

SEASON 2020-21 RACE REPORTS

Meadowglen 13th December 2020

Weather; Hot,windy

Track; Synthetic 400m

Commentator; Terry McGarity

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Rob McIntosh, Matthew Webster

Photo finish; Leah Macdonald, Tom Burbidge

Results; Nila Blennerhasset

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

Handicappers; Graeme Goldsworthy, Colin Lane, Daryl Nettleton, Chris Brown

NAP's

70m; Zoe Neale, Tom Perry, Jack Wolfe (injury)

100m Women's; Carly Bailey, Cara Boustead, Alex Tzilantonis,

200m Open gift; Tom Griffin (injury), Jackson Bennett.

300m Masters; David Gill (break)

550m; Munashe Hove (injury)

GENERAL COMMENTS

Laura Yorke, Liam Denner were given permission to compete in flats.

Tony O'Shea and Richard Wearmouth were given permission to compete from a standing position in sprint events

Dion Paull's blocks slipped at the start of the 200m semi final.

Jack Wolfe was injured in the heat of the 70m.

Athletes and Coaches please note the following messages from the VAL stewarding panel

Please note that under no circumstances are pets allowed onto the athletic arena, leashed or unleashed.

VAL RULE 11.16

Any Athlete who sustains an injury or illness during an event, which prevents the athlete from running to the best of their ability or is unable to take their place in a semi final or final for similar reasons, MAY incur a suspension of 28 days. The decision as to a suspension being applied is solely at the discretion of the stewarding panel.

Any athlete who is injured in running or fails to complete their event must report to the VAL stewards.

Breaking in a heat or semi final and not progressing is an automatic NP, at best

All athletes must submit winning interstate performances and PB's to the VAL via website as per VAL rules 11.19, 11.20, 11.21, 11.22, 11.23. Failure to do so WILL result in a fine.

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Geelong 9th January 2021

Weather; Hot

Track Grass; 253m

Commentator; Ollie Wurm

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Ian Sibson, Rob & Keiran McIntosh

Photo finish; Andre Pereira, Leah Macdonald

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

Handicappers; Graeme Goldsworthy, Colin Lane, Andrew McDowell, Chris Brown, Darryl Nettleton

Track Allowance; nil

NAP's

70m; Rupert Lugo, Hamish Adams, Maki Loukeris

100m Women's; Nyah Brown, Zoe Cunningham, Holly Dobbin

100m men's gift; Dion Paull,

300m Women's; Jacinta McFarlane

800m; Ashley Humphrey, Ruby Crisp

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General Comments

Brad Manczak and David Palmer were given permission to wear flats

Zoe Cunningham was given permission to scratch from semi 2 of the women's gift.

Nyah Brown, after missing her semi final, was advised that all athletes must check results for progression. Nyah was also warned and advised to take greater care when crossing fellow athletes in her heat of the 300m.

Sean Davidson eased out of the second heat of the 800m due to an injury.

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Frankston 16th January 2021

Weather; wet, windy

Track; Synthetic

Commentator; Ollie Wurm

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Graeme Humphrey, Rob McIntosh

Photo finish; Chole Blennerhassett, Graeme Walker.

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

Handicappers; Graeme Goldsworthy, Colin Lane, Andrew McDowell, Chris Brown, Darryl Nettleton

Track Allowance; synthetic

- 70 & 100 metres – 0.1
- 200 metres – 0.2
- 300 metres – 0.5
- 400 metres and above – 1.0 per 400.

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NAP's

70m Men; Luke Baker (Brk), Corey Baker, Spencer Browne, Massimo Acquaro

70m Women's; Karlee Bailey (brk), Katie Moore (inj), Mietta Russell (brk), Zoe Glassborow, Narelle Lehmann, Taylah Perry, Zoe Neale, Zoe Cunningham

100m Open; Jasper Nettlefold (inj), 300m Masters; Cameron Yorke (inj), David Gill (inj)

400m women's; Mietta Russell, Layla Watson, Megan McMahon

550m; Jack Doderico

General Comments

- Mietta Russell was given permission to scratch from the final of the women's 400m, due to soreness.
- The restricted 400m was conducted as a straight final.
- Spencer Brown Was given permission to scratch from the 70m Open semi final, due to injury
- Jasper Nettlefold was injured in the 70m Open final
- Cameron Yorke eased out of his heat of the 300m masters due to injury.
- Sky Hunter-Robinson was injured in the final of the under 18s.
- Due to a timing fault heat three of the master 300m was conducted after heat 5.
- Due to a timing error heat one of the open 100m was re-run to ascertain timing advancements. The winner Endale Mekconnen was an automatic qualifier.
- Tim Rosen was advised that the correct colour singlet was now a requirement for all athletes.

