2026 ESSKIA Dry Slope Championships Qualifier Races - Bulletin 1

Qualifying Race at Aldershot: **Saturday** 19 September 2026
Qualifying Race at Pendle: **Saturday** 19 September 2026

Qualifying Race at Chatham: **Sunday** 20 September 2026
Qualifying Race at Welwyn: **Sunday** 20 September 2026
Qualifying Race at Swadlincote: **Sunday** 20 September 2026

English National Finals at Norwich: Saturday October 10th 2026
English Open Championships at Norwich: Sunday October 11th 2026
British Open Finals at Hillend: ***provisionally*** Saturday November 21st 2026 (org: Snowsport Scotland)

THE QUALIFYING RACES and ENGLISH NATIONAL FINALS

There are five Regional Qualifying Races for teams, leading to selection of teams for the National Finals.

The competition is for TEAM entries only in the following categories:

Category 1 – Stubby gates - Pupils in Years 3-6. Teams of 2 or 3 racers. Separate Boys, Girls & Mixed teams.
Category 2 – Full gates - Pupils in Years 7 and 8. Teams of 3 or 4 racers. Separate Boys & Girls teams.
Category 3 – Full gates - Pupils in Years 9 and 10. Teams of 3 or 4 racers. Separate Boys & Girls teams.
Category 4 – Full gates - Pupils in Year 11 and above. Teams of 3 or 4 racers. Separate Boys & Girls teams.

Category 5 - Full Gates - Mixed Open Teams. Pupils in year 7+ (only). Teams of 3 or 4 racers. One competition. (Team must contain both Girls and Boys. If 4 must be 2 Boys + 2 Girls).

The standard at the Regional Qualifying Races is very varied. This is the perfect entry point to competitive ski-racing for schools and their athletes!

THE ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS AND BRITISH FINALS

The English Open Championships is a separate event, run on the Sunday of Finals weekend. This race also serves as the qualification event leading to selection of teams for the British Finals.

The competition is for TEAM entries in a single Open category for athletes in year 7 and above. There are separate Boys, Girls and Mixed events. As a national competition held using full gates this event is not suitable for athletes in year 6 and below. Mixed team composition rules as for Heats and Finals.

SELECTION FOR NATIONAL TRAINING SQUADS

The results of the Qualifiers, together with those of the Finals and the Open Championships are used to select individual members of our National Training Squads. In 2026 an initial selection of athletes will be made immediately after the Heats, allowing parents longer notice to plan before camps. Additional athletes will be invited on the basis of performance at the Finals and Open Championships.

THE QUALIFYING RACES and ENGLISH NATIONAL FINALS

Teams:

Schools may enter up to TWO boys' and TWO girls' teams in each of the Categories 1-4. There are separate competitions for girls' and boys' teams in Categories 1-4. In addition, they may enter ONE mixed team in Category 1.

Category 5 is designed to allow Schools who could not otherwise raise a Team to still compete. Schools may enter ONE team of athletes in Year 7 and above in Category 5. Teams in Category 5 must comprise a maximum of two athletes of the same sex (BBGG, BGG, GBB are all permitted). In the event that this is impossible, teams with only a single member of the opposite sex to the majority (ie BBBG or GGGB) WILL be accepted, BUT the time of the athlete in the minority will always be counted towards the team result in order to ensure that it is indeed a mixed team (meaning that if the athlete in the minority does not complete a run the team will be DSQ/DNF).

Mixed teams will be able to progress to the National Finals on the Saturday where a Category 5 race will be held in addition to the usual Category 1 to 4 races.

Teams must be made up of pupils from the same school under one Head. All skiers must be genuine full-time pupils on the roll during the Autumn Term of the school they are representing.

No skier may race in two different teams in the Qualifiers, in the Finals or in the Open Championships.

If a Team turns up to race with fewer than the minimum number of skiers, those competitors ***will*** be allowed to race Hors Concours but ***will not*** appear on the Results.

