

**MINUTES**

**Meeting to discuss options for the establishment of an international governing body for Adventure Racing**

***14h00 CET, Saturday 18 February 2023***

**1. Location of Meeting**

Zoom

**2. In Attendance**

National Associations - Adventure

Warley Costa (BRA) CBCA commercial director, adventure racing  
Arnaldo Maciel (BRA) CBCA president, adventure racing  
Pedo Lavinias (BRA) CBCA technical director, adventure racing  
Petri Grauen (EST) EOCRA OCR  
Simon Hervé (FRA) FFTRI triathlon, adventure racing  
Shaukat Sikand (IND) IFASR race director  
Cormac MacDonnell (IRL) ARI Ireland, adventure racing  
Nicolas Davut (URA) AUCA-FUDAVE adventure racing  
Natalia Silveira (URA) AUCA, board of directors  
Mike Garrison (USA) USARA, ARWS Referee

National Associations – Obstacle & Adventure

Emma Teede (AUS) Obstacle Australia, FISO Youth Committee  
Ronny Hofenboom (BEL) BOCRA, FISO Competitions Committee  
Thumbie Remigio (PHI) POSF, FISO Competitions Committee  
Hotoshi Nogami (JAP) JOSA  
Yoshi Morimoto (JAP) JOSA  
Panji Laksmana (INA) IOSF  
Ciprian Hanea (ROM) ROCRA  
Raul Fodor (ROM)/HUN) ROCRA & HOCRA  
Kerwin Becerra (VEN) VOSF

FISO

Travis Ford, Media Director  
Michel Cutait, Deputy Secretary General  
Ian Adamson, President

Adventure 1 LLC

Liam St. Pierre (AUS), volunteer manager, race director  
Trevor Mullens (AUS), volunteer manager

ARWS LLC

Heidi Muller (RSA) CEO  
Robert Howard (GBR) Media Director, SleepMonsters Ltd.  
Camila Nicolau (BRA) non-executive board  
Chiris Dixon (AUS) non-executive board, race director  
Mari Chandler (USA) non-executive board  
Nick Gracie (GBR) non-executive board  
Paul McGreal (GBR) non-executive board  
Raid Gallaecia (ESP) Race Director  
Santi Lopez (ECU) non-executive board  
Samuel Eloy (BRA) non-executive board  
Sayeesha Kirani (IND) non-executive board  
Stephan Muller (RSA) non-executive board

#### Race Directors

Adrian Crane (USA) representing Goldrush Adventure Racing (also ARWS Head Referee)  
Damon de Boor (GBR) Burn Series  
Hélène Mattisson (USA)  
Graham Bird (RSA) Vasbyte  
Jeff Leininger (USA) Expedition Georgia  
James Chee (MAL) Adventure Race Malaysia, ARWS  
Rob Preston (AUS) GODZone Australia  
Leo (BRA) ARWS  
Maria Burton (CAN) Primal Quest  
Pedro Pinto (POR)  
Romuald Viale (FRA)  
Tomoichiro Unero (JAP) Niseko

#### Undeclared / Unknown Affiliation

Adriana Deac (ROM)	Joel Flory
Ajita	John Bennie
Andrea Anderson	John Faulkner (GBR)
Adam Rose (RSA)	John Laughlin
Adria Vall	Joseph Selby
Adrian Saffy	James Lea-Cox
Alfred Thorpe	Lisa de Speville (RSA)
Andrew Wayland	Leiza Morales
Andrew Fairhurst	Mario Ruggiero Nirvana
Bahuaud	Mark Chryssanthou (GBR)
Brad Baumber	Nicolas Davyt
Brent Freedland	Nicola Macloud / Maira Liejerstam (GBR)
Caroline	Marta
Claire Grosseoevre	Nagaprasad Prakash
Fran Perez (BRA)	Paul G
Franko Olivier	Paul vd Veer
Gary Davies	Rafael Campos (BRA)
Kevin Edwards (USA)	Ruurd Noordhuis (NED) ARBD
Kevin Stephens	Thisago Bonini
Kne	Walidimir Togumi
J Wood	Waite
Jonas Junckes (BRA) FCCA	6287741592

### 3. Call to Order by FISO Deputy Secretary General

The first meeting to discuss options for the establishment of an international governing body for Adventure Racing was called to order at 14h01 Central European Summer Time by the Mr. Michel Cutait.

