

## Article

# Trail-running, skyrunning and mountain running: organizational structures of modalities

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this research has been to analyze the organizational structures of the different federations and entities representing the modalities of trail-running, skyrunning and mountain running and how they have settled in the current sports landscape. The main task of these entities is to act as hosts of the legally established modalities, both internationally and nationally, applying their respective regulations and statutes unilaterally. Through an in-depth review of the different regulations, statutes and current articles of all the organizations that represent the different disciplines, we can observe how a sport modality that seems to be the same is nevertheless distant in its execution (regulations, championships, classifications, systems of points, ...) and that has led to the international level being established in different sport modalities (trail-running and skyrunning) and at the level of the Spanish territory, it has led to an administrative dispute to know who has the powers to approve the sports competitions.

**Keywords:** Trail running, skyrunning, mountain running, modality structure, administrative bilaterality.

## 1. Introduction

The proliferation and emergence of new sport modalities over the last 10 years has been remarkable. At an international level there is a constant renewal of the sports catalogue, and in Spain this situation has not been any different. A clear example is Trail Running (TR), Skyrunning (SR) and Mountain Running (MR) which have settled in the sports scenario, especially in Spain, where they are highly accepted among runners.

The Mountain Running (MR) is a sport practice which in recent years has been studied and analyzed taking into account the social, media, environmental and economic impact that they have and are generating in the society and the region [1].

This new modality, besides growing in importance in the sports field, has also generated a relevant importance in others such as tourism, environment, safety or equality, and has also generated at the same time the emergence of several bodies in charge of managing it, such as federations, institutions, clubs and companies. According to Seguí et al. [2], this growth has led to "a situation where the struggle to achieve recognition of the sport is ongoing", both on an international and a national level.

This struggle to recognize who should organize and manage the sport in all its different forms, both nationally and internationally, has given rise to a series of administrative problems, which in the case of Spain is yet to be determined, leaving this decision in the hands of the National Sports Council [3] (CSD, for its Spanish initials - Consejo Superior de Deportes), the General Sports Directorates of each Autonomous Community and the Provincial courts.

As a result of the administrative problem, a chaos has arisen regarding the way in which each entity competing for the management and administration of the modality has built its organizational structure. They have programmed their competitions and regulations unilaterally as well as their vision of the modality, which has brought about a series of inconveniences to runners and direct organizers of the championships when competing and certifying the courses of the competitions of each event, which are governed, among others, by the Law of Public Shows of the Autonomous Communities [4,5] (Ley de Espectáculos Públicos de las Comunidades Autónomas, CC.AA.). This law decides, according to the Autonomous Community where the event is held, who will be responsible for the organization of the event.

## 2. Modality definition

Before mentioning how the different organizations have defined the modality they manage, it is important to emphasize what running in the natural environment means. A distinction must be made between the regulated and non-regulated practice of what we understand by running in mountain areas, which according to the terminology of the Regulations on Natural Areas II of the Spanish Federation of Mountain Sports and Climbing [6] is: "The modality consists of running through mountain areas".

Even if it is with only one organization, we are aware of the implications of running in mountain areas, but what are we talking about when we refer to TR, SR or MR? In order to approach it, we will explain how the different organizations define them both at a national and international level. The conclusion drawn from this is that they always refer to the same sport modality:

The International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF) defined the Trail in article 252 of the competition regulations as: Trail runs take place on a wide variety of terrain (including dirt roads, forest roads and single-track trails) in a natural, open-field environment (such as mountains, deserts, forests or plains) and mostly off-road. Paved or concrete surface pathways are acceptable but they must be the minimum possible to achieve the desired run and not exceed 20% of the total run distance. There will be no limit for distance or elevation gain uphill or downhill [7]. It is managed by its associate members such as the International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) and the International Trail Running Association (ITRA) who organize (in the case of the IAU and those sponsored by the IAAF) in addition to their own competitions, the TR World Championship on a jointly basis.

Article 251 of the competition regulations includes Mountain Running (MR), which the IAAF [7] has defined as: "Mountain Running is carried out on a terrain which is mostly off-road, unless there is a significant elevation change, in which case a paved surface is acceptable. With a distance that can vary from 1km to the marathon length. The slope should be at least of 5% and should not exceed 20%". It is managed at the international level by the World Mountain Running Association (WMRA), an associate member of the IAAF, which also defined Mountain Running (MR).

