



Iditarod Trail Committee

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Iditarod ceremonial start route shortened due to lack of snow

Anchorage, Alaska – The Iditarod Trail Committee announced this morning that the 11-mile ceremonial start route for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race will be shortened due to the lack of snow.

The new three-mile route will begin at the traditional ceremonial start location of Fourth Avenue and D Street in downtown Anchorage. From Fourth Avenue, teams will travel south on Cordova Street and continue down the Cordova hill past the Sullivan Arena. Teams will then find their way onto the Chester Creek Trail and travel to the Davenport Field Complex, located just off of Lake Otis Parkway, where the ceremonial start will conclude.

“Key personnel within the Municipality of Anchorage’s street maintenance, parks and recreation and police departments worked very hard to try to find a way for us to go the full 11 miles to the BLM Campbell Tract. Unfortunately, the warm temperatures persisted and it is no longer possible this year,” said Stan Hooley, CEO of the Iditarod Trail Committee. “Race fans concentrated in downtown Anchorage will not notice any changes to the race start, as the excitement of having more than 1,000 of the most finely-tuned sled dogs in the world will, as always, make for an electric environment.”

The ceremonial start begins this Saturday, March 5, at 10 a.m., with 85 teams lined up to compete in this year’s race.

For additional details regarding Iditarod XLIV, visit www.iditarod.com.

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