### 4. Introduction and overview by FISO President, Mr. Ian Adamson

Transcript attached in Appendix A

### 5. Q&A with General discussion

Audio and video recordings:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vcDalFDRTWeawuUo\\_GPeS7OH7DtHDXjk?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vcDalFDRTWeawuUo_GPeS7OH7DtHDXjk?usp=share_link)

### 6. Meeting Notes – Cormac MacDonnell, Adventure Racing Ireland

- a) Meeting was organised by Ian Adamson (IA), president of World Obstacle FISO) to discuss options for the establishment of an international federation for adventure racing.
- b) Notice for the meeting was circulated to adventure racing contacts / federation contacts in many countries and 100 people (meeting limit) joined the call. Some people indicated that the meeting notice was not issued to all AR contacts and that wider representation was needed for decision making.
- c) IA informed the meeting that FISO has agreed to bring the sport of adventure racing under its umbrella as a recognised international federation, **but it is up to the adventure racing community internationally to agree and come on board with this.**
- d) It was pointed out that FISO did not wish to “take -over” the sport of adventure racing and it is recognised that OCR is its own sport that and it may not have significant links or overlap with adventure racing. It is not unusual for different sports to co-exist under one International Federation, and the idea is that adventure racing would operate under FISO alongside the sport of OCR.
- e) It was noted that if National Associations for AR and OCR chose to work together or not in their own countries, was up to themselves.
- f) An opportunity now exists for adventure racing to achieve recognition and representation as an international federation, and this will help to align the sport with other sports internationally and support the overall development of the sport worldwide.
- g) IA provided clarifications to some questions, please see Appendix B
- h) The company Adventure 1 is a company that exists to develop and promote adventure racing. It is a company that is endorsed by World Obstacle, is registered in the US but other than that has no connect with FISO and does not represent FISO.
- i) World Obstacle would like to endorse and develop association links with other adventure race companies / partners such as ARWS in due course.
- j) IA reassured all that WO would not be imposing new rules / regulations on the sport of adventure racing but would bring an awareness around the need for certain rules, regulations and standards that are used in all other international sport. It would be the responsibility of the adventure racing community, national federations, and others to shape and direct the sport, using the structures provided under WO. (Technical Committee etc)
- k) Representative Structures are proposed by FISO for adventure racing, including a Technical Committee and other subcommittees, and nominations are being sought for these Committees.

The role of the technical Committee, if established under WO would be to represent, guide and lead the sport and establish subcommittee working groups as required.

- l) Several people have put themselves forward for these Committees and IA read out a list of people from different countries. It is unclear if these individuals are nominated by national federations or are nominating themselves.
- m) There was wide reluctance to discussion of 'Representative Structures', a technical committee, and nominations for a technical committee since these are dependent on, and imply acceptance of, the sport of adventure racing coming under the umbrella of FISO.
- n) Thus, before a Technical Committee is established, the idea of **forming a working group/** consultation group to examine the buy in and support for establishing an international federation for adventure racing in some form was proposed, and there was broad support for this.
- o) IA indicated that the option for coming in under WO was one option for the adventure racing community, and it should look to establish under other international federations, or independently if it wishes.
- p) The understanding from the meeting was that many attending were supportive of having an international federation for adventure racing but were not ready to seek nominations and establish a technical Committee under FISO.
- q) The proposal to establish a working group was supported. Further dialogue is required, and this dialogue should be open to all that are supportive of the idea of having an international federation for adventure racing.
- r) IA asked who would be willing to organise / lead this conversation and if representatives of national federations / associations would be willing to do that. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- s) A clarification note was requested to be circulated by WO, setting out the current position and asking the adventure racing community if it wanted to get involved with discussions and a working group.
- t) A follow up meeting will happen in 3 weeks, to progress the agenda, establish the working group and move things forward.
- u) Nicolas Davyt / AUCA-FUDAVE Uruguay volunteered to make a form with all existing federations associations in the world.
- v) Kevin Stephens suggested imitating the next meeting to 2 representatives from each country and engage more countries.
- w) Lisa de Speville suggested a poll of adventure racers to understand their desires with respect to representative governance. IA asked if she would do this.

## 7. Clarification on A1 and FISO Goals

In answer to summary questions requested by Cormac MacDonnell, IA and FISO provided the following answers.

