa - Lisa De Speville	South Africa - Stephan Muller
South Africa - Graham Bird	UK - Damon De Boor
Spain - Carlos Gonzalez Salamanca	UK - Ross Phillips
Spain - Pablo López Franco	Uruguay - Nicolas Davyt
UK - Damon De Boor	Uruguay - Alen Pujol
UK - Paul McGreal	USA - Michael Garrison
UK - Ross Phillips	Venezuela - Richardson
Uruguay - Nicolas Davyt	Unknown (Malaysia?) - iE (upsidedown Y)
Venezuela - Kerwin Neuman	
Unknown - Juancho Arstiz	

SUMMARY

The Working Group of Corman, Damon, Lars and Lisa have been reaching out to adventure racing countries to make contact with National representatives. Two Zoom meetings were held to meet with countries, to look at the difference between Federations and Associations and to look at the options available to the sport of adventure racing.

These options are:

1. Join an established International Federation as a sub-sport i.e. Orienteering, Triathlon, Obstacle *
2. Establish an independent International Adventure Racing Federation.
3. Establish a less formal, independent International Adventure Racing Association
4. Do nothing

** An Association of sorts needs to be formed before AR can join an existing federation.*

These options can be hybrid, like where an Association is created first. It operates parallel to an existing Federation to learn the processes with the aim of becoming independent over time.

Notes from the meeting as well as slides that you can use and/or adapt for discussions in your country are provided.

The timeline for the way forward is as follows:

Wednesday, 8 March 2023	Notes from meetings will be circulated to country representatives.
Countries are tasked with going back to their people – members, teams, race organisers, clubs, community (depending on your situation) – to discuss these meetings and the situation to discover what their community wants.	
Monday, 20 March 2023	We will circulate an online survey to country representatives to complete by Wednesday, 22 March 2023.
Week of 27 March 2023	Feedback from the survey will be circulated to country representatives and a response will be sent to FISO.

Enquiries, comments & suggestions can be sent to the AR working group at:

arcountries@gmail.com

Cormac Mac Donnell (Ireland)

Lars Bukkehave (Denmark)

Damon de Boor (UK)

Lisa de Speville (South Africa)

NOTES

1. Welcome

2. Objectives for Session

- Open a Discussion about an International Federation/Association for AR
- Present Information & Options Available
- Allow you time to go back to your countries and discuss with racers, teams, organisers, clubs
- Each country decides on an option and why
- We meet again to discuss and agree on the way ahead.

