

8th World Rogaining Championships

Karula National Park, Estonia

13 – 14 September 2008

BULLETIN No 2

Format

The World Rogaining Championships (WRC) are held as a 24-hour rogaine.

Terrain

The terrain includes the Karula National Park (<http://karularahvuspark.ee/?lang=en>) and surrounding areas. The landscape features the Karula Uplands with varying land forms of glacial origin, notably hillocks, moraine and esker formations with relative height up to 30–40 meters. The difference between the lowest and the highest point on the terrain is about 80 meters. Parts of the terrain are flat. There are a number of lakes as well as bogs and marshes of different size. Forests of varying types (predominantly coniferous) cover over three quarters of the terrain. Passability of the forest varies from very good (open pine forest) to very bad (alder thickets). There is a network of tracks and forest rides. The terrain also includes cultural landscapes presenting traditional South Estonian dispersed villages and farmland.

Hash house

The hash house will be located near the visitor center of the Karula National Park in a village Ähijärve, Võru county in South Estonia. The distance from Tallinn to Ähijärve is 290 km (3.5 – 4 hour drive), from Tartu to Ähijärve 100 km (1.5 hour drive).

Map

The map scale and the size of the map sheet will be announced in Bulletin No 3.

Participants

Teams of 2 – 5 members. A team member/competitor is considered to represent a country of which she/he is a national or a permanent resident.

Competition classes

- Men's Open (MO) — men, no age restriction
- Women's Open (WO) — women, no age restriction
- Mixed Open (XO) — at least one man and one woman, no age restriction
- Men's Junior (MJ) — men, all must be under 20 years of age
- Women's Junior (WJ) — women, all must be under 20 years of age
- Mixed Junior (XJ) — at least one man and one woman, all must be under 20 years of age
- Men's Veteran (MV) — men, all must be 40 years of age or over
- Women's Veteran (WV) — women, all must be 40 years of age or over

- Mixed Veteran (XV) — at least one man and one woman, all must be 40 years of age or over
- Men's Super Veteran (MSV) — men, all must be 55 years of age or over
- Women's Super Veteran (WSV) — women, all must be 55 years of age or over
- Mixed Super Veteran (XSV) — at least one man and one woman, all must be 55 years of age or over

Participation in the WRC is open to all, subject to the entry limit (see below).

Teams are entered to particular categories based on gender and age of their members. Teams are deemed to compete in every category for which they are eligible. That is, teams competing in the Junior and the Veteran categories are automatically entered in the corresponding Open category. Teams competing in the Super Veteran categories are automatically entered in the corresponding Open and Veteran categories. For the Junior, Veteran and Super Veteran categories the age is determined on the first day of competition (i.e. 13 September 2008). Any team that has a member under 16 years of age shall also have a member 18 years of age or over.

Timetable

Friday, 12 September 2008

14:00 Camping at the hash house opens

Saturday, 13 September 2008

8:00 Attachment of SI cards

10:00 Map handout

12:00 Start

15:00 Catering available at the hash house

19:00 Moonrise

19:40 Sunset

20:20 The end of civil twilight

Sunday, 14 September 2008

5:15 Moonset

6:00 The beginning of civil twilight

6:40 Sunrise

12:00 Finish

14:00 Catering at the hash house closes

14:00 Prize-giving ceremony

Monday, 15 September 2008

10:00 Camping at the hash house closes

Punching system

SPORTident punching system will be used. One SI card (version 6) will be issued to each competitor. SI cards are attached to each competitor with a non-removable wristband. SI cards are delivered by organizers. Competitors may not use their own SI cards. SI cards are attached to the wrists of competitors by

organizers in the morning of the first day of competition, 13 September, before map handout from 8 am. There is no extra fee for SI card rent, this is included in the entry fee. In case of loss of the SI card, a fee of 50 EUR is charged.

Rules

The Rules of Rogaining of the International Rogaining Federation (http://www.rogaining.com/Docs/IRF_Rules_All_Parts_2-1-04.pdf) are followed, with the exception of rules B11, B15, B16, B17, B20, B29(b) and C16. The rules listed above are respectively replaced by the following provisions:

B11¹. A competitor shall show the wristband with the SI card to any event official, on request.