### A. Key Points

FISO is offering to support Adventure Racing if the national associations and community wished to take advantage of an existing and recognized governance system and structure. The 6th FISO Congress (meeting of the national member federations) voted in 2020 to accept this proposal to *"provide more autonomy for each sub-sport in a similar manner to Aquatics, Athletics and Cycling."*

FISO's position is that only the Adventure Racing community can govern itself, free from commercial and vested interests. Whether or not the community decides to work with FISO, it will support the decision unconditionally. Unlike commercial organizations, FISO cannot act in its own interests, a requirement for all recognized international sports federations, and has no desire to govern a sport that does not wish to be governed or collaborate.

## **B. Adventure 1**

Adventure 1 (A1) is sanctioned by FISO as a global event coordinator (others include Spartan Race, Tough Mudder, and UNAA). A1 functions as an association of races, run by volunteers with no revenues and no profit motive, i.e., it functions as a member based non-profit association. In this respect it is different from ARWS which is a commercial organization that charges fees for membership and has an owner, investors, officers, and an executive board.

A1 has no say in governance matters and cannot represent itself or FISO in governance matters and cannot mandate membership or collaboration.

A1 was founded and financed by Todd Vickery (AUS), who stepped back and handed over management to two volunteers, Trevor Mullens and Liam St. Pierre. Vickery requested the company be moved from Australia to the United States to avoid legal threats from Geocentric Pty Ltd, ARWS owners until this year.

IA made the corporate filing for A1 in Colorado (Agent of Record) to assist in this matter. An Agent of Record is an individual or an entity that accepts service of process—legal notice of a lawsuit—and other official documents on behalf of a business. IA is not an officer, manager, or employee of A1.

A1 is filed as a limited liability corporation (LLC), a required step to becoming a no-profit entity in the United States. Similarly, USARA is also a LLC while it works toward non-profit status. The statement that A1 is a commercial entity because it is an LLC is wrong, and the assertion that IA has a conflict of interest because he is the Agent of Record is wrong.

### **8. Meeting Chat**

An annotated version of the Chat including responses to questions asked but not answered during the meeting is in Appendix B.

### **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 16h53. The next meeting will be scheduled for 11 March 2023 via Zoom. Two (2) delegates per country will be admitted.

### **10. Minutes:**

Submitted by the Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Michel Cutait.

**Michel Cutait**  
**FISO Deputy Secretary General**

Reviewed by:

<b>Warley Costa</b> <b>CBCA (BRA)</b>	<b>Cormac MacDonnell</b> <b>ARI (IRL)</b>	<b>Adrian Crane</b> <b>Goldrush (USA)</b>	<b>Shaukat Sikund</b> <b>IFASR (IND)</b>	<b>Mike Garrison</b> <b>USARA (USA)</b>
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## **APPENDIX A – Introductory speech by Ian Adamson**

*NOTE: This is not a transcript and contains slight differences from the meeting speech. Please watch or listen to the recording for the exact language.*

Hello everyone and thank you for taking the time to join us here today. The purpose of this meeting is to determine if there is merit in establishing adventure racing as a sport and if so, to form a Technical Committee that represents the athletes and facilitates this process.

This can only be done by the adventure racing community itself; it cannot be done by corporate or vested interests. FISO is offering an opportunity to enable the process.

The foundation for all international federations is its members, which are the national associations, aka national governing bodies. Adventure racing has about a dozen independent associations, and several others that are part of a recognized national federation (members of their National Olympic Committee), for example Triathlon in France, and Obstacle in the Philippines.

Despite narratives to the contrary, FISO, the Fédération Internationale de Sports d'Obstacles, is not trying to impose its will on the adventure racing community, it is offering a platform, structure, and systems for self-governance. The function of FISO, and all international sport governing bodies, is to provide representation for the benefit of the sport and its communities.

The goals of FISO, as stated on its website, are:

*“to contribute to the greater good of humanity by providing benefits through participation in sport, without discrimination or bias of any kind. We aim to facilitate mutual understanding, collaboration, friendship and fairness between the athletes and all parties of interest. FISO's primary goal is to make better humans through Sport.”*

FISO's top priorities remain to represent the needs of the global obstacle and adventure sports communities, grow these sports in a manner that establishes an enduring legacy of health, wellness, and fitness for generations of athletes, and ensure accessibility and representation for all people, of all beliefs, in all countries.

We are one community, all of us having a passion for adventure racing, all of us believing in and wishing to ensure a healthy, accessible, growing sport. Do we want a climate of cynicism and division, or do we wish to come together, with cooperation, and collaboration? Today's meeting gives us the chance to work in harmony and establish the committees for representative governance for the benefit of the sport.