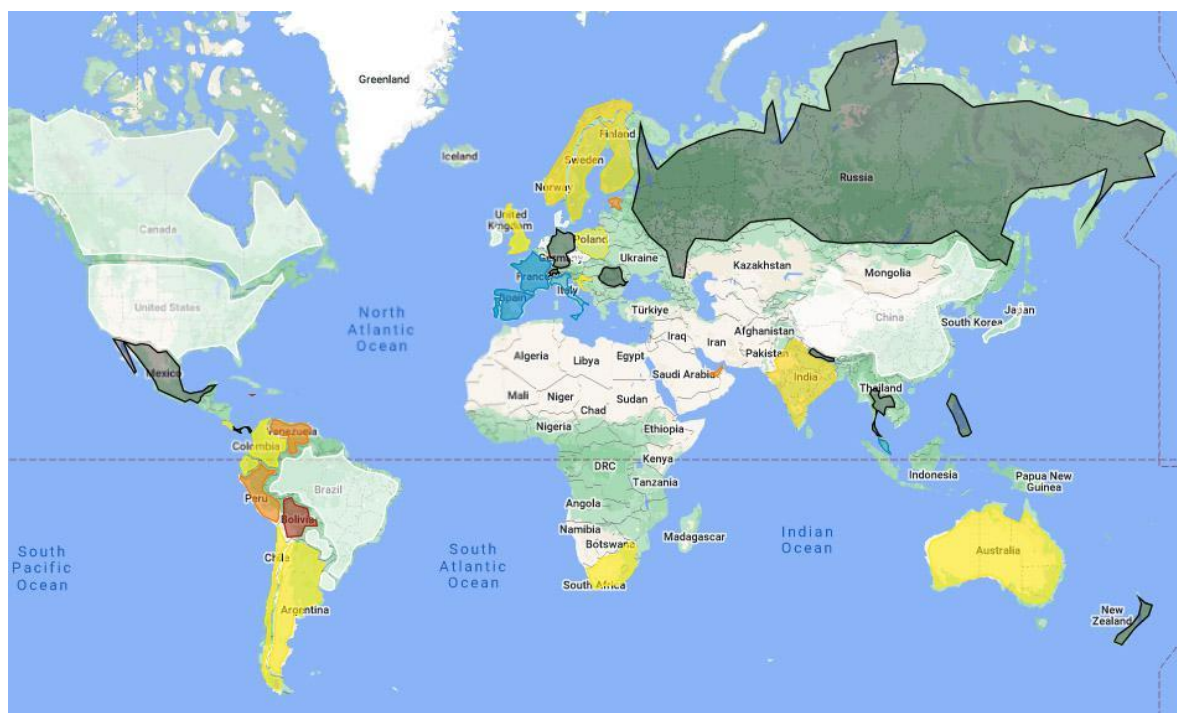
3. Declarations of Interest

Thursday, 2 March 2023

Brazil	Warley	I'm here to support this discussion and working group. I also represent Brazil. (a) I'm involved in CBCA (Brazil Gov.B) as a member of the Board of Directors.
Colombia	Ricky Vélez	I was part of the PC12 organization in Colombia, currently I retired from the organization of that race, but I continue with a voluntary role promoting adventure races and encouraging more competitors in the different ARWS races. I am very interested in this theme of union since we will be able to strengthen ourselves more worldwide and show ordinary people this type of non-traditional sports.
Denmark (Norway)	Lars Bukkehave	a) I am in this working group to help to find the best option for the sport. b) I am in the Danish Adventure Race Union C) RD for a Danish race that is part of ARWS European Series.
France	Claire Grosseoeuvre	I'm here to participate to this discussion to promote our sport. as a sport advisor, I am in charge of adventure race for the French triathlon federation.
India	Shaukat Sikand	I am here representing the Indian national federation that is registered in 2015 I am in favour of an International Federation but have to discuss who to structure it so that it's for the people by the people and of the people representing AR. I'm here to support this discussion and working group. I also represent INDIA a) I WAS INVOLVED in ARWS as an RD (b) Race director from INDIA.
New Zealand	Andy Magness	I'm an RD in NZ. If anything I'd be representing the interests of grassroots adventure racing, at least as I see them.
Spain	Pablo López Franco	I am Raid Gallaecia RD in Spain, part of ARWS, and collaborate with Spanish orienteering federation. Organizing AR from 2005 and organized World champs and European champs and AR Panamá 2 last years.
UK	Paul McGreal	I'm here as a RD and to help represent UK, but have a few interests: (a) I'm involved in ARWS as a member of the non-exec

		board (b) I'm Event Director of the World Orienteering Champs 2024, and so have connections with one of the IF's that might form part of the discussion, (c) I've been involved (Board level) with Triathlon Scotland (another possibly relevant federation).
UK	Damon de Boor	I'm here to support this discussion and working group. I also represent the UK. (a) I'm involved in ARWS as a member of the non-exec board (b) Race director for the Burn Series in the UK.

4. Countries contacted



- White Country has a National AR Federation / Assoc.
- Blue AR is under another Federation i.e. orienteering or triathlon
- Yellow country has an AR culture
- Orange There are teams/participants and events only
- Red No AR activity
- Black Still to be classified

We have contacted these countries and have organised how they belong:

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, UK, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

We have contacted these countries but we are not yet sure how to classify them:

Costa Rica, Croatia, Estonia, India, Italy, Jamaica, Malaysia, Norway, Panamá, Paraguay, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates

5. Overview of Federations and Associations

What is the difference between a Federation and Association?

Federation

Can be a group of Associations, Federations or other legal entities. It administrates, organises and promotes the practice of its sport.

Association / Organisation

A group that unites for a common purpose or interest, or with a specific goal or mission. Union of groups and people. Representation of racers / teams / events and national bodies (where applicable).

Adventure Racing is not a measurable sport like athletics and swimming. It is hard to contain because of the nature of the sport and of the people who take part.

We will look at the usual functions of a Federation – not all of them are applicable to our wild sport, but many can be adapted.

