

Iditarod Trail Committee  
2100 South Knik-Goose Bay Road • Wasilla, Alaska 99654  
907.376.5155 • [www.iditarod.com](http://www.iditarod.com)

---



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 12, 2026

**Three Musers Withdraw from Iditarod 54 Due to Injury**

**Wasilla, Alaska** — The Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc. (ITC) announces that veteran mushers Josh McNeal, Connor McMahon, and Nicolas Petit have withdrawn from the 2026 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race® due to shoulder injuries sustained during recent training and racing activities.

While these withdrawals are unfortunate, the health and well-being of our athletes, both canine and human, remain a top priority. To help alleviate confusion, it should be noted that Nicolas Petit will participate in the Ceremonial Start alongside his [IditaRider](#) but will not continue on the racecourse after Saturday, March 7, 2026.

The ITC extends its support and best wishes to Josh, Connor, and Nicolas for a full and speedy recovery. They will be missed on the trail this year, and we look forward to welcoming them back to the Iditarod community in the future.

**Media contact:**

Shannon Noonan  
Director of Marketing & Communications  
[shannon.noonan@iditarod.com](mailto:shannon.noonan@iditarod.com)

###

**About the Iditarod**

The Iditarod Trail Committee is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the heritage of Alaska's sled dogs and the historic Iditarod Trail. Each year, the Committee organizes the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, a 1,000-mile competition from Anchorage to Nome that challenges mushers and their teams to navigate Alaska's extreme terrain and unpredictable conditions. Recognized internationally for its endurance and tradition, the Iditarod showcases the skill, resilience, and spirit of Alaska's sled dog culture. For more information, visit [www.iditarod.com](http://www.iditarod.com).