

Meadowglen - Sunday 10th November 2019

Weather: Overcast

Track: Synthetic 400m

Commentator: Oliver Wurm

Starters: Matthew Webster & Rob McIntosh

Wind Gauge: Automatic

Photo Finish: Leah Macdonald, Graeme Walker

Results: Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards: Wally Meechan (Chief) & Chris Brown (Assisting)

Handicappers: Graeme Goldsworthy (Men Sprints), Darryl Nettleton (Women Sprints & Master Sprints), Andrew McDowell (Junior Sprints), Chris Brown (Restricted Sprints & Open 300/400) & Colin Lane (Middle Distance & Distance)

General Comments & Notes:

Note: Athletes who break in a heat or a semi-final and don't progress will be issued an automatic NAP at best, UP to be issued based on discussion with athlete in question.

Important Reminder: All athletes must submit PB's to the VAL via website as per VAL rules 11.18, 11.19, 11.20, 11.21, 11.22, 11.23.

Stewards, Handicappers & Athlete Discussions:

Melissa Foster - Stewards enquired as to non-submission of all PB's and explained importance in advising VAL and of course handicappers of all PB's as per VAL rules, especially if you're a new competitor to VAL ranks. Darryl considered re-handicap in 100m due to non-submission of 100m PB in particular. Was agreed that Melissa was completely unaware and had made an innocent mistake. Therefore Darryl gave Melissa benefit of the doubt and no adjustment was made.

Jack Doderico - Jack requested permission to run in 200m heat even though he'd qualified for 550m final which was to be run 7mins after 200m heat. Stewards gave permission but Jack was strongly advised that if he lost time in final that he'd be issued an NAP. Post final of 550m Stewards advised Jack that he'd in fact be allocated at UP as opposed to NAP as his performance was well below expectations.

Matt Burleigh - Matt's coach (Todd Ireland) requested permission for Matt to withdrawal from 200m semi-final due to groin soreness and tightness. Permission was granted and further discussion or consultation will be required prior to next outing if prior to 28 days (14 days with doctors certificate).

Tom Hecimovic - Tom pulled up sore and looked to be injured during final of 300m Masters. Upon informal discussion Tom advised that it was simply a case of cramping in hamstring and no major damage apparent. Mandatory NAP will be applied.

Performance Assessments:

VAL website now shows athletes performance assessments based on time deviations, however below are NAP's & UP's based on Stewards further intervention & assessment:

NAP's

200m Open: Aidan Green

300m Masters: Tom Hecimovic

1600m Open: Tom Hockley Samon, Julian Harris

UP's

550m Open: Jack Doderico

Hastings - Saturday 16 November 2019

Weather: Overcast (Windy Conditions)

Track: Grass 373m (Circular)

Commentator: Cartha McKerrow

Starters: Rob McIntosh & Graeme Humphrey

Wind Gauge: Automatic

Photo Finish: Leah Macdonald, Andre Pereira

Results: Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards: Wally Meecham (Chief) & Chris Brown (Assisting)

Handicappers: Graeme Goldsworthy (Men Sprints), Darryl Nettleton (Women Sprints & Master Sprints), Andrew McDowell (Junior Sprints), Chris Brown (Restricted Sprints & Open 300/400) & Colin Lane (Middle Distance & Distance)

General Comments & Notes:

Note: Athletes who break in a heat or a semi-final and don't progress will be issued an automatic NAP at best, UP to be issued based on discussion with athlete in question.

Important Reminder: All athletes must submit PB's to the VAL via website as per VAL rules 11.19, 11.20, 11.21, 11.22, 11.23.

Stewards, Handicappers & Athlete Discussions:

Jesse Madigan - Stewards & Handicappers advised Jesse and his coach Scott Rowsell that incorrect handicap had been applied, Jesse was handicapped off 10.50m which of course is the novice handicap for females as opposed to 4.00m which is novice for males. Jesse was subsequently re-handicapped to 4.00m for final.