To ensure a healthy and vibrant sport, there must be democratic process and representation. This means governance of the athletes, by the athlete, for the athletes. Commercial interests and profit-making organizations do not own, and cannot tell a sport what it can, or cannot do. This is the job of those who volunteer their knowledge, experience, expertise, passion, and time to run the committees that support and guide the sport.

The role sport plays in our physical and mental wellbeing and its positive contribution to society has been widely recognized. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the *“Sport as an enabler of sustainable development”* resolution on the first of December 2020, which recognises the important role of sport and physical activity. This is one of the goals of FISO.

Today we have unrepresented social, financial, and economic opportunities to strengthen adventure racing and provide a solid foundation to pursue our mission to make better humans through sport. This, however, can only be done through cooperation and collaboration in a manner that unifies all parties of interest.

If you are in this meeting, you should have read the FISO Code of Ethics. This establishes the conduct and behaviour to which you must abide.

a) Should adventure racing have an international governing body?

Although discussed since 1997, adventure racing has never had an international governing body. The initiative to start one was paused in 2007 after the international television broadcasts, advertisers, sponsors, and professional teams left the sport.

By that time, there were not enough countries with enough athletes to form national governing bodies to establish a viable international federation. The return of the Eco-Challenge as the World's Toughest Race in 2019 after a 17-year hiatus re-energized the sport. It is sad that fabricated narratives and false information has been peddled by vested interests for their own gain, creating an environment of division and distrust.

This behaviour is against everything that adventure racing once stood for: teams working together for a higher goal, stronger and faster together. It is also our opportunity, to come together in unity and solidarity to codify the sport.

b) What is an International Federation and what does it do?

International governing bodies, or International Federations, are not-for-profit, democratic associations of national governing bodies that represent the needs and interests of their communities.

c) Who does it benefit?

International Federations benefit their members and their communities through democratic process and governance.

d) Who runs an IF?

IFs are run by volunteers who populate the committees that provide advice, guidance, and policies to ensure a safe, healthy, and vibrant sport.

e) How does an IF work?

IFs are structured to provide representative governance in a manner that is impartial and non-discriminatory. They are somewhat like the United Nations, which has an assembly, the "Congress" with delegates representing each country's National Governing Body, and a Board representing each sport discipline and their athletes. The executive committee runs day to day business of the sports, and the Secretariat is the administrative office.

f) IF structural options

- i) **Independent:** forming an independent, unaffiliated international federation is a common approach when forming a new sport. Requirements for recognition include establishing national governing bodies in 40 countries with recognition by each National Olympic Committee or National Sporting Authority, and a unanimous vote by all other recognized IFs to approve the organization. The sport must be "widely practiced" by men in 75 countries (in 40 by women, but AR is co-ed = 75). Widely practiced means meeting minimum numbers of athlete members in each country to achieve recognition by their NSA.

A sport must satisfy Olympic Agenda 2020+5, have universality, global appeal, accessibility, there can be no rivalries, i.e., no other international organization that governs the sport, and many other requirements.

For context, there are 330+ organizations seeking recognition and 11 that have achieved the most difficult and important step which is Observer Status. Only two organizations have done this in the past 6 years, Rafting and Obstacle. Rugby League also has this status, and the organization was established in 1886.

- ii) **Collaborative:** Sports that are too small to fully form sometimes collaborate with other small sports to increase their numbers and number of member national federations. There is generally some overlap, for example adventure racing shares commonality with triathlon, mountaineering and orienteering. Mountaineering (under UIAA, Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme) may have the most commonality because it includes rock climbing, navigation, glissading, skiing, ice climbing, Tyrolean traversing, rappelling, and on approach, can include pack rafting, canoeing, kayaking, and fast packing.
- iii) **Sport discipline:** The most common practice for recognition of small and new international sports is becoming a sport discipline or sub-sport under umbrella governance serving other related sports. This is the structure of Athletics, Aquatics, Cycling and Canoe/Kayak and Obstacle.
  - (1) Diving, high diving, marathon swimming, swimming, water polo & artistic swimming are under World Aquatics.
  - (2) Road racing, BMX, criterium, cyclocross, cross country, downhill, trials, & track cycling (under UCI).
  - (3) Dragon boat, slalom, marathon, ocean racing, canoe polo, canoe sailing, wildwater, freestyle, sprints & SUP are under Canoe & Kayak (ICF). SUP is also under Surfing (ISA).
  - (4) Jumps, hurdles, throws, sprints, road, race walking, relays, marathon, ultra-running, cross country, trail running, etc. are under Athletics (World Athletics).
  - (5) New sports on the Olympic programme usually take this route because it is extraordinarily difficult independently – e.g., mountain bike and BMX.

