



**ATTN: School Principals and
Cross-Country Coaches**

Subject: Valley Royals Grand Prix — Closing a Remarkable Chapter

Dear Abbotsford Schools and supporters of the Valley Royals,

After forty-one wonderful years of cross-country racing and community connection, the Valley Royals Track & Field Club has made the difficult decision that **the 2025 season will be the final year we host the Valley Royals Grand Prix.**

Since its beginning, the Grand Prix has been more than just a race series — it has been a celebration of sport, teamwork, and perseverance for thousands of young athletes across our region. Generations of students have crossed the finish line at Clearbrook Park, cheered on by teachers, parents, and teammates, and we are deeply proud of the legacy this event leaves behind.

Unfortunately, as our organization has evolved, we simply no longer have the volunteer capacity and manpower to continue organizing the Grand Prix at the scale it deserves. This decision comes with heavy hearts, but also with deep gratitude for the incredible community of educators, coaches, and students who have made this event possible year after year.

Looking ahead, we **encourage schools to take the lead in organizing their own cross-country meets beginning in fall 2026.** The Valley Royals would be happy to **share best practices, planning materials, and race-day procedures** to help schools carry forward the spirit of the Grand Prix in their own way. Our hope is that the legacy of this event continues — perhaps in new formats, new parks, and new partnerships — inspiring the next generation of young runners.

In place of the traditional Grand Prix series, we are exploring the possibility of hosting a **single community cross-country meet each fall, held on a weekend.** This format would be more sustainable for our volunteer base while still providing an opportunity for athletes, families, and schools to come together in celebration of running. We hope the community will take part in this new tradition and continue to make it a highlight of the local running calendar.

While this marks the end of one chapter, our commitment to supporting athletes remains steadfast. The Valley Royals will continue to offer programming that helps young people develop their skills and achieve their goals in track and field and cross-country.

We close this message with sadness, but also with hope — trusting that our local schools will continue to nurture the same love for running that has defined the Grand Prix for over four decades.

If you have any questions or would like to connect about planning future school-based meets, please contact **Admin - admin@valleyroyals.ca**

With appreciation and respect,

The Valley Royals Track & Field Club Board of Directors