



## 2021 Birkie Event Overview and Safety Protocols

- **In-Person Events – February 24 – 28, 2021**
  - Slumberland American Birkebeiner, Kortelopet and Prince Haakon skiers will ski a looped course that starts and finishes at the American Birkebeiner Trailhead.
  - Slumberland American Birkebeiner, Kortelopet and Prince Haakon skiers will share the same course and same race days with waves interspersed throughout the 4-hour start window each day.
  - Kortelopet and Prince Haakon skiers will have cut-off points to accommodate their shorter race distances.
  - Our in-person event is at less than 50% capacity of a normal year and the total number is spread over five days.
    - Wednesday, Feb. 24: SKATE
    - Thursday, Feb. 25: SKATE
    - Friday, Feb. 26: CLASSIC
    - Saturday, Feb. 27: SKATE – 2021 Birkie Champions crowned
    - Sunday, Feb. 28: CLASSIC - 2021 Birkie Champions crowned
  - The ABSF projects fewer than 5000 in-person skiers, in total, will participate over the five days of Birkie week.
  - Skiers are encouraged to switch to the virtual option (more are switching to virtual each day – 38% as of 2/15/21).
  - If possible, skiers are encouraged to make their event a day trip (driving from wherever they live).
  - Skiers are asked to be as self-sufficient as possible when they arrive in the area (bringing their own food etc.).
  - Skiers are asked to stay home if they've had COVID-19 in past 90 days.
  - Skiers are asked to take a COVID-19 test before arriving at the venue.
  - All skiers must submit a COVID eScreening prior to coming to the Birkie events.
  - Skiers are asked to use the same precautions in our communities as they do in their home communities and as they are required to at the event, including masks and physical distancing.
  - Skiers are asked to self-quarantine for 10-days before they travel to the area.

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- **In-Person Event Safety Protocols:**

- Over 5000 bib packets have been mailed to skiers (both virtual and in-person skiers), thereby eliminating personal contact and touchpoints. All remaining in-person event bibs will be distributed through drive-up bib pick-up during Birkie week
- The 2021 Birkie Expo is completely virtual and online.
- There is no busing, shuttling, or common transportation at this year's event, all skiers must drive to or be dropped off at the start area.
- Skier's personal vehicles will act as their warm spaces as the ABSF has eliminated all indoor and gathering spaces from the event venue.
- Masks are required by all in the start/finish/aid-stations areas.
- Physically distanced start waves (6' apart) are spaced over 15 minutes (vs 5 minutes in a normal year) and have been statistically modeled to minimize congestion and passing on course.
- Skiers must be self-reliant and carry their own energy & hydration vessel/drink belt/water bladder.
- Free-flowing and touchless hydration stations will be offered at aid stations along the racecourse.
- There are limited volunteers throughout the venue (including aid stations).
- No spectators are allowed at the start, finish, or anywhere on-course
- The ABSF is utilizing a temporary FM radio station to call skiers up from their vehicles when it is time for their respective waves to start, thereby eliminating skiers gathering as they await their start times.
- There are no skier drop bags in 2021 to avoid touchpoints.
- Hand sanitizer, masks, and wipes will be readily available throughout the venue.
- Staff, volunteers, and event personnel will be COVID-19 tested before events.
- Staff and volunteers will wear masks and are encouraged to wear a second mask layer for safety.
- Age-class and wave winner awards have been eliminated for 2021.
- All post-race gathering opportunities have been eliminated. Grab-n-go recovery hydration/energy is available to skiers to enjoy in their vehicles.
- After the races, skiers will head immediately to their vehicles and depart the grounds
- The Birkie Store is available online only and will offer event week curbside pick-up at the Hayward, WI store location.
- The ABSF will share the Sawyer County Record's compiled list of restaurants that provide delivery, take-out and/or curbside pick-up offerings with all visiting skiers.

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- **Slumberland American Birkebeiner, Kortelopet & Prince Haakon Virtual Event Option**
  - <https://www.birkie.com/ski/events/virtual-events/>
  - Virtual participation window: February 20-28, 2021
  - Skiers can choose to participate from wherever they live.
  - We have provided Birkie equivalent distances in no-snow options such as: roller-skiing, running, cycling, swimming, rowing. All must be completed and recorded within the same time guidelines as a normal Birkie, Korte, or Prince Haakon participant.
  - The ABSF has partnered with over 42 venues across the US as Virtual Birkie Venues. From MN to WI, CO, MI, NM, WA, NY, VT and more, venues will provide a variety of amenities, by location, and could include trail grooming, racecourse signage, aid stations, and timing.
  - Results will be reported on Birkie.com or through the new Birkie app.

**Questions? Please contact [media@birkie.com](mailto:media@birkie.com). Thank you!**