B15¹. All team members shall carry the SI card during the whole competition from start to finish. It will be attached by organizers by a non-removable wristband.

B16¹. In order to gain points for a checkpoint, all members of a team shall punch their SI cards at the SI station of that checkpoint within a time interval of 60 seconds.

B17¹. Breaking the wristband or loss of the SI card by any team member leads to disqualification of the whole team.

B20¹. Whenever visiting the hash house area during the competition, all team members shall punch the SI station labeled "check-in". Immediately before leaving the hash house area, all team members shall punch the SI station labeled "check-out".

B29¹(b). The SI station at each checkpoint will give light and sound feedback, indicating that the visit was recorded. In case of failure of the SI station (there is no light/sound signal), all team members shall use the manual punch at the checkpoint, punching one of the R squares at the edge of the competition map. In the event of the SI station and the manual punch being broken or missing at the checkpoint, teams shall be awarded the checkpoint score if they bring a piece of paper with the printed code of the checkpoint, which can be picked up from the location of the checkpoint.

C16¹. A team's score is determined on the basis of the reading of SI cards of all team members. Manual punches are taken into account only when it is established that there has been a failure of the SI station at a given checkpoint. Printed codes of checkpoints are taken into account only when it is established that both the SI station and the manual punch were broken or missing.

Further exceptions from the IRF Rules of Rogaining may be specified in Bulletin No 3.

Weather

The weather in Estonia in autumn is very variable. Daytime temperatures in mid September are normally in a range of +12 °C to +20 °C and nighttime temperatures +5 °C to +15 °C. However, a night frost is not excluded. The weather could be either a golden and dry 'Indian summer' with clear skies or low clouds with slight drizzle or intermittent showers with clear spells or rain accompanied with strong wind.

Wildlife

Competitors may encounter elk, deer and fox. Other wild animals are seen rarely, but these include wild boar, beaver, badger, lynx, wolf and brown bear. The only venomous snake in Estonia is the European adder (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vipera_berus), which is encountered rarely. Its bite is not life-threatening, but nevertheless requires immediate medical attention.

Registration

Registration in the event takes place only via online registration, which opens on 1 December 2007. At registration, each team shall provide the following information on each competitor: first name, family name, gender, date of birth and the country which the competitor is representing. Each team shall appoint one member of the team as a team representative and provide the e-mail address of this person.

Any changes to the registration data (incl. withdrawal of registration, replacing a team member etc.) shall be communicated to organizers by e-mail: secretary@rogain.ee

The maximum number of competitors at the 8WRC is **700**. On 1 December 2007 registration opens for 500 entries. The organizers together with the IRF World Championships Manager retain the right to decide on the allocation of the remaining number of entries to ensure the competitive character of the WRC and geographic representation of participants. Additional information on this will be provided on the WRC website.

By entering the registration data, participants give their consent to the organizers to set up a database of WRC participants and publish the names of competitors on the WRC website. The information provided at registration will not be used by organizers for any other purpose than for organizing the WRC and seeking feedback after the event.

Entry fee

- Competitors aged 20 years or over, but under 55 years of age — 50 EUR per competitor.
- Competitors under 20 years of age or 55 years and over — 35 EUR per competitor.

The entry fee is calculated on the basis of the age of the competitor as of the first day of competition, regardless of the competition classes where the team is entered. The entry fee of the team is the sum of entry fees of all team members.

The entry fee covers participation in the competition, rogaining map, course-planning map, rental of SI card, catering, parking and tenting in the event center, and awards for the best teams. The entry fee includes an IRF levy (8 USD).

The entry fee shall be paid to:

TA Orienteerumisklubi

Bank account No (IBAN): EE242200221037984334

BIC (SWIFT code): HABAE2X

Bank name: Hansapank

Bank address: Liivalaia 8, 15040 Tallinn, Estonia

The entry fee for the whole team shall be paid within 14 calendar days from the date of registration. Failure to transfer the entry fee within this time limit leads to cancellation of the registration. All bank transaction costs shall be borne by the payer.

In case of withdrawal of participation by a team or a team member the organizers will reimburse 75 percent of the paid entry fee (minus bank transaction charges) in case of withdrawals notified up to 31 March 2008 and 50 percent of the paid entry fee (minus bank transaction charges) in case of withdrawals notified up to 31 August 2008. In case of withdrawals notified from 1 September 2008 onwards the entry fee will not be reimbursed.