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Wangaratta 23rd January 2021

Weather; Hot

Track; Grass 420m

Commentator; Ollie Wurm

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Brendan Ferrari, Matthew Webster

Photo finish; Chole Blennerhassett,

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

Handicappers; Graeme Goldsworthy, Colin Lane, Andrew McDowell, Chris Brown, Darryl Nettleton

Track Allowance; nil

NAP's

70m Men; Darcy Ireland,

120m Open; Jesse Cordoma, John Evans,

300m Masters; Paul Frusher (brk), Richard Norris (inj)

400m Open, Nicholas Antinino, Mitchell Palmer, Dominic Hoskins

120m women's; Zoe Neale

General Comments

Richard Norris broke down in his heat of the 300m.

The restricted 400m and Open 800m were conducted as a straight finals.

Mitchell Palmer Was given permission to scratch from the 400m Open final, due to injury

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Maribyrnong 21st January 2021

Weather; Warm, windy

Track; Grass 398m

Commentator; Ollie Wurm

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Brendan Ferrari, Matthew Webster

Photo finish; Chole Blennerhassett, Leah MacDonald

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meehan

Handicappers; Graeme Goldsworthy, Colin Lane, Andrew McDowell, Chris Brown,

Track Allowance; nil

NAP's

70m Men; Darcy Ireland, Jerome Lugo, Matt Burleigh

120m Open; Tom Perry, Myles Medwell, Cam Dunbar, Maki Loukeris, Thomas Yeung, Kristerfer Kardakovski.

300m Masters; Carl McMeel (inj)

300m Women's; Halle Martin, Montana Beruldsen

400m Open, Nicholas Antinino, Mitchell Palmer, Dominic Hoskins

120m Women's; Zoe Neale, Karlee Baily, Megan McMahon, Cara Boustead (inj), Loryn Savoia, Montana Beruldsen. Ruby Crisp (brk)

300m Open; Daniel Quattrone, Harrison Kerr

General Comments

Carl McMeel was given permission to scratch from the 400m Open final, due to injury

Brad Manzack, Mat Mackay, Liam Denner were given permission to wear flats in the 1600m.

Craig Rollinson was fined \$50 for causing interference in the home straight in the 300m Masters final.

Clint Anderson performance in the 1600m was queried and explanation accepted.

Jerome Lugo's performances in the 70m were queried. It was impressed upon Jerome that his novice status was becoming a concern for stewards and the handicapper.

Elissa Ward competed in the wrong heat of the women's 120m.

Luke Stevens eased out of his heat of the 70m, due to injury.

Loryn Savoia was permitted to compete in the women's 300m after qualifying for the Women's 120m final.

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Parkdale 6th February 2021

Weather; Warm, windy

Track; Grass 400m

Commentator; Ollie Wurm, Grant Penney

Wind gauge; Automatic
Starters; Rob McIntosh, Graeme Humphrey
Photo finish; Chole Blennerhassett, Leah MacDonald
Results; Nila Blennerhassett
Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan
Handicappers; Graeme Goldsworthy, Colin Lane, Darryl Nettleton, Chris Brown,

Track Allowance; nil

NAP's

70m Men; Jerome Lugo, Hayden Crossly (brk), Kristerfer Kardakovski (brk), Patrick Martin
120m Open; Harrison Kerr, Matt Burleigh, Tim Rosen, Nicholas Antinino
120m women's; Zoe Cunningham, Ashleigh Terlato, Hannah Duynhoven, Olivia May, Zoe Neale, Maddie Coates
120m Masters; Mark Glassborow.
800m Open; Alex Jones.

UP's

400m Open, Daniel Quattrone (interference).

