

Birkie 2021 Registration guidelines

Start/Finish Sites & Wave Starts – 55 & 31 km Classical Events

The **31 km 2021 Birkie event** will start and finish at the Waskahegan Staging Area and will use a one-way counter-clockwise loop of trails between Waskahegan Staging Area and the Elk Push Shelter. **The 55 km events will** share this loop with the 31 km but will start from the Islet Lake Staging Area and accumulate additional distance skiing around the Islet Lake Trails. (see Birkie website for details)

Event start times: The start times of the 31 km and 55 km events will be offset by 30 minutes to ensure spacing of participants along the trails during the longer events, and also to minimize the amount of overtaking needed during the events. Skiers will also be starting within one of three pre-designated waves within each event, to achieve the same outcomes, viz.:

31 km from Waskehegan: Wave 1 from 08:30, Wave 2 from 08:50 and Wave 3 from 09:10

55 km from Islet Lake: Wave 1 from 09:00, Wave 2 from 09:15 and Wave 3 from 09:30

Picking a Wave for the longer events: No need to get too complicated but please try to be realistic: For all 55 and 31 km events:

Wave 1 will be skiing at between 3 and 5 mins/km

Wave 2 will be skiing at between 5 and 6 mins/km

Wave 3 will be for more recreational skiers needing between 6 and 8 min/km

Selecting an appropriate start wave based on your expected skiing speed is a critical part our on-course management of 31 and 55 km skiers in a Covid-19 environment.

Arrival and Timing arrangements:

- All skiers will arrive at the two staging areas based on their pre-selected Start Wave.
- Having been confirmed as being in the correct wave cohort, and as having completed the health pre-screening questionnaire, skiers will receive their bib-specific and pre-activated ankle timing chip.
- After parking as directed, skiers will move through the pre-start zone and begin skiing as quickly as possible. Your time will be automatically started only as you cross the start line
- 55 km packs will be weighed in the pre-start zone.

Seeding within a Wave: To help manage skiers through the starting zones without delay, seeding within waves is not possible. **Once on the trails, we ask skiers to use both tracks and to be patient when overtaking skiers ahead of them over the first few kms. The primary goal is for us all to finish safely in 2021!**

Cut off Times at feed stations along the route allow later starting skiers to ski at 8 mins/km and sweeps will only suggest that participants consider abandoning the trail in extreme circumstances.

Timely arrival at your start sites, and minimal delays in proceeding through the Start and Finish areas, will make major contributions to completing a safe Birkie 2021. Please help our volunteers guide you through a safe Covid-Birkie experience.

Birkie 2021 Registration guidelines

Start/Finish Site & Wave Starts – 13 km Events

The 13 km events will start and finish from the Waskahegan Staging Area in the morning and afternoon of Birkie Monday, with pre-designated site arrival and start times, as for the longer events.

Picking the right 13 km event (morning or afternoon), and the right start wave, will again help us control movements through the start/finish areas and optimal spacing on the course during the event.

Morning 13 km event: To move skiers in and out of the Waskahegan Staging Area during the morning, **only skiers expecting to finish in less than 1 hour and 40 mins (< 8 mins/km) should register for the morning 13 km event.** Waves selected for the morning 13 km event should be based on expected finishing times (Wave 1 – finishing in < 1 hr 15 min; Wave 2 finishing between 1 hr 15 min and 1 hr 30 min; Wave 3 finishing between 1 hr 30 and 1 hr 40 min). **Waves start times will be 09:00, 09:20 and 09:40 h in the morning.**

Afternoon 13 km event: More recreational skiers should register for the afternoon event and select waves according to their expected finishing times. Wave 1 finishing in < 1 hr 40 min; Wave 2 finishing between 1 hr 40 min and 2 hr; Wave 3 needing more than 2 hr to finish. **Waves start times will be 13:00, 13:20 and 13:40 h in the afternoon.**

Arrival and Timing arrangements:

- All skiers will arrive at the two staging areas based on their pre-selected Start Wave.
- Having been confirmed as being in the correct wave cohort, and as having completed the health pre-screening questionnaire, skiers will receive their bib-specific and pre-activated ankle timing chip.
- After parking as directed, skiers will move through the pre-start zone and begin skiing as quickly as possible. Your time will be automatically started only as you cross the start line
- 55 km packs will be weighed in the pre-start zone.

Seeding within a Wave: To help manage skiers through the starting zones without delay, seeding within waves is not possible. **Once on the trails, we ask skiers to use both tracks and to be patient when overtaking skiers ahead of them over the first few kms. The primary goal is for us all to finish safely in 2021!**

Cut off Times at feed stations along the route allow later starting skiers to ski at 8 mins/km and sweeps will only suggest that participants consider abandoning the trail in extreme circumstances.

Timely arrival at your start sites, and minimal delays in proceeding through the Start and Finish areas, will make major contributions to completing a safe Birkie 2021. Please help our volunteers guide you through a safe Covid-Birkie experience.