Replacing a team member is free of charge up to 31 August 2008. From 1 September 2008 a team member can be replaced only for an extra charge of 5 EUR.

Accompanying persons and spectators

Accompanying persons and spectators (over 6 years of age) staying at the event center shall pay a fee of 15 EUR, which includes tenting and catering at the hash house and the event map (delivered after the finish).

Prizes

The team with the highest score in each class is granted the title of the World Rogaining Champion. The members of the three best teams in each class are awarded medals and prizes.

Visa information

From 2008 Estonia will be a member of the Schengen Agreement. The other member countries of the Agreement are Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. The Schengen Agreement implies that there will be no longer any frontier controls at the borders between member countries of the Agreement. Nevertheless, participants from the other Schengen countries are advised to carry a personal identification document.

Nationals of the other European Union member states, not belonging to the Schengen agreement — Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ireland, Romania, the UK — as well as Switzerland do not require a visa and may enter Estonia using a valid passport or personal identification card. Also the nationals of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and USA do not need a visa for a stay up to three months and may enter with a valid passport (for a complete list of visa-waiver countries see http://www.vm.ee/eng/kat_132/915.html). Nationals of other countries (including China, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Ukraine) need a visa to enter Estonia. The Schengen Agreement enables nationals of these countries access to all Schengen countries with a single visa. With a Schengen visa, you may enter one country and travel freely throughout the Schengen area.

The visa can be obtained from the Estonian embassy or consular office. For more information on visas, look: http://www.vm.ee/eng/kat_132/7718.html. The visa application form can be downloaded from the following address:

<http://web-static.vm.ee/static/failid/442/VIISATAOTLUSANKEET.pdf>. Upon request, organizers will send an official invitation (for a fee of 10 EUR). Please contact: Marika.Kirsspuu@tv.ttu.ee

Travel information

The only international airport in Estonia is in Tallinn (http://tallinn-airport.ee/?intro_eng=true). Those considering a side trip to Scandinavian countries can also take a fast boat from Helsinki (travel time to Tallinn about 1.5 hours) or an overnight boat from Stockholm. For the boat schedule see: http://www.ts.ee/passenger_ship_schedule.php?suund=saabuvad&sadam=hel&k=3 (NB! Transport schedules may change!)

There are the following main options for getting to the event site:

- Own car (local participants or those living in neighboring countries). Driving instructions will be given on the WRC website.
- Rental car. Several international car rental companies operate in Estonia with their counters at the Tallinn Airport. Europcar offers 8WRC participants a special 10 percent discount on the local prices. Enter a promotional code 0110 when making the booking at: <http://www.europcar.ee/?section=galerii&action=list&lang=eng>
- Special bus. Organizers will arrange special buses from Tartu to the hash house. Upon registration, the team shall indicate whether they need seats in the special bus. The timetable of special buses and the ticket price will be announced on the WRC website. Tartu is the second biggest town in Estonia, located 200 km from Tallinn and 100 km from the hash house. There are regular buses (about every half-an-hour) from Tallinn to Tartu. The main bus station in Tallinn is about 2 km from the airport. For the bus schedule between Tallinn and Tartu see: <http://bussireisid.ee/?KEEL=en> (if the language of this website still didn't switch to English after entering this address then refresh the page and it will).

Training possibilities and related events

Information on training possibilities, related events, hiking possibilities, suggested itineraries and cultural events will be published on the WRC website. On travel plans, accommodation, natural and historical attractions see also: <http://visitestonia.com>, <http://tourism.ee/en/>

Organizers

TAOK

Lauri Leppik — event director

Ilmar Kirjanen — course setter

Tõnis Erm — course vetter

Mari Roots — chief secretary

Lea Leppik — treasurer

Ele Sisas — catering coordinator

Marika Kirsspuu — hosting of foreign participants

Merle Parmson — webmaster

Contact details

Lauri Leppik

Phone: +372 5615 9998

E-mail: l.leppik@online.ee

Website address

<http://8wrc2008.rogain.ee>

Information provided in Bulletin No 2 replaces the preliminary information of Bulletin No 1.

Bulletin No 3 will be published in July 2008.