In addition, article 250 of the competition regulations also recognizes the Cross Country, which has been defined as "races through open or wooded areas on grassy terrain which may include part of gravel, road and hills as long as these are limited to a minimum and also include natural obstacles" [7].

The ITRA [8], associate member of the IAAF, presented the TR as: "A foot race, open to all, in a natural environment (mountain, forest, plains), with the minimum possible number of asphalt or paved routes which should not exceed 20% of the total course".

On the other hand, the American Trail Running Association [9] made a broader description of the concept of Trail Runs which was defined as "races that not only run on off-road trails but can also

include paved roads in rural and urban areas, while adding that in order to be considered as a Trail Run, they must run on tracks or roads inaccessible to motor vehicles”.

The Ultra-Trail® World Tour [10], a private race circuit, made it clear that: The trail runs should illustrate the diversity of the event including steep roads, trails, hills, beaches or desert by applying for the definition of the Ultra-Trail® circuit 5 unique criteria that the event must have such as: a distance of at least 100km, an emblematic location, a minimum number of participants of 500, the event must be an international event with at least 20 different nations represented, and at least 2 editions of the event must have been held.

It should be noted that Ultra-Trail® is a registered trademark of the company organizing the Ultra-Trail du Mont Blanc® (UTMB), more specifically by the SARL Autour Du Mont Blanc directed by Catherine Politte and Michel Politte and which co-organizes, in addition to the UTMB, the ByUTMB franchised racing circuit throughout the world since 2018 and the UTWT to which the UTMB belongs (they are one of the 8 most important event organizers in the world being the founding members of the UTWT in 2013). Moreover, they are both founding members of ITRA as stated in the statutes of 2 February 2019, approved in Milan [8].

On the other hand, we can mention the International Skyrunning Federation (ISF) which represents the governing authority on SkyRunning® and Mountain-Running above 2000m developed by technical trails and whose practice is mainly included in the Sky, Ultra and Vertical categories [11]. According to the statutes of 23 July 2011 and the regulations of the competition, the definition for SR has been: "Running in the mountains above 2,000m of altitude, where the difficulty to climb does not exceed degree II and the slope is greater than 30%. Where the altitude does not reach 2,000 m, the courses must have an average minimum of 6% of slope over the total distance and reach the highest points of the area".

In the case of SkyRunning® it should also be remembered that it is a patent registered by Marino Giacometti (inventor of the SR and founder of the ISF) and that it is exploited through SkyMan S.A.

In Spain we find several organizations which have defined the modality practically like their international counterparts with the differentiation of concepts as far as the name is concerned. Thus, the Royal Spanish Athletics Federation [12], under the protection of the IAAF regulations, is in charge of managing the trail, the MR and the cross-country in Spain, defining the TR as:

“Activity which consists of running in a natural environment in the open field (mountains, deserts, forests, beaches or plains) where no more than 20% of the surface can be asphalted or paved. The path can be diverse (roads, trails, tracks...) and the route must be properly marked. Trail Running allows a great variety of distances, slopes, terrains and landscapes”.

The Spanish Association of Trail Running (AET) uses the same explanation made by the ITRA to define the TR and in recent years has taken the same steps as its international counterpart.

Finally, at national level, the other major protagonist of the Mountain Races in Spain is the Spanish Federation of Mountain Sports and Climbing [13], affiliated to the ISF, and which has defined them as: “Mountain races consist of running along paths or virgin areas which are characterized by their steep slopes and their technical difficulty. They can be held in the high, medium and low mountains, and always run along unpaved tracks and courses, paths, ravines, etc. and the race route does not exceed 50% of the track accessible to vehicles. The minimum distance for a circuit to be considered as an official competition, except in the case of the Vertical Kilometer, is 21 kilometers, with a minimum accumulated difference in height of 1,000 meters. Depending on the terrain on which the competition takes place, the races may include climbing up and down with ropes, although the area climbed may not exceed grade II of difficulty or 40° of slope”.

This definition of the MR is practically identical to that of the SR, with the difference in the conceptualization of what both organizations understand by their respective ways of naming the modality. Although at international level the ISF has wanted to make a distinction between its modality as one of its own, the SR, against another that is considered different, the TR, at the level of the Spanish territory, this has remained as an administrative dispute over the term TR to which both the RFEA and the FEDME refer as their own, both understanding that the TR is either “Carrera de montaña” (RFEA) or “Carrera por montaña” (FEDME), both called in English “Mountain Running”.