Jack Wolfe - Unfortunately Jack sustained a slight hamstring strain in heat of 70m Restricted, as such was unable to take his place in the final.

Zoe Cunningham- Unfortunately Zoe sustained a severe back injury in heat of 120m Women's Gift, as such was unable to take her place in the final of 120m U18.

Hayley Atkins- Unfortunately Hayley sustained a cramping during running of 120m Women's Gift, as such failed to finish the race.

Matt Rizzo- Unfortunately Matt sustained a slight hamstring strain and/or tightness in semi of 120m Open Gift, as such was unable to take his place in the final.

Alexia Loizou- Unfortunately Alexia sustained a slight hamstring strain and/or tightness after heat of 300m Women's, as such was unable to take her place in the final.

Matthew Napier- Stewards & Handicapper spoke with Matt post heat of 300m Open which we won impressively. Whilst Matt's submitted PB's prior to declaration of handicaps for meeting, this was his first meeting on VAL circuit but not first pro meeting overall. Unfortunately Matt failed to submit prior pro performances at Xmas & New Year carnivals in Tasmania in which we won La Trobe 120m Gift and Burnie 400m Open. Matt was reminded that all pro performances outside of VAL should be declared. No further action taken.

Justin Murphy- Stewards & Handicapper spoke with Justin post final of 800m given significant loss of time from heat. Justin explained that he was 'cooked' and hadn't be

able to recovery from heat run, given short back up time, age and handicap of Justin, the stewards were happy with explanation.

Justin Cohen- Stewards & Handicapper spoke with Justin post final of 800m as on face value his performance seemed well below that of his heat. Justin explained that he too 'had nothing left to give in the final' due to his performance in the heat and short back up. It was excepted that given it's very early in the season and given that Justin had run slightly faster than in his heat no further action to be taken.

Performance Assessments:

VAL website now shows athletes performance assessments based on time deviations, however below are NAP's based on Stewards further intervention & assessment:

NAP's

120m Open: Matt Rizzo

120m Women: Hayley Atkins, Kirsty Stevens, Ashleigh Terlato

300m Women: Alexia Loizou, Samantha Barrow

Warrnambool - Saturday 30th November 2019

Weather: Overcast (Windy Conditions)

Track: Grass 400m (Circular)

Commentator: Cartha McKerrow

Starters: Rob McIntosh & Graeme Humphries

Wind Gauge: Automatic

Photo Finish: Andre Pereira, Leah Macdonald

Results: Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards: Wally Meecham (Chief) & Chris Brown (Assisting)

Handicappers: Graeme Goldsworthy (Men Sprints), Darryl Nettleton (Women Sprints & Master Sprints), Andrew McDowell (Junior Sprints), Chris Brown (Restricted Sprints & Open 300/400) & Colin Lane (Middle Distance & Distance)

General Comments & Notes:

Important Note: All athletes who break in a heat or a semi-final and don't progress will be issued an automatic NAP at best, UP to be issued based on discussion with athlete in question and if stewards see fit.

Important Note: All athletes must submit PB's to the VAL via website as per VAL rules 11.19, 11.20, 11.21, 11.22, 11.23.

Important Note: All athletes intending to wear flats in circular events must seek permission from stewards prior to event.

General Comment: All athletes coming at Warrnambool to be awarded 2 ticks for any performance accessed as AP/SP/NAP-T. Only NAPs based on Handicapper & Stewards intervention would result in no ticks.

General Comment: Technical issues were experienced during the running of 300m Open heats, as such stewards made the quick decision to change progression to final to 1st & 2nd placings in each heat plus 2 fastest times.

General Comment: Track allowance applicable to 70m Open (0.10sec) and 120m Womens & Open (0.40sec) on adjusted times.

Stewards, Handicappers & Athlete Discussions:

Jake Stevens- Handicapper & Stewards post heat of 800m questioned Jake as to his significant improvement from Hastings to Warrnambool. Jake advised that Hastings was his first event/races for season and as such he subconsciously switched off in his heat of 800m at Hastings once he realised he couldn't win or progress to final as he still had 1600m to run later in the day. Jake was reminded that he must run at 100% effort for all events whether he can win or not. No further action to be taken, nor required to be taken give results on the day.

