

Handicap Appeal Panel – Chloe Mannix-Power

Held on Friday 10th February 2023 via email correspondence and Zoom (Saturday 11th Feb).

Tribunal Members:

Brian Marantelli (Chair)
Stephanie Spence
Peter Walsh

Appellant:

Brett Robinson – on behalf of athlete Chloe Mannix-Power

The tribunal was provided with the following documents:

- Appeal correspondence by Brett Robinson;
- Handicap Review Panel correspondence;
- Email correspondence from David Haigh – Director of Handicapping & Colin Lane – Women's Sprints Handicapper
- Video footage of 2022 Australian Beach Sprint Championships & 2022 Summerset Gift Final QLD

Finding:

The appeal to review the handicap adjustment for Chloe Mannix-Power from 5m to 2m was found to be within reason, the independent panel of three, Steph Spence, Peter Walsh and Brian Marantelli have reviewed the email correspondence from all parties, scrutinised the relevant handicap guidelines and reviewed the video replays.

The clear belief of the panel is that the women's sprint handicapper, Colin Lane, has acted within the VAL Handicap Regulations and does have the right to amend an athlete's start mark, especially if and when he becomes aware of further information, whether it be a video, race result or just a reassessment of his thoughts on the athlete's ability. The handicapper has the duty to take into his assessment any athletic discipline that the athlete has contested i.e. beach sprinting, long jump etc.

However, we are unanimous that the handicap reduction was extreme and have advised, Colin to increase Chloe's handicap for this weekend to 3.75m.

The fundamentals of handicapping are to make an athlete competitive over a period of time, not necessarily from day one. As Chloe is an OGA (On Going Assessment) athlete, who has the potential for significant natural development, we feel Colin has used his discretion accordingly. As with all OGA athletes, once the Stewards have seen her run, they can provide their assessment and apply a lift if satisfied and/or appropriate.