Functions of an International Federation:

On the whole, International Federations are about governance:

- Federations are registered, legal entities.
- They are like a library – a reference to everything about the sport
 - If something happens, there will be rules that guide you in how to deal with it.
 - Do you want to organise a biathlon event? There will be a document that tells you how to run the ages groups, starts, timekeepers and result. This ensures that standards are the same worldwide.
 - Do you want to know if a 10-year old can compete in a 5km running event? There will be something in the rules about maximum distances for age groups.
 - If a sport uses equipment, there will be rules for the size, weight and colour of equipment to be used in the sport.
- Federations set up committees of people with expertise and experience to establish these regulations, rules, safety and disciplinary guidelines & the technical aspects that define the sport.
- The Federation also has a supervisory role to make sure that the rules are followed.
- Federations oversee training of people like coaches and referees so that standards around the world are the same.
- Federations put structures in place to ensure that their objectives of promoting and growing the sport are achieved.
- They arrange and supervise that international competitions take place and that they are fair, efficient & profitable (main work of most Federations). The Federation doesn't necessarily organise these events – Championships may be hosted by National Federations or event coordinators. The host country / organisation will usually pay a licence fee to the International Federation for the rights to host the event, as well as a percentage of the entry

fees. The International Federation may bring TV production and sponsors to the party as part of the deal.

- Federations supervise athlete development with structures like the Long-Term Athlete Development programme that goes from a beginner to an elite athlete to Active For Life – keeping people in the sport for life – with programmes developed and supported by the International Federation. National Federations are tasked with implementing this by following the established guidelines.
- Promote the sport globally in media and also by providing their member countries with the tools to make the sport happen at all levels (equipment supplied etc)
- The International Federation does not have to do everything: It can divide tasks and responsibilities in the sport to those that are managed at international level and those that are managed at country level.
- National Federations have to follow the rules – as applicable – of International Federations. There can be some flexibility according to the needs of the sports.

Of course, the 'intensity' of a Federation depends on the size of the sport, its requirements and its objectives. A Federation for a small sport that will never be an Olympic sport is very different to that of major sports like Swimming and Athletics.

An Association

Because an Association is a group of people that comes together for common purpose, or with a specific goal, the structure – and extent of the structure – can be decided by those involved to suit the purpose of the organisation.

There can be similarities in the tasks, roles and functions of a Federation and Association.

Often an Association is the starting point on the way to becoming a Federation.

Whether an International Federation or Association, we have identified these roles for an International body in Adventure Racing:

- A united front of countries - members and observers - with adventure racing involvement.
 - Communication - connecting the countries together and keeping all parties informed.
 - Platform to share resources – like rules and standards – from those countries with more experience with those trying to get themselves together and those only starting in the sport. A supportive role.
 - International representation and promotion of AR to other sporting codes like orienteering, mtb, trail running, paddling.
 - Help AR countries to establish national structures.
 - Support and complement activities of Event Coordinators.
 - Include those countries without structures (include their representatives) to keep them involved, contributing and growing.
 - Maintain a central database of countries, activities, participation, and contacts for easy-flowing communication and reference.
 - Provide a central, global contact point and voice for the sport of Adventure Racing
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- What other roles do you see as being important?

When you go back to discuss with your people in your country, ask:

- How can the sport of Adventure Racing benefit from an International Federation or Association? What do we need from it?
- How can my National organisation benefit?
- How will events in my country benefit?
- How will the racers and teams in my country benefit?
- What can we contribute to an International Federation or to an Association?
- Which structure will suit our needs?

6. Open questions to consider

- Does Adventure Racing need an International Federation?
- What is the Objective of an International Adventure Racing body?
- Is an International Federation structure required to enable this?
- Can a non-Federation structure achieve this?
- Is it an option to 'do nothing'?

7. International structure options available to Adventure Racing

We have identified FOUR options available to Adventure Racing. We have noted some pros and cons.

Please discuss and add more from your perspective.

We need to keep in mind that situations in our countries are different and that this will shape your perspective.

Option 1: Join an established International Federation as a sub-sport.