General Comments

- At various stages, during the distance events, many athletes and coaches, after being directed to leave the arena by the stewards, refused this direction. The stewards will discuss this breaches with VAL CEO Tom Burbidge this week to decide the steps and penalties that may be applied as a result. The VAL have 7 days to apply any penalties to the relevant parties.
15.10 Stewards are empowered:
 - a) to direct and control at any meeting or race the activities of officials, athletes, trainers, bookmakers, clerks, and anyone else appointed, employed or engaged in or about the meeting or race;
 - d) to exclude or direct the removal of a person from the sports ground and track.
 - e) Failure to comply with a request by the Stewards under this Regulation shall incur a fine of up to \$1,000.00.
- Brett McDonald failed to complete his heat of the 800m.
- Jack O'Farrell failed to appear for the final of the u/18s 120m. Athletes are reminded to check the results for progression, regardless of heat placing.
- Daniel Hopkins failed to complete the 3200m.
- Phil Noden and Alex Bacalja were given permission to wear flats in the 3200m.
- Suz Sinclair was fined \$50 for bringing a dog onto the arena. Suz has been repeatedly warned over the previous two seasons.
- Daniel Quattrone was fined \$100 for causing interference on the home turn to Michael Dinan in the 400m Open final. When queried by stewards.
- Jerome Lugo's performances in the 70m was once again queried. Once again it was explained to Jerome that his novice handicap can be reviewed.
- Bianca Patterson, after missing her heat, was placed into the final heat of the Women's and Master's 300m.
- Due to a power breakdown the second heat of the Open 400 was hand timed. This was also the cause of the first five in each heat qualifying for the final of the 300m u/18's women's.

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Waverley 21st February 2021

Weather; overcast

Track; Grass 400m

Commentator; Ollie Wurm,

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Rob McIntosh, Graeme Humphrey

Photo finish; Chole Blennerhassett, Leah MacDonald

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

Handicappers; Graeme Goldsworthy, Colin Lane, Darryl Nettleton, Chris Brown,

Track Allowance; nil

NAP's

70m open; Isaiah Cross (brk), Hayden Wyllie (brk), Julian Fawcett

100m Open; Isaac Dunmall (inj), Kyle Perrin, Maki Loukeris, Nicolas Antonino,

400m: Chris Diegan, Luca Wright

100m women's; Caitlyn Nicholson

400m women's; Layla Watson

800m Open; Simon Fitzpatrick, Olivia Goder

General Comments

- Isaac Dunmall, Simon Fitzpatrick, Parvinder Singh Bajwa and Noddy Angelakos all suffered injuries in heats of their events.
- Stewards queried Luca Wright after his heat of the open 400m. Lucas explained that his lack of opportunity to train consistently in recent weeks has affected his performances. It was explained to Lucas that as a Bendigo opal winner last season, it was his responsibility to inform stewards of any setback that would impact on his performances to the degree it appears to have.
- Arthur Ince was given permission to start from a standing position in straight events.

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Castlemaine 28th February 2021

Weather; Hot

Track; Grass 395m

Commentator; Ollie Wurm,

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Rob McIntosh, Graeme Humphrey

Photo finish; Leah MacDonald, Tom Burbidge

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

Handicappers; Graeme Goldsworthy, Colin Lane, Darryl Nettleton, Chris Brown, Andrew McDowell

Track Allowance; 120m .1 sec & 70m .1 sec

NAP's

- 70m open: Lucas Archer (non appearance)
- 120m Open; Ryan Camille, Clinton Gray, Endale Mekonnen
- 120m Women's; Laura McDougall
- 120m Masters; Andrew Drummond
- 400m; Anthony Holbery (inj)
- 400m Women's; Layla Watson

UP's

- 120m Women's; Zoe Neale
- 300m Masters; Tom Hecimovic

General Comments

- Zoe Neale was issued with a UP (unsatisfactory performance) for her run in the 120m Women's Gift. A condition of receiving a UP is an automatic handicap review. Zoe's handicap has been adjusted to 5.5m for her next 120m event.
- Tom Hecimovic was queried after his performance in the final of the Master's 300m. Stewards and handicappers believed that Tom's effort in the home straight was below what was expected and issued Tom with a penalty of \$300 and a UP. Tom was charged under rule 16.38 (b) & (c). Tom's handicap will be 42m for his next 300m event.
- After the 70m final stewards and handicappers queried athletes Brendan Matthews, Maki Loukeris and Nicholas Antinino. It was eventually decided that no action was to be taken.
- Vicki Matthews was permitted to compete from a standing start in straight events
- Lucas Archer, after missing his 70m semi final, was advised that it is his responsibility to check the progression order in his events.
- Zoe Nicholson was queried after the final of the 800m. Zoe was told that the degree of improvement from Waverley to Castlemaine was outside what normally could be expected. Zoe's reasoning was accepted but she was advised that stewards and handicappers need be told beforehand if circumstances may result in an extreme range of variation in performance.
- Justin Murphy was checked in the home straight of his heat of the 300m Masters
- Anthony Holberry eased out of the final of the open 400m after suffering an injury.

