

# NORTH WEST TELEMARX FESTIVAL 2026

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – 10am to 4pm



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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### 1. WHAT IS WHAT IS TELEMARXING?

#### Q What is Telemarking?

A Telemarking is the original and arguably the most elegant form of downhill skiing, predating Alpine. It is a Nordic discipline, but has elements of both downhill Alpine and cross-country skiing. The bindings allow the heel to rise, hence the term "Free-Heel".

#### Q How does Telemark technique differ from Alpine?

A The most obvious difference is the lead change, where the new turn is initiated by the front and rear foot moving apart (forwards & or backwards). It is the same technique used by ski jumpers upon landing. It gives great stability with the free heel equipment and makes turning very easy, particularly in deep or difficult snow. Telemarking comprises of 85% Alpine technique. This is because Alpine skiing developed from Telemarking.

#### Q Why Telemark?

A Because Telemarking looks beautiful, feels great to do, but above all is fun. The vast majority of skiers who have a go, come off the slope with a smile from ear to ear. Isn't that why we ski! It's also brilliant in the backcountry.

Telemarking looks beautiful, feels great to do and is fun

**ENJOY !**



## 2. BOOKING THE NWTF

### Q How do I book onto the North West Telemark Festival 2026?

A Log on to the MCCSC web site; [www.mccsc.org.uk](http://www.mccsc.org.uk) Follow the link, **North West Telemark Festival (Booking)** which opens MCCSC Ticket tailor, click **Buy tickets** and pay using MCCSC's secure Stripe account. The site will guide you through.

There are 3 main booking options shown;

1. an \*Early discount price if booked no later than 11.50pm on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026
2. Standard price if booked from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 onward
3. The Snow Centre Staff price [with staff lift pass].

All Booking closes at the end of Wednesday 11.50pm on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Fill in the form with name, email, Mobile, address – It will also show above booking Type Age group, Contact mobile, Snowsport England membership & Optional Ski Club.

**Rental;** Do you need to hire skis, Weight Kg, Height cm, Boot size Mondo, **Coaching session required;** Telemark Novice, Telemark Intermediate, Telemark Advanced, or Telemark Race Group – see section 3 Ski Standards below.

Permission for photos, accept MCCSC & SE T&C's, accept booking conditions, read & accept The Snow Centre slope policies, code of conduct & ski declaration.

### Q Do I have to be a member of Manchester Cross-Country Ski Club to join the Festival?

A No - The North West Telemark Festival is open to all skiers to Telemark, **but in 2026 you have to be a current member of Snowsport England for insurance purposes.**

Note In previous Festivals, MCCSC had non-member categories, where we paid £5.00 of your NWTF fee to affiliate you to Snowsport England, but you must now do this directly with SE.

### Q Can I use a monthly or season lift pass?

A Regrettably The Snow centre does Not accept monthly or seasonal passes for events such as the NW Telemark Festival. This is due to the increased staff costs for pre-event preparation and additional special staff on the day; Event supervisor, Rental technicians and First aid. The only exception is for Snow Centre staff, who have a different lift pass system.

### Q What's included in the day's fee?

A The day's fee includes the lift pass 10:00 to 16:00 and up to 4 hours coaching. All Groups will have 2 x coaching sessions on the Festival Day, each preceded by up to 30 minutes of skiing warm up (10:00-12:30 & 1:30 to 4:00). Equipment hire boots & skis if pre-booked and available (poles & helmet are standard).

## 3. SNOWSPORT ENGLAND MEMBERSHIP.

**IMPORTANT: All NWTF 2026 participants MUST be individual Members of Snowsport England and pay a separate fee direct to Snowsport England. This includes TSC staff (BASI/AISI membership does Not qualify). Proof of the appropriate level of Snowsport England membership will be required to attend the festival.**

*[Note current members of Snowsport Scotland or Snowsport Wales will need to become "non-members of Snowsport England", there is no charge – see further below].*

### Q How do I Join Snowsport England?

A The method of joining or renewing membership of Snowsport England is online, including payment, using the secure Stripe account and Sport-80. There are several membership levels and other categories for performers, coaches, officials.

