

# **World Rescue Organisation**



## **Challenge Protocols**

**Frankfurt, Germany, 2009**

May 2009

# Challenge Protocols

The World Rescue Challenge is an event managed by a host country / organisation on behalf of, and under the auspices of the World Rescue Organisation. These protocols take precedence over local or organisational arrangements though it is recognised that some local adaptation may be required.



## Challenge Protocols

1. Criteria for Participation.....	3
2. Teams.....	4
3. Evolutions.....	6
4. Equipment.....	8
5. Code of Conduct.....	9
6. Selection of Assessors.....	10
7. Assessing the Event.....	12
8. Appeals.....	14

### **Summary of changes in this version (previous version dated May 2008)**

- 2.7 Scrutiny of load bearing equipment required
- 3.3 Descriptions of casualties clarified
- 4 Reference to standard equipment list on web site
- 6.2 Number of Assessors amended
- 7.4 Number of medical assessors in Complex pit amended

# Challenge Protocols

The World Rescue Challenge is an event managed by a host country / organisation on behalf of, and under the auspices of the World Rescue Organisation. These protocols take precedence over local or organisational arrangements though it is recognised that some local adaptation may be required.



## 1. Criteria for Participation

- 1.1 Participants must be competent within the field of vehicle extrication and currently be members of an emergency service or formal emergency response team who provide vehicle extrication services within the community.
- 1.2 Teams require written authorisation from their organisation's Chief Executive Officer/Chief Officer which confirms paragraph 1.1
- 1.3 Teams, which are participating as national winners from rescue organisations of the World Rescue Organisation, or nominated from their peak body will attract priority in securing a place.
- 1.4 All other independent teams will secure a place subject to consideration of the World Rescue Organisation executive committee. The committee will base the decision for participation upon key criteria which may include, but not limited to:
  - Where entry fees are submitted with application forms on a 'first come' basis.
  - The maximum number of teams the event can support.
  - A balance between participating countries.
  - The introduction of new countries, organisations.The decision of the World Rescue Organisation will be final although every effort will be made to accommodate as many as possible.

# Challenge Protocols

The World Rescue Challenge is an event managed by a host country / organisation on behalf of, and under the auspices of the World Rescue Organisation. These protocols take precedence over local or organisational arrangements though it is recognised that some local adaptation may be required.



## 2. Teams

2.1 A team will consist of six (6) members:

- one member will be designated team captain,
- one member will be designated team medic,
- four other team members.

The size of the team will vary from one class to the next. Some classes will require a team captain, medic and three (3) additional members to undertake the technical/physical rescue aspects of the evolution. Other classes will use all six (6) team members. For classes involving five (5) members only, the sixth team member will be a reserve. The reserve may only participate in a full evolution not part way through a running evolution.

2.2 If during an evolution a team member is injured or is unable to continue, then the existing participating team members may, if they are able and subject to the judgement of the assessors continue to the conclusion of the event. The judgement of the assessors will be based on the grounds of safety who will consider the issues of low crewing and the likely tasks facing the crew.

2.3 Adequate workers compensation and/or injury insurance for the participating teams will be the responsibility of that team's service or agency. Notification of agreement by the organisation will be included in the team registration pack.

2.4 Teams may use radio communications as long as they do not interfere with the host's radio frequencies and comply with local spectrum management agencies. It will be the team leader's responsibility to supply an assessor with an additional radio in order that communications can be monitored.

2.5 The team is responsible for the provision of language interpretation where English is not the predominant language used during the extrication event. The team will need to discuss the issues and methods of achieving this with the Chief Assessor who will ensure that any interpretation is accurate and reflects the performance of the team.

# Challenge Protocols

The World Rescue Challenge is an event managed by a host country / organisation on behalf of, and under the auspices of the World Rescue Organisation. These protocols take precedence over local or organisational arrangements though it is recognised that some local adaptation may be required.