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Warrnambool March 6th 2021

Weather; cool, windy

Track; Grass 394m

Commentator; Ollie Wurm,

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Rob McIntosh, Graeme Humphrey

Photo finish; Leah MacDonald

Results; Nila Blennerhasset

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

Handicappers; Graeme Goldsworthy, Andrew McDowell

Track Allowance; nil.

For the purpose of fairness all times recorded will not be used to determine future handicaps

NAP's

- 300m Masters; Darren Arthur

General Comments

- David Gross eased out of his 70m heat, due to injury

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Ballarat March 7th & 8th 2021

Weather; cool,

Track; Grass 400m

Commentator; Ollie Wurm,

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Rob McIntosh, Graeme Humphrey

Photo finish; Leah MacDonaldR

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

Handicappers; Graeme Goldsworthy, Andrew McDowell, Colin Lane

Track Allowance; 70m .1 second

NAP's

- 70m; Chris Diegan, Peter Biggs
- 300m Masters; Darren Arthur
- 120m Masters; Richard Wearmouth
- 120m Open; Hamish Adams, Hugh Hoffman, Brett Richards, Robert Spencer, Corey Baker (vic), Kristerfer Kardakovski, Patrick Martin, Joel Bee, Tom Griffin, Fejiro Omuvwie, Chris Vi, Endale Mekonnen
- 120m Women; Elizabeth Rauch, Rachel O'Brien, Alex Tzilantonis, Laura McDougall, Grace O'Dwyer
- 400m; Darcy Ireland
- 800m; Marcus Overman
- 550m; David Haigh

UP's

- 300m Masters; Andrew Drummond

GENERAL COMMENTS

Darcy Ireland pulled out of the 400m mid-race with an injury.

David Haigh scratched from the final of the 550m due to injury

Hugh Hoffman was injured in his heat of the open Gift.

Declan Gould wore flats in the 800m

Stewards and the distance handicapper spoke with Sam Sabbatucci regarding his recent 800m performances. Sam's runs will continue to be monitored.

Andrew Drummond was fined \$250 and given a UP after his run in the heat of the Masters 300. Andrew has a handicap reduction of 2 metres for his next 300m masters event.

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Hastings March 13th 2021

Weather; Very heavy rain mid-afternoon until close,

Track; Grass 400m

Commentator; Ollie Wurm,

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Rob McIntosh, Graeme Humphrey

Photo finish; Leah Macdonald, Tom Burbidge

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

Handicappers; Graeme Goldsworthy, Darryl Nettleton, Colin Lane

Track Allowance; Nil

NAP's

- 70m; Clinton Gray, Nicholas Antinino, Max Mason (brk)
- 300m Women; Isabella Antonino (brk)
- 120m Masters; Tony O'Shea (brk), Steven Coulson, Brett Maurer
- 120m Open; Daniel Quattrone (brk), Matt Carter (inj),
- 120m Women; Zoe Neale, Kelsey Williams (no appearance), Chloe Kinnersly (brk)
- 300m Masters; Craig Rollinson, Mark Glassborow
- 800m; Tom Hecimovic, Ky Davies

General Comments

- Stewards and handicappers spoke with Nicholas Antinino after his heat of the 70m. Nicholas explained that he was sore and hadn't warmed up well before the event. He improved in the semi and final. Nicholas then scratched from the open gift.
- Matt Carter scratched from the semi final of the 120m due to injury
- Stewards and the handicapper spoke with Steven Coulson after the final of the masters 120m final. Stewards believed that in the final the effort from Steven was poor. He was advised that his runs will be monitored over the final month of the season.
- Declan Gould was given permission to run in flats.
- Kelsey Williams failed to appear for the semi final of the Women's gift. Kelsey will need to speak to stewards before her next run.