Liv Ryan- Handicapper & Stewards post heat of 120m Women's questioned Liv on her performance on the day, Handicapper had concern that Liv had performed well below expectations comparative to Hastings. Liv explained that she'd stumbled at the start and that conditions didn't suit given the significant head wind. Live was extremely disappointed that she'd missed the final by smallest of margins. Stewards excepted Liv's explanation and no further action to be taken with run to be considered an AP.

Performance Assessments:

VAL website now shows athletes performance assessments based on time deviations, however below are NAP's based on Stewards further intervention & assessment:

NAP's - None for the day.

Terang - Sunday 1st December 2019

Weather: Overcast (Intermittent Rain & Windy Conditions)

Track: Grass 400m (Circular)

Commentator: Cartha McKerrow

Starters: Rob McIntosh & Graeme Humphries

Wind Gauge: Automatic

Photo Finish: Andres Pereira, Leah Macdonald

Results: Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards: Wally Meecham (Chief) & Chris Brown (Assisting)

Handicappers: Graeme Goldsworthy (Men Sprints), Darryl Nettleton (Women Sprints & Master Sprints), Andrew McDowell (Junior Sprints), Chris Brown (Restricted Sprints & Open 300/400) & Colin Lane (Middle Distance & Distance)

General Comments & Notes:

Important Note: All athletes who break in a heat or a semi-final and don't progress will be issued an automatic NAP at best, UP to be issued based on discussion with athlete in question and if stewards see fit.

Important Note: All athletes must submit PB's to the VAL via website as per VAL rules 11.19, 11.20, 11.21, 11.22, 11.23.

Important Note: All athletes intending to wear flats in circular events must seek permission from stewards prior to event.

Stewards, Handicappers & Athlete Discussions:

Matt Carter- Stewards had a chat with Matt throughout the day to communicate concerns that it was becoming a pattern or habit for his athletes who had progressed to finals to then scratch due to injury. Matt was reminded that if this pattern continues that Stewards would have no choice but to enforce 28 day injury rule.

Performance Assessments:

VAL website now shows athletes performance assessments based on time deviations, however below are NAP's based on Stewards further intervention & assessment:

NAP's:

120m Women's - Zoe Neale

300m Women's & Masters - Dominic Condello

400m Restricted - Habtamu Barret

800m Open - Tom Hecimovic, Jack Anderson, Samuel Anderson

Waverley 15th December 2019

Weather; Overcast warm

Track Grass; 392m

Commentator; Oliie Wurm

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Rob McIntosh, Brendan Ferrari

Photo finish; Andre Pereira, Graeme Walker

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan, Chris Brown

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

General Comments

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

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 NP, at best

The first heat of the Open Gift was recalled and re-run after heat four, due to a timing error.

Due to an incorrect handicap allocation, Xavier Cross (13.25m) was re-handicapped for the final of the under 18's 70 metre final (9.25m).

Jara Konteh was cautioned for glancing across the track during both the heat and semi final of the 70m.

Elizabeth Rauch, a finalist in the women's gift, was advised of possible adverse outcomes by contesting her heat of the women's 300.

All athletes must submit PB's to the VAL via website as per VAL rules 11.19, 11.20, 11.21, 11.22, 11.23

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. Athletes Tony Moran, Ash Sandison, Troy Atkins and Olivia Goder were given permission to wear flats at Waverley.

NAP's

800m; Lonain Burnett

70m; Aiden Green, Zoe Neale, Jerome Lugo, Kysha Praciak

120m Women; Kaylee Bailey, Taylah Perry, Jody Richards, Montana Beruldsen

300m Women; Halle Martin
400m; Joel Bee

Maryborough 1st January 2020

Weather; Hot with a breeze

Track; Grass 400m

Commentator; Matthew Webster, Craig Dunbar

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Rob McIntosh, Ian Sibson, Graeme Humphrey

Photo finish; Tom Burbidge, Chris Macdonald

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan,

Handicappers; Graeme Goldsworthy, Colin Lane, Andrew McDowell,

General Comments

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

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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.