The lowest "Green SE membership" costs £4.99 pa, which is adequate for general Telemarking. Note MCCSC used to charge an additional £5 for non-members, which we have removed.

However if Telemarkers are race training using carrots & stubbies, or Rollerskiers participating in competitions such as The Northern Roll or the Snowsport England Skill sessions and SE courses then they need “Blue SE membership” costing £19.99 pa, which includes Personal accident insurance in Europe.

### To join Snowsport England:

[See separate method for Snowsport Scotland & Snowsport Wales members].

Either go direct to the SE website,

Or use the link to SE from the MCCSC website under NWTF Booking

[www.snowsportengland.org.uk/membership-details](http://www.snowsportengland.org.uk/membership-details)

Schroll through the information about SE membership and near the bottom see

How do I become a member of Snowsport England:

Click **JOIN NOW**

the web page will change to

<https://snowsportengland.sport80.com/public/wizzard/a/1144/home>

Enter your email address into the box

Click **Continue** and follow instructions.

**Remember to print off your new SE Membership card and bring to the Festival.**

### Q How do I Link my Snowsport England to MCCSC?

A In your new Sport\_80 account [Dashboard](#)

Click on **Individual Membership** under your profile

Under Membership Details click **Next**

Under Organisations Select **Manchester Cross Country Ski Club**

Or Add Another >

Click on **Save**

### Q How do I print my Snowsport England membership card?

A In your new Sport\_80 account [Dashboard](#)

Left Pane > **Home**

In the main window Click on **View profile**

Middle Pane > select **Membership**

This will show a long line of details

Membership	Status	member No	Valid from	Expires	Type	Organisation
Individual membership	Current	XXXXX	31/10/25	31/10/26	Green	MCCSC

Click on **the 3 vertical dots**

From the drop-down menu > **Select PDF Card: Membership card download**

There are also options to

Resend Membership email

Add Membership Apple Wallet Pass

Add Membership Google Wallet Pass

### Q Do Snowsport Scotland & Snowsport Wales members have to join Snowsport England?

A Current members of Snowsport Scotland or Snowsport Wales need to link their membership to Snowsport England online and become a non-member of SE. There is no charge for this.

Create a Sport\_80 account as if joining SE – see How Do I Join above.

Membership > Individual membership > Organisation > Next > Add Another > select an organisation eg Snowsport Scotland or Snowsport Wales.

You can then link to Manchester Cross Country Ski Club – See above.

Also Print off your Snowsport England (Non) membership Card

#### 4. SKI STANDARD FOR THE COACHING SESSIONS

##### Q What standard should I select for the Coaching Sessions?

A Telemark Novice (with Alpine experience, but little or no Telemark experience)  
**You must be able to make non-Telemark turns and control speed from the top of the main slope.**

A Telemark Intermediate (somewhere in between Novice and Advanced).

A Telemark Advanced (Single phase Telemark parallel turns and above).

A Telemark Race (As Advanced).

**IMPORTANT** - Any participants training in carrots or stubbies must have Blue SE membership. All others must have a minimum of Green SE membership.

Note It is quite likely that there will be more groups to cater for increased numbers.

##### Q Can I join the Festival (or MCCSC Telemark) if I have never Alpine skied before?

A No. Ski beginners must enrol in the Snowsport school. Contact The Snow Centre, Manchester. [Note you could try Roller Skiing as a complete ski beginner with MCCSC - see section 7]

#### 5. EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING

##### Q Can I hire Telemark equipment?

A Yes, The Snow Centre has a limited number of Adult NTN Telemark boots and skis (New Telemark Norm). **The old Telemark Norm, also called 75mm, are no longer available.** Whilst MCCSC will try to accommodate the demand for equipment, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to meet all requests. The equipment will be allocated on a first come first served basis. **It is essential that you book this equipment in advance.**

**Email Joyce at [telemark@mccsc.org.uk](mailto:telemark@mccsc.org.uk) before making your NWTF booking,** to check if your size is available, especially if you are at the end of ranges (i.e. very big or very small). Regretfully, we have no Telemark equipment suitable for children (as it is simply not made). Please bring your own Telemark equipment if you have any.

