NWANA Program Descriptions

Nordic Walking Association of North America (NWANA) · Program descriptions from the About NWANA page · Generated as a PDF from nwaofna.org on November 22, 2026

About NWANA

The continental federation building Nordic walking as a professional sport across North America.

Our story

One federation for a continental sport

The Nordic Walking Association of North America (NWANA) is the continental governing and sanctioning body for competitive Nordic walking across North America.

NWANA operates as a U.S. nonprofit public charity recognized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our mission is to develop Nordic walking with integrity, professional standards, public benefit, and a long-term continental vision across the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the wider North American region.

NWANA connects education, professional development, licensing, local NW Groups, competition rules, organized competitions, official results, sanctioning, and sport development within one growing system.

The NWANA Open Nordic Walking Series already provides scheduled competition opportunities, published results, and standings. At the same time, NWANA continues developing the people, local organizations, technical capacity, and event infrastructure needed to expand in-person stadium, road, cross-country, and relay competitions across North America.

What we do

Six pillars of the sport system

Governance

Develop rules, standards, policies, integrity protections, and long-term direction for Nordic walking across North America.

Education

Provide progressive education and qualification pathways for instructors, coaches, judges, Race Directors, technical officials, and leaders through NWANA Academy.

Licensing

Operate licensing pathways for athletes, professionals, and eligible organizations, with a voluntary license for members. Joining an NW Group is free.

Community

Help people join existing NW Groups or begin establishing new groups for communities, workplaces, schools, healthcare organizations, and municipalities.

Find an NW Group -> Join an NW Group ->

Competitions

Develop and operate Nordic walking competitions, publish official results and standings, maintain competition rules, and expand opportunities for athletes.

Sport development

Continue building the people, organizations, events, technical standards, sanctioning capacity, and ranking structures for a sustainable continental sport system.

How it works

One system, five steps

1. Learn and develop

Begin with Nordic walking education and continue through the appropriate participant or professional pathway.

2. Connect locally

Join an existing NW Group or help establish a new group in your community or organization.

Find an NW Group -> Join an NW Group ->

3. Join free

Join an NW Group free on the NW Groups site. Licenses belong to defined sport and professional roles: athlete licenses for competitions that require them, and professional licenses for instructors, coaches, judges, and officials.

4. Participate and compete

Take part in NWANA activities, challenges, competitions, and other published opportunities.

5. Lead, organize, or support

Continue developing as a professional, establish an NW Group, organize activities or competitions, volunteer, partner with NWANA, sponsor a program, or support a designated fund.

Founder and president

Albert Fatikhov

NWANA was founded by Albert Fatikhov to build a full continental federation for Nordic walking in North America: verified competitions, fair performance levels, instructor education, and local groups, all running as one machine.

As an athlete, he is a World Championship medalist: silver in the 4x5K relay and bronze in the 5K at Lahti 2024. He leads the federation the way he races, from the front.

Visit Albert Fatikhov's page

Elite athletes

A small roster, a high bar

NWANA's elite athlete roster is intentionally small. It is led by Albert Fatikhov, World Championship medalist (silver, 4x5K relay; bronze, 5K, Lahti 2024).

Elite status at NWANA is earned on the course, through the same verified performance levels every athlete climbs, from Open to Elite.

See the Elite Athletes Club →

Leadership

Board of directors

Our leadership is built on real sporting experience. The President and most members of the Board have earned medals at World Championships, continental championships, national championships, and other major competitions in Nordic walking and additional sports.

Liene Visocka

Board Member for Sports

lv@nwaofna.org

Full profile

Maris Vainovskis

Board Director, NWANA

mv@nwaofna.org

Full profile

Leonids Reinholds

Board Director, NWANA

leonids.reinholds@nwaofna.org

Full profile

Albert Tazetdinov

Secretary, NWANA

albert.tazetdinov@nwaofna.org

Full profile

Integrity

Public benefit and integrity

As a 501(c)(3) public charity, NWANA is committed to transparency, public benefit, fair access, participant safety, and responsible sport development. We believe Nordic walking can grow into a strong and respected competitive sport across North America when its development is supported by real education, technical knowledge, community access, fair competition, clear standards, and accountable leadership.

Support the mission

Help build Nordic walking across North America

Your donation trains instructors, grows local groups, and powers verified competitions.

Donate to NWANA