Pros	Cons
Federation setup work already done	The Federation may not be interested in AR as a sub-sport: Rogaining under Orienteering is an example. Existing athletes may not match the profile of adventure racers.
Structures and people are already in place	Adventure Racing would still need to elect people to be involved and on committees.
AR can adopt already-established codes and policies, editing for AR specifics.	AR needs to follow the codes of the Federation.
Professional Status - In France, for example, if there is an International Federation with 15 different countries at a Championship you can claim a pro-athlete status.	Stricter / different regulations in place for adventure racing events. - potential significant impact on Organisers

On a National level, in Spain, AR community has always been allowed to work independently of their National Orienteering Federation. Being within the federation allowed them to be helped by public government bodies, territories and sponsors.	Exposure of AR to other Federation members is wasted if the type of people in that sporting code are not really AR people
	Will there be issues later with rights to Intellectual Property of established and registered names? Ie Who will own the name AR?
In several countries this will mean income from local federations and government	Sponsors - contracts with the Federation? Fund distribution?
Align the sport with other sports internationally and support the overall development.	Federations need funding. Where will this come from in Adventure Racing?
	Being under an existing IF could dilute the Adventure Racing brand, which is hard enough to define and market.

Option 2: Establish an independent International Adventure Racing Federation.

PROS	CONS
Adventure Racing has its own identity and representation.	The process to create a Federation and be recognised by other International bodies can take many, many years.
Policies and codes can be adopted from other disciplines (no need to recreate everything from scratch).	The Federation would have the responsibility of sport development and promotion and governance.
A virtual shared office is possible (cheap) and virtual meetings too (no one has travel). And management? We already have some in ARWS, for example.	Manpower, especially administrative, needs to come from Adventure Racing community.

<p>ARWS / ARWC and A1 already fulfil the role of coordinating series, Cups, Finals and World Championships - a Federation is not needed for this role but the Federation may adopt and support international, and especially Championship, events.</p>	
<p>National membership to an International Federation opens access to funding for some countries</p>	<p>Federations need funding for administration expenses or proportional rental expenses, or payment of administrative personnel.</p> <p>Where will this come from in Adventure Racing?</p> <p>Do racers need to be fee-paying members to participate in events?</p> <p>Should events contribute funding? (what is in it for them?)</p> <p>Should A1 / ARWS contribute funding (and why should they)?</p>
<p>In France, for example, if there is an International Federation with 15 different countries at a Championship you can claim a pro-athlete status.</p>	

Option 3: Establish a less formal, independent International Adventure Racing Association

PROS	CONS
<p>Adventure Racing has its own identity and representation.</p>	<p>Volunteers are needed to give of their time to be involved with creating and then driving, administrating and growing this association.</p>
<p>The purpose of the association can be defined and limited to what the community needs i.e. communication.</p>	<p>Lacks the recognition of a formal Federation.</p>
<p>Lacks the formality and governance of a Federation.</p>	<p>Lacks the formality and governance of a Federation.</p>

An Association would be the first step towards a Federation.	
The Association can represent Adventure Racing as a sub-sport under the Federation of another sporting code.	
Policies and codes can be adopted from other disciplines (no need to recreate everything from scratch) or the umbrella federation.	
Virtual meetings can be held between committee and members.	
ARWS / ARWC and A1 already fulfil the role of coordinating series, Cups, Finals and World Championships. Build an association that complements and gives support to ARWS and A1's activities.	
Less administrative demands than an official Federation. Less demands on the volunteers that represent the Association.	
Develop, strengthen and widen communication between adventure racing countries.	

Option 4: Do nothing

Pros	Cons
We all go back to watching Netflix at night, entering events and racing – just like we've been doing for 30 years.	We miss out on the beautiful cooperation and communication happening between adventure racing countries. Global communication is made easy by Zoom, Facebook, Messenger and email.
	Any individual or organisation / federation could assemble AR representatives to form an International AR Federation, independent or under an existing Federation. First come, first served.

8. Questions, thoughts and suggestions

Ross Philips (UK)

Are we perhaps suffering from a little bit of push back to a smash and grab approach from World Obstacle basically doing what Lisa suggest she could do herself and create an international federation?

2nd - We need to bear in mind how we deal with the fact that WO is already citing adventure racing as part of their remit with their links with A1 and GodZone and Nathan Fa'ave's event. Throw those out there for consideration.