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Docklands March 20th 2021

Weather; mild, overcast,

Track; Grass 300m

Commentator; Ollie Wurm,

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Rob McIntosh, Matthew Webster

Photo finish; Leah MacDonald

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

Handicappers; Graeme Goldsworthy, Darryl Nettleton, Colin Lane, Chris Brown, Andrew McDowell

Track Allowance; nil

NAP's

- 100m Masters; Brendan Boyle (inj)
- 100m Open; Luke Eckford (inj)
- 120m Women; Zoe Cunningham, Zoe Neale, Tarryn Fisher
- 300m Masters; Jeff Sargent
- 400m Women; Sue Anderson, Ashleigh Hamilton
- 400m Open; Callum James, Chris Diegan, Daniel Quattrone, Ben Hugall
- 800m; David Page

General Comments

- Stewards and the handicapper spoke with Jeff Sargent after the final of the masters 300m final. Stewards believed that in the final the effort from Jeff was poor. He was advised that his runs will be monitored over the next weeks.
- Luke Eckford failed to complete his semi of the gift, due to injury.
- Declan Gould was given permission to run in flats.
- Emily Dalziel was found to be ineligible for the restricted 1600m and was a late withdrawal. Emily although still eligible for the restricted 1600m at Stawell is unable to compete in any further heats after winner a Women's/Masters 1600m.
- Brendan Boyle failed to complete his heat of the Masters 120m, due to injury
- Seamus Graham appeared to buckle in the final 50m of the back markers 1600m, Troy Atkins was severely checked. Seamus, having his first VAL run, was advised to show more care.
- Ben Hugall was forced a little wide on the first turn and then eased out of the race. Stewards spoke to Ben and coach Adrian Fury and advised that this was not a sufficient reason to pull out of an event.

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Ringwood March 27th 2021

Weather; mild,

Track; synthetic

Commentator; Ollie Wurm

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Rob McIntosh, Kieren McIntosh

Photo finish; Leah MacDonald, Chloe Blennerhassett

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

Handicappers; Graeme Goldsworthy, Darryl Nettleton, Chris Brown, Andrew McDowell

Track Allowance; synthetic

General Comments

- Jack May failed to appear for his semi final. He will need to speak to VAL officials before his next start.
- Richard Norris sought permission to not use blocks in sprint events.
- Dominic Condello eased out of his semi final, due to injury
- Clint Anderson wore flats.

*Athletes and Coaches please note the following messages from the VAL stewarding panel

- Please note that under no circumstances are pets allowed onto the athletic arena, leashed or unleashed.
- VAL rule 11.16
- Any Athlete who sustains an injury or illness during an event, which prevents the athlete from running to the best of their ability or is unable to take their place in a semi final or final for similar reasons, MAY incur a suspension of 28 days. The decision as to a suspension being applied is solely at the discretion of the stewarding panel.
- Breaking in a heat or semi final and not progressing is an automatic NAP, at best
- All athletes must submit winning interstate performances and PB's to the VAL via website as per VAL rules 11.19, 11.20, 11.21, 11.22, 11.23. Failure to do so **WILL** result in a fine.
- Athletes intending to wear flats in circular events must seek permission from stewards prior to racing. Any sustained use of flats may reduce the possibility of reverting to spikes later in the season.

Stawell 3rd-5th April 2021

Weather; hot Saturday Sunday, warm and windy Monday

Track; 400m Grass

Commentator; Ollie Wurm, Matt Hill

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Stawell Starters

Photo finish; Leah Macdonald, Graeme Walker, Andre Pereira, Rob Jones, Tom Burbidge

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

Handicappers; Graeme Goldsworthy, Darryl Nettleton, Chris Brown, Andrew McDowell, Colin Lane

General Comments

- Sophie Stokes was fined \$200 and re-handicapped from 116m to 100m in the women's 800m. Sophie was also issued with a UP and automatic handicap review for season 2021-22. Rule 16.38 (a) (b) & (c).
- Jeff Sargent was fined \$200 and re-handicapped .5m in the Masters 100m. Rule 16.38 (a) (b) & (c).
- Steven Coulson was fined \$200 and re-handicapped .5m in the Masters 100m. Rule 16.38 (a) (b) & (c). These penalties relate to a discussion with Steven after the final of the Hastings Masters 120m.
- After the running of the women's 800m coach Nick Fiedler was fined \$200 under VAL rule 16.29
- Sam Sabbatucci was fined \$200 and issued with a UP and automatic handicap review for season 2021-22. These penalties relate to a conversation stewards and the distance handicapper had with Sam at Ballarat.
- Jerome Lugo was fined \$400 at the completion of the Stawell carnival under rule Rule 16.38 (a) (b) & (c). This fine relates back to conversations with Jerome at Parkdale and Maribyrnong.