Age Group Categories:

Category 1 - Pupils in Years 3 - 6, born 1 September 2015 and later
Category 2 - Pupils in Years 7 and 8, born 1 September 2013 – 31 August 2015
Category 3 - Pupils in Years 9 and 10, born 1 September 2011 – 31 August 2013
Category 4 - Pupils in Year 11 and above, born 1 September 2008 – 31 August 2011

In the event that a pupil is "ahead" or "back" a year in school, their age will take precedence over the year group in which they are currently enrolled in order to determine their category. A team may be made up of school pupils of different ages, but the team will compete in the age group of the oldest skier in the team on the day of the Qualifier. Pupils in Years 6 and under are not allowed to compete in Categories 2 - 5.

Additional Teams: Should any Qualifying Race be undersubscribed consideration will be given to extra entries, which will NOT be eligible for the Finals. Please contact the Race Secretary.

Requests for team changes between Qualifying Races and Finals

Any team taking part in the National Finals should be the same as that which is entered for the Regional Qualifiers.

SUBSTITUTION:

If an athlete named in the entry form is unable to race at the qualifying event (ie Regional Heat or English Open Championships) due to injury or sickness then the team may still race "short an athlete" and the injured athlete will be permitted to resume their place at the Finals should the team progress. Alternatively, a substitute may be nominated. Provided that this nomination is made in writing to the ESSKIA Race Secretary in advance of the qualifying event then, if the team does progress to the Finals, ***either*** the original athlete ***or*** the substitute may be named in the team at the Schools discretion.

Requests for other team changes between Qualifying Races and Finals must be submitted in writing to the ESSKIA Race Secretary as soon as the circumstances giving rise to the request are known, setting out reasons and stating the date of birth and school year of any skier involved. Changes will ***only*** be permitted in exceptional circumstances at the sole discretion of the Race Committee. A change which would alter the Category of the team would ***not*** be permitted.

The Race:

The race will consist of two runs over a slalom course. ***AS A TEAM-COMPETITION, THE PROHIBITION ON STOPPING / HIKING WILL BE DISAPPLIED.*** Category 1 teams will race on stubby gates, Category 2- 5 teams will race using full gates.

Category 1: The team score will be the total of the best two times for each run. If only one skier completes a run, the team will be disqualified. A disqualified team will not be eligible to race in the finals.

Categories 2 - 4: The team score will be the total of the best three times for each run. If less than three team members complete a run, the team will be disqualified. A disqualified team will not be eligible to race in the finals.

Qualification for the National Age Group Finals Race at Norwich on Saturday 10 October 2026:

Provided there are at least two teams which finish in a category at a Regional Qualifier, the winners of that category will qualify automatically for the Finals**.**

A team is not a winner if the other teams in the category are designated as DNS (Did not Start), **DNF** (Did Not Finish) or **DSQ** (Disqualified).

Further places for the Finals will be offered after an evaluation of results at all the Regional Qualifiers. The number of places will not necessarily be the same in every category.

School teachers / team managers will hear from the ESSKIA race secretary within 7 days as to whether their school team has qualified for the Finals in Norwich.

THE ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Open Championship for Girls', Boys' and Mixed Teams are held on the Sunday of our National Finals weekend at Norwich. This is a different race, on a different day, with a separate entry fee from the Age Group races.

Maximum of 2 boys', 2 girls' and 1 Mixed teams per school for pupils in Year 7 and above who have taken part in the Qualifiers. **Note**: it is ***not*** required that team / Mixed team composition is the same as in the Age Group events held on the Saturday, this is an entirely separate competition, but the same rules apply.

This is also the qualification race for the British Schools' Dry Slope Championships. Any team taking part in the British Finals should be the same as that which is entered for the English Open Championships. The number of places available at the British Dry Slope Championships will vary between categories and will be published following agreement with Snowsport Wales and Snowsport Scotland.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Membership: Schools wishing to enter teams in any of the events must be paid-up current members of ESSKIA.

Officials: It is a **condition of entry** to any of our races that each school must be prepared to provide one Race Official ***per team participating in a race***, to be nominated on the Team Entry Form. Full instructions will be given to those officiating, and novice officials will be helped. We operate our Finals using full paperwork appropriate to a national level race. We would be grateful if you can identify any of your proposed officials who hold SSE qualifications.