Response from Damon: About the smash-and-grab, we are having this conversation because WO and Ian raising this, that said, this is a conversation that has happened a couple of times in the past 20 years and it is a good opportunity for us as a group here and a wider group to have this conversation and review those options.

What is very important is that we take our time here and don't make a rush decision; and we don't get rushed by anybody – this group, WO, A1, ARWS . We take our time. If it takes a year, so be it. We as racers, race directors, we dictate this and we say what we want.

Shaukut Sikand (India)

Shaukut commented about India.

We need to have some kind of a uniformity, some kind of a structure, some kind of a recognition to all this. The main thing is which direction do we take.

We are at a crossroads. Let's unite and form some kind of a structure where we all agree and then move forward.

Warley Costa (Brazil)

If we decide to create an Independent Federation for Adventure Racing, how difficult is it to remove Adventure Racing from FISO? How do we get those rights back from FISO? How does it work?

Response from Raul Fodor (Romania)

A good question and a really important one. We have the same situation discussed now as some of you may know there is a collaboration between Obstacle and Pentathlon.

Worldwide organisations and European ones ask the same question. What will happen if somehow we will fall under Pentathlon?

If you go with the option of joining an existing International Federation, you have the option of separating yourself after that. It is not exclusive rights of being under the Federation that you are developing under.

Response from Warley Costa (Brazil)

To make sure I understand you – so FISO doesn't have to deny Adventure Racing; it's not a block for us to move forward independently?

Response from Damon de Boor (UK)

Ian Adamson has made it clear in his notes that it is for us to decide as an adventure racing community. If we choose not to go under World Obstacle, we have to assume that they will respect that decision. Even if we choose to go under World Obstacle, it is not, as Raoul says, a done deal to stay there forever.

Andy Magness (NZ)

- My own investigation in NZ can see a potential benefit of a Federation structure for government support. I've been exploring this. There are limitations until there is a National body and an International body. I'm not sure yet whether it makes a difference if it is a Federation or Association.
- The positive outcome from all of this is to have consensus in terms of a higher structure that leads to a peak event or series of peak events. I personally think this idea of two World Championships is absurd. As an adventure racer, what does this mean if I want to aspire to be the top adventure racer in the world. I am very involved with youth over here – if youth are looking towards this, what does that mean?

Response from Damon de Boor (UK)

None of us here at 18 anymore. What we are doing here is building a base for the youth – the youngsters coming through. We are not doing this for ourselves. We're doing this for the next generation of racers.

Andy Magness (NZ)

We also want to make sure we preserve the spirit of adventure racing. There are many interpretations of AR. AR will never succumb to a federation like triathlon. We want adventure and uncertainty, variety of courses and experiences – this is what draws people. It is an interesting balance to preserve the uncertainty and spirit, while creating enough of a structure for a hierarchical structure that leads to a peak event. An interesting challenge.

Paul McGreal (UK)

I've been around long enough to remember discussions in the UK about setting up a Federation or Association here 15 years ago. There was a general feel against it for what you've (Andy) just outlined. There was a certain pride in the 'Wild West' approach that AR had at that time and a fear of being codified. Whatever we do here, assuming it is not going to be to do nothing, it is going to involve codification of some kind. We've gone some of that direction like with ARWS's rule book and standardised kit list. We are going to have to be careful that we don't lose that spirit and whatever we codify does allow for that flexibility and diversity and unpredictability. That's a hard job.

Warley Costa (Brazil)

How do you guys see the opportunity to have another International Federation accepting Adventure Racing under their umbrella. For me personally, I see it difficult to have another sport accepting us?

Carlos Salamanca (Spain)

We have found the balance between the independence of adventure racers and the form of the Spanish Orienteering Federation. We don't have problems with marketing or money or things that each of us does. We use maps. We have both discovered adventure racing through orienteering. Very comfortable in orienteering federation.

It is not obvious that International Orienteering Federation would want us, but if we approach different countries and heads of orienteering federation we could try to be under their umbrella. That is our opinion.

Lars Bukkehave (Denmark)

In Denmark, we formed the Danish Federation 15 years ago. After 5-6 years we felt all the benefit of that and the last 10 years the sport has developed a lot with school programmes, rules and with support from each other and race directors. This has been the biggest benefit.

