

Iditarod Trail Committee  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 12, 2025

**Rookie Sydnie Bahl withdrawn from Iditarod 53 at the Grayling checkpoint**

**Anchorage, Alaska** – Rookie Iditarod musher, Sydnie Bahl (bib #8), of Wasilla, Alaska was withdrawn from the race at 1:30 p.m. today at the Grayling checkpoint. While Bahl wished to continue the race, the decision was made based on rule 36 of the official Iditarod race. Rule 36 states: Competitiveness: A team may be withdrawn that is out of the competition and is not in a position to make a valid effort to compete. The Race Marshal may consider, but is not limited to, weather, trail conditions and the overall pace of the Race when invoking this rule.

Withdrawal is a process that must be imposed by a three-judge panel, either by a majority or unanimous vote, and which has the effect of involuntarily eliminating the musher and team from the race but which does not imply any deliberate misconduct or violation. The team and musher must leave the trail and will be assisted by the ITC. This process can be found in Rule 51 of the Official Rules of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race®.

Bahl had 13 dogs in harness when she arrived at the Grayling checkpoint at 6:14 a.m. today.

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