

# The organisation of Worldloppet

## MAIN PRINCIPLES

The idea of Worldloppet is to promote cross-country skiing by organising quality long-distance popular races throughout the world. These events should also promote friendship among skiers of different nations, thereby strengthening peace in the world. The organisation must recognise the most dedicated long distance cross-country skiers, who have completed the required number of Worldloppet races during their lifetime and have become Worldloppet Masters.

According to the Constitution, the role of the organisation is to supervise and coordinate the provision of well-organised races. The two next most important tasks are: the selling of Worldloppet passports to the skiers to be stamped for each completed race, as a confirmation of the completion of the race, and as an attractive memento of the race for each participant; and the awarding of medals of merit to Worldloppet Masters, in order to recognise that the skier has fulfilled all the requirements of a Worldloppet Master.

Worldloppet stands also for encouraging elite cross-country skiers to participate in Worldloppet races and to determine annually, in cooperation with FIS, the best long-distance cross country skiers in the world.

The members of the association shall be legal entities which organise long-distance cross-country races. Only one and the best marathon from each country can be a member of Worldloppet and its candidature must be approved by the national federation. The candidate must meet the following minimum requirements started in the "Worldloppet Rules and Regulations":

- The distance of the main race must be longer than 50 km. Races that are held at an altitude higher than 1500 m above sea level, must be at least 42 km long.
- The marathon must have taken place for at least three years in a row before the candidature.
- The total number of skiers participating in and completing the entire distance of the main race must have exceeded 1,000 in each of at least 3 previous years. However, the Worldloppet General Meeting may take well founded exceptions, in order to promote cross-country skiing in that special geographical region.
- The date of the competition must be on a fixed annual date, but this date should not be in conflict (if possible) with an already established Worldloppet race.
- The race results must be recorded electronically.
- The organisers must be reachable throughout the year by mail or by phone; fax and Internet connection are also mandatory.
- It must be guaranteed that participants from all Worldloppet nations can participate in the race without having any problems with visa, admittance or difficulties in leaving the country.

The applicant shall be an organiser of a traditional long-distance cross-country skiing race in its country that has gained sufficient popularity among local skiers. New members shall be admitted on the condition that

they demonstrate as high standards in organising long-distance races as the founders, and do not have permanent financial difficulties.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

All members of the Worldloppet meet once a year (usually in June) to conclude the previous season at the Annual General Meeting. The AGM is the highest body of the organisation. It is competent to adopt resolutions if at least two-thirds of the members of the association are present. Only a member of Worldloppet has the right to participate in the AGM. Each member of the association has one vote.

The members report their annual innovations and achievements there. The Secretary General gives a review of FIS Marathon Cup, new masters and passport owners, financial issues. He may also make suggestions for placing on the agenda different subjects within the competence of the AGM (admitting of new members, choosing a new Secretary General, amending the Constitution and Rules, establishing membership fees, approval of Executive Committee members, approval of budget, verifying the calendar and the place of next year's AGM). Additionally a Race Management Seminar for organisers takes place during the AGM. It is a seminar for discussing different subjects of high-level organisation (reviewing timing systems, anti-doping, regional co-operation of different races, media work, and environmental issues). The AGM is organised by members in rotation. The members participating in an AGM shall approve the country and proposed time of the AGM to take place in two years' time by simple majority.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

During the years 1987-1994 the organisation worked in so called "sub-committees"; the members of those were chosen according to the current issues needing to have proposals for the next AGM. For example the working groups in 1987 were as follows:

- The committee of the yearbook that had to elaborate the structure of next year's yearbook;
- The committee of sponsorship that had to work for finding sponsors to the organisation;
- The committee of Worldloppet passports that had to elaborate strategies for promoting the sell of passports;
- The committee of rules that had to draft the changes in the statutes to be confirmed at the AGM.

The need for this kind of division of work became apparent because of the long periods between meetings and the wish to use the time at the meetings more effectively.

On Tom Duffy's suggestion, the Worldloppet Executive Committee (EC) was established in 1994. The Executive Committee supervises, supports and assists the Secretary General and is an advisory body for the AGM.

The EC has three members who are not elected to the office but are appointed by the members of the association from the regions as follows:

- 1) North European races: Vasaloppet (SWE), Finlandia-hiihto (FIN), Birkebeinerrennet (NOR), Tartu Maraton (EST);
- 2) Central European races: Jizerska Padesatka (CZE), Dolomitenlauf (AUT), Marcialonga (ITA), König Ludwig Lauf (GER), La Transjurassienne (FRA), Engadin Skimarathon (SUI);
- 3) Overseas races: American Birkebeiner (USA), Keskinada Loppet (CAN), Sapporo International Ski Marathon (JPN), Kangaroo Hoppet (AUS).