Welsh Outdoor Championships 2026

Pontypool
12th & 13th September 2026
Race Bulletin No: 1 - Invitation

We invite registered racers to compete in the Welsh National and Welsh Open Outdoor Championships to be held at Pontypool on Sat/Sun 12/13th September 2026. This event is organised by Snowsport Cymru Wales. We would like to thank the management and staff of Torfaen Ski Centre, Pontypool and all volunteers for their assistance, without whom there would not be a race.

Race Secretary	Event Welfare Officer	Chief of Race
Gwyneth Watson	Georgina Kellen	Abi Silvester Les Jones
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If you have any concerns about a child or adult, don't keep them to yourself, inform the Event Welfare Officer or relevant Home Nation Safeguarding Lead without delay.

Entry Criteria and Race Format

Seeded Competition
These races consist of two runs down different Slalom courses and are open to Home Nation registered racers in the following categories: U14, U16, U18, U21, Senior, and Masters. Prizes will be awarded based on the best aggregate time from the two runs.

Para Entries
Entries will be welcomed from para athletes to the races. There will be a special category for para skiers. Para entries may be in any age category, and do not need to have seed points, but must comply with the other eligibility criteria for the event. Para athletes will ski the same courses set for the Championship events and would run as first racer(s) down the relevant courses for each run. Awards will be made for the para category by gender.

U10/U12 Races
The championships include races for U10/U12 age categories. These will be run using stubbie gates, with two runs down the same course and prizes awarded based on the best time from any run. Children born after 2017 are not eligible to enter.

Entry Limits
The number of entrants in the seeded competition is limited to a maximum of 160. In the event of the race being oversubscribed, racers will be able to add their names to a waiting list. Final acceptance will be determined by seed points using the oBARTS list current as at the closing date for entries. Racers with lower seed points will be given preference.

The number of entrants in the U10/U12 competition is limited to a maximum of 70 and these will be accepted on a first come basis.

There will be two practice sessions available from 18:00-19:30 and 19:30-21:00 on Friday 11th Sept, at a cost of £15 per athlete, both bookable on our online system at the same time as your race entry.

Race Entry and Refunds

The Early Bird entry fee for the race is £35.

On line entry is available via https://racesignup.co.uk/welsh-outdoor-championships-2026

Entries close 1600 (4pm) on **Friday 4th Sep 2026.** Entries may be accepted afterwards at the full fee of £45 per day.

Racers may withdraw themselves at any time up to the closing date using the online entry system, incurring a £5 admin fee. After closing date racers should apply to the Race Secretary if they wish to withdraw.

Awards – Welsh National Championships

Overall Awards will be made to:
1st, 2nd & 3rd Male & Female racers regardless of nationality and 1st, 2nd & 3rd Welsh Male & Female racers.

Age Group awards will be made in each age group (including U10/U12) to:
1st, 2nd & 3rd Male & Female racers regardless of nationality and 1st, 2nd & 3rd Welsh Male & Female racers.

Awards – Welsh Open Championships

Overall Awards will be made to:
1st, 2nd & 3rd Male & Female racers regardless of nationality.

Age Group awards will be made in each age group (including U10/U12) to:
1st, 2nd & 3rd Male & Female racers regardless of nationality.

Start Order

The start order will be drawn on Thursday 10th Sept using the oBARTS Seed List current at that time and verified by the Jury. This seed list can be found at www.gbski.com/seeding#BARTS.

For the first run competitors seeded 16th onwards will run in reverse seed point order, followed by the top 15 seeded competitors who will be drawn. For the second run, start order is determined by the results of the first run as defined in BACR 621.11.

Start lists will be published on GBSKI and on the official notice board on race day.

Race Rules and Health and Safety

The race will be run under FIS rules (ICR) as varied by GB Snowsport (BACR). Links to rules and guide books are listed below, all racers and coaches are encouraged to make themselves familiar with these documents:

Race rules	https://www.gbski.com/rules.php
British Rules (BACR)	https://gbski.com/bacr
Guide to Racing	https://gbski.com/guide
Guide to Helmets	https://gbski.com/helmets

The Jury has decided that all courses for this event will be set with single pole gates in accordance with ICR 804.

