

Cross-country skiing

Cross-country skiing will be held at a new venue in Whistler Olympic Park that includes 10 kilometers of competition trails in two five-kilometer loops and a 12,000-person stadium area. Viewers will also be able to watch from two areas along the course. Two basic techniques are used: Classic, where skis move parallel to each other through machine-groomed tracks, and freestyle, where skiers propel themselves by pushing off with the edge of their skis.

Men's and women's events

Team sprint (freestyle) Feb. 22

Mass start (classic)

Women's 30 km Feb. 27

Men's 50 km Feb. 28

- Skiers start simultaneously, lined up in an arrow configuration with best-ranked skiers at arrow's point; skiers pass through stadium every 10 to 12 minutes; first skier across line wins
- Competitors in 50 km will climb close to 1.25 miles over course of race

Interval start (freestyle)

Women's 10 km Feb. 15

Men's 15 km Feb. 15

- Competitors start in intervals of 30 or 15 seconds, depending on event

Pursuit (classic/freestyle)

Women's 15 km (7.5-km classic/7.5-km free) Feb. 19

Men's 30 km (15-km classic/15-km free) Feb. 20

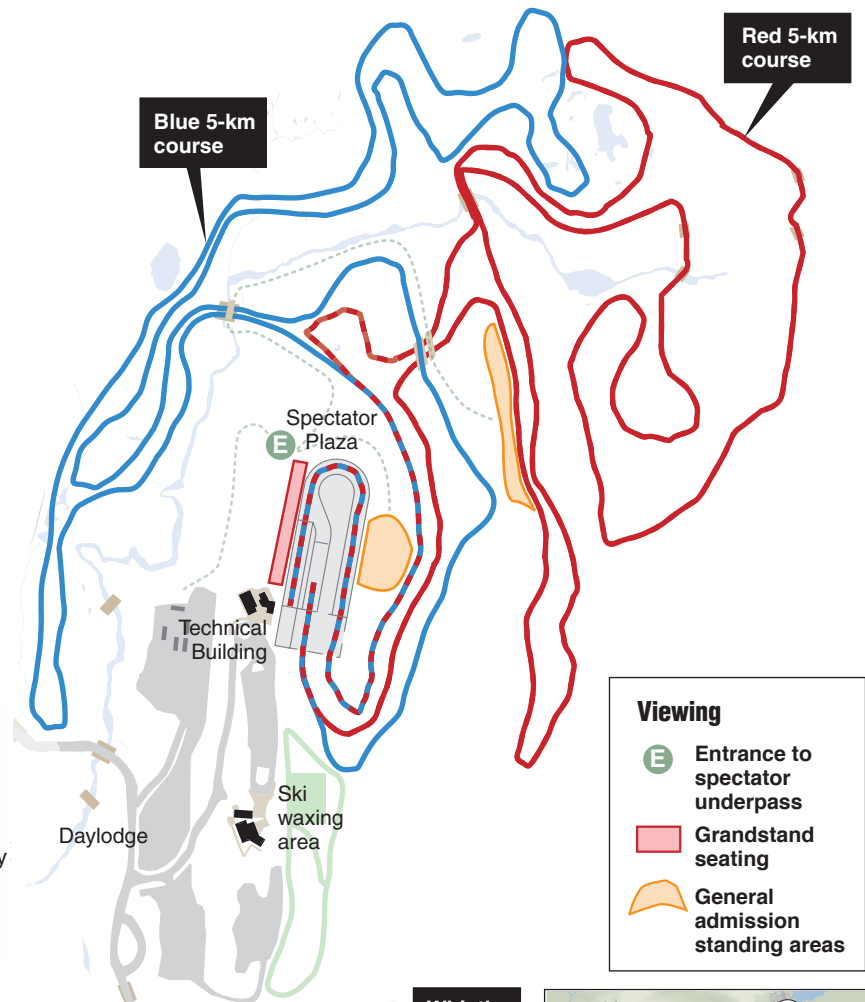
- Skiers start same way as in mass start; first leg is skied using classic technique; at race's halfway mark, skiers enter stadium and change skis, poles as quickly as possible; second leg is skied freestyle.
- Skiers pass through stadium every six to eight minutes; first athlete to cross finish wins

Relay (classic/freestyle)

Women's 20km (four 5-km legs) Feb. 25

Men's 40 km (four 10-km legs) --Feb. 24

- Teams of four skiers use mass start with teams lined up in rows; each teammate skies one of four legs; first two legs use classic technique, last two legs use freestyle
- Relay exchange happens between laps when skier physically touches teammate without interfering or obstructing other team
- Winning team is first to cross finish after completion of fourth leg



Viewing

- E** Entrance to spectator underpass
- Grandstand seating
- General admission standing areas