##### Q Can I use my Alpine ski boots?

A No, Telemark boots are very different, they have bellows over the forefoot which allow the boot to bend like a walking boot. Telemark boots are usually much softer than their Alpine cousins, have Vibram soles (like walking boots) and a walk mode setting. Telemark boots usually come in full sizes. If you normally take a half size in Alpine boots, always go up, as the toes need more room to move when the boot flexes at the bellows. Telemark boots are skied slightly looser than Alpine.

Please note: there are several incompatible standards of Telemark boots & bindings:

'New Telemark Norm' is the current standard. **Older standards include; '3 Pin' and 'Telemark Norm' (also called 75mm) which is no longer available at The Snow Centre.**

##### Q Can I use my Alpine footbeds?

A It is vital that foot beds used for Telemark can flex at the ball of the foot. **Stiff footbeds run the risk of cracking.** You may be able to use a modern softer Alpine footbed to produce better fit & performance with a rental boot. Older Alpine footbeds tend to be much stiffer. If in doubt discuss with your fitter.

##### Q Are Telemark bindings different from Alpine?

A Yes, radically. There are several incompatible standards, but all allow the heel to rise. Most have a heel riser for skinning and an additional climbing mode. The latest models have ski brakes, rather than leashes. All Telemark bindings at The Snow Centre Manchester are **NTN** fitted with adjustable release bindings and ski brakes.

##### Q Are Telemark skis different to Alpine?

A No. Ski manufacturers used to produce special Telemark skis,

but now standard Alpine / All mountain or off-piste skis are used, with Telemark bindings.

**Q What length of ski should I use for Telemarking?**

A Select slightly longer skis for Telemark than your Alpine.  
Skis turn more easily when Telemarking and longer skis will be more stable.  
Telemarking is intended to go into the back country, where bigger skis are normal.  
Please note that the limited rental availability may decide on the ski length.  
The NTN Binding comes in 2 sizes small [for boots up to Mondo 27] and large [boots from Mondo 26.5]. Mondo is the boot sizing system used in the ski industry.

**Q What length of ski poles should I use for Telemarking?**

A Select shorter poles to Telemark than your Alpine – Try one size shorter to start with.  
You can use The Snow Centre’s ski poles to experiment, there are plenty and no need to book.  
Please note that the pole plant occurs in Telemark when you are much lower to the ground.

**Q What should I wear for Telemarking?**

A Normal ski clothing for the mountains. Slope side is now -4 degrees centigrade, with no sun.  
Having said that you may get quite warm at times with Telemarking, so venting is key.  
Ensure your ski pants allow you to drop low into the Telemark stance (similar to a lunge).  
Bring a range of ski socks with different thickness, if you are hiring Telemark boots.  
It’s also worth bringing your own ski foot-beds (Alpine may do, provided they can flex under the ball of the foot). **Stiff footbeds run the risk of cracking.**

**Q Can I hire ski clothing?**

A Yes. The Snow Centre Manchester has a range of ski clothing for hire at £14:00 per day for Jacket and Trousers together, or £8 for one. Book directly with The Snow Centre Manchester. Other items, e.g. Gloves £8, Socks £5, Neck warmers £5, may be purchased onsite.

**Q Must I wear a ski helmet for Telemarking?**

A Yes. The Snow Centre Manchester requires helmets to be worn for all slope activities, as well as gloves and long sleeves. Helmets are free to hire at The Snow Centre Manchester, readily available and no need to book. Please note that they are sanitised after each use.