### 3. Administrative bilaterality and consequent problems

Although, apparently, the modality lies in a similar sporting situation consisting of "running in a natural environment", the disputes over its management and everything that it entails are becoming increasingly visible, especially in recent years where there has been an explosion in the number of runners and organizers, identified as the trail running boom according to Zagalaz, Latorre and Cachón [14] (as quoted in [1]). Although at the international level, the struggle in the sport has been mainly in the dispute of certain of its disciplines such as the Ultra-Trail® and Ultra SkyMarathon® (which would correspond to the ultra-distance races), the ISF has opted to abandon the fight for the longer ultras, a field in which the ITRA (member of the IAAF) is better positioned alongside the UTWT, ultimately opting for shorter races of between 22 and 66 km with a marked technical character that returns it to the origins of the SR differentiating it from the TR as a separate sport [15].

While at an international level it seems that the modality has been divided into two different sports (TR and SR), in Spain the situation is more complicated. The dispute over the competitions of the modality and the authorship of the term Trail-Running® (which we must remember is a registered trademark of the owners of the UTMB®) persists. On the one hand, FEDME presented in 2013 an amendment to article 3 of its statutes (which includes the sport modalities that this federation manages, including the MR) to the CDS (National Sports Council), which was recognized in the Spanish Official Gazette (BOE - for its Spanish initials - no. 270, Resolution 4 November 2013) [3] and which granted it the powers of the Mountain Running (MR) modality, also commonly known as TR in Spain. The conflict lies in the fact that the RFEA, in view of the Trail Running boom and as a promoter of the MR, established in its 2014-2015 regulations as the only discipline carried out (within its organization and apart from Cross Country) until that same year off-road or on a paved surface with a specific profile (average slope of 5% and maximum of no more than 20%) decides to include TR as an athletic discipline following the steps of the IAAF, which recognized it at the International Congress in Beijing in August 2015. Thus, until 2015, only the following types of MR could be found in the competition regulations of this federation: a) Classic mountain races (with no more than 12km distance and a maximum elevation gain of 1200m uphill), b) Long distance races (they will cover distances between 20 and 42.195 km approximately and the elevation gain will be of a maximum of 4000m with those under 18 years old not being able to compete in distances greater than 25km), c) Mountain relay races and (d) Mountain time trial races [16].

The total conflict for the exclusivity of the term TR and said modality comes with the Resolution of 26 September 2018 by the National Sports Council (CSD, for its Spanish initials) presidency which recognizes an amendment to the RFEA statutes in its articles 1, 16, 20, 23, 60, 64 and 73 (Spanish Official Gazette - BOE No. 240, Resolution 26 September 2018) [17]. In article no. 1 of this document, the TR is recognized as an athletic discipline belonging to the RFEA, whose valuable basis has been the definition that the international organizations (ISF and IAAF), to which both federations are affiliated, provide of their corresponding disciplines SR and TR respectively [18].

With this resolution, at least for the time being, the TR discipline and the use of the term in Spain is in the hands of the RFEA who has the capacity to authorize its different competitions. In accordance with the provisions of the Law on Public Shows and Recreational Activities (of that same Autonomous Community; see Law 3/2017, of 5 April [4], on Public Shows and Recreational Activities of Cantabria in its article 7 section f or Law 7/2006, of 2 October, on Public Shows and Recreational Activities of the Community of Castile and León [5], article 14 section 2a), the Sports General Delegations are the ones responsible for determining which organism or federation is in charge of authorizing the organizers of TR or SR events according to the definitions provided for their respective disciplines.

From this situation of administrative instability of the modality, several problems have arisen affecting the athletes and the organizers of the events. Among them, the following stand out:

- a) Athletes and technicians:

- Planning of seasons and trainings: nowadays it is chaotic to make a calendar in optimal conditions and in many situations, it is a dilemma how to make a valid training for different types of races.

- Access to competitions and classifications: Certain competitions demand a number of specific points from that same competition (UTMB or SkyMasters) to be able to participate, which must be obtained in other races approved by third parties who own the ranking or classification (UTMB, UTWT, ITRA, ISF, RFEA, FEDME) such as points from ITRA, UTMB, UTWT, ISF or their circuits with their own classifications and rankings. This can mean that by participating in one race, one may not score points to enter another or may not manage to score points in a certain classification, both cases being the main objectives of the athlete, whether amateur or professional.

