

Frontmarker 70 Events

A number of meetings this season are providing both backmarker and frontmarker 70 metre events. The first of these meetings are Terang.

The Frontmarker 70 events will have an 18 metre limit and will be handicapped close to scratch, allowing many more athletes to enter and be competitive than is the case with an open 70 metre event with a 14 metre limit. In effect it opens the 70s up to athletes whose current capabilities are much slower than was previously required.

The Frontmarkers 70 field will be pulled back from their Open 70 marks on an equally proportional basis, so as not to disadvantage anyone. As an example an athlete on 7.25 would come back to 1 metre, therefore running 69 metres as against their normal 62.75 metres, adding an extra 10% in distance. The athlete with a notional open 70 handicap of 22.75 metres will come back to 18 metres, also adding 10% to the distance ran. This format will be used for all marks.

Normal procedures for Acceptable, Satisfactory and Non- Acceptable Performances will apply and athletes taking part in Frontmarker 70s will receive credits for their open 70 handicap if the performance warrants it.

In terms of RPM calculations and the effect on start and ceiling marks, the extra distance will be allowed for and no athletes will be disadvantaged as a result.

This is an opportunity for all Veteran and Female athletes to compete over 70 metres. By doing so their marks will be reviewed after each start, with the aim to provide a competitive handicap. I would encourage those of you who previously thought the 70s were out of reach because of the 14 metre limit, to support the clubs putting on this extra event and enter. There may even be a win in it for you.

If you have any questions please contact me through the office.

Mark O'Brien

Chief Handicapper