



2021 Birkie Week Race Day 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.

Please check the race event page for specific event details:

- Slumberland American Birkebeiner – [Click Here](#)
- Kortelopet – [Click Here](#)
- Prince Haakon – [Click Here](#)

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.

Can a driver drop off a racing skier? If so, do they have to stay in the car, or can they watch the race start?

- Yes, a driver can drop a skier off at the start. The driver may choose to wait in the car or come back to pick up their skier later. Spectators are not allowed to wait in the start, on-course, or in the finish areas.
- Drivers and skiers should discuss approximately how much time it will take the skier to complete his/her event. This will allow the drive time to plan for their time while the participant is skiing. There are many curbside restaurants, cafes, coffee shops and more in the Cable, Seeley, and Hayward areas. With fewer skier per day, it will convenient to drop-off and pick-up skiers.
- Before your event we encourage both you, and/or your driver, to download the Birkie App. Your driver will be able to sign-up for text alerts that notify him/her of your on-course progress and estimated finish time. [Click here for Birkie App info.](#)
- Additional drop-off/pick-up arrangement details are forthcoming.

Where will I be able to park?

- There will be ample, conveniently located skier parking available adjoining the American Birkebeiner Trailhead. Parking will be walkable from the start and finish areas.

How long will it take me to walk to the start area or to my car after the race?

- The skier parking area is an estimated :10-minute walk from either the start or finish.

What access roads will we be using to get to the start of the race?

- The race start is located at the [American Birkebeiner Trailhead](#). Access to the start venue and parking will be available **only from Telemark Road**.
- After the race, skiers will exit the parking lot via McNaught Road.



When should I arrive in the parking area and how will I know when to head to the start?

- All skiers will receive a link to a digital Race Guide prior to race week with detailed instructions for race day.
- It is essential that we limit the number of participants in the start area at any given time. So, upon arrival in the parking area, skiers will remain in their warm cars and will listen to race information on a dedicated Birkie FM radio station. Watch the [Birkie Trail Run safety video](#) for an example of this process.
- Skiers will receive specific instructions on when to leave their cars, by wave, for the race start area.

Will there be a baggage drop in 2021 for the Birkie or Korte races?

- No, there will not be a baggage drop in 2021. Skiers will need to use their personal vehicles for storage of their personal belongings.
- Bags should not be left at the start/finish areas; unattended bags may be confiscated.

Will there be a tent or warm space to wait until my race starts?

- For safety purposes, all tents, indoor and gathering spaces have been removed from the race start and finish areas.
- Skiers will use their personal vehicles to stay warm pre-race and to warm up post-race.
- There is no bag drop and your walk to the start will be approximately :10 minutes.

Will there be a warm-up track available?

- There will not be a warm-up track available on race day.

Will there be aid stations on the course and where will they be located? Click [Here](#) for Details.

- Slumberland American Birkebeiner
 - Fire Tower Aid Station – 12K
 - OO Aid Station – 20.5K
 - Boedecker Aid Station – 26K
 - Timber Trail Aid Station – 36K
- Kortelopet
 - Fire Tower Aid Station – 12K
 - Timber Trail Aid Station – 19K
- Prince Haakon
 - Timber Trail Aid Station – 7K

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.
- Skiers will also need to carry their own hydration vessel/drink belt/water bottle to use at the touchless hydration stations at each aid station.

Can I have someone meet me along the trail with food or drink?

- Spectators are not allowed at the start, on-course, or finish areas of the race. We ask that skiers be prepared and more self-reliant by carrying their own energy/gels/blocks/bars.
- While some skiers may choose to carry their own liquids, it is only necessary for skiers to carry their own hydration vessel/water bottle/drink belt. Touchless hydration stations offering NUUN and water will be available at on-course aid stations.



Will there be aid station and race cut-off times?

- Yes, as in a traditional Birkie, Korte, and Prince Haakon event, there will be on-course cut-off times. [Click here for details.](#)

Will the racecourse be freshly groomed for each technique on each race day?

- The Birkie grooming crew will groom the racecourses, by technique, in advance of each race day.

Since it is only classic skiers on Friday and Sunday of Birkie week, how many classic tracks will be set?

- It depends on snow conditions and grooming capabilities. As always, the Birkie grooming crew will do their very best to provide an amazing racecourse.

Will there be any classic tracks on the downhills during the freestyle/skate race?

- We are considering this; however, we also need to maximize space on the trail for the greatest passing ability. We'll announce this closer to race day.

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.
- FIS recommended methods for cleaning ski bases can be found [here](#).
- Testing will occur with assistance from US Ski & Snowboard.

How will you make sure that fast final wave skiers will not overtake other skiers?

- Unfortunately, we are unable to determine the speed and pace of a new Birkie or Korte skier.
- Fortunately, the Birkie trail is wide and there will be ample space for passing and social distancing.

Will there be age class awards in 2021?

- No, we have eliminated age class and wave winner awards in 2021.
- Knowing there will be reduced medical staff on-course, we want skiers to ski safely and not push themselves needlessly.
- Additionally, there is no way to fairly determine winners when course conditions can vary significantly over the 5-days of Birkie events. Age class and wave winner awards will be back in 2022!