- 2.6 All team members are to wear appropriate personal protective clothing and equipment that they would normally wear to a vehicle extrication incident. That clothing and equipment should be approved by their organisation and conform to the approved standards appropriate to their country. The use of equipment such as visors, respiratory protection etc as recommended best practice for vehicle extrication is required. The wearing of safety glasses that meet an approved safety standard is mandatory.
- 2.7 Any 'home-made' equipment to be used in conjunction with power rescue tools that is likely to bear a load or be put under mechanical stress must be accompanied by a 'Notice of Certification' issued by an approved body or person. Any such equipment will be subject to scrutiny and approval by the Chief Assessor or nominated delegate prior to being introduced into the pits.
- 2.8 Teams attending with their own equipment are responsible for its transport, storage, insurance and security. The World Rescue Organisation and the host will not be held accountable for any losses due to theft, damage or fire in respect of said equipment.
- 2.9 Teams wishing to demonstrate an innovation in respect of procedure, technique or equipment should inform the Chief Assessor at the team briefing in order that arrangements can be made for demonstration / familiarisation.
- 2.10 Team captains and the team medic are required to attend a team briefing which normally takes place the day before the challenge commences. The briefing will cover assessor criteria, administration requirements and allocation of running times.
- 2.11 The team should register with the organisers on arrival. Thereafter times associated with attending for each evolution, pit set up etc will be determined by the organising committee for each world challenge.

# Challenge Protocols

The World Rescue Challenge is an event managed by a host country / organisation on behalf of, and under the auspices of the World Rescue Organisation. These protocols take precedence over local or organisational arrangements though it is recognised that some local adaptation may be required.



## 3. Evolutions

- 3.1 The World Rescue Challenge offers a range of classes of evolution, these may vary from year to year. All teams will participate in all events over the period of the challenge.
- 3.2 **Standard Class:** This class will be undertaken by a 5 person team with a time limit of 20 minutes. Teams will be presented with a single conscious casualty with injuries treatable in the vehicle. The objective of this class is for teams to demonstrate a standard suite of rescue skills normally provided on road.
- 3.3 **Complex Class:** This class will be undertaken by a 6 person team with a time limit of 30 minutes. Teams will be presented with a two conscious casualties, one of whom will have a simulated limb entrapment. The objective of this class is for teams to demonstrate a broader range of road rescue skills required to release entrapments as well create space for extrication. In addition teams will need to triage casualties and manage resources to complete the extrication.
- 3.4 **Rapid Class:** This class will be undertaken by a 5 person team with a time limit of 10 minutes. Teams will be presented with a single live, unconscious casualty with time critical injuries that are not treatable in the vehicle. The objective of this class is for teams to demonstrate skills required to complete an urgent extrication.
- 3.5 All classes will have full access to all rescue equipment normally carried on rescue vehicles (subject to the host agency's capacity to supply) with the exception of exothermic and detonation devices or disc cutters.
- 3.6 The World Rescue Organisation has developed a 'bank' of scenarios for each event, these are confidential and allocation of a particular set up for each pit is chosen at random. Assessors collectively within each pit will take into consideration the degree of difficulty of each individual set up prior to each team participating.
- 3.7 Evolutions will include vehicles on their wheels, side and roof with the potential use of prop vehicles/structures and single or multiple casualty/fatalities.
- 3.8 Live casualties will be used in each event and crash manikins may also be introduced in certain evolutions. The manikins may simulate fatal casualties or severely trapped casualties.

# Challenge Protocols

The World Rescue Challenge is an event managed by a host country / organisation on behalf of, and under the auspices of the World Rescue Organisation. These protocols take precedence over local or organisational arrangements though it is recognised that some local adaptation may be required.



- 3.9 The awards for the World Rescue Challenge will be 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> overall, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> in each class offered from year to year. In addition awards will be given for 'Best Team Leader', Best Team Medic' and 'Best Technical Team'. Other awards may be added as appropriate.
- 3.10 Winners of each class (rapid, standard or complex) will be determined by the highest aggregate score from the assessors in that class.
- 3.11 Winners of each discipline (best team leader, technical team or medic) will be determined by the highest aggregate score from the assessors of the discipline.
- 3.12 Where scores are tied for a particular award a count back will be conducted as follows:
- For each assessor in that discipline or class, the scores allocated in the first criteria on the score sheet will be added and compared for the tied teams.
  - If these are tied this process will be repeated with the sum of the next criteria on the score sheet. This will continue until a winner is identified.
  - If every criterion is tied the award will be declared a dead heat and both teams will be awarded the same recognition.

# Challenge Protocols

The World Rescue Challenge is an event managed by a host country / organisation on behalf of, and under the auspices of the World Rescue Organisation. These protocols take precedence over local or organisational arrangements though it is recognised that some local adaptation may be required.



