WINTER WORLD MASTERS GAMES • FINLAND 2028

Cross-Country · Winter World Masters Games 2028 · Masters World Cup 2028

INVITATION TO COMPETE AND SPORTS INFORMATION

Lahti, 16–23 January 2028 · October 2026

1. Welcome to Lahti

The Winter World Masters Games 2028 bring 14 winter sports to Lahti, Heinola and Levi on 14–23 January 2028. Cross-country skiing in Lahti is scheduled on 16–23 January, in the Lahti Ski stadium and on the legendary trails that have hosted seven FIS Nordic World Ski Championships.

The cross-country races are both WWMG competitions and the Masters World Cup 2028 of the World Masters Cross-Country Ski Association (WMA).

Six individual races, middle, short and long distance in classic and free technique, and a 4 × 5 km relay.

The races are organised by the Lahti Ski Club, the club behind the World Cup in Lahti and the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships 2029.

The podium is personal. Every age class from 30 to 90+ races for its own medals. Nothing stops us.

2. Organisers

Role	Organisation
Event owner	World Masters Sports (WMS)
Organising committee	Salppuri Oy, Lahti
Competition organiser	Lahden Hiihtoseura (Lahti Ski Club)

Rules and sanction	WMA, World Masters Cross-Country Ski Association: Masters World Cup 2028
Contact	nothingstopsus@masters2028.com, subject "Cross-Country"

3. Venue and courses

Venue	Course
Lahti Sports Center, Salpausselkä stadium	Start and finish for every race, in front of the Grand stands
Salpausselkä trails / courses	Blue course: the 5km and 7.5 km lap in the Lahti Ski Stadium. Middle, short and long distance for M01–09 and F01–08, and the relay
Salpausselkä trails / courses	Green course: one climb up from the stadium and one descent back, with extra loops in a flatter area to make the distance. 5, 10 or 15 km. All races for M10–13 and F09–13

- The courses are cut from the World Cup and World Championship trails. The blue course climbs out of the stadium into the Salpausselkä ridge on every lap. The green course has one climb up and one descent back, and makes its distance on loops in a flatter area. They are demanding courses, but skied every winter by skiers of all ages, in school races and in the Finlandia Ski Marathon.
- Classic and free technique use the same tracks. Classic races may have marked zones where diagonal stride is mandatory.
- Changing rooms and the race office are at the Sports Center. Waxing possibilities are available at the Sports Center; the details will be published in the venue guide before Games at masters2028.com
- Biathlon, ski jumping and Nordic combined share the site. The Games Centre (Masters Hub) is next door.
- Helsinki Airport to Lahti: about 100 km, one hour by train or car.

4. Who can enter

- You are 30 or older on 31 December 2027, born in 1997 or earlier.

- Entry is open. No federation or association membership is required for 2028. We ask for your ski club and your national masters association in the registration for rankings.
- Current members of a national ski team in the 2027–28 season cannot take part.
- You have your own accident, health and liability insurance, including repatriation, valid in Finland for training and competition. The organiser takes out no insurance for participants.
- You compete at your own risk. By starting, you accept the condition of the courses and the safety measures in place.
- You are responsible for your own fitness to compete. No medical certificate is needed; you confirm your health in the registration.
- Masters compete for themselves. There are no national delegations or quotas per race.

- Participants holding Russian or Belarusian citizenship may attend the Winter World Masters Games 2028 only if they also hold citizenship of another country or are permanent residents of a country other than Russia or Belarus, and they participate individually without using or displaying any Russian or Belarusian flags, symbols, names, abbreviations, colour combinations, anthems, or other national identifiers. This decision has been made by the Local Organising Committee and follows the policies of the Finnish Government and Finnish sports organisations. If the political situation changes, LOC is able to re-consider the decision any time.

5. Age classes

Your age on 31 December 2027 sets your age class. Men and women compete in separate classes, in five-year steps:

Class	Age	Class	Age
M01 / F01	30–34	M08 / F08	65–69
M02 / F02	35–39	M09 / F09	70–74
M03 / F03	40–44	M10 / F10	75–79
M04 / F04	45–49	M11 / F11	80–84
M05 / F05	50–54	M12 / F12	85–89

M06 / F06	55–59	M13 / F13	90+
M07 / F07	60–64		

One result list per race. The top three of every class receive the WWMG / Masters World Cup medals.

Relay classes. Men in five-year classes 01 to 10 (75+), women in ten-year classes 01 (30–39), 02 (40–49), 03 (50–59), 04 (60–69) and 05 (70+). The youngest skier sets the team's class.

6. The races (times are estimates)

Race	Day and start	Technique	Course
Middle distance	Monday 17 January, classic 09:00, free 13:00	Classic and free, two races	5 km / 7,5 km (blue, green)
Short distance	Wednesday 19 January, classic 09:00, free 13:00	Classic and free, two races	5 km / 7,5 km (blue, green)
Relay 4 × 5 km	Thursday 20 January, 09:00	Legs 1–2 classic, legs 3–4 free	4 x 2,5 / 5 km blue
Long distance classic	Saturday 22 January, 09:00	Classic	5 / 7,5 km (blue, green)
Long distance free	Sunday 23 January, 09:00	Free	5 / 7,5 km (blue, green)

Distances by class

Race	Men	Women

Middle, classic and free	M01–09: 15 km (blue, 2 × 7.5 km) · M10–13: 10 km (green)	F01–08: 15 km (blue, 2 × 7.5 km) · F09–13: 10 km (green)
Short, classic and free	M01–09: 7.5 km (blue, 1 × 7.5 km) · M10–13: 5 km (green)	F01–08: 7.5 km (blue, 1 × 7.5 km) · F09–13: 5 km (green)
Long, classic and free	M01–06: 30 km (blue, 4 × 7.5 km) · M07–09: 22.5 km (blue, 3 × 7.5 km) · M10–13: 15 km (green)	F01–08: 22.5 km (blue, 3 × 7.5 km) · F09–13: 15 km (green)
Relay	4 × 5 km	4 × 5 km (blue)

Your races. Up to three individual races and one relay per skier. Relay skiers are entered in individual races as well. Choose your races in the registration.

