

The logo features the text "IAR JUNIOR" in a bold, dark blue, italicized sans-serif font. The "I" is stylized with a blue and orange diagonal swoosh. Below this, a thick orange horizontal bar spans the width of the text. Underneath the bar, the words "WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP" are written in the same bold, dark blue, italicized sans-serif font.

IAR JUNIOR

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Working document

JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPS - INTRODUCTION

- Adventure Racing is more than just a sport; it is a journey into resilience, teamwork, and a deep connection with the natural world.
- Adventure Racing Junior World Championship:
 - invests in the next generation
 - empowers young people to develop skills
 - teaches youth to embrace challenges
 - encourages the finding joy in the outdoors.



JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPS - INTRODUCTION

- Where screens compete with sunsets and sunrises, it is vital to give our youth the opportunity to learn about the values of:
 - courage
 - cooperation
 - multiple sporting disciplines, and
 - respect for others
 - Respect and appreciation for the environment.
- The elders of the sport have a responsibility to invest back into it to ensure there is a next generation.



JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPS - INTRODUCTION

- As CEO of ARWS, one of my biggest dreams is to pioneer the Junior World Championship, working with all Nations.
- Going to happen in 2026.
- This is the start, the first one.
- We will work together to develop an inclusive event that ignites the fire in the eyes of our sons and daughters to become the Adventure Racing Junior/Youth World Champion.



ARWS EVENT SELECTION PROCESS

- ARWS notified our race directors of the dream of hosting a Junior Adventure Racing World Championship.
- We needed an event organiser who could get government support and funding as there would be no entry fees to generate income.
- ARWS needed an event with significant experience of working with young people and a willingness to invest in the dream.



EVENT HOST

- Needs to secure support from their local tourism and Government.
- Official announcement will be made post-ARWC2025 Canada.
- The concept, requirements, rules and regulations, entry processes, website, logistics, etc



LOCATION:

- Canada
- 2-hours drive from the domestic airport
- 5-hours drive from the International Airport



DATES: 23 - 26 July 2026

- Event host selected to host the event for 2 years
- 2-year agreement of Government support
- Date for 2027 will also be late-July



AGE GROUPS

- JUNIOR CATEGORY - U18
14 – 18 years old

- YOUTH CATEGORY - U25
19 – 25 years old

** Going up to 25, instead of 23, increases the opportunities for young racers to compete.*



TEAM FORMAT AND ENTRY CAPACITY

- **Pairs**

- Two-person Canadian canoes will be used in the event
- Reduced costs of travel for pairs vs 4-person
- Easier logistics and opportunity for wider country representation

- **Capacity (40 max, dependant on canoes)**

- 15 x entries U18 category for national associations (IARA members)
- 15 x entries U25 category for national associations (IARA members)
- 5 x additional entries for national associations (consultation with IARA)
- 5 x entries for independent teams



NATIONALITY RULES:

- Qualification and selection happen in country of residence.
- Teams are selected by criteria determined by their national association.

Comment from IARA meeting:

If you live in the country, you are eligible represent that country even if you do not have a passport from this country of residence.

- More to be discussed on this topic



OFFICIAL TEAM CATEGORY:

Mixed pairs – the selected category from IARA meeting

Due to the low capacity for entries (max 40 teams), splitting into single vs mixed gender categories diminishes competition, and increases risk of female exclusion.

Pairs lowers participation costs.

- The goal is to achieve 4-person mixed-gender teams in later years.



OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF EVENT

- ENGLISH
- FRENCH
- SPANISH
- We aim to accommodate all entry languages through translation of the rules, route, and instructions.
- We recommend that the adult team manager understands one of these languages.



PROPOSED PROGRAM OF EVENT:

3-day stage race (4 days in total)

- Pre-Race Day
 - Registration/admin and additional sessions, opening ceremony, flag parade, cultural program etc.
- Day 1 - Prologue (2-3 hours)
 - An ARWS-appointed referee will discuss the rules and regulations and provide training on the rules.
 - Prologue will include local children from the community.



PROPOSED PROGRAM OF EVENT CONTINUE

- DAY 2
 - U18: 6 hours max
 - U25: 12 hours max
- DAY 3
 - U18: 6 hours max
 - U25: 12 hours max
 - Early morning start to include racing in the dark.
 - Closing Ceremony at night



EVENT DISCIPLINES:

- Mountain biking
- Trekking
- Kayaking (2-person Canadian canoe)
- Orienteering
- Rope work
- Other activities to be confirmed once route is established.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN EVENT:

- A world-class event as per ARWS standards and requirements
- Ceremonies, cultural experience, training sessions, maps, bibs, medals, etc
- Camping accommodation included for teams and event meals (supper only) during the event
- Camping accommodation included for 1 family member or 1 team manager
- Logistical support of gear bins and bike boxes – this is an unsupported race.
- Gala dinner at the awards ceremony is included for the team and manager.



REGISTRATION FEES:

- There is no race entry fee.
- National Association: USD\$200 per team
- Independent entries: USD\$400 per team
 - Independent entries can be from any country and any team name
- National associations may to enter more than one team if the 30 entry spots are not all filled by the National Associations.
- Special race bibs for national representative teams.
- Teams selected by national associations are encouraged to name the team after their country i.e. Team France, Team Sweden etc



ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

- Official announcement in October 2025.
- Website and registration platform ready by 31 October 2025.
- ARWS Referee will be appointed for the event.
- ARWS Media team will be appointed for the event and will work in conjunction with the host event organiser.
- ARWS to invite IARA to be the official International Association to liaise with the National Associations and to manage National entries – details to be confirmed.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS and ENTRY DEADLINE

- National Associations need to indicate to IARA by 15 January 2026 or before if they will fill 2 team entries (and notify IARA of requests for more spaces).
- Entries close for all teams on 1 June 2026 to ensure enough time to finalise bib design, accommodation bookings and logistics.



CLOSURE:

- If we can get every racer to walk away enriched and with a renewed energy to say proudly #iamanadventureracer, we have achieved our goal, and we touched hearts and made a difference.
- We need all the National associations and race directors to stand together to get your youth teams to this race.
 - Work out a qualification and selection process in your country.
 - Find sponsors.
 - Coordinate training for young adventure racers.
 - Crowdfund from the 'elders' in your country to cover flight tickets.