Attire: Racers must wear suitable protection for arms and legs including long trousers, long sleeve shirt, which must cover the midriff, and gloves.

Helmets: Proper ski helmets must be worn. It is advisable for pupils to wear their own helmet. Slopes have very few to rent/borrow. No cameras, camera mountings, coverings or stickers are allowed.

Bungs on Poles: Under Snowsport England safety rules, competitors must either use the slope's ski sticks, or ensure that their own ones have tip protectors (rubber bungs).

Athletes who present at the startgate without appropriate attire, helmet or without bungs will not be permitted to start.

Sportsmanship: We wish to remind all racers, coaches, parents and spectators that appropriate personal conduct is expected at all ESSKIA events. Whilst a competitive atmosphere is to be encouraged, inappropriate or unsportsmanlike behaviour will not be tolerated and can ultimately lead to sanctions, including suspension from ESSKIA events. Examples of such behaviour include: equipment abuse, swearing, aggressive behaviour, discrimination of any form, heated arguments, disrespect shown to any official or volunteer. All ESSKIA events are "family friendly" environments with appropriate behaviour to be demonstrated at all times.

Fees and Payment

Annual ESSKIA affiliation fee 2026/27:

FOR 2026/27 ONLY, NO ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE WILL BE CHARGED TO SCHOOLS WHICH ENTER THE COMPETITIONS DESCRIBED IN THIS BULLETIN.

Team Entry Fees: £75 per team in Open Competition, and Heats Categories 2, 3, 4 & 5.
£55 per team in Heats Category 1.

If additional teams are added later a new invoice will be generated. Payment details are included on the invoice.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES

Membership, application forms,team names and Payment must be made by **Thursday 10 September 2026**.

Bulletin 2 will then be sent to the school via email after the closing date.

EARLY ENTRIES WOULD BE APPRECIATED, EVEN IF THEY ONLY INDICATE THE NUMBER OF TEAMS REQUIRED WITH ATHLETE DETAILS BEING ADDED LATER but as of this year there is no longer a strict requirement.

ENTRY SYSTEM

1. To enter and declare the number of your school teams please go to our race-entry system at https://schoolskiracing.co.uk/esskia.html

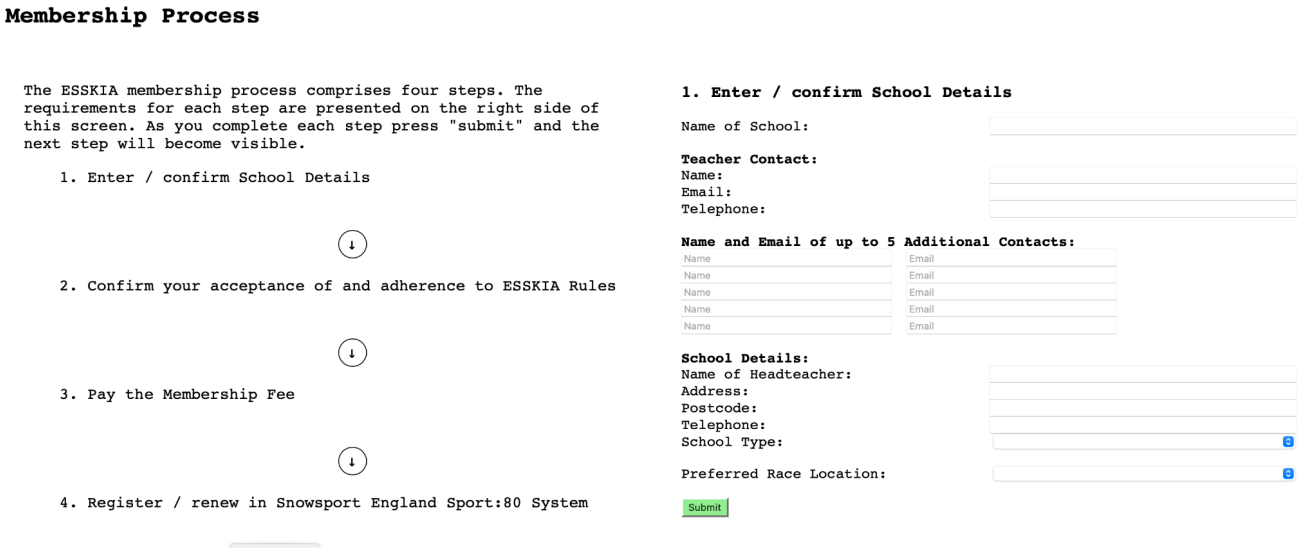
2. Existing ESSKIA member schools should login using one of the email addresses registered to their account. The email address and password will be the same as the one used last year and for the Indoor Championships (but may be different to that for competitions organised by other organisations managed via the same site).