Start. Mass starts in waves. The start order is set in the start lists.

Relay teams. Four skiers, men's and women's teams. Teams from one nation race for the medals. Teams with skiers from several nations are welcome and are ranked as mixed teams. Enter your team at the race office by Tuesday 18 January.

Time limits. The organiser and the jury may set a time limit for the long distances, depending on entries and weather.

Course changes. The organising committee, WMA and WMS may change the courses and distances if necessary.

7. Programme

Day	Cross-country	Also on
Friday 14 January		Opening Ceremony, Lahti · accreditation open at the Games Centre
Sunday 16 January	Official training on the race courses · Team Captains' Meeting	

Monday 17 January	Middle distance: classic 09:00, free 13:00 · medals
Tuesday 18 January	Rest day · courses open · relay entries close · Team Captains' Meeting
Wednesday 19 January	Short distance: classic 09:00, free 13:00 · medals · Team Captains' Meeting
Thursday 20 January	Relay 4 × 5 km 09:00 · medals
Friday 21 January	Rest day · courses open · Team Captains' Meeting
Saturday 22 January	Long distance classic 09:00 · medals
Sunday 23 January	Long distance free 09:00 · medals · Farewell Party

Medals are awarded every race evening at the Masters Hub, Lahti Sports & Exhibition Centre. Start lists are published on masters2028.com before the Games. Changes for weather or safety are announced at the Team Captains' Meeting and on masters2028.com.

8. Training

- **Sunday 16 January:** official training on the race courses, included in your entry.
- **Rest days, Tuesday 18 and Friday 21 January:** the race courses are open for training at communicated times.

9. Team Captains' Meetings

A Team Captains' Meeting is held before every race day at Lahti Sports Center, for the national directors and team captains. The race director presents the next day's programme, start lists, courses and weather plan. The first meeting, on Sunday 16 January, presents the jury.

10. Rules

- The races follow the WMA Rules of Competition. Everything not covered there follows the FIS International Ski Competition Rules.
- The jury is presented at the first Team Captains' Meeting. The jury may stop a race or exclude a skier when health or safety is at risk.
- Technique: in classic races, skating is not allowed and the marked diagonal zones must be skied in diagonal stride. Violations lead to disqualification.
- Fluor waxes are banned under the FIS rules. Skis may be tested after the finish.
- Bib: one personal Masters World Cup bib for all your races, collected at the race office with your accreditation. 50€ fee for new bids (if lost/damaged).
- Timing: a transponder delivered/collected before/after the races by organiser. A transponder not returned is charged 50 €.
- Protests: in writing to the race office within 30 minutes after the unofficial results are posted. Protest fee 100 €.
- Anti-doping: the WMS anti-doping rules and the WADA Code apply.

11. Entry and fees

- Registration opens on 1 November 2026 at masters2028.com. The first week is reserved for pre-registered athletes. Each athlete registers and pays personally online.
- Cross-country skiing: 250 € per athlete, VAT 13.5 % included. That is the 225 € game entry plus the 25 € Masters World Cup supplement. The game entry covers up to three sports; cross-country counts as one. The supplement applies whether cross-country is your first, second or third sport.
- Included: your races and the official training, the Masters World Cup bib, accreditation, welcome package, Opening and Farewell Ceremony, medal ceremonies, timing and results.
- In the Cross-Country form you choose up to three individual races and the relay, and give your ski club and national masters association. Relay teams are entered at the race office.
- Changes to your races are free until 30 November 2027, then 25 €.
- Late fee +50 € from 1 October 2027. Last-minute fee +100 € from 1 January 2028. Entries close on 14 January 2028.

12. Cancellation

When you cancel	Refund
Until 30 June 2027	Full refund minus 50 € admin fee
1 July – 30 November 2027	50 %
From 1 December 2027	No refund

With a doctor's certificate, any time	50 %

Entries cannot be transferred to another person. If the organiser cancels all your sports for force majeure, 50 % is refunded. The general terms and conditions and the privacy policy on masters2028.com are part of this invitation.

13. Results and medals

Start lists and live results are on masters2028.com. The top three in every class receive the Masters World Cup medals the same evening at the Masters Hub, Lahti Sports & Exhibition Centre. No flags, no national anthems: masters compete for themselves.

14. Accommodation and travel

Hotels and transport in Lahti are booked through masters2028.com. .

15. Coaches and companions

Access to the start area and the waxing area requires accreditation. Coaches register as accompanying persons on masters2028.com. Registration for accompanying persons opens in 2027.

16. Contact

nothingstopsus@masters2028.com · subject "Cross-Country" · masters2028.com

Disclaimer:

WMA Rules of Competition; course maps. Changes for organisational, safety or weather reasons are possible. The organising committee, WMA and WMS may change courses and distances if necessary.

The version date for this document is 13 October 2026.

NOTHING STOPS US.
WE ARE MASTERS.