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## Finances, lack of entries lead to end of Equinox Ultramarathon

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May 20, 2016

FAIRBANKS — The ultramarathon competition of the Equinox Marathon has been dropped, Running Club North announced in a press release on Friday.

The Equinox Marathon and marathon relay will continue to take place.

Running Club North's Board of Directors, who made the decision at its meeting on April 25, cited an effort to reduce costs as the main reason for the decision.

According to the press release, the ultramarathon averaged 48 racers and 40 finishers in the seven years since it was started. The ultramarathon registration numbers have also not been trending upwards, the release said.

Registration fees were not covering the cost to run the ultramarathon, and according to the release, covering the costs would have needed "unreasonable increase in the entry fee."

Eliminating the ultramarathon allows race organizers to put more focus on the marathon and marathon relay.

The 54th Equinox Marathon is set for Sept. 17 at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Patty Center. This year will be the 27th edition of the relay.

In what proved to be the final Equinox Ultramarathon, Laron Thomas won overall in last year's race with a time of 5 hours, 50 minutes and 41 seconds. Shawn McTaggart garnered the women's title in 6:40:42.

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