Molly Farmer sustained an injury in her heat of the 70m.

Kenneth Vuong, due to a PB, was re-handicapped to 5.5m for the Open Gift.

Jacob Densely failed to finish his heat of the 200m.

Damien Wapshott failed to complete his heat of the 300m masters.

In the final of the Masters 300m David Woods was advised to show more caution when shifting course in the home straight. Rod Matthew was severely check by David in the final 50m.

Iliana Grandine, due to injury, was permitted to scratch from the final of the women's 400m.

The Open 800m was conducted as a straight final.

NAP's

120m Open Gift: Campbell Butson (brk), Habtamu Barrett (brk), Noddy Angelakos, Mitchell Tucker, Dion Paull

120m Women's Gift: Liv Ryan

300m Masters: Rob Irwin, Michael Carney

400m Women's: Iliana Grandine, Gabriel Boulton

Open 400m: Stefan Catalano

Daylesford 5th January 2020

Weather; Cold, wet, windy

Track: Grass 343m

Commentator; Cartha McKerrow

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Rob McIntosh, Ian Sibson, Kieren McIntosh

Photo finish; Tom Burbidge, Chris Macdonald

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli

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

General comments:

Lynn Gunning retired from her heat of the 300m Masters, due to injury
Aiden Green was queried regarding his run in the final of the Daylesford Gift. Aiden was advised that he needed to show more endeavor in his races. Both the steward and sprint handicapper believed Aiden lacked urgency in his running.

NAP's

70m Open; Taylah Perry (brk), Hugh Hoffman (brk), Thomas Yeung, Noddy Angelekos

300m Masters; Colum Rothery, Tom Hecimovic

120m Open Gift; Vic Sharma, Nicholas Antinino, Endale Mekonnen, Andrea Marco Sticca

120m Women's Gift; Kirsty Stevens

Open 400m; Michael Dinan, David Woods

400m Women's; Sounya Visvanathan, Halle Martin, Sue Anderson

Rule reminders:

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

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

All athletes must submit PB's to the VAL via website as per VAL rules 11.19, 11.20, 11.21, 11.22, 11.23

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.

Rye 11th January 2020

Weather; Overcast, windy

Track; Grass 387m

Commentator; Cartha McKerrow

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Rob McIntosh, Graeme Humphrey

Photo finish; Tom Burbidge, Graeme Walker

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

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

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Athletes Conor Loughnan and Bree Masters were both fined \$250 each by VAL stewards for failing to submit their interstate wins in the Somerset Gift (QAL) on 12th October 2019. Bree also failed to inform the VAL of her PB, 11.63 on 13th December 2019. The published handicaps of both athletes were altered before competing at the competition.

In the third heat of the open 800m, Nathan Corbett, having his first VAL competition, was advised that continually looking around over the final 200m would result in a fine if repeated.

Brendan Bailey was given permission to compete in future sprint events from a standing start.

Ashley Sandison, Brett Hayes and Paul Viney were given permission to wear flats in the 1600m events.

At the completion of the Open 1600m stewards queried the efforts of athletes Matt Grant, Tom Hockley-Samon, Dan Lawlor and Ky Davies. Stewards were of the view that as a group there appeared to be a lack of effort to improve their positions from the 400m to 200m.

Track Allowance: 120m 0.1

NAP's

70m Open; Nicholas Antinino (brk)

120m Men's Gift; Hugh Hoffman (brk), Aaron Peter-Budge

120m Women's Gift; Zoe Cunningham

400m Women's; Suz Sinclair

RULE REMINDERS

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

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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.

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.

St Albans 18th January 2020

Weather; Warm (Twilight

Track; Grass 400m

Commentator; Ollie Wurm

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Brendan Ferrari, Matthew Webster

Photo finish; Andre Pereira, Graeme Walker

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

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

GENERAL COMMENTS

Track Allowance 70m, 0.1

James Collier and Andrew Boudrie were given permission to compete in flats.

