

Handicap Review procedures

1. All initial handicap queries should be first discussed with a VRTA representative. VRTA representatives are at each meeting and can also be contacted via info@vrta.org.au
2. All handicap queries, reviews and appeals will be available via the 'Athlete Profile' section on the website shortly. Until such time, submissions are to be sent to val@val.org.au
3. Athletes can submit 2 free handicap queries to the VAL during each season. Athletes and Trainers should be very clear about the details of the query, i.e. the specific handicap that is being queried, who it's for and what race category is the handicap in (70m Open, 400m Restricted etc.). It is very important to include why you believe the handicap is incorrect.
4. If the result of a query is successful, the athlete will retain their handicap query. If the query proves to be frivolous, the athlete loses one of the free challenges. Please make yourself familiar with the Handicap Regulations. They can be found on the Downloads page of the website. The most common query is:

"I've run 3 times, shouldn't I have received a lift?"

Most common answers:

"The handicaps were completed before your last run, therefore you will receive a new handicap at your next entry." And;

"You received a timed NAP for your performance at [competition x]." A timed NAP means the athletes result did not fall within the acceptable time range (from the fastest heat time) to receive an AP (Acceptable Performance). Time ranges for each race category can be found in Schedule 1 of the Handicap Regulations.

5. Once the athlete has no challenges remaining, they must submit a formal handicap review at a cost of \$50. A Handicap Review will be viewed by the Handicap Review Panel (HRP). The HRP will determine if the handicap in question is within the Regulations or not. If not, they will instruct the Handicapper to adjust the handicap accordingly. If the handicap is found to be within the Regulations, the Handicappers allocated handicap will remain.
6. If the athlete believes their handicap to be outside of the Regulations or is unfair and requires a discretionary assessment, they may submit a formal Handicap Appeal at a cost of \$200 (Open Gift and Women's Gift at Stawell cost \$500). The appeal will be heard by an independent panel.