

2021 Birkie Week Most Frequently Asked Questions – 2/3/21

This is a unique year and we hope to be back to normal for Birkie 2022! We understand that Birkie 2021 plans 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.

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 need to carry 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.
- Skiers will need to carry their own hydration vessel to utilize the touchless water and NUUN hydration stations at the aid stations. There will not be cups available on course on race day.

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

- Skiers may switch to the virtual option until Saturday, February 27 (the day before the final in-person race day). If you choose the virtual option, your bib, participant hat, and finish medal or pin will be mailed directly to you.
- 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.
- There will also be a skier drop-off area available. Your driver may choose to wait in their vehicle or come back later to pick you up. We suggest your driver download the Birkie app from the app store where they can sign up for text alerts notifying them of where you are on course and your estimated finish time.
- There are no spectators allowed in the start, finish, or anywhere on course.

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; however, skiers will need to carry their own hydration vessel (water bottle, etc.).

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

- Drive-up bib pick-up will be held at Birkie Ridge during Birkie Week (Details TBD)
- Race morning bib pick-up (Details TBD.)

How, when, and where will I get my Birkie gear bag?

- In-person participants will have two Birkie gear bag pick-up options:
 - Skier may pick up their gear bags at drive-up bib pick-up during Birkie week (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. Requests may be made until March 31 (US addresses only). [Click Here](#) to have your Birkie gear bag mailed to you.
 - There is no bag drop at Birkie 2021 – gear bags cannot be left in the start/finish area!

Will there be an Expo in 2021?

- Yes, the Birkie Virtual Expo is open! [Click here to visit!](#)
- If you're a Birkie 2021 participant you're already registered! Anyone is welcome to attend.
- Over 50 booths, same great vendors, great deals, plenty of time to shop before Birkie Week, on-demand entertainment in the auditorium, and more!
- Visit 21 booths and you're entered for a chance to win one of 21 Birkie entries to any ski, run, or bike event.

Are fluoro waxed banned at Birkie 2021?

- The American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation has joined U.S. Ski and Snowboard in banning the use of fluorinated ski wax in competition beginning the 2020-2021 season. We encourage all competitors to abide by this policy for all events on the Birkie Trail and at the American Birkebeiner Trailhead. All athletes are subject to random ski testing at events and penalties will apply to any US Ski and Snowboard licensed or citizen skier that is found to be non-compliant.

How should I clean the fluor wax from my skis?

- FIS recommended methods for cleaning ski bases can be found [here](#).

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 will only host the in-person events if we are confident that we can do it safely. We continue to work very closely with medical and health professionals. The ABSF will comply with all guidelines and mandates in place leading up to and during Birkie week.