Karlee Bailey stumbled over the concluding stages of the 70m Open final.

After his heat of the Open Gift, Edward Ware was advised of the consequences of looking around whilst competing.

NAP's

70m Open; Rupert Lugo

120m Masters; Dominic Condello (brk), Paul Hughes (brk)

120m Open Gift; Rupert Lugo, Isaac Dunmall

550m Open; Nick Howard

REGULATION REMINDERS

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Wangaratta 25th January 2020

Weather; Hot (Twilight)

Track; Grass 438m

Commentator; Ollie Wurm

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Rob McIntosh, Matthew Webster

Photo finish; Andre Pereira, Tom Burbidge

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

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

GENERAL COMMENTS

The intersport SportzBiz 400m was conducted as a straight final.

Jack Newman was a scratching from the second semi final of the Open Gift, due to soreness.

Nicholas Antinino suffered a cramp in the final of the Wangaratta Open Gift .

Matthew McDonough wore flats in the 1600m.

NAP's

70m Open: Dion Paull, Jack Boulton (brk)

120m Masters: Martin Barrow, Richard Wearmouth

120m Women's Gift: Amy McKinley

120m Open Gift: Jack Newman, Nicholas Antinino (inj), Dion Paull, Callum James

400m Women's: Taylah Perry

400m Open: Noddy Angelekos

800m Open: Ruby Crisp

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- 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.

Maribyrnong 27th January 2020

Weather; arm anindy

Track; Grass 400m

Commentator; Ollie Wurm

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Brendan Ferrari, Matthew Webster

Photo finish; Andre Pereira, Graeme Walker

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

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

GENERAL COMMENTS

Troy Atkins and Brad Mancsak wore flats in the 1600m

NAP's

70m Open; Noddy Angelekos

120m Masters; Martin Barrow, Richard Wearmouth

120m Open Gift; Jay Blake, Noddy Angelekos, Endale Mekonnen, Brendan Ashcroft

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Parkdale 1st February 2020

Weather; Continual rain

Track; Grass 388m

Commentator; Cartha McKerrow

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Rob McIntosh, Graeme Humphrey, Kieren McIntosh

Photo finish; Graeme Walker, Tom Burbidge

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

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

GENERAL COMMENTS

- Matthew McDonough wore spikes in the 1600m, the change was due to the wet track conditions.
- Kristerfer Kardakovski was a scratching from the semi final of the Open gift due to injury.
- Nikolas Brudenell failed to complete his heat of the 300m W/M due to injury.
- Mandy Mason failed to appear for her semi final of the Women's Gift. Mandy was unaware she had qualified. Mandy was permitted to compete in the W/V 300m later in the afternoon.
- Georgia Mills failed to appear for the final of the u/18s Girls 120m.
- Adrian Quinones was rehandicapped after his heat of the u/14s 120m.
- Lachlan Herd, after making the 800m final, requested permission to run in the 1600, to be run before the final. Stewards advised Lachlan that it was his decision to make, but a poor performance in the 800m would result in an adverse review of his run.
- Stewards and the 400m handicapper queried the run of Jai Perry in the final of the 400m. They were of the belief that although Jai improved his position in the early stages of the final, he lost that initial advantage in the back straight and raced manifestly wide on the home turn. VAL officials believed that Jai could have shown more endeavour in the final 120m.
- Spectators please note, any tents, marquees or shade structures erected at the Ballarat Gift this weekend must be securely tied to a fence.
- Ruby Crisp failed to complete her heat of the 300m W&M

NAP's

70m Open; Jason Bailey (brk), Karlee Bailey, Tom Griffin, Joel Bee, Matt Burleigh.