We have worked with Danish Orienteering too with maps and buildings and infrastructure and permissions. We also work with Triathlon Federation in some events. It has been good to already be in two other Federations. I also see the benefit of our own structure but there is a lot of work in that.

Cormac Mac Donnell (Ireland)

One can lead to the other as well. You can start by establishing a smaller association and then moving under an existing federation. You have to have something initially to become part of something.

Claire Grosseuvre (French Triathlon)

Adventure racing had to choose a federation to join. We were a bit scared of joining triathlon because they are very strict. We joined the federation seven years ago. We have the same rules and we haven't lost anything about our activity. We keep an open mind.

There are 18,000 children at school practice AR. We have a big challenge to keep the young people. It is important to have an international federation because when these young people grow up and are very good, there is no competition for them. We lose them if they choose cycling or running. We keep in mind we do adventure racing and to have competition so that children continue the activity when they grow up and become adults.

Triathlon is very big and they have lots of money. They have helped us to grow very fast.

Raul Fodor (Romania)

NZ pointed out the aspect of trying to keep the spirit of the sport free. Difficult to manage. When trying to shape something, rules will come into place. It is not possible to do any other way.

Same was tried in parkour. Gymnastics has taken over parkour - a forced take over. But the community does not fall under this. They are trying to push back. The community is against a structure. It is impossible to do without the will of the community.

Cormac Mac Donnell (Ireland)

This is about values and spirit in sport and the alignment. If you are going to join a bigger entity, you're going to need shared values. If there is differing spirit and values, well then things will be difficult.

Andy Magness (NZ)

I am cognisant of the fact that FISO and WO have put a significant amount of marketing into the development of a World Championship Series and a World Cup Series... and if we come back in 3 or 6-months time and say, sorry guys to their offer, we don't want to do this, do we have confidence that there will be a respectful changing of their marketing to say they are no longer representing the World Cup or World Series thing. Is this something we need to be concerned about?

Lisa de Speville (South Africa)

According to Ian, FISO and A1 are not related. He registered the LLC for A1 in the USA but he is not otherwise involved. A1's contact address is in Switzerland, the same address as World Obstacle (FISO). Liam St Pierre and Trevor Mullens (both Australian) are volunteers who are building and growing A1. A1 is endorsed by FISO as an event coordinator.

Andy Magness (NZ)

FISO has selected A1 as A1 is claiming a World Championship like ARWC. Is our voice as adventure racing actually going to be heard in the face of the machinations that were already happening before this discussion?

Is there a way we can seek to get consensus from A1 and ARWS that they are in support of any decision by this group of countries; that they would align themselves as players and event directors within a larger structure if that's the decision we make?

Cormac Mac Donnell (Ireland)

A lot of this is down to how the community reacts and how we mobilise to get viewpoints from countries. There has been no voice for this community so within that vacuum, all sorts of things have been happening. We can only look to ourselves and mobilise our community. We must ask what is right for the community and the sport of adventure racing.

If we come back with a strong, unified voice, we can't be ignored.

It was clear from Ian at the meeting on the 18th February, that he has placed a strong value and has asked the adventure racing community to make a call on what they want to do. We have to respect that he said that and let's consult and return the answer.

There is no doubt that if we decide to do nothing, then we're back to square one.