Advantages of working under an existing international federation include:

- Recognized governance structure
- Large number of existing national governing bodies
- Complete set of sport functions, guidelines, policies, and resources: safeguarding, diversity, medical, safety, fairness, ethics, legal, development pathways, officials, and coach certification,

- iv) **Predatory IF:** In some circumstances a recognized IF “takes” a sport without seeking consensus from the sports community. In these cases, the sport either dies (Aerobics) or the community doesn’t support the IF and divisions are formed (Parkour). Either way, the outcome rarely benefits the community or the sport. FISO will not do this.



## **APPENDIX B – Chat Questions Answered**

The following are responses to the Adventure Racing meeting chat questions that were not answered during the meeting.

**From Lisa de Speville to Everyone:**

**I'm not sure what this emphasis on Olympics is all about? And recognition as sport being dependent on Olympic 'approval'? Even orienteering is not a current Olympic sport...**

FISO: There is no emphasis on Olympics. This is the frame of reference for recognition of sports and the framework for international federations worldwide.

**From Damon de Boor to Everyone:**

**Is your view that between 2007 and when eco challenge was launched that AR was dead? The statement was made that eco challenge revitalised AR!**

Ian Adamson: That is not the contention. Eco-Challenge was launched in 1994 with the first race in 1995 and the last race in 2019. Many races in many countries saw a large uptick in participation following the broadcast in 2020.

**From kne to Everyone:**

**What are your plans/thoughts in regards to ARWS, they are the largest community so far and I'm interested how they are involved?**

Ian Adamson: FISO approached ARWS for collaboration to start the process of forming an international federation for adventure racing from 2014 through 2017. The effort was dropped due to threats of legal action.

**From Lisa de Speville to Everyone:**

**What is the advantage to adventure racing (to the participants) of being 'recognised'?**

Ian Adamson: federated sport provides representational governance and the ability for the sport to determine its own direction free from commercial and vested interests. Upon full recognition, the governing bodies in each country can access governmental funding. This is already a reality for some national member federations of FISO.

**From Lisa de Speville to Everyone:**

**hahaha - we can argue that sprint races are not really 'adventure racing'. Exposure good, but how many sprint racers move up to >250km events and stay participating for many years. IMHO - the true spirit of adventure racing is at least overnight.**

FISO: adventure races are whatever the community wants them to be. By far the biggest historically have been sprint adventure races (several hours) with over 100,000 people each year doing them in the United States until about 2010. This was the entry point for many athletes to develop the skills to move on to longer races.

**From Kevin Stephens to Everyone:**

**Hi Ian,**

**In the past you have described Adventure racing as OCR with mountains and rivers as obstacles. I don't believe that most adventure racers view it this way.**

Ian Adamson: I agree that most adventure racers do not see the sport as OCR. My comment (taken out of context and used to make the point you are asking about – thank you) was aimed at OCR athletes to see if they would respond and start adventure racing. The outcome was many OCR athletes did start adventure racing, including three world championships, two of whom came second in the Eco-Challenge

with Bob Millers team. That event was covered in the OCR media, which exposed a few million people who had never heard of adventure racing.

**Can you clarify how the FISO view Adventure racing and why it is considered a similar sport? Is it not closer to Orienteering or even Triathlon. Should AR be looking to be a sub sport of one of those organisations.**

FISO: OCR, Ninja, and adventure racing are distinct sports with their own histories, culture, rules, and events. Although there is overlap between some events (some common elements in short formats) and the athlete communities (Eco-Challenge podium athletes, 24-hour OCR World Championships), the sports are as different from each other as jumps, throws, sprints, cross country, track, hurdles, marathon, ultra-running, mountain running that are sub-sports (disciplines) under World Athletics (IAAF). This is true of Cycling, Aquatics, and Canoe/Kayak sports.

**From Kevin Edwards (Missouri, USA) to Everyone:**

**I agree with Kevin. I'm not aware of anyone who advocates for man-made obstacles in AR.**

FISO: Fixed ropes, portages, and bike carries are a manmade obstacle common in adventure races.