120m Masters; Ross Langbein, Brendan Boyle, Dale Jones, Mandy Mason, Patrick McCarthy (brk)

120m Men's Gift; Kevin Brittain (brk), Tom Griffin, Kristerfer Kardakovski (inj)

120m Women's Gift, Grace O'Dwyer, Liv Ryan, Mandy Mason, Liv Ryan, Reshinta Bradshaw, Tiana Shillito, Nicole Kay, Katie Moore

400m Open: Jai Perry

300m W&M; Dominic Condello, Gary Blake

800m Open; Sam Anderson, James Collier, Darren Naismith, Lachlan Herd

1600m Open; Ashton MacDonald
800m Women's; Martine Beer

REGULATION REMINDER

No athlete, coach or parent is to approach any handicapper on race day, all requests for discussions with handicappers are to be organized through the Chief Steward or the VAL office.

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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.

Ballarat 8th & 9th February 2020

Weather; Overcast, windy

Track; Grass 395m

Commentator; Cartha McKerrow

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Rob McIntosh, Graeme Humphreys, Kieren McIntosh, Ian Sibson

Photo finish; Tom Burbidge

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

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

GENERAL COMMENTS

Matthew McDonough, Tony Moran and Troy Atkins wore flats in the 1600m.

Liam Procaccino failed to appear for his semi final of the 120m Men's Gift. Liam was unaware he had qualified.

Peter O'Dwyer was queried in the Masters 120m after winning his heat in the fastest time and breaking ceiling time in the final. Although the stewards and handicappers believed the improvement was significant, no further action was taken.

After the final of the Masters 300m the VAL stewards inquired into a fall in the home straight. Andrew Drummond and Tom Hecimovic fell and Peter O'Dwyer suffered serious interference. After viewing the video the stewards were of the opinion that as Brendan Baily tired, Andrew Drummond attempted to ease out into a gap appearing between Bailey and Tom Hecimovic, who was on the extreme outside. Peter O'Dwyer attempted also to run through the opening gap at the same time, resulting in Drummond and O'Dwyer colliding and upending Hecimovic. Stewards determined that both athletes (O'Dwyer and Drummond) were entitled to attempt the run, and the fall while unfortunate, was a 'racing incident' where no one athlete was at fault. As such it was deemed that no further action would be taken. However, stewards advised Peter O'Dwyer that as he was running on from the rear he was expected to take more care if electing to seek a run through a tiring group.

The VAL stewards, before the running of the 120m Women's gift semi finals, spoke to coach Marcus Cooper and athlete Laura McDougall. As an OGA (on going assessed) athlete Laura's improvement from her first run of the season at Terang to her Ballarat semi final performance was considered outside of what could be expected of a first year athlete. After further discussion the stewards and handicapper, with the consent of Marcus And Laura, reassessed McDougall's handicap to twelve metres. The VAL are loath to adjust handicaps after heats are completed but felt this was an extreme case where an OGA athletes handicap needed review. After further discussion with Laura and her coach, the stewards and handicapper were of the opinion that Laura's improvement was genuine and not intended to take advantage of the handicap system.

Matthew Beaman's performance was queried after the heats of the 800m. Matthew explained that he had been injured and missed a great deal of training. His explanation was accepted but was advised that in future the stewards and handicapper would need to know this information in advance.

After the final of the Women's 400m stewards spoke to athlete Suz Sinclair and coach Justin Lewis.

Stewards were unhappy with the change of racing tactics used by Sinclair from heat to final which resulted in a slight loss of time and the best opportunity to win the event. Suz was issued with a UP and a handicap review. After further consultation with the handicapper it was decided not to adjust Sinclair's handicap.

After the running of the Women's 400m, stewards also queried Jessica Payne. After viewing the VAL video and in consultation with the handicapper, no further action was taken.

No wind reading was recorded for the final of the 70m final. As a result, these time will not be used for handicapping purposes.

NAP's

70m Open; Cam Dunbar, Chris Vi (brk)

120m Masters; Brendan Boyle(inj), Luke Whitney (brk), Julian Fawcett (brk), Mark Glassborow.

120m Men's Gift; Daniel Sonsini (brk), Endale Mekonnen, Jake Ireland, Jordan Tronnolone, Joel Bee, Liam Procaccino, Luke Stevens, Sebastian Baird, Noddy Angelekos.