## 4. Equipment

- 4.1 A degree of flexibility in the availability of equipment has to be acknowledged due to the location of the event, sponsorship deals and availability. Therefore a definitive list of available items will be finalised prior to the challenge commencing. A generic list of equipment that will be available is detailed below for all classes of evolution.
- 4.2 Team equipment should satisfy the requirements detailed in paragraph 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 & 2.6. Additionally teams may carry a range of pocket tools, utility belts, medical packs etc into the pit with them.
- 4.3 All equipment should be operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and applied with consideration of appropriate Health & Safety principles.
- 4.4 In addition the hosts from year to year will endeavour to supply a standard set of hand tools for each pit similar to the generic equipment list provided on the WRO web site ([www.wrescue.org](http://www.wrescue.org)).

# Challenge Protocols

The World Rescue Challenge is an event managed by a host country / organisation on behalf of, and under the auspices of the World Rescue Organisation. These protocols take precedence over local or organisational arrangements though it is recognised that some local adaptation may be required.



## 5. Code of Conduct

- 5.1 It is incumbent upon each individual involved in the management or participation within the World Rescue Challenge to apply the principles of fairness and dignity to all people at all times. The World Rescue Organisation will not condone inappropriate behaviour or discrimination and will act swiftly to prevent it. Each individual is accountable for their actions.
- 5.2 All assessors, officials and World Rescue Organisation members are professional / experienced rescuers or managers of rescue organisations and seek to deliver a fair and unbiased event. An appropriate degree of reciprocated professional respect is expected from all participants.
- 5.3 Fair play and good sportsmanship is expected of all participants and their teams during their evolutions and as spectators.
- 5.4 All participants are requested to respect the equipment of other teams, the equipment provided by the event management and the facilities provided at the challenge venue and hotel accommodation.
- 5.5 Participants whose general health may give cause for concern under the influence of alcohol or any other substance during the challenge or any associated workshops, lectures etc will be expelled and barred from further entry.
- 5.6 Participants are not to canvass any assessor, official or World Rescue Organisation member.
- 5.7 Assessors, officials, pit crews and World Rescue Organisation members will declare any interest in a particular team to the Chief Assessor.

# Challenge Protocols

The World Rescue Challenge is an event managed by a host country / organisation on behalf of, and under the auspices of the World Rescue Organisation. These protocols take precedence over local or organisational arrangements though it is recognised that some local adaptation may be required.



## 6. Selection of Assessors

- 6.1 Assessors are selected from rescue organisations that are members of the World Rescue Organisation, through the 'Assessor co-ordinator', a member of the executive committee.
- 6.2 Each world Challenge requires ten (10) assessors plus a Chief Assessor and a balance is maintained between the various member organisations and the host. A rotation of assessors is applied in order that experience is spread and individuals are not repeatedly assessing each year.
- 6.3 The World Rescue Organisation executive committee will invite an individual as the Chief Assessor. The Chief Assessor will as a minimum standard satisfy the essential criteria, they will be selected and forwarded for consideration.
- 6.4 The World Rescue Organisation requests each organisation to submit two assessors for consideration. It is for the individual rescue organisations to ensure that the individuals submitted fulfil the criteria detailed below and have the relevant experience and professional currency appropriate for a World event.
- 6.5 The World Rescue Organisation executive council on recommendation of the assessor co-ordinator will consider each assessor application in respect of the criteria and extend invitations to attend.

# Challenge Protocols

The World Rescue Challenge is an event managed by a host country / organisation on behalf of, and under the auspices of the World Rescue Organisation. These protocols take precedence over local or organisational arrangements though it is recognised that some local adaptation may be required.



## 6.6 Essential Criteria

- In order to maintain currency and credibility, persons nominated should be a member of an organisation whose primary function is emergency /rescue service based. This may be extended up to one year following an individual leaving or retiring from said organisation.
- They should have a minimum of five years operational experience and be directly involved in vehicle extrication management and operation within the community.
- They should hold a qualification in vehicle rescue training recognised by their rescue organisation.
- They will have experience of assessing a rescue challenge, at national or world level on a minimum of two occasions within the last four years.
- Desirable Criteria
  - Experience of assessing national events
  - Experience of assessing various classes presented at those events
  - Experience as a training provider within the field of vehicle extrication
  - Experience of assessing events with the use of live casualties
  - Experience as a shadow assessor at a previous World Rescue Challenge.

6.7 During the event the Chief Assessor will, where possible facilitate 'shadow' assessing. In the first instance shadow assessors will primarily be from the host country in order that experience can be gained and the development of their own rescue organisation can be progressed.

# Challenge Protocols

The World Rescue Challenge is an event managed by a host country / organisation on behalf of, and under the auspices of the World Rescue Organisation. These protocols take precedence over local or organisational arrangements though it is recognised that some local adaptation may be required.