**6. ON THE DAY AND FACILITIES**

**Q What time should I arrive at The Snow Centre on the day?**

A If you are hiring equipment then please arrive for 9:00am, to allow time for kitting up.  
If you have your own Telemark Boots & skis then please arrive for 9:20am.  
In either case you will need to sign in, collect your lift pass and get kitted.  
We will all gather fully kitted for the briefing/s at 9:45 to meet your coaches.

**Q Where do I meet on the day?**

A Manchester Cross-Country Ski Club will have a signed reception table near Guest Services, In the main Alpine street.  
Sign in and Collect your lift pass from the MCCSC representatives.  
They will direct you to “the rental village” (ski hire & changing facilities)  
Also to The Lodge if you wish to book & pay for lunch (Recommended).  
And finally to the gathering area or areas to meet your coaches for the day.

**Q How do I get to The Snow Centre Manchester?**

A The Snow Centre Manchester is situated on Trafford Quays Leisure Village and is less than four miles from Manchester city centre. The Snow Centre is opposite The Trafford Centre and conveniently located just off the M60 motorway at junction 10. The Snow Centre is signposted from the motorway exit, but thanks to the iconic building you won’t miss it! There is free parking with over 300 car parking spaces available including dedicated disabled parking bays.

Sat Nav address information:

The Snow Centre,

Telephone 0161 749 2222

Trafford Quays Leisure Village, Trafford Way, Manchester, M41 7JA

The Snow Centre recommends checking your route on the [Highways Agency website](#) for up to the minute travel information before you set off.

See The Snow Centre web site for alternate transport links; air, train, bus, taxi, cycle, on foot, and other details, including site and road map.

**Q Are lockers available?**

A Yes – The Snow Centre upgraded most of the keyed lockers with a new keypad system. There are a few keyed lockers, which use blue plastic tokens, from Clothing Rentals. The Changing area was enlarged and refurbished during Autumn 2022 and has cubicles & toilets

**Q Can I ski in between the coaching sessions?**

A There is a half hour on slope ski warm up prior to each of the 2 hour coaching sessions - 5 hours Telemarking is a lot of skiing! We strongly recommend taking a break to rest and refuel it's a long day and you are going to use a lot of energy. So give your legs a rest and shovel in the calories!

Skiing on indoor snow can make you very thirsty, so remember to keep well hydrated.

**Please note that food or drinks are NOT allowed slope side.**

**Q Are food and refreshments included?**

A No. However there is a wide choice of cafes, bars and restaurants. There are picnic tables outside should the weather be clement.

We will reserve tables for lunch at The Lodge upstairs, with a special NWTF menu,

**Please book & pay directly in The Lodge, after checking in & before going out onto the slope.**

This will enable the Lodge to prepare and serve lunch as soon as we come of the slope - probably in a quieter private area.

**Q Will there be a Social after the Festival?**

A We will retire to J D Wetherspoons "The Castle In The Air" after the second coaching session for après ski to finish off the day, hopefully outside.

**Q Need more information?**

A Everything you need to know and do is on the website, including online booking and payment.  
A Please read the other NWTF 2026 documents on

[www.mccsc.org.uk](http://www.mccsc.org.uk)

**NWTF 2026 Flier**

**NWTF 2026 Timetable**

**NWTF 2026 Questions & Answers**

Also [www.thesnowcentre.com/manchester](http://www.thesnowcentre.com/manchester) or Call The Snow Centre Manchester Guest Services on 0161 749 2222

**Only If you cannot find information on the On-line Booking, Flier, Q&A's, Timetable;**  
then email [telemark@mccsc.org.uk](mailto:telemark@mccsc.org.uk)



## 7. ABOUT MANCHESTER CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB

### Q Who are the Festival organisers?

A Manchester Cross-Country Ski Club (is the local Telemark club and England's largest civilian).

Note MCCSC run regular Telemark coaching sessions approximately twice a month throughout the year at The Snow Centre; on Sundays from 12:00 to 14:00. See [www.mccsc.org.uk](http://www.mccsc.org.uk) for details.

