

Wave Starts – 55 & 31 km Classical Events

Change for 2017 Birkie

In previous years, the 55 km race started at 9 a.m. and the 31 km race followed at 9:30 a.m. Since they followed more or less the same route for a considerable distance before splitting – it resulted in some congestion as the faster 31 km skiers caught up to slower 55 km skiers.

To alleviate this issue, and because of a minor course change to the 55 km to accommodate the new skate race, for 2017 we are combining the 31 and 55 classical racers and sending you off in 3 waves – 9 am, 9:15 and 9:30. The fastest 1/3 of the 31 km racers and the fastest 1/3 of the 55 km racers will both head off at 9 a.m. (Wave 1), the middle 1/3 at 9:15 (Wave 2) and the slowest (most methodical) at 9:30 (Wave 3).

Timing

All skiers will have an ankle timing chip and your time will be automatically started only as you cross the start line. There is no advantage to starting in a faster or slower wave.

Picking a Wave

No need to get too complicated – we basically want the 1/3 fastest skiers in the first wave and the 1/3 slowest in the third wave and everyone else in between. If you don't get it exactly right, it's not the end of the world, but you'll have the most enjoyable ski (and others will as well) if you are in the appropriate wave.

One way to pick an appropriate wave is to look at your past results in the Birkie (look under [results](#)) and see where you have finished for either the 31 km or 55 km; top, middle or bottom 1/3 in the overall race. If you haven't done a Birkie yet you can measure yourself against your peers or ask yourself; are you a pretty good, average, or a slower (methodical) skier?

Seeding within a Wave

As you line up in your appropriate wave we ask that you self seed within the wave with faster skiers toward the front. We'll have some hour markers (the amount of time you think it will take you to ski your distance) down the side of the start lanes to assist. Again, not an exact science but give it a whirl.

Cut off Times

The cut off times at feed stations along the route are adjusted to allow for the methodical 55 km skiers starting up to half an hour later than usual.

Please Be there on Time

A line will be pulled across the start 5 minutes after the start cannon goes off and the wave is away. If you are late, just wait and start with the next wave. ***PLEASE NOTE*** Classical skiers will not be allowed to start after 9:40 a.m. as we will have machinery scrubbing out tracks behind the third wave in preparation for the upcoming skate race. NO EXCEPTIONSsafety issue!