- Safety: Different trials require different material and human resources, as well as other risk management systems.

- Insurance, licenses and coverage: Athletes often participate in different competitions with specific insurance or licenses for each of them, which leads them to be federated and insured with multiple federations and organizations.

#### b) Event organizers:

- Permits: A conflict of interest may exist in the Autonomous Communities where it is determined that a federation must be the one to authorize the competition.

- Certified courses: Participating in a championship or organizing an event of this type means certifying the race according to the guidelines of the corresponding Federation on the subject. In turn, this means adapting the regulations, safety systems, anti-doping protocols and others, which in most cases entails high fees for the organizer in addition to a greater number of administrative requirements.

- Structural changes in the event races: Significant changes must be made in routes, material, human and technical resources in order to comply with the standards, which means, once again, a greater economic cost and less benefits.

## 4. Organizational structure of the modality

Sports regulated by Sports Federations and entities establish the management and administration of the sport on the basis of legal regulations, their respective rules and their statutes. In the case of TR or SR, since they are sports that have evolved from an amateur perspective to a highly competitive one, while conserving an added popular value with a particular meaning as far as terminology is concerned, and taking into account that there are a good number of organizations in charge of their management (both at international and national level), it is easy to see that there is not only one classification system for them. Seguí et al. [2] pointed out that in relation to the organizational structures of mountain and trail running, three basic aspects are considered: a) the organizations carrying out the activity of mountain and trail running; b) how they define the sport modality and c) how they conduct their respective championships.

From these three aspects listed by these authors we already know the organizations and their respective definitions. As far as the organization of their championships is concerned, we must also add the subdisciplines of the modality, the different types of races, the categories and the scoring and classification systems. Therefore, on a worldwide level, the following can be found:

A) The ITRA, as international promoter of the TR, which has organized together with the IAU the World Championship of Trail Running (Individual and Teams categories) since 2016. With the amendment by the IAAF of article 252 of the competition regulations, the ITRA decided in March 2018 to implement a new classification system for its races from XXS to XXL, based on the km/effort that the runner must perform; validating a new system of ITRA Points (understood as a performance index) ranging from 0 to 6 depending on these km/effort. It has also collaborated in the organization and regulation of the Ultra-Trail® race circuit of the UTWT.

B) The IAAF, in addition to the trail races described in article 252 of its competition regulations and which it shares with the ITRA, has among its disciplines: The Cross Country which has been ruled in article 250 of its regulations, the Mountain Running (MR) which was delegated to its associate



member WMRA and whose regulation is located in articles 251 and 252 and the Ultra-Running which was also delegated to the IAU for its management and organization of the respective championships sponsored by it and which was regulated in the same way as the trail races and the MR in article 252. Consequently, only the World Cross Country Championships are organized directly by the IAU, while the other disciplines are organized by its associate members.

C) The WMRA is the promoter of mountain racing worldwide. It organizes basically 5 events: World Mountain Racing Championship (Individual and Teams categories), World Long Distance Mountain Racing Championship (Individual and National Teams categories), World Masters Mountain Racing Championship, World Mountain Racing Cup (Individual category), International U-18 Mountain Racing Cup (Individual and Teams categories). It has a non-stop ranking in which the results obtained in the last 12 months are scored

D) The IAU is responsible for promoting ultra-distance races (not only trail races but also asphalt, indoor and track races). It has worked together with the ITRA since 2016 to organize the World Trail Running Championship. In addition, it organizes the 24h, 100km and 50km World Championships. Among its disciplines, as stated in its articles of incorporation of June 2016 (revision), are: 50km, 6 hours, 100km, 100 miles, 24 hours, 48 hours, 6 days and 1000 miles for road and trail. It consists of a unique annual ranking for the disciplines of 50km, 100km, 100 miles, 6 hours and 6 days in which one scores by completing races whose titles are called Gold, Silver and Bronze (granting more points the Gold and less the Bronze).