**From Stephan Muller - Expedition Africa to Everyone:**

**Expedition Africa 2019 on the Island of Rodrigues was held at the same time as Eco Challenge 2019 in Borneo. Expedition Africa was fortunate to have 73 paying teams attend this event without any corporate sponsor ie. Amazon. I disagree that Eco Challenge reutilised the sport. There is numerous expedition Races**

FISO: Over 1,000 teams applied for the Eco-Challenge in 2019 (3,000 after it aired) and many races benefited from the exposure.

**From Robert Howard to Everyone:**

**If AR is to adopt the same approach, can you tell us how many of the World Obstacle OCR national federations are recognised officially in their own countries, and how many have received funding as a result? It would be good to see a definitive list shared after the meeting. For example OCR has been huge in the UK but British Obstacle isn't yet close to being recognised by Sport UK and receives no funding**

FISO: There are ~110 national member federations of FISO (that govern OCR, Ninja and/or Adventure). 60% have some level of recognition, i.e. the sole national governing body registered with their NSA. 30% are recognized and 20% have an association with their NOC. The number is growing rapidly because there is a 3-5 year requirement and minimum membership numbers required. James Burton (British Obstacle) will have an accurate read on their recognition progress, and our understanding is they are close.

**From Damon de Boor to Everyone:**

**As World Obstacle federation why is the OCR world championships not part of your group? They have been running independent World championships for several years.**

FISO: OCRWC is an event owned by Adventurey LLC, a Brooklyn New York event and marketing company. They regard the sport as a threat to their business and have thus far resisted alignment. We understand they will come on board this year.

**In fact FISO has their own self named world championship this year? So this is confusing as Ian stated the FISO is not looking absorb other sports.**

FISO: OCRWC is not a sport. It is an event property of a corporation that profits from merchandise sales and event registrations.

**From Stephan Muller - Expedition Africa to Everyone:**

**There is numerous Expedition Races in the last 20 years that have been presented more than 10 years similar to Eco challenge with similar amount of teams attending. The sport has been very "alive" since 2017 to present.**

FISO: The Eco-Challenge, Raid World Champs, Primal Quest, and Outdoor Quest (MSOQ) differed from subsequent expedition races because they offered prize money of at least \$100,000 and up to \$345,000 each year. They had large global audiences from international broadcasts that supported dozens of full-time professional teams.

**From Robert Howard to Everyone:**

**Only 100 people can be in this meeting, so how can it 'decide' anything?**

FISO: All sports associations start from a discussion, which is the purpose of this meeting.

**From Robert Howard to Everyone:**

**Has FISO put out any consultation documents about adopting AR?**

FISO: No, the process starts with a meeting to like this to establish the desire of the athletes. Same for all governing bodies in sport, national, continental, and international.

**From Damon de Boor to Everyone:**

**UK adventure racing was never sent a nomination form by UK Obstacle federation. We were sent the incorrect form (with incorrect times) via a Facebook Post without nomination forms. No race directors were contacted either. UK AR has not been given the chance nominate**

FISO: British Obstacle Sports stated they will support UK Adventure Racing if UKAR chooses that direction. The nomination and application process is always open to all parties who wish to volunteer to help.

**From Samuel Eloy to Everyone:**

**We are just discussing only FISO as an option, since is the community is to decide, shouldnd we analyse options for International Federations ? to see what is the one that best fits A.R.? Also also take a time to analyse what each IF are doing and delivering?**

FISO: As stated in the agenda, and as explained in the opening presentation, the purpose of the meeting is to discuss options for the establishment of an international governing body for Adventure Racing. This may or may not include FISO.

**From Lisa de Speville to Everyone:**

**I think you need to let go of the 'commercial / for profit' and 'not for profit' comments. Both types are ways of running a business. Any organisation needs income of some sorts to run the organisation. What happens with the profits is the choice of the directors / board / committee of the organisation.**

FISO: For profit businesses have a conflict of interest and do not have the mechanisms for fair and democratic representation of the athletes.

**From andrewfairhurst to Everyone:**

**Short of FISO's obvious passion for the sport of AR, what does FISO have to gain by taking on the roll of the IF?**

FISO: FISO has nothing to gain. The option to support AR meets its goals and mission.

**From Warley (CBCA Brazil) to Everyone:**

**Is A1 the designated entity by FISO to manage AR ? It's not clear.**

FISO: A1 cannot manage AR. They are a volunteer run event coordinator. Only the national governing bodies can manage AR as a sport.

