

Seeding Racers

Our goal is to make the Tour of Anchorage safe and satisfying for as many skiers as possible.

Skiers will be seeded in groups (fastest to slowest) using the “pace” system implemented for the 2014 Tour. The freestyle and classic ranking lists will be posted. Pace times from recent Anchorage Cup Pia’s and Sven’s will also be included in the ranking. As before, time and distance data from non-Anchorage races (25km or longer) may be submitted.

- All race events start in waves of 50 skiers with faster skiers seeded in the earlier waves. Ranks 1-50 will be in the first wave, 51-100 in the second wave, etc.
- Each skier’s best previous pace times (minutes and seconds per kilometer) in a distance race >24 km (although the shortened 2014 TOA races are included) are ranked among the skiers registered for each event (50km, 40km, 25km free, 25km classic).
- Each wave will start at 2 minute intervals. Winners do not have to be in the first wave. If you start back one wave and finish 1 minute 55 seconds behind someone in the preceding wave, you have the faster race time.
- Our goal for wave assignments and start times is to minimize the number of skiers passing other skiers. “Slower” skiers will not start in front of proven “faster” skier based on each skier’s best pace in a long distance race over the last 3 years (Pia’s, Sven’s, and TOA). This should improve overall race speed and safety by eliminating much of the passing and bottlenecks on narrow trails. However, no system will be perfect. Certainly, skiers vary their pace throughout the race, fast skiers have slow days, and slow or unranked skiers may have fast races.
- PACE is calculated as total time / total distance and expressed in units of minutes and seconds (m:ss.00) per km. We consider that pace is adequately determined whether based on a 25km, 30km, 40km, or 50 km race. No adjustment is made for distance, age, or sex. No adjustment is made for course difficulty, number of skiers, temperature, or snow conditions. Admittedly, such a seeding system is a crude approximation.
- Separate ranking lists are kept for CLASSIC and FREE technique. There is no carryover in rank from one technique to the other.
- All waves will have mixed sexes. Wave assignment is strictly based on pace, except for wave #2 for the 50km race, which is strictly an elite women’s wave.

- Within each wave, start positions are self-determined by racers as they line up for the start. The tour does NOT have “chevron” starts with assigned positions. Being a bit courteous and conservative is a wise strategy to avoid a pile-up and broken equipment.
- Skiers who wish to ski with another person(s) may indicate who on the registration entry form. They will be seeded in the wave with the slower-paced person.
- All skiers are allowed to submit PACE data from non-Anchorage races by providing the year, race name, race time, and distance. Data will be verified from posted online results. Data from an Anchorage race, or your expected finish time, should not be submitted.
- If no PACE time data is available, wave assignments will be made in order of registration date. Registrations on the Friday and Saturday before the race will have no chance for placement in early waves. Please register online using the same name (first and last) as in all previous races, and register EARLY. For correct seeding, supply correct data at online registration from your best outside race.