E) The UTMB®, has organized a unique annual event made up of 7 races according to its competition regulations, which are: The UTMB®, the Courmayeur-Champex-Chamoix (CCC®), the Sur les Traces des Ducs de Savoie (TDS®), the Orsières-Champex-Chamonix (OCC), the Martigny-Combe à Chamonix (MCC), the Petite Trotte à Léon (PTL®) and finally, the Youth Chamonix Courmayeur (YCC). For the participation in the first 4 races it is necessary to accumulate a certain number of UTMB points which can be obtained in third races authorized by the UTMB® called "qualifying races" in which one can obtain from 1 to 6 UTMB points.

F) The UTWT is another major protagonist in the Ultra-Trail® races for being the main promoter of this distance in collaboration with the ITRA. In its competition regulations it presents an annual circuit of races in different categories and similar standards established jointly with the ITRA. Among the racing categories are: Series Bonus, Series, Pro, Challenger and Discovery Races (the latter proposed as demonstration races with no possibility of scoring for the circuit). The UTWT currently has two classifications, on the one hand it has the UTWT Annual Ranking, which takes into account the two best results obtained in races on the circuit as long as at least two of them are completed, and on the other hand it has the UTWT World Ranking, which takes into consideration the 5 best results obtained in the last 3 years; in any case to qualify for any of the 2 rankings a series of UTWT points must be obtained which will depend on the category of the race and the position that each runner obtains.

G) The ISF shows a relatively more complex structure as far as the organization of its modality is concerned. The following disciplines were included in the competition regulations for the year 2019 [19]: Sky, Ultra, Vertical, Skyspeed, Skyscraper Racing/Vertical Running, Skybike, Skyraid and Skyrunning Technical Level. Furthermore, the following terms are used to describe the types of races they offer: SkyRace®, SkyMarathon, Ultra SkyMarathon, Vertical Kilometer®. Meanwhile, it has approved the following competitions: National Skyrunning Championships (developed by each nation based on the ISF regulations that have, firstly, an individual scoring system and secondly, a qualifying system based on the 4 best athletes in order to make up the national team, at least one per gender), Continental Skyrunning Championship (individual and team competition which will have at least the categories of Sky, Vertical and Ultra), Biannual World Skyrunning Championship (at least the Sky, Vertical and Ultra disciplines will be competed for and the title of each one will be awarded not only combined, but also for national teams), World Youth Skyrunning Championships (they will be held in the disciplines of Sky and Vertical. They will also have three different categories such as A, B and U-23 which will be awarded in the two disciplines) and Skygames (this type of competition is held every 4 years coinciding with the Olympic Games in the disciplines of Sky, Vertical and Ultra

but may also include others such as Skyspeed, Skybike or Skyraid establishing an individual title for each of the disciplines as well as a combined title and another one for teams). In addition to the official championships, the ISF has also arranged with third parties a series of circuits that maintain the Skyrunner® and Vertical Kilometer® trademarks, where individual runners and teams can participate. Their importance depends on the media impact of these circuits. These circuits are: The Vertical Kilometer World Circuit (races developed in the most emblematic skyscrapers in the world with only one general ranking of individual character), the Vertical Kilometer World Circuit (vertical kilometer racing circuit with only one general ranking of individual character), the Skyrunner National Series (with 2 absolute categories, male and female, in the Sky and Vertical disciplines and with a qualification system awarding points to the top 30; within these races, only those within the SkyMarathon modality will score for the Skyrunner World Series and only the top 10 in each category) and the Skyrunner World Series (races with a single category called SkyRace, in which it is only possible to participate individually and whose scoring system is based on the name of each race which may be: SkyRace, SuperSky Races, The SkyMasters. Each denomination offers a certain number of points according to the athlete's position, taking into account only the first 20 of each category) [20].

H) Finally, the Golden Trail Series (GTS), with its two circuits the Golden Trail World Series (GTWS) and the Golden Trail National Series (GTNS) with unique absolute categories for each type and a classification system awarding points to the top 30 in each race.

Meanwhile, at the national level, the institutions with their own organizational structures and with real capacity to manage the TR/SR modality are:

A) The RFEA [21], acting in accordance with the IAAF, approved in its competition regulations the following disciplines at the Spanish level: Cross Country, Mountain and Trail Races; and on the basis of these disciplines, the following competitions have been organized: The Spanish Championship of Mountain Races-Trail Running, the Spanish Individual Championship of Trail Running, the Spanish Master Mountain Championship, the Spanish Master Trail Running Championship, the Spanish Championship by Trail Running Federations, the Spanish Championship of Trail Running Clubs and the Spanish Championship of Mountain Running Clubs. In addition to those mentioned, the World Cross Country Championships are also organized in the Individual, Masters, Clubs and Federations categories.

