2026 Noquemanon Cold Weather Safety, Preparation, and Race Decisions :

Last updated 1/22/26

Please stay up to date on any further event decisions for Saturday on our race website at www.noquemanon.com and to emails used when registering for 2026 events.
Thank you for your continued support of the Noquemanon Ski Marathon

- **FRIDAY: Junior Noque and Adaptive Races (all Friday events) are CANCELLED**
  decision made 1/21/26

The National Weather Service in Marquette has provided a weather forecast for Friday 1/23/26 with high confidence that indicates the temperature at 4:00pm is anticipated to be -8F with a wind chill of -28F (10mph winds with gusts up to 21mph). Our protocol set for the Junior Noque and the Adaptive races on was -4F by race time. Given this information the race committee has canceled all of the Junior Noquemanon races (1K, 3K, 5K) and all of the Adaptive races (600M, 2K) scheduled for Friday January 23rd. They will not be rescheduled.

Friday evening Expo and bib pickup for Saturday events will proceed as scheduled from 5:00pm to 10:00pm at the NMU Superior Dome.

- **SATURDAY: 1 hour delayed start for 50K waves (see race bulletin for complete details)**
  decision made 1/22/26

The National Weather Service in Marquette has provided a weather forecast for Saturday 1/24/26 with high confidence that indicates the temperature at 9:00am at the 50K start line is anticipated to be at our prior established threshold of -13F with a wind chill of -24F (5mph winds) with the ambient temperature to improve to -10F by 10:00am. These later temperatures are within our protocol set for Saturday events. Given this information the race committee has delayed the 50K wave start times by 1 hour. All other Saturday event start times will proceed as originally scheduled. Strict cut-off times will be enforced and are listed in the race bulletin. Please read the information below and read the official race bulletin which is available on the race website homepage for more details (the official bulletin will also be available at the Friday Expo/bib pickup along with a bus schedule that accommodates the 50K wave delays).

This delay will help to provide a safer environment for both competitors and our incredible volunteers. This adjustment allows not only for improved conditions, but, better support throughout the day. Because of the temperatures we have instituted specific cutoff times at each aid station up to Aid Station #6 in Forestville. These cutoffs will be hard stops, and

competitors who arrive after the designated times will not be allowed to continue further on the course.

We strongly encourage every competitor to honestly assess their fitness and anticipated pace. If you have any hesitation about your ability to meet the cutoff times, we ask that you consider switching to a shorter race distance. With the slower snow conditions, a compressed timeline, and colder temperatures, making the cutoffs will be especially challenging—particularly for skiers who have historically been close to these limits in past years.

Please also note that the entire course will close at 4:30 PM, and all competitors must be off the course by that time with no exceptions.

The safety of our racers and our volunteers is our number one priority. These decisions were made carefully and with that responsibility in mind. We truly appreciate your understanding, cooperation, and commitment to making this event safe and successful for everyone involved.

General Cold Weather Safety & Preparation

It will be very cold this year, and taking preventative measures against frostbite and hypothermia will be imperative. Frostbite can occur on exposed skin in 10 minutes in the forecasted temperatures. Please dress appropriately for conditions by using multiple layers, including one or two base layers that wick moisture away from the skin. Use an additional wind-blocking layer over sensitive areas (e.g., wind briefs).

Cover all exposed skin, including:

- Buff for ears below the hat line
- A second buff around the neck that can be pulled up over the mouth
- Face tape to protect exposed skin on the nose and cheeks
- Glasses or a face shield to protect your eyes
- Do not use eye drops of any kind in these conditions as it will freeze and cause eye injury

Wear warm ski gloves and insulated ski socks, making sure ski boots are not overly tight, as restricted circulation increases frostbite risk.

If you carry fluids, use an insulated water bottle. If not, be sure to utilize the aid stations for:

- Water
- Hammer HEED

- Hammer Gels where available
- Food

Taking in fluids and calories on very cold days is extremely important, as your body works harder to stay warm. You may not “feel” thirsty, but dehydration and calorie deficits can occur quickly. Skiers often bonk hard on cold days because thirst and hunger cues are suppressed.

Taking these preventative measures will help ensure a safe and enjoyable ski despite cold temperatures.

Additional Safety Recommendation

It is highly recommended to carry a few old-fashioned hand warmers in your pockets. They are inexpensive, lightweight, and can be invaluable in the event of an equipment malfunction that forces you to stop skiing and begin walking.

Noquemanon On-Course Aid & Safety

Safety on the Noquemanon courses is a collaboration among several local agencies.

- Aid stations approximately every 6–8 km, equipped with:
  - Water and Hammer HEED
  - Hammer Gels at select aid stations and additional food
  - Medically trained personnel
  - Radio communication to the Superior Dome and emergency services including coordinating extraction
  - Bonfires typically available at several aid stations
  - Warm extraction vehicle if needed
- Radio access is available across most of the course; Ham radio operators provide backup in remote or terrain-heavy areas
- Marquette Township Fire Department will be on snowmobiles
- AEDs and oxygen tanks are deployed on course
- Marquette Mountain Ski Patrol will carry emergency blankets and staff the finish line
- Warming available at each start line (Birchview School for 50K, warming buses for 24K, and Forestville trailhead building for 12K)
- Access to heated facility nearby for anyone awaiting extraction at North Basin Dr cut-off
- Access to warming busses at CR510 aid station, and access to warming facility at Forestville Trailhead.

Medical assistance will be provided at the finish line inside the NMU Superior Dome along with food and fluids. If significant medical assistance is needed after returning to the Dome, notify a race official and call 911.

The Superior Dome is located approximately ½ mile from UP Health System – Marquette (ie the hospital).