**From Nagaprasad Prakash to Everyone:**

**Why cant ADVENTURE RACING have its own FEDERATION why do we have to collaborate with any existing or new Federations.!?**

FISO: AR can stand up its own international federation if it chooses. Only AR can decide for itself how to organize, and which governance structure is best.

**From Robert Howard to Everyone:**

**is the sport not 'real' now?**

FISO: Adventure Racing is a sport using a dictionary definition for the term *“an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment.”* In the context of representation for the athletes, which is this meeting, the athletes have to decide if they want to be fairly represented, free from private companies, commercial and vested interests. The process and structure is well established and the ways to do this vary.

**From andrewfairhurst to Everyone:**

**If this was attempted in 2014 and was shut down, there hasn't been any attempt since to create an IF. Does this not translate to the AR community perhaps not wanting an IF? Or is it the lack of the AR community wanting to carry out the work required to create and govern an IF? I look forward to Lisa's survey of the community to see what people beyond the 100 in this meeting think about it. I don't believe the decision should be made today but should it be supported then why would FISO not be the body to carry it out with the community representing the board to protect interests and concerns surrounding the sport?**

FISO: The first attempt was in 1997, halted in 2007, restarted in 2014 but paused due to strong resistance from commercial organizations and lack of interest from the community.

**From Damon de Boor to Everyone:**

**James Burton is the person who sent it via Facebook Post and not sent to anyone formally. UK AR cannot therefore support this as FISO did not follow their own rules**

FISO: This is an informal meeting to establish interest and intent.

**From Stephan Muller - Expedition Africa to Everyone:**

**WO was founded in 2014 and formalized in 2018.**

FISO: The first AR federation started as a discussion like this and FISOs intent was to pick it up again in 2014 if interest could be generated.

**WO have not ever hosted a National Championship**

FISO: FISO does not host national championships. National Federations host national championships.

**or World Championship in all this time, 2023 will be the first one.**

The federations have been hosting championships at every level since 2014. The first federation championships were OCR European Championships in Holland in 2016 (20 countries, 8,000 athletes), now with 34 countries. FISOs first world championship was the Ninja WC in 2019 (3,500 athletes,

100,000 spectators). FISO and its NF members have produced six medal events at Games recognized by the International Olympic Committee, and will produce three more this April.

**With the OCR World Champs and Spartan World Champs as for-profit companies and independent, the sport of OCR is not unified under a federation.**

OCR is unified, including all dominant global brands. Spartan and Tough Mudder are official brand partners of FISO (>200 races in 40 countries). OCRWC is being purchased by Spartan and will become an official event of FISO.

FISO: The independence of corporate owned “world championships” is irrelevant to sports governance. Unification of a sport is the formation of national federations that associate as a single international federation.

Although desirable, it is not necessary for the for profits or events to align with the governing bodies. World Triathlon is not aligned with Ironman Group but the events in some countries work with the national federations.

The OCR European Championships (running since 2016), as an example, is a collaboration between all national member federations of FISO in 40 countries in Europe and is run the by the host national federation (HOCRA). The championships are being held at the National Olympic Training Center supported by the sports ministry and has about 4,000 athletes representing each countries on their national teams (qualified by the national federations). <https://ocreuropeanchampionships.org/>

**Do WO have the capacity to take two new sub sports under their umbrella if it appears that OCR has still a long way to go in their core sport of obstacle racing**

FISO: FISO is unified with national member federations in over 100 countries representing 20 million athletes. FISO is a fully formed and functional IF, recognized by GAISF and AIMS. Events and championships are up to the adventure racing community.

**From Robert Howard to Everyone:**

**There was no press release on this meeting and the agenda was not posted to the World Obstacle website**

FISO: <https://www.worldobstacle.org/blog/adventure-racing-meeting/>  
<https://fb.watch/iPgTTI4URT/>

**From kne to Everyone:**

**Is FISO working with all international race directors and providers? It doesn't seem like like anyone involved say to day in the sport has been consulted before FISO decided to announce they were the sole federation. How do you plan to discuss Dailey with race providers, whether they be for or not for profit? These are the backbone to the sport**

FISO: FISO is an association of associations (national governing bodies), which work in their countries to represent their athletes and coordinate events.

**From Samuel Eloy to Everyone:**

**what was the purpose of having A1 between the FISO and the nationals Federations? This would be good for understand! Without A1, just FISO to Federations, would take out lots of doubts on the process**

FISO: A1 is not between FISO and the national federations. A1 or any other event coordinator, for profit or not, have no authority to intervene in governance matters. That is the purview of the national governing bodies.

