



2021 Birkie Week Race Day Frequently Asked Questions As of 12/16/20

This is a unique year and we hope to be back to normal for Birkie 2022! We understand that Birkie 2021 plan may not be ideal for you and your personal circumstances. However, we want you to know that we are doing everything in our power to provide a safe event experience for all skiers. For those who choose to join us virtually for Birkie 2021, we will do our very best to make certain you have a great virtual experience. Thank you for your understanding and consideration during these unusual times.

If there is no busing, how will I get to the start area?

- Skiers will be required to drive their own vehicles to the start area at the American Birkebeiner Trailhead, Cable, WI, where they will ski a looped course, returning to the American Birkebeiner Trailhead. Skiers will use their own vehicles as their pre- and post-race warm space.

Where will I be able to park?

- There will be ample, conveniently located skier parking available adjoining the American Birkebeiner Trailhead and start/finish areas. Parking will be walkable from the start and finish areas.

How long will it take me to walk to the start area or to my car after the race?

- The skier parking area is an estimated :10-minute walk from either the start or finish.

Can a driver drop off a racing skier? If so, do they have to stay in the car, or can they watch the race start?

- Yes, a driver can drop a skier off at the start. The driver may choose to wait in the car or come back to pick up their skier later. Spectators are not allowed to wait in the start, on-course, or in the finish areas.
- Drivers and skiers should discuss approximately how much time it will take the skier to complete his/her event. This will allow the drive time to plan for their time while the participant is skiing. There are many curbside restaurants, cafes, coffee shops and more in the Cable, Seeley, and Hayward areas. With fewer skier per day, it will convenient to drop-off and pick-up skiers.
- Additional drop-off/pick-up arrangement details are forthcoming.

What access roads will you be using to get to the start of the race?

- The race start is located at the [American Birkebeiner Trailhead](#). Access to the start venue and parking will be available only from Telemark Road.
- After the race, skiers will exit the parking lot via McNaught Road.

When should I arrive in the parking area and how will I know when to head to the start?

- All skiers will receive a link to a digital Race Guide prior to race week with detailed instructions for race day.
- It is essential that we limit the number of participants in the start area at any given time.
- Upon arrival in the parking area, skiers will remain in their warm cars and will listen to race information on a dedicated FM radio station. Watch the [Birkie Trail Run safety video](#) for an example of this process.
- Skiers will receive specific instructions on when to leave their cars, by wave, for the race start area.



Will there be a baggage drop in 2021 for the Birkie or Korte races?

- No, there will not be a baggage drop in 2021. Skiers will need to use their personal vehicles for storage of their personal belongings.
- Bags should not be left at the start/finish areas; unattended bags may be confiscated.

Will there be a tent or warm space to wait until my race starts?

- For safety purposes, all tents, indoor and gathering spaces have been removed from the race start and finish areas.
- Skiers will use their personal vehicles to stay warm pre-race and to warm up post-race.
- There is no bag drop and your walk to the start will be approximately :10 minutes.

Will there be a warm-up track available?

- It is unlikely that there will be a warm-up track available on race day. Depending on what parking lot you select, you may choose to ski to the start instead of walking (estimated :10 minute walk).

Will there be aid stations on the course and where will they be located?

- Slumberland American Birkebeiner
 - Fire Tower Aid Station – 12K
 - OO Aid Station – 20.5K
 - Boedecker Aid Station – 26K
 - Timber Trail Aid Station – 36K
- Kortelopet
 - Fire Tower Aid Station – 12K
 - Timber Trail Aid Station – 19K
- Prince Haakon
 - Timber Trail Aid Station – 7K

Will I need to carry my own food and hydration on race day?

- Skiers will need to be more self-reliant on race day by carrying their own on-course energy or food. Hydration will be available at each aid station.

How will energy drinks and water be dispensed at the aid stations on the racecourse?

- While final details are still in the works, the Birkie team is working on innovative, touchless, and safe hydration dispensing options. Attend the Birkie Tour on January 31 and give the prototype hydration dispensers a try!

Can I have someone meet me along the trail with food or drink?

- Spectators are not allowed at the start, on-course, or finish areas of the race. We ask that skiers be prepared and more self-reliant by carrying their own energy/gels/blocks/bars. While some skiers may choose to carry their own liquids, hydration will be available at on-course aid stations.

Will there be aid station and race cut-off times?

- Yes, as in a traditional Birkie, Korte, and Prince Haakon event, there will be on-course cut-off times.

Will the racecourse be freshly groomed for each technique on each race day?

- The Birkie grooming crew will groom the race courses, by technique, in advance of each race day.



Since it is only classic skiers on Friday and Sunday of Birkie week, how many classic tracks will be set?

- It depends on snow conditions and grooming capabilities. As always, the Birkie grooming crew will do their very best to provide an amazing race course.

Will there be any classic tracks on the downhill during the freestyle/skate race?

- We are considering this; however, we also need to maximize space on the trail for the greatest passing ability. We'll announce this closer to race day.

Are fluoro waxed banned at Birkie 2021?

- As a US Ski & Snowboard sanctioned event, no fluoro wax will be allowed at the 2021 Birkie events.
- Testing will occur with assistance from US Ski & Snowboard.

How will you make sure that fast final wave skiers will not overtake other skiers?

- Unfortunately, we are unable to determine the speed and pace of a new Birkie or Korte skier.
- Fortunately, the Birkie trail is wide and there will be ample space for passing and social distancing.

How will you be handling teams on race day? Will trainers/coaches be allowed on-course?

- If teams require additional information, please reach out to us directly at birkie@birkie.com. Only participants are allowed in the start area, on-course, and in the finish area. No spectators or support crews are allowed in common areas.

Will there be age class awards in 2021?

- No, we have eliminated age class awards in 2021. Knowing there will be reduced medical staff on-course, we want skiers to ski safely and not push themselves needlessly. Additionally, there is no way to fairly determine winners when course conditions can vary significantly over the 5-days of Birkie events. Lastly, the age class awards will be back in 2022!