## 7. Assessing the Event

- 7.1 The 'World Rescue Organisation International Assessor Co-ordinator' and the 'Chief Assessor' will be responsible for all issues in respect of the assessment of teams, the conduct of assessors and any appeals (Paragraphs 7.13 – 7.18) brought forward by teams. All assessors will be fully briefed and monitored throughout the event to ensure a fair and consistent process is applied.
- 7.2 The World Rescue Organisation promotes assessment of skills and knowledge in relation to standards that are expected at the 'roadside' and seek to discourage actions of aesthetic value.
- 7.3 The World Rescue Organisation demands the highest professional standards from all assessors in respect of their conduct within the pit and at all associated functions etc.
- 7.4 Each pit area will consist of three assessors, all assessors will be responsible to the Chief Assessor and will assess over three functional areas: Command & Control, Physical Rescue and Pre Hospital Care. There will be an additional medical assessor in the complex pit to all one assessor to follow progress on each casualty.
- 7.5 In order to maintain a consistent and fair assessment the same assessors will assess all of the teams in the one class throughout the challenge.
- 7.6 All assessors will be correctly dressed with suitable personal protective equipment equal to or above that expected of teams. The World Rescue Organisation will seek to have all assessors dressed the same through the provision of coveralls and helmets.
- 7.7 During the evolution assessors will be vigilant in respect of their positioning within the pit area affording the appropriate space for the teams to operate. However it is recognised that the medical assessor may have to remain in close proximity.
- 7.8 During a World Rescue Organisation event the assessors are responsible for safety within the pit area. No evolution will start until all assessors are satisfied the pit area is safe. They may suspend any evolution on the grounds of safety.

# Challenge Protocols

The World Rescue Challenge is an event managed by a host country / organisation on behalf of, and under the auspices of the World Rescue Organisation. These protocols take precedence over local or organisational arrangements though it is recognised that some local adaptation may be required.



7.9 The assessors have the authority to halt any activity during an evolution deemed to be in breach of safe working practice. This authority includes potential or existing danger or unsafe operation which may affect any team member, assessor or live casualty, and includes but is not limited to, the following:

- Equipment provided by the organisers
- Equipment provided by teams
- Safety clearance of evolutions
- Protective clothing worn by the teams
- The application/use of that personal equipment
- Teams actions and practices during evolutions, particularly in respect of live casualties
- Damage to props
- Damage to equipment

A halt will not incur a time penalty unless the breach in safety is a repeat of a previous breach in the same exercise.

- 7.10 Where the commands 'still' or 'freeze' are given, or where a whistle is blown by an assessor all team members will immediately cease working. These actions indicate that a safety problem exists and the evolution will cease until the issue is resolved and on instructions of the Chief Assessor may continue.
- 7.11 The Assessors will be responsible for time keeping during any evolution.
- 7.12 Assessors will be permitted to assess teams from their own country however if they have a direct training link or have been previously a team member they must disclose an interest to the Chief Assessor who will determine the appropriate action to maintain fair, and the perception of fair, assessment.

# Challenge Protocols

The World Rescue Challenge is an event managed by a host country / organisation on behalf of, and under the auspices of the World Rescue Organisation. These protocols take precedence over local or organisational arrangements though it is recognised that some local adaptation may be required.



## 8. Appeals

- 8.1 All appeals in respect of a technical performance and associated scoring will be heard by the 'World Rescue Organisation International Assessor Co-ordinator' and the 'Chief Assessor' who will, where required, investigate or discuss the issue with any involved assessors and whose deliberation is final.
- 8.2 An appeal in respect of a technical performance should be made in writing, raised immediately and lodged with the Chief Assessor or World Rescue Organisation International Assessor Co-ordinator within one hour of issue occurring.
- 8.3 All allegations of unfair assessment will be investigated thoroughly from all perspectives by the 'World Rescue Organisation International Assessor Co-ordinator' and the 'Chief Assessor' who will present their findings to the executive committee of the World Rescue Organisation for their deliberation.
- 8.4 Persons making any allegation must do so in writing. Any person making statements which deems to discredit an assessor or the assessment process will be challenged. The World Rescue Organisation strenuously seeks to secure a fair and unbiased event and will respond robustly to whispering allegations.
- 8.5 The World Rescue Organisation is an open and transparent organisation. We encourage an open and honest culture where issues are resolved in a professional and mature manner.