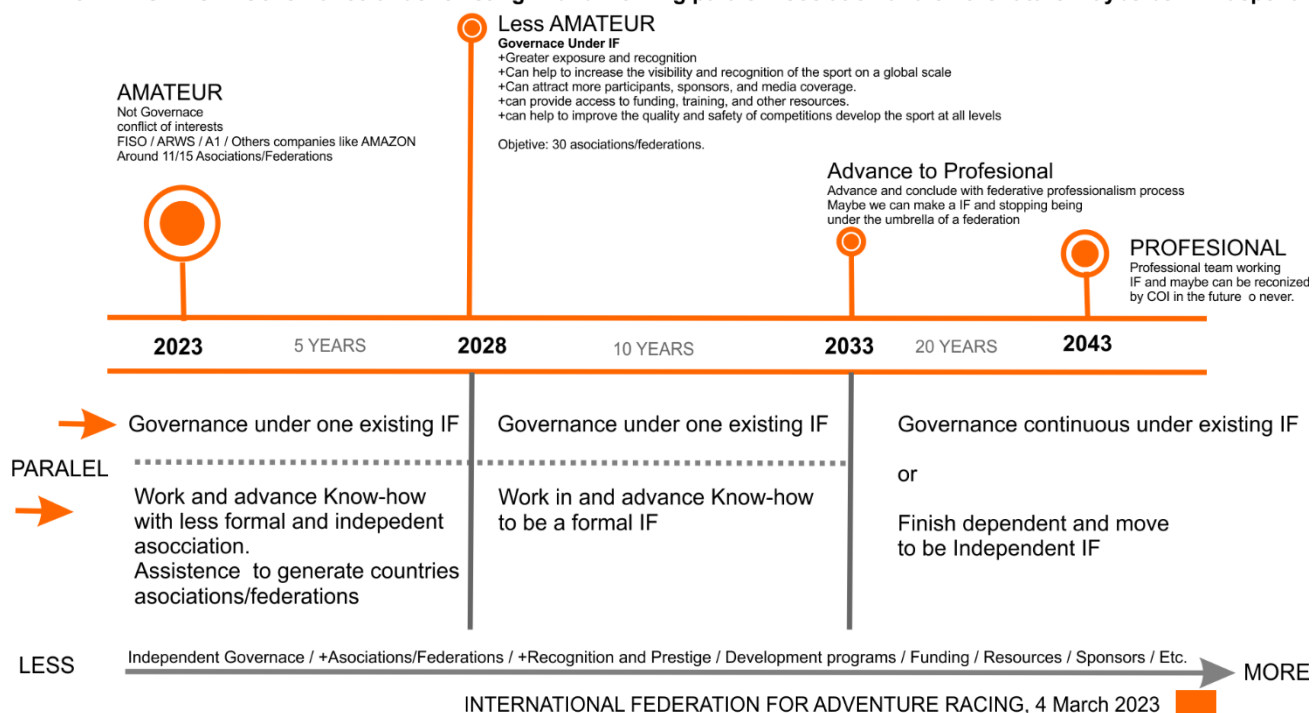
Comments from Saturday, 4 March 2023

Nicolas Davyt (Uruguay)

We can make a less formal, independent association for the first year and work in parallel with existing organisations. Gives an advantage in a short time.

(Nicolas has created the outline of this option, which is a hybrid of creating an AR Association and joining an existing Federation)

5- MIX OPTION: Governance under existing IF and working paralel Asociation and on the future maybe be IF indepent



5- MIX OPTION: Governance under existing IF and working paralel asociation and on the future maybe be IF indepent

If we analyze all the options we can make a mix that minimizes the disadvantages off some options. Start with existiting International Federation and paralel work International Asociations / Federation.

Pros.

- We have governace (community representative) on short time. ARWS, A1 or other, they are partner but not governace
- In short time, we access benefis off under governance of IF.
- 5 years or more we learn know-how about how to manage an international federation, and all process, rules, etc.
- Organizers and adventure racer may access other types of support

Contrs.

- We are working in 2 objetives and maybe diffuse the effort, more work, more people to work, but it is accompanied by learning how an existing IF works.
- We are not 100% independent.
- If we are under IF, this we must hire and advise ourselves with an expert on legal issues, because contract are made directly with International Federation not with subports

Mike Garrison (USA)

I started talking to some people internationally about two years ago after FISO first made themselves known. I took over USARA in August 2020. Within a week, Ian gave me a call about World Obstacle, which until then I didn't know existed. One thing discussed was a concern about whether it was possible for somebody to take over the sport.

If we had a critical mass of countries and we decided to create an International Association, would this in anyway inhibit the creation of an International Federation for the same sport?

This is a question that comes up – whether it is OCR taking over adventure racing. Compare to the situation with handball – people that are less directly involved doing something to take over the bureaucracy of the sport. It doesn't seem like someone else could do something that has more weight; it doesn't mean it can't happen but it should reduce the probability of success of something like that happening.

Cormac Mac Donnell (Ireland)

If the Adventure Racing community and each of the National Federations present a unified Association and look to develop that, I don't see how it would be possible for an International Federation to overstep all of the National Federations.

There are a number of countries with National Federations and Associations and this is set to increase over the next few years, I don't see how that can be ignored.

