

Bill Gairdner National Championships 2025 FAQ

Why is this event named for Bill Gairdner, who is he and what did he do?

Bill Gairdner is a Canadian who founded the World Masters Association and initiated the Masters World Cup event that has brought masters skiers together from across the world in an annual celebration of nordic skiing since 1981. This is an outstanding achievement and tens of thousands of mature athletes have been able to benefit from the fitness, health and wellness benefits of competition for life. Bill's founding principles of safe, fun and fair are the guiding ethos for masters skiing.

I am trying to get a few friends to join me in signing up for the Bill Gairdner National Championships. We are all about 70 years old, probably intermediate level skiers, who ski twice weekly. My friends have concerns about the level of competition (i.e. too fast?), temperature (i.e. too cold?) and difficulty (i.e. too hard?).

The Bill Gairdner National Championships is founded on the ethic of safe, fun and fair. We have contingency plans for adverse weather and we will not allow races to proceed in unsafe conditions. However, if cold weather prevents us from starting races according to the schedule we will do everything we can to ensure that you don't go home disappointed.

One defining characteristic of masters competition is category starts. This means that you will be racing against skiers of your own age group and the start lists are designed to reduce the likelihood of faster (i.e., younger) skiers interfering with slower (i.e. younger) skiers or vice versa. This is a great event to do with your friends in a friendly rivalry.

Whitehorse Nordic Centre is built on the side of the hill, which means that the courses all require some climbing. However, our Chief of Course has really done a great job in keeping the courses as easy as possible given the terrain that we have to work with.

We welcome skiers of all abilities. Participation in a masters competition is primarily about goal setting for personal improvement. It is the fulfilment of a fitness goal that brings a smile to the face of every finisher regardless of whether they are first or last.

Why do I need to be a member of the Canadian Masters Association to register for the Bill Gairdner National Championships?

The Bill Gairdner National Championships is the annual championship race for the Canadian Masters Association. Your membership supports the association in promoting competition for life for masters skiers across Canada.

Why do I need to buy a Nordiq Canada Tier 3 racing license to register for each of the Bill Gairdner National Championship races when I already have an annual Nordiq Canada racing license for the purpose of getting a ranking on the Masters Points List?

The tier 3 license category fulfills two objectives: Manage risk - to comply with Nordiq Canada's insurance, events must be sanctioned and follow minimum safety requirements, all participants must sign the Informed Consent and Assumption of Risk Agreement, and there must be a record of the event and participants. And to fairly distribute costs, including administration, officials' development, and insurance

The license is \$3/participant/race day. Every participant needs a license, regardless of age, whether they have a club membership, or whether they have a Nordiq Canada race license.

The Tier 3 event license closes a gap that has existed for a long time. Tier 3 events go beyond the activities that are covered by the annual Nordiq Canada membership fee. Events that are only for club members are still covered by your annual membership. There is no change to the benefits of a Nordiq Canada Race License. The Nordiq Canada Race License still covers racers for Tier 2 events. By charging a very low fee to all participants, rather than a larger fee to only some participants, Nordiq Canada keeps the administration simple for race secretaries.

What are the advantages of buying an annual Nordiq Canada racing license to get a ranking on the Masters Points List?

Just as World Cup racers are ranked according to their race performance, masters skiers in Canada can now be objectively ranked nationally. We would prefer that all skiers meet for competition in the Bill Gairdner National Championship each year but that is unlikely to ever happen. The Masters Points List (MPL) now allows skiers who never leave their own region to see how they compare to others in their own category. This list will be used to seed racers in Nordiq Canada sanctioned races.

Is there a reason that the first two races are in the evening?

- 1. Our poster shows racing under the northern lights and although we can't promise that the aurora will be visible during the races, we can be sure that they will not be visible during the day. This makes for a uniquely northern experience.*
- 2. We expect a lot of visitors from out of the territory. There are many exciting things to see and do during the day and we want to ensure that everyone has time to enjoy their experience here.*
- 3. For our local skiers and volunteers it is a lot easier to leave work an hour early than it is to find 2 or 3 hours in the middle of the day.*
- 4. Whitehorse Nordic Centre is less than a 10 minute drive from the major residential subdivisions housing about half the population of Whitehorse, which is quite unique in Canada. As a result WNC is busy 7 days a week with weekday evenings a very popular time of day. This is part of our skiing culture and if you have not skied at night before, you will be surprised at how magical it can be.*

Will I need a headlamp for the evening races?

No, the evening races are on our lit trails.