



2021 Birkie Week Virtual Race FAQs – 2/4/21

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. Thank you for your understanding and consideration during these unusual times.

How does the virtual race option work?

- Must complete your distance in one continuous ski.
- Technique distinction is not necessary. Skate or classic is acceptable regardless of registration.
- Must finish your time within the time limits:
 - American Birkebeiner, 10 hours
 - Kortelopet, 7 hours
 - Prince Haakon, 4 hours
- Must submit your finish time and distance through the requested channels to receive credit. Submission information will be available before February 20th
- Wear your bib if you get it in time, but most importantly - Ski!

Who can ski the virtual race option?

- Anyone can choose to ski the virtual race option.
- Skiers with underlying health conditions, skiers who aren't able to travel to Hayward/Cable, skiers looking for a more physically distanced event, skiers worried about finishing their event with time limitations on-course, skiers who need more flexibility in their schedule, 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

Are there any perks as a result of switching to the virtual race?

- If you switch to virtual you will receive a 15% off discount coupon for the Birkie Store, as well as free shipping valid for the month of February.

How long will the virtual race distances be?

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

There is no snow where I live but I want to participate in the Birkie 2021 events, is there an option for me?

- Yes! This year only, participants may choose to roller-ski, run, cycle, Skierg, swim or row their way to their Birkie finish line! Complete distance equivalencies and details [here](#).

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?

- If you switch to the virtual event option you will receive your bib, hat, ski stickers, finish medal or pin in the mail. Depending on when you make the switch you may not receive your packet by your virtual race day.

Can I ski the virtual Birkie, Korte, or Prince Haakon earlier than February 20 through February 28?

- The virtual race must be completed between February 20 and 28 and during the time limit allowed for completion of each individual race.
 - American Birkebeiner, 10 hours
 - Kortelopet, 7 hours
 - Prince Haakon, 4 hours

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

- Participants must complete their event on skis, roller-skis, or by running, walking, cycling, SkiErg, swimming, or rowing (see [Virtual Event Page](#) for details and distances) between Saturday, February 20 and Sunday, February 28.
- Participants must complete their race within the allowed time and may participate from wherever they are.
- Track your ski on your watch, phone, Garmin Connect, Strava, etc. If unavailable, make sure someone can verify your accomplishment.
- Technique distinction is not necessary. Skate or classic is acceptable regardless of registration.
- Must finish your time within the time limits:
 - American Birkebeiner, 10 hours
 - Kortelopet, 7 hours
 - Prince Haakon, 4 hours
- Skiers must submit their results to receive credit for the race.

Where can I ski my virtual event?

- You may participate from wherever you are!
- The ABSF is working with over 30 Birkie Virtual Event Partners, across the U.S.A., who are providing a variety of amenities for virtual Birkie, Korte, and Prince Haakon skiers.
- Amenities vary by location and may include grooming, on-course signage, virtual course designation, timing and aid station. Click here for a complete list of [Birkie Virtual Venue Partners](#).
- Virtual Birkie race participants will need to follow all rules of selected venue, including paying local trail fees, if required.

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 20-28, 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?

- No. Neither the in-person or virtual race times will be considered for wave placement in 2022.



Can I ski my virtual race on the Birkie Trail?

- The entire Birkie Trail will be open for skiers on Saturday, February 20, and Sunday, February 21.
- The Birkie Trail, south of the Highway OO Trailhead, will be open the remainder of the week, but grooming is not guaranteed.
- The American Birkebeiner, Kortelopet, and Prince Haakon racecourses will be closed to all skiers (including virtual) beginning on Monday, February 22, through Sunday, February 28, for course preparation and in-person races.
- Parking at OO is reserved for Barnebirkie participants, Jr. Birkie participants, Birkie Medical Team, volunteers, and staff. **Please park at alternate parking areas Feb 24-28, including Fish Hatchery and Mosquito Brook Trailheads.**
- The OO Trailhead areas will be closed for events during race week.
- Should you choose to ski the virtual race south of OO during race week we cannot control skier congestion on the trail.

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

- You may choose to switch from the in-person to virtual race option until February 27.
- If you switch to the virtual option you will receive your bib, participant hat, and finish medal or pin in the mail. It is possible that you will not receive your bib packet before your virtual race day.

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.

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

- As of this writing over 32% of skiers have switched to the virtual option.
- We anticipate that this number will continue to climb as event days draw nearer.

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 Birkie Week are encouraged to stay home.