



2021 Birkie Week Most 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.

What are the key dates I need to be aware of leading up to Birkie event week?

- December 29, 2020 – American Birkebeiner, Kortelopet & Prince Haakon In-Person [Race Registration](#) Closes
- January 18, 2021 – Birkie 2021 Event Update Virtual Meeting and Q&A
- January 19, 2021 – Slumberland American Birkebeiner, Kortelopet & Prince Haakon Virtual Race Registration Closes
- January 19, 2021 – Race and Technique Change Deadline – [Click Here](#) to Make Changes
- January 22, 2021 – Last Day to [Switch from In-Person to Virtual](#) & Receive Your Bib, Hat, Pin & Ski Ties by Race Week
- January 31, 2021 – [Birkie Tour](#) – Test Drive Your Event Course & New Hydration Stations in Advance of February Events

What will Birkie Week 2021 look like?

- The 47th Annual Slumberland American Birkebeiner (Birkie), Kortelopet (Korte) and Prince Haakon races, combined, will be spread out over five-days, February 24-28, 2021, with limited and staged start waves each morning to reduce congestion and close-contact in the start, on-trail, and in finish areas.

How will you provide a safe experience for skiers?

- In order to provide a safe event experience, the ABSF has removed all indoor spaces, all tents, and there will be no busing. We have limited touch points, established on-site safety protocols and practices, as well as reduced congestion at the start, finish, and on-course.

What is the plan for other Birkie Week events?

- [Click here](#) for the Birkie Week Schedule of Events.

How can I best prepare for my race experience?

- We encourage you to begin training for your February race with self-sufficiency in mind. Skiers will have to carry more of their own energy needs on race day. As you are training, determine what your personal needs will be on race day and be prepared to meet them.
- We're changing the format of the 2021 Birkie Tour (January 31, 2021) to closely resemble the racecourses and aid stations that Birkie, Korte, and Prince Haakon skiers will experience in February. The Birkie Tour will be a good dry run for skiers wanting to test their race day strategy in a safe manner. Learn more about the Birkie Tour [here](#).

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.
- Once you switch to the virtual option you may not switch back to the in-person race.

Will I need to wear a mask when skiing?

- Everyone will be required to wear masks in the start/finish and all common areas.
- As of today, once on the trail, skiers may remove their masks. It is possible that CDC guidelines and public health mandates may change and masks may be required on course.
- If skiers are unable to comfortably socially distance at any aid station, we ask that they wear their masks.
- All skiers are asked to have a mask on their person in case of emergencies.

How will 2021 race times impact wave placements in 2022:

- Race times from 2021 will not be used in calculating a skier's wave placement in 2022.

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.

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 are you handling bib pick-up for in-person skiers?

- In-person participants will have two bib pick-up options
 - Drive-up bib pick-up during Birkie Week at Birkie Ridge (Details TBD)
 - Mail Option – For a nominal \$6 mailing fee, you can choose to avoid the lines and have your bib packet mailed to you (must choose this option by January 22). Bib packets will be mailed in early February and to US addresses only. [Click here](#) to have your bib packet mailed to you.
- Race morning bib pick-up details at TBD.

How and when will I receive my Birkie gear bag?

- In-person participants will have two Birkie gear bag pick-up options
 - Drive-up bib pick-up during Birkie Week at Birkie Ridge (Details TBD)
 - Mail Option – For a nominal \$11 mailing fee, you can choose to avoid the lines and have your Birkie gear bag mailed to you.
 - You may request to have your Birkie gear bag mailed to you any time before March 31 (US addresses only). [Click here](#) to have your Birkie gear bag mailed to you.
 - Birkie gear bags cannot be left in the start/finish area in 2021!

Will there be an Expo in 2021?

- We have exciting Birkie Expo news that will be announced in the coming days!

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.



If Covid-19 continues to rise, will you change Birkie events?

- We monitor COVID-19 numbers on a daily basis and are in close contact with medical and public health officials. We understand that numbers are rising and are uncertain what COVID-19 status might look like in February. We will only host the in-person events if we are confident that we can do it safely. We continue to work very closely with public health officials in both Bayfield and Sawyer counties and will comply with all public health guidelines and mandates in place leading up to and during Birkie week.