3. Schools seeking to join ESSKIA for the first time should email the Race Secretary: esskiaracesecretary@esskia.org for a login and password.

4. **First, renew your annual membership:**



5. Enter membership details and submit. Note that any additional contacts you nominate on this form will be assigned logins and passwords and may subsequently manage entries on your behalf.



Membership Process

The ESSKIA membership process comprises four steps. The requirements for each step are presented on the right side of this screen. As you complete each step press "submit" and the next step will become visible.

1. Enter / confirm School Details

2. Confirm your acceptance of and adherence to ESSKIA Rules

3. Pay the Membership Fee

4. Register / renew in Snowsport England Sport:80 System

1. Enter / confirm School Details

Name of School:

Teacher Contact:
Name:
Email:
Telephone:

Name and Email of up to 5 Additional Contacts:

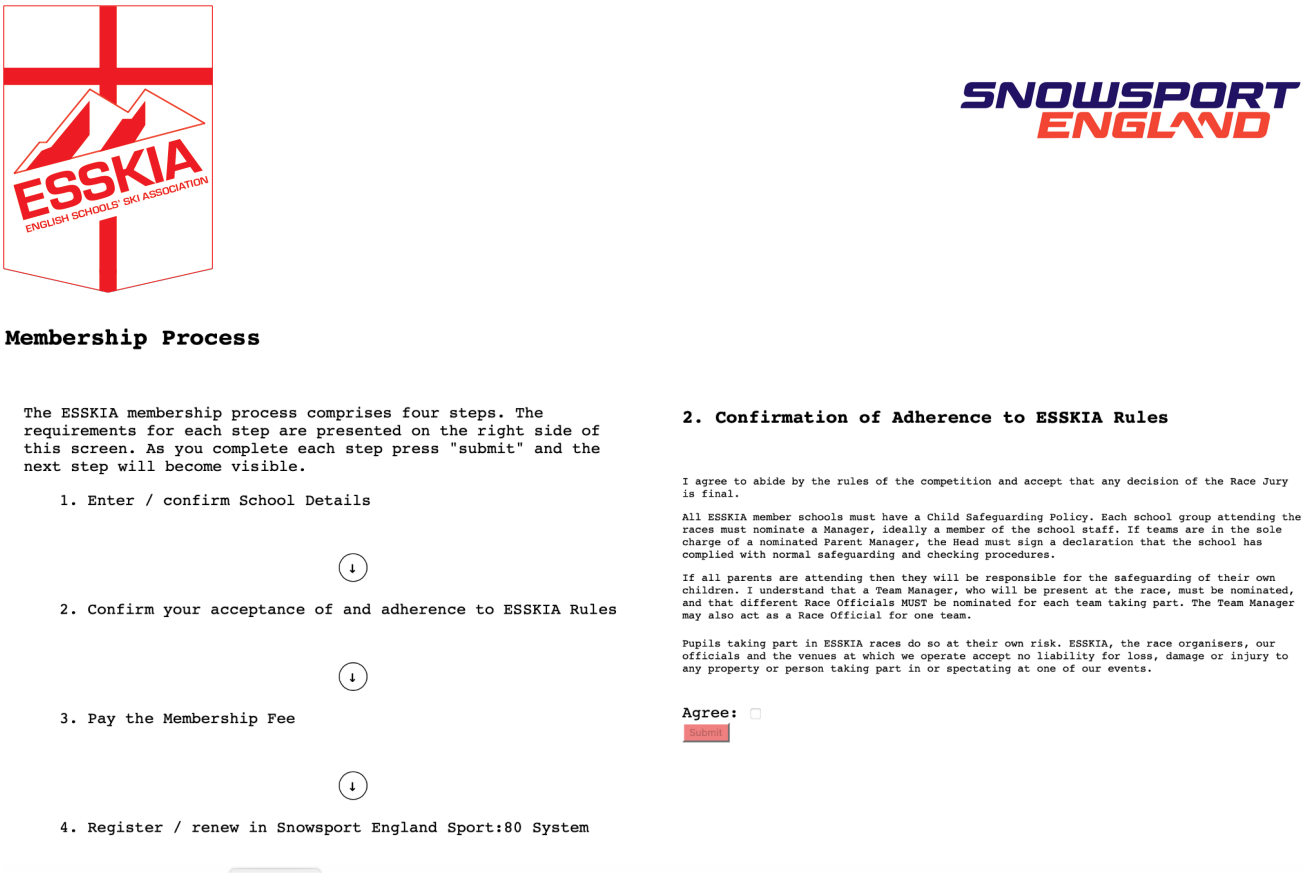
Name	Email
Name	Email
Name	Email
Name	Email
Name	Email