The lift pass for MCCSC members is £24 per the two hour coaching session, paid direct to The Snow Centre. Note this discount is not available for freeskiing outside the formal club sessions.

Book online from [www.mccsc.org.uk](http://www.mccsc.org.uk) - choose the **Telemark Skiing date**, click on **booking part 1** to book the coaching (free to MCCSC members via Ticket Tailor), then click **booking part 2** to take you directly to the MCCSC page on The Snow Centre site. Alternatively use [www.thesnowcentre.com/Manchester / Lift Passes](http://www.thesnowcentre.com/Manchester/Lift Passes) / but is harder to find. There are also informal sessions during the week.

### Q What other activities does MCCSC do?

MCCSC is a multi-discipline Nordic ski club with regular Roller ski coaching sessions at UCLan Sports Arena, Preston (including sessions for ski beginners) and open track sessions at Tameside. MCCSC runs one of the Northern Roll series of races & the fun endurance session, also at Preston. MCCSC hosts the annual SE Skills weekend & SE coach awards, at Salt Ayre, Lancaster, as well as on snow cross country ski holidays in Europe with coaching. We have members who compete in XC & Biathlon, go touring (including Telemark) as well as various social gatherings including summer events and our Christmas meal at an Italian restaurant. See [www.mccsc.org.uk](http://www.mccsc.org.uk) and the **Events** tab for further details.

### Q How much is annual membership of MCCSC?

Annual membership of MCCSC is currently only £10 for individuals, or £20 for family. The club year starts in November (or a reduced rate from May to end of October) which gives access to all Telemark and Cross-Country activities and coaching. See website for more details [www.mccsc.org.uk](http://www.mccsc.org.uk) and the **JOIN** tab.

MCCSC is affiliated to Snowsport England the governing body of English skiing. Note The Snow Centre lift passes, or Rollerski track fees & rental are extra.

**MCCSC members must also hold the current appropriate level of individual Snowsport England membership, paid direct to SE. See section 3 & [www.snowsportengland.org.uk](http://www.snowsportengland.org.uk)**

## 8. The Snow Centre Slope Policies

### SUMMARY

When skiing (or snowboarding) on the main slope, you agree that you meet the minimum standards, which are; to control speed and direction; to perform linked turns; to stop, be comfortable with variable conditions and to use the button lift unassisted. The Snow Centre Manchester reserves the right to ask you to leave the Slope if you are deemed unable to meet the Minimum Recreational Standard or if we feel you are intoxicated by drink or drugs. In such cases no refund or transfer will be given.

Helmets must be worn when on the slope for all activities.

Gloves, long sleeves and full length trousers must be worn at all times.

For the full Policy and Slope User Declaration, please visit [www.thesnowcentre.com](http://www.thesnowcentre.com).

### The Snow Centre Manchester Safety Statement

The Snow Centre Manchester wants you to enjoy yourself as much as possible whilst at the facility. You are advised that participating in snow activities has some risks and that the Snow Centre Manchester has taken precautions as far as reasonably practical to eliminate or reduce the risk of injury. The wearing of helmets is compulsory for all activities. The Snow Centre Manchester provides helmets to participants at no additional cost.

### The Snow Centre Manchester Slope Code of Conduct

1. Respect all other slope users.
2. Control your speed.
3. Always give way to skiers/riders below and choose a route past so as to avoid endangering or alarming them.
4. Leave plenty of space when overtaking.
5. Look up and down the slope before starting or entering the slope.
6. Always stop in a clear and visible place or, preferably, at the side of the slope.
7. When climbing up or down the slope, always keep to the side.
8. Respect all signs.
9. In the event of an accident, everybody is duty bound to assist and witnesses must provide relevant information regarding any accident.
10. The Snow Centre Manchester reserves the right to ask you to leave the slope if you are deemed, by a Snow Centre Manchester employee, not to be abiding by the Code of Conduct or meeting the minimum standard. In such cases, no refund or transfer will be given.