**From Robert Howard to Everyone:**

**To confirm it is not possible to start a non-profit from scratch in the US and Colorado?**

FISO: A US non-profit must file as a corporation (requires corporate structure) and then apply for non-profit status 501c. USARA is also undergoing this process. <https://bsd.sos.in.gov/publicbusinesssearch>

**There have been no law suits by ARWS against A1.**

FISO: By information and belief, Geocentric (ARWS owners 2011 – 2022) threatened legal action, sufficient for Todd Vickery (A1 founder) to seek protection with the assistance of FISO.

**From kne to Everyone:**

**What is FISO/A1 hoping to gain from this?**

FISO: The goals of World Obstacle are to contribute to the greater good of humanity by providing benefits through participation in sport, without discrimination or bias of any kind. We aim to facilitate mutual understanding, collaboration, friendship and fairness between the athletes and all parties of interest. FISO's primary goal is to make better humans through Sport.

( <https://adventure1series.com/a1/>): *A1's vision is to provide race directors, athletes, and the adventure racing community a platform to make the sport more widely accessible by lowering barriers to entry and providing a voice and representation for all stakeholders*

**From Peteri Grauen, Estonian OCR Association to Everyone:**

**Can a competition that is in AR WO series be also as National Championship under FISO ?**

FISO: National championships are at the sole discretion of each national federation. FISO encourages collaboration between all parties of interest.

**From Heidi Muller to Everyone:**

**Replying to "Ian that is not true"**

**You never asked or invited ARWS to be part of the federation since i am involved**

FISO: The invitation has been extended to ARWS to be a brand partner since 2014. FISO stated to you in answer to your questions of January 6th that ARWS could be recognized like Spartan Race.

*On Jan 6, 2023, at 9:02 AM, Heidi Muller <heidi@arworldseries.com> wrote:*

*Will privately owned companies like ARWS and A1 also be on the board as other private entities, Spartan, and Tough Mudder?*

*FISO: Yes, provided they uphold professional and ethical standards.*

**From Lisa de Speville to Everyone:**

**A1 should not be a vehicle for 'achieving' FISO's objectives. Each national federation must be responsible to growing AR in their country. A1 is an 'event coordinator', like ARWS. They create event series, which is advantageous to the sport. These organisations should not be part of FISO. They operate independently and separately.**

FISO: That is correct, A1 (or any other non-representative body) is not and should not be a vehicle for governance. A1 is not part of FISO, it is recognized as a global event coordinator.

**From Kevin Stephens to Everyone:**

**Should we be focusing on setting up National Federations first? Is that one of the objectives of the proposed technical committee to encourage setting up those National Federation (or join existing National Federations)?**

FISO: If the adventure racing community seeks to determine their own destiny, free from commercial and other vested interest, it is advantageous to form national governing bodies in the international sport structure.

**From Romuald Viale to Everyone:**

**So in some countries AR has recognition under national federation ex: triathlon, orienteering, athletic...**

**But a recognition is unic by activity so how can the country be part in an International if not under national ?**

**Is only national SO federation can be part of FISO ?**

**How many countries do we need now, to settle an International Federation?**

FISO: Any national federation (NF) can be a member of FISO provided they satisfy basic criteria. NF members currently include recognized federations for Obstacle Sports, OCR, Ninja, Athletics and Pentathlon. An NF must be recognized by its government to be valid (minimum number of members, meeting structural and governance requirements). 40 recognized NFs are needed to make a "sport", and 75 NFs to be recognized internationally.

**From Lisa de Speville to Everyone:**

**ARWS and A1 should exist independently from an International Federation / FISO. This 'brand partner' thing doesn't make any sense.**

FISO: Partnerships between sport and brand are common in international sports. Reasons include assisting with collaboration and unification of the sport for the benefit of the athlete community, synchronizing calendars, provand providing guidelines for ethics, safety, fairness, health, wellness, Safeguarding, anti-doping, etc.

**APPENDIX C – Application / Nomination Form**

**Expression of Interest to volunteer for an adventure racing working group**

This is an ad hoc working group to examine the feasibility, technical aspects, governance requirements, and options to codify the sport of adventure racing worldwide.

Applicant Information

Last (Family) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First (Fore) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for joining the workgroup: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications (e.g., sports governance, committee member of a recognized/Olympic sport):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have an interest, or are you involved in a commercial organization in adventure racing or related service, discipline, or event?  Yes  No

If yes, please provide details: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date