School Details:
Name of Headteacher:
Address:
Postcode:
Telephone:
School Type:

Preferred Race Location:

Submit

6. Confirm adherence to ESSKIA Rules:



7. Download copies of your invoice and forms. For your convenience these will also be sent to you by email:

Membership Process

The ESSKIA membership process comprises four steps. The requirements for each step are presented on the right side of this screen. As you complete each step press "submit" and the next step will become visible.

1. Enter / confirm School Details

↓

2. Confirm your acceptance of and adherence to ESSKIA Rules

↓

3. Pay the Membership Fee

↓

4. Register / renew in Snowsport England Sport:80 System

3. Payment of Membership Fee

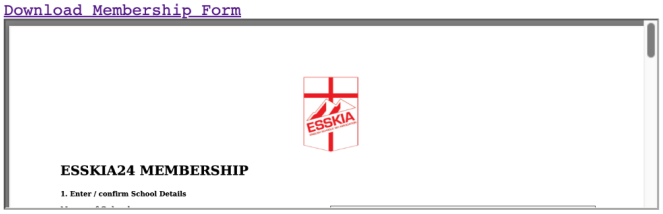
A copy of your **Membership Application, Membership Undertaking** and **Membership Invoice** are displayed below.

Please download a copy for your records.

Please arrange payment promptly.

Your membership is **NOT VALID** and insurance **NOT ACTIVE** until payment is received.

Download Membership Form



Download Membership Undertaking



Download Invoice



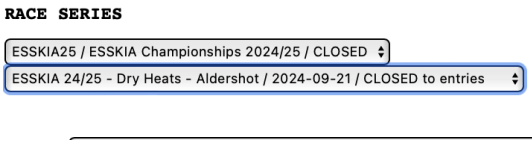
8. Send the Invoice to your Finance department and ask them to pay for your membership!

9. Go to Snowsport England Sport:80 system and renew affiliation, following the instructions on our race entry website.

10. **<u>Second, Enter the Heats!!</u>**



11. Select the "ESSKIA26 / Esskia Championships 2026/27" series, and the race location to which your school is assigned from the dropdown:



(if you want to change your assigned location, please contact the Race Secretary in advance)