- Access to the slope is for officials, accredited coaches and racers only.
- During open practice and inspection bibs must be worn so that the number is visible from back and front as this is your accreditation to be on the slope. Racers without a bib will be asked to leave the slope.
- Inspection on foot by racers is not permissible. Racers will be given further information prior to the start of course inspection.
- Helmets and gloves must be worn by anyone on skis at all times whilst on the slope.
- Coaches who accompany their racers must be qualified and carry the relevant accreditation issued by the race office on the day. Coaches who accompany their racers during course inspection must be on skis or blades.

Race Office

The race office will be at Cardiff until 11th September. After this the race office will transfer to Pontypool and contact can only be made by phone or email to the Race Secretary.

Notice Board

The official race notice board will be located outside the race office.

Photography

Racers will only be photographed by an accredited photographer if they have given consent whilst entering the race, either via the Snowsport England race entry system or in writing to the Race Secretary if entering on the day.

Officials

Please note these races can only run with sufficient race officials. If you can assist please contact the Race Secretary or Chief of Race.

Referee's Report

Protests against the Referees Report must be made on official forms, which will be available at the race office. These must be completed and handed in within the set time limit and accompanied by a fee of £25.00.

Race Bibs

Race bibs must be returned to the finish marshal on completion of their final run. Failure to do so will result in a charge of £50 for each missing bib.

First Aid

First Aid cover will be available on the day by a qualified independent First Aid Provider. An Event Medical Assessment form (containing information about medical facilities and procedures) will be on display on the official notice board and published on GBSKI.

Provisional Programme

The times given below are provisional and may alter on the day. Please ensure you are ready to start on time and listen carefully for any announcements. Every attempt will be made to keep to the event schedule; however, the organisers reserve the right to amend the schedule as appropriate. The programme is the same for both days.

Start	*Finish*	
08.00		Registration and Bib Issue
08.10	08.50	Open Practice U10/U12 and U14+ Females
08:50	09:30	Open Practice U14+ Males
08.50		Race Officials Meeting
09.30	10.00	Course set Run 1
10:00	10.20	Course Inspection Females
10:20	10.40	Course Inspection Males
10.40		Course Set U10/U12 stubbies
10.45	11.00	Course Inspection U10/U12
11:00	11.20	Run 1 U10/U12
11.20		Switch gates to full poles
11.25	12.25	Run1 Females/Males
12.25		Switch gates to stubbies
12.30	12.50	Run2 U10/U12
12.50	13.20	Course Set Run 2
13.20	13.40	Course Inspection Females
13.40	14.00	Course Inspection Males

14.05	15.00	Run 2 Females/Males
15.30		Prize Giving

Logistics

Parking is at the Leisure Centre car park.
Please note there is a lengthy uphill walk from the car park to the ski slope.
Vehicle Access to the Ski Centre will only be permitted to those cars holding permits issued by Torfaen Borough Council. Disabled persons requiring access should contact Snowsport Wales by email info@snowsportwales.net.
There are disabled parking spaces in front of the leisure centre.

In the interests of personal safety there must be no turning or jumping on the ski lift and track. Please remove ski stick straps before mounting the lift.

An official electrical point will be made available at the ski centre for hot waxing, it will not be permitted for additional extension leads to be plugged into this or any other of the ski centre's electrical points for any purpose.

Only bona fide officials will be allowed access to staff areas within the ski centre, ie behind the counter. Racers may leave skis in the ski centre workshop overnight on Saturday evening at their own risk. No liability for loss or damage will be accepted by the race organisers or Torfaen Borough Council.

Refreshments

Refreshments will be available to purchase from a mobile commercial unit at the slope. Additional limited refreshments and toilets are available at the Leisure Centre café near the car park

Directions

Leave the M4 at Junction 25a signposted Newport/Cwmbran and follow the A4042 towards Pontypool. At Pontypool take the A472 following signs to the ski slope. Parking is at the Leisure Centre car park.
For SatNav users – the postcode is NP4 8AT

Nearest Accommodation

The nearest hotels are Premier Inn http://www.premierinn.com and Travelodge www.travelodge.co.uk both of which are on the roundabout at the junction of the A4042 & the A472.

Whatsapp Group

Link to group for race information over the weekend.

