

2026 Tom Laythe Invitational – Entry and Meet Information

Date: Saturday, September 19, 2026

Location: Bella Vista High School
8301 Madison Ave
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

The format and location for this year's Tom Laythe Invitational has changed. We thought that in the spirit of Tom Laythe we would have a bit of fun with the invitational going forward. Tom always loved to have fun!

The meet will be run at night under the lights at Bella Vista HS on a multi-loop course. The races at night will likely make conditions cooler for the athletes and create a festive environment in the style of a distance carnival. We plan to limit the number of teams allowed into the invitational in order to keep race sizes relatively small and the number of races manageable in order to finish a bit before 10:00 PM. We will provide a festive environment with music as well and food and t-shirts available for purchase. We will also include glowstick bracelets for all your athletes in your team packet.

Bella Vista High School Parking: Parking is available in the student parking lots on the Bella Vista High School Campus and adjacent to the cross country course. For a detailed map, see our website at <http://www.bvtrack.com/>.

Bella Vista High School Facilities: No lockers or showers will be available so have your athletes come dressed to compete. Restroom facilities will be available adjacent to the "cross country course" on the Bella Vista HS campus and near the track.

BVHS Cross Country Course: The course is composed almost entirely of grass and some semi-hard packed dirt trails and will finish on our all-weather track. The freshman/sophomore girls and boys 2.0 mile course includes 2 loops of slightly under 1 mile that is flat with and fast, while the Varsity 3.1 mile course contains 3 slightly under 1-mile loops and finishes on the track with a small loop on the infield to make the course a full 5K. No cross country spikes will be allowed, only cross country racing flats. Detailed course maps will be available on the day of the meet at the "Team Check-In Area" adjacent to the Track stadium. Course maps are also available on our website at <http://www.bvtrack.com/>.

Check-In Time and Location: Pick up your team packets at the "Team Check-In Area" adjacent to the Track stadium starting at 4:30 PM on race day.

Course Walk Through: The course will be available for "walk-throughs" until 5:50 PM on race day – ten minutes prior to the start of the first race.

Meet Schedule: We will determine the schedule and number of "heats" of each division once the entries close and the races are seeded. Below is only a sample schedule based on estimated entries. A final schedule and estimated start time will be release within 48 hours of the close of entries. Estimated schedule below – This is just an estimate!

Race No.	Race	Distance (miles)	Check-In at Starting Line	Starting Time	Awards
1	Frosh/Soph Boys – Heat 1	2.11	6:35 PM	6:45 PM	Top 10
2	Frosh/Soph Girls – Heat 1	2.11	7:00 PM	7:10 PM	Top 10
3	Frosh/Soph Boys – Heat 2	2.11	7:30 PM	7:40 PM	Top 10
4	JV/Varsity Girls – Heat 1	3.1	7:45 PM	7:55 PM	Top 10
5	JV/Varsity Boys – Heat 1	3.1	8:20 PM	8:30 PM	Top 10
6	JV/Varsity Girls – Heat 2	3.1	8:50 PM	9:00 PM	Top 15
7	JV/Varsity Boys – Heat 2	3.1	9:15 PM	9:25 PM	Top 15

***Coaches should enter seed times based on their “best guess” as to the time that they think their athlete would run on a flat and fast 2-mile XC course (For Frosh/Soph) and a flat and fast 5k XC course (For JV and Varsity). We do not want to see an athlete running substantially faster than the estimated times and winning their race by a minute or more! Think of the seeding like a distance carnival in track.**

Awards: Individual awards (medals) will be given to the top individuals, according to the table above. In addition, a plaque will be given to the top TEAM for Frosh/Soph Boys and Girls and top 2 teams for Varsity Boys and Girls based on cumulative time for the top 5 athletes for each school.

Declaring Your Intent To Enter: First make sure you have registered for a free www.athletic.net team account and then send a request to enter through athletic.net. Once we receive your request, you will be confirmed/rejected on athletic.net on a "first come, first served basis." You will need to monitor your athletic.net team page to see if you have been confirmed or rejected. The deadline to declare your intent to enter is **Monday, September 7th, 2026 at 8:00 pm.**

Entering Your Athletes: Once we have received your request and your entry has been confirmed, your athletes can be entered into the meet at www.athletic.net. Instructions for opening a free athletic.net account and entering athletes on athletic.net are available at our website. Please note that once you have submitted your intent to enter and have been accepted, your school is responsible for the minimum school participation fee (whether your school participates

or not). Entries will close on athletic.net on **Friday, September 11th at 11:59 pm. Any schools who do not post entries by this deadline will be removed from the meet and replaced by a team on the Waiting list. All Entries MUST have a seed time. Please use the override option to enter and appropriate seed time for each athlete.**

Final Seed times and placement of athletes into Heats will be done by Wednesday, Sep 16, at 12:00 Noon

Entry Fees: See table below for entry fees.

Item	Fee Schedule
Per Individual Athlete (4 or fewer runners in one race)	\$15.00
Maximum entry fee per gender	\$300.00
Minimum per School	\$30.00
Maximum per School	\$500.00

PLEASE NOTE: **There is a \$30 charge for each chip not returned!**

Online Entry Fees: We will be using an online entry fee payment system through athletic.net. No cash or checks will be accepted. Entry fees must be paid by **Friday, September 18, 2026 at 9:00pm**. Schools that do not pay their entry fees will not receive their credential packet and their athletes will not be allowed to compete.

T-Shirts and Refreshments: Meet T-shirts and refreshments (e.g., pizza, coffee, juice, water, and soda) will be available for purchase at the meet.

If you need any further information contact Harold Kuphaldt h.kuphaldt@gmail.com or Jon Holmes - coachjon.bvxc@outlook.com

Thanks for your interest in the Tom Laythe Invitational!!