



## 2021 Birkie Week Virtual Race FAQs 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.

### Who can ski the virtual race option?

- For skiers with underlying health conditions, for skiers who aren't able to travel to Hayward/Cable, or for skiers who simply don't feel comfortable attending the in-person race in February of 2021, the virtual Birkie, Kortelopet or Prince Haakon races are a good choice.

### How long will the virtual race distances be?

- Slumberland American Birkebeiner – 43k (Skate & Classic)
- Kortelopet – 26K (Skate & Classic)
- Prince Haakon – 14K (Skate & Classic)

### How do I register for the virtual race option?

- Skiers select the virtual event option during the registration process.

### If I am registered for the in-person race, can I switch to the virtual race?

- Yes, skiers registered for the in-person race may switch to the virtual Birkie, Korte, or Prince Haakon by [clicking here](#).
- Once you switch to the virtual option you may not switch back to the in-person option.

### If I am registered for the virtual race, can I switch to the in-person race?

- No, if a skier is registered to ski the virtual option, they are unable to switch to the in-person race.

### Will I get my hat and bib if I ski the virtual option?

- Virtual participants registered by January 22, 2021 will have their bib, participant hat, ski ties, and finish medal or pin mailed to them before the event.
- If you switch to the virtual option by January 22, you will receive your bib, participant hat, ski ties, and finish medal or pin in the mail before your event.
- If you switch to virtual after January 22, we cannot guarantee you will receive your bib, hat, finish medal or pin before your event.

### What are the dates and requirements for completing the virtual race option?

- Participants must complete their event on skis or roller-skis between Wednesday, February 24 and Sunday, February 28.
- Participants must complete their race within the allowed time and may ski or roller-ski from wherever they are.
- Participants must track their race using a GPS based app or have a reliable eyewitness verify their results in writing.
- Skiers will submit their results to receive credit for the race. Additional details are forthcoming.



**Can I ski the virtual Birkie, Korte, or Prince Haakon earlier than February 24 through February 28?**

- The virtual race must be completed during February 24 and 28<sup>th</sup> and during the time limit allowed for completion of each individual race.

**Where can I ski my virtual event?**

- You may ski or roller-ski your event from wherever you are.
- The Birkie is working with a variety of virtual venue partners across the U.S. to provide a more enhanced virtual experience. Virtual partners will provide groomed trails during the virtual event dates (conditions permitting), and may offer other amenities including Birkie signage, a marked course, timing, and more. A list of virtual venue partners will be available in the next few weeks.

**Will the Virtual race count toward my completed Birkie, Korte or Prince Haakon?**

- Yes, if a skier completes their race within the race dates window, February 24-28, within the allotted time, and submits their race information, their race will be counted toward their overall race completion record.

**Will my virtual race time be used for wave placement in 2022?**

- Neither the in-person or virtual race times will be considered for wave placement in 2022.

**During Birkie week, can I ski the virtual race on the Birkie Trail south of OO?**

- The OO Trailhead areas will be closed for events during race week.
- Parking at OO will be reserved for medical, staff, and volunteers only. Parking will not be available to skiers.
- We will be focusing our grooming efforts on the Birkie Week racecourse between the American Birkebeiner Trail and the OO Trailhead and cannot guarantee the trails south of OO will be freshly groomed.
- Should you choose to ski the virtual race south of OO during race week we cannot control skier congestion on the trail.
- Should you decide to ski your virtual race south of OO during race week, please park at Fish Hatchery Park, Gravel Pit or Mosquito Brook trailheads.

**Why such a short window for the virtual option?**

- It is important that participants feel a part of the greater Birkie week of events. By skiing/roller-skiing their race while others are doing the same builds a common excitement and energy of being a part of something larger.

**What is the deadline for switching to the Virtual Birkie, Korte, or Prince Haakon?**

- While there is currently no deadline to switch from in-person to the virtual event option, if you switch to the virtual option by January 22, you will receive your bib, participant hat, ski ties, and finish medal or pin in the mail before your event.

**What is the deadline for registering for the virtual events?**

- The deadline for registering for the virtual Birkie, Korte, or Prince Haakon events is January 19, 2021.



**Will the Virtual Birkie race option count as a Worldloppet race?**

- If you complete the Birkie race, you will receive credit for completing a Birkie for ABSF record-keeping purposes. However, a virtual Birkie will not count as a Worldloppet race in 2021. The Worldloppet has introduced their own virtual program for 2021. You may view the program at [www.Worldloppet.com](http://www.Worldloppet.com).

**How many skiers have switched from the in-person event to the virtual race option?**

- Approximately 10% of skiers have switched to the virtual option. However, we anticipate this number increasing as event days draw nearer. Skiers who choose the virtual option by January 22 will receive their bib, hat, ski ties, finish medal or pin, in the mail by their event window.

**Special Medical Note:**

- For health reasons and at the recommendation of the Birkie Medical Team, skiers who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the 90-days preceding their race should consider doing the virtual race.