Damon de Boer (SA)

We are keen to avoid the boxing example of multiple federations. We have the right to make a decision about what we want.

Dejna Odvody (Czech)

We have only one big multiday race. For us, makes sense to make an Association, with less bureaucracy. Makes sense to not do nothing. Good to have some kind of umbrella.

Alex Provost (Canada)

Do we know how big is FISO and what part, if we were to join, what part would AR be in that international federation? Is there a possibility that we end up being the biggest sub-sport of the Federation?

A lot of what we hear is that we don't want our sport to be a sub-sport, left alone in its corner and we want to make sure to keep control of it. It is not clear for me what weight our sport would have.

Cormac Mac Donnell (Ireland)

Three sports – OCR (appears to be the biggest entity), Ninja seems to be growing in popularity. In meetings, Ian said AR would have its own AR representatives looking after Adventure Racing. We would have to comply with the rules of the broad board of World Obstacle.

We are a well-established sport and it would bring a lot to FISO. FISO is a fairly new Federation – still finding its way.

Lisa de Speville (South Africa)

Whether AR joins any Federation, the AR community would need to provide people from the community to be on committees.

Chris Dixon (Australia)

World Obstacle have already updated their material to say they are the AR Federation. In the FISO meeting, they said it is up to the community to decide. Is there some kind of official statement or plan to put that officialness on hold until the Adventure Racing community decides?

Damon de Boor (South Africa)

Similar to a question asked on Thursday. To be completely neutral, we have to follow what FISO said in their meeting minutes, that if we as an Adventure Racing community say stop, we want to do our own thing, or that we want a break, and that we can ask them to remove reference to Adventure Racing. We have to trust that they are going to do it. We have to trust the process. It is critical that we do not think this is a two-week process.

Cormac Mac Donnell (Ireland)

Presenting a strong, unified front and a very clear message and going through an open and honest process in the community will help us to unify ourselves and present a very clear message either way.

Lisa de Speville (South Africa)

The question came up before whether we would be having this discussion if it were not for the FISO meeting. No, we would not. But, this is a blessing. We are more aware of what the situation is - we can think, research and investigate, and with clear thought we can look at the way forward for the sport.

Richardson (Venezuela)

First event in October this year. We are just starting and we are excited.

(Their National Federation covers Adventure Racing and Obstacle Federation.)

Damon de Boor

You've got your own Federation, with Obstacle Course Racing in Venezuela. If the decision is that there will be an international Adventure Racing organisation that is separate to FISO, that does not mean you need to walk away from your National Obstacle Federation in your country. You have established and are working together – keep going. It is important that you realise that some countries will have Federations and some don't and some are part of others. If you have a structure, keep it and use it and build on it, that's great.

Pedro Pinto (Portugal)

Pedro came into the Zoom as everyone else was leaving. He made some good points to Lisa and Cormac. The gist of his message was...

Federations can be all about bureaucracy, meetings, money, sport. In my opinion, we need to go to innovation and modernisation for Adventure Racing. Adventure Racing needs to create a global union, then start to building something without rush.

Adventure racing is not like other sports. Need to understand the human nature of the sport.

Adventure racing needs innovation and it needs more creativity to create an organisation with the soul of Adventure Racing.

Closing

Cormac Mac Donnell (Ireland)

What I'm encountering over these meetings is that there is a big community of people with a passion for the sport and a huge amount of experience and knowledge and a lot to give. I wouldn't have any hesitation or doubt for the people in this community to step up and do a great job in establishing whatever is decided and building something that is appropriate and right for the sport.

We're all a bit older in years and this brings with it benefits – skill sets and knowledge.

When I heard about the AR community not being able to organise itself and not having a clue about governance, I thought this was completely ludicrous. We've got a lot of knowledge in the community and in this room and it is important that we remember that.

9. What happens next?

Wednesday, 8 March 2023	Notes from meetings will be circulated to country representatives.
Countries are tasked with going back to their people – members, teams, race organisers, clubs, community (depending on your situation) – to discuss these meetings and the situation to discover what their community wants.	
Monday, 20 March 2023	We will circulate an online survey to country representatives to complete by Wednesday, 22 March 2023.
Week of 27 March 2023	Feedback from the survey will be circulated to country representatives and a response will be sent to FISO.

Contact: arcountries@gmail.com

ENDS