B) Additionally, FEDME has described the following Mountain Races disciplines in its 2019 competition regulations: Line Races, Vertical Races, Ultra Races, Mountain Snow Races and other State-wide competitions and popular races. The different competitions authorized by FEDME are specified as follows: The Spanish Cup of Line Mountain Races (it consists of between 3 to 6 races of one day each and they are disputed in the individual modality), the Spanish Championship of Line Mountain Races (it consists of a single race in the individual modalities, by clubs and by Autonomous Federations), the Spanish Cup of Vertical Mountain Races (it consists of between 3 to 6 races in the individual modality), the Spanish Championship of Vertical Mountain Races on the Mountain (it consists of a single race in the individual modalities, by Clubs and Autonomous Federations), the Spanish Ultras Championship (it consists of a single event in the individual modalities, by Clubs and Autonomous Federations, of a maximum of two days), the Spanish Ultras Cup (it consists of between 3 and 6 events in the individual modalities, of a maximum of two days each) and the Spanish Championship of Snow Mountain Races (it consists of a single event in the individual modalities, by Clubs and Autonomous Federations). In addition to the disciplines and competitions, the FEDME has its own ranking, which takes into account the different disciplines (line, vertical or ultra) according to the competition (cup, championship or certified course) rating the latter differently and always taking into account those classified between positions 1 to 15, dividing in any case the ranking by male and female.

## 5. Conclusions

From this administrative chaos, turned into a mess, it can be inferred that what at first sight was presented as a single sport modality that projected a similar image in all competitions, whose

common factors are running and the natural environment where they are developed, two different disciplines are struggling for a similar modality in view of a future participation in the Olympic Games, fighting for it, on the one hand the ITRA together with the IAAF and on the other hand the ISF together with the International Union of Alpine Associations (UIAA) which could lead to the TR and/or SR becoming Olympic disciplines in the next 10 years as of Tokyo 2020.

Therefore, it is important to remember:

1) Although TR and SR may be considered as the same modality, they imply different sports preparations both at a competitive level (athletes and trainers) and even within their own sub-disciplines (taking into consideration that planning and training methods vary according to them), as well as at an organizational level (competition organizers) which implies different adaptations of regulations, certifications and institutional permissions always depending on the Sports Federation to which the competition belongs.

2) At the international level, the corresponding Federations and institutions already defend their modalities as something distinguished: While the ITRA and IAAF defend Trail-Running as their own, the ISF has differentiated Sky-Running as a modality of its own apart from TR, much more technical and specific, which allows to judge the best runner in all fields (Sky, Vertical, Ultra, etc...) thus marking distances with the TR.

3) In Spain the situation is still more complicated and unspecific. In spite of the last resolutions of the National Sports Council (CSD, for its Spanish initials) and the appeals filed by the different Autonomous Mountain Federations, both federations are still fighting for the hegemony over the modality. While the RFEA envisages the TR in all its dimensions (anything that is running in the natural environment and is not understood as MR or cross country), the FEDME continues to defend the Mountain Race as its modality and can still explain the National Sports Council (CSD, for its Spanish initials) resolution with the proposal of the complete definition that the ISF (2019) made in the preamble of its statutes regarding the SR, in which in addition to the definition itself, it stated that "when the altitude does not reach 2,000 m, courses must have an average minimum slope of 6% over the total distance and reach the highest points in the area".

In any case there are several possible solutions to the problem: a) To determine the TR and the SR as two different sport modalities in the same way that it has been done at a worldwide level. b) To grant the modality legally (it should be remembered that both FEDME since 2013, and RFEA since 2018, are legal in this aspect as stated in their statutes and recognized by the National Sports Council or CSD) to only one Federation as it happens in other more powerful countries in this field such as France or the United States where it is the Athletics Federation which manages and administers the modality. c) Or the last and most improbable one, which consists of formalizing a Trail-Running Federation to independently exploit the modality, which is very difficult considering that following the same line explained by Seguí et al. [2], the institutions which could fight for it, such as the AET, "should mutate its legal form to that of a Federation in order to be able to compete, in the future, with the RFEA and the FEDME".

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