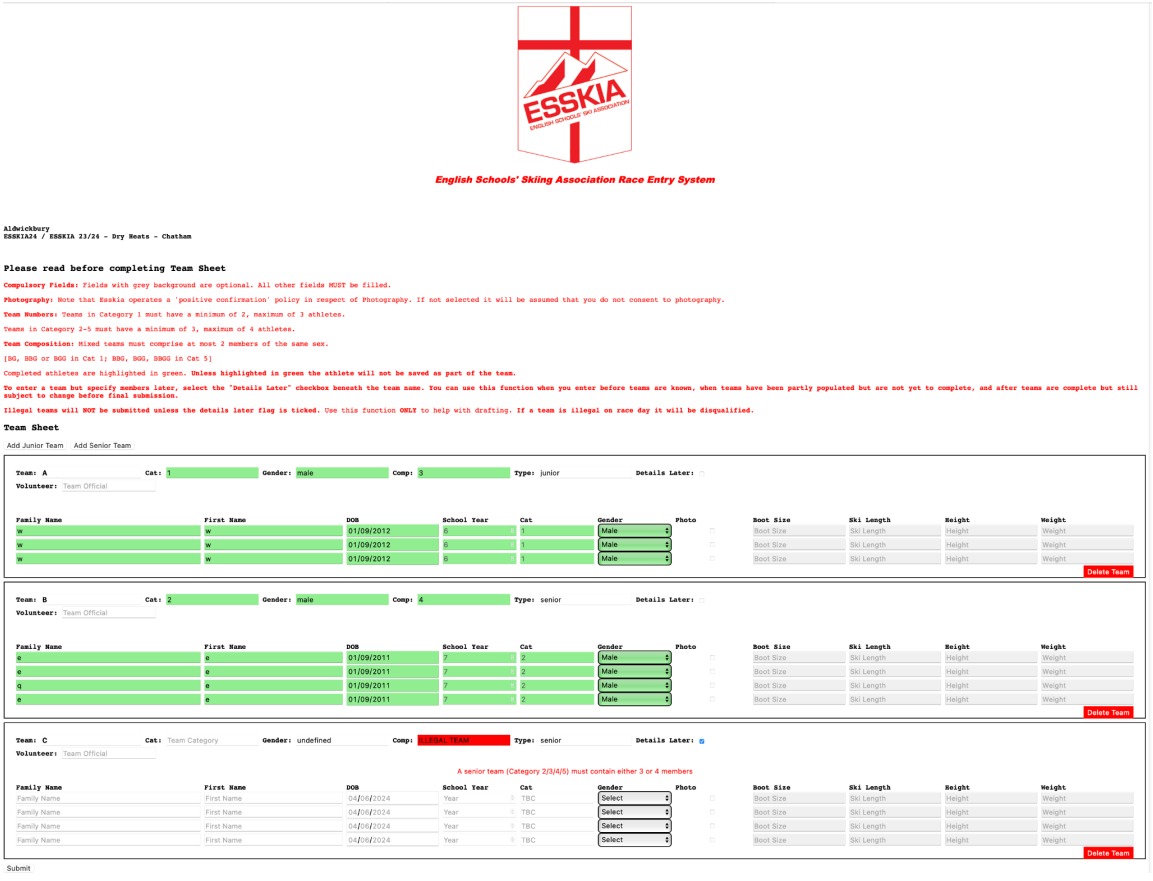
(CARE: ESSKIA25 IS STILL AVAILABLE DUE TO THE INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS)

12. Complete the short online entry form and submit. Your entries will be saved and can be edited any time up to the closing date for the race.

13. Complete your team submission.

    Your entries will be saved and can be edited any time up to the closing date for the race. The rules of entry are reiterated at the top of the screen. Rows will turn green to signify that data has been validated against the rules.

    Note that during drafting you may have teams which do not fully conform to the rules, or even “empty teams”. In order to preserve the data for editing later select the “Details Later” tag.



14. Download copies of your invoice and forms for entry to the Heats. For your convenience these will also be sent to you by email. Send the Invoice to your Finance department and ask them to pay for your entries!

15. Third, enter the Open Championships!

- repeat the entry process, but selecting the Open Championships.
- complete the form again (the race is on a different day, your details do not need to be the same)
- add senior teams
- submit, download forms and pay for your entries!

INCASE OF ANY QUERIES, OR IF YOU EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTIES WITH THE RACE ENTRY SYSTEM WEBSITE, PLEASE CONTACT THE ESSKIA RACE SECRETARY BY EMAIL OR TELEPHONE:

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