120m Women's Gift; Grace O'Dwyer (brk), Zoe Glassborow, Amelia Cross, Holly Nichols, Amy McKinley, Megan McMahon, Narelle Lehmann, Caitlyn Nicholson, Zoe Nicholson

300m W&M; Elvis Cross (brk), Sonya Pollard, David Gill,

800m Open; Olivia Goder

400m Women's; Tayla Philis

UP's

400m Women's; Suz Sinclair

REGULATION REMINDER

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- 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 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.
- 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.

Keilor 15th February 2020

Weather; Overcast, Wet

Track; Grass 398m

Commentator; Cartha McKerrow

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Brendan Ferrari, Matthew Webster

Photo finish; Tom Burbidge, Graeme Walker

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

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

GENERAL COMMENTS

- Brad Manczak and Troy Atkins wore flats in the 1600m.
- After the running of the Women's 400m, stewards spoke to Cleo Anderson and advised that breaking in a final was an automatic NAP.
- After the semi finals of the 70m, stewards and the sprint handicapper spoke to Darcy Ireland, seeking an explanation for his loss of time from heat to semi final. After deliberation Darcy was issued with a UP and handicap review. Darcy's new handicap will be 7m.
- After reviewing the results of the 70m final, Mitchell Tucker was issued with a UP and a handicap review. Mitchell's new Handicap will be 6m.
- After reviewing the results of the 120m Open Gift, James Mistarz was issued with a UP and handicap review. At this stage there will be no adjustment to James handicap.

NAP's

70m Open; James Mistarz

120m Open Gift; Liam Dooley(inj), Jack Boulton (inj), Ross Langbein, Michael Hanna, Cam Dunbar, Michael Hanaford.

300m Masters; Tom Hecimovic, Darren Arthur, Mark Glassborow.

800m Open; Anna Kasapis, Simon Fitzpatrick

400m Women: Cleo Anderson (brk), Samantha Barrow, Gaby Boulton, Sue Anderson.

400m Open; Nick Howard, Craig Rollinson.

UPs:

70m Open; Darcy Ireland

120m Open; James Mistarz

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- 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.

Starting positions on circle track

Athletes that are placed on the same handicap in a circle event.

The athlete closest to the line (on the same handicap) is allowed no more than a body width, from the line, unless the wider athletes permit.

Under no circumstances can the colour/number order be altered from the program.

Any athlete that is penalised for a false start must be placed to the outside of the new handicap.

Castlemaine 23rd February 2020

Weather; hot, sunny

Track; Grass 396m

Commentator; Cartha McKerrow

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Rob McIntosh, Graeme Humphrey

Photo finish; Tom Burbidge, Andre Pereira

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

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

GENERAL COMMENTS

Matt McDonough, Sean Quilty, Phil Noden, Nathan Hartigan and Troy Atkins wore flats in the 3200m.

Tony O'Shea sought permission to use the standing start in sprint events.

Ava Toomer was a scratching from the final of the 120m u/18s, due to injury.

Garry Blake and Sandor Kazi were scratchings from the masters 300m, due to injury.

Stewards queried Tiani Shillito's loss of time in the 120m Women's gift as she progressed from heat to semi to final. A NAP was applied to her final run.

Athletes in circle events, in particular 300m and 400m events, please read rules, below, regarding starting positions.

Track Allowance 70m .1 second

NAP's

120m Open Gift; Endale Mekonnen, Paul Hughes (brk)

120m Women's Gift; Tiana Shillito, Taylah Perry, Zoe Glassborow

120m Masters; Julian Fawcett

300m Masters; Garry Blake, Sandor Kazi.

800m Open; Jack Anderson, Simon Fitzpatrick, Julian Harris, Benjamin Rolfe, Matthew Noden.

400m Women; Cleo Anderson

400m Open; Jay Blake

400m Women's; Cleo Anderson

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Starting positions on circle track

Athletes that are placed on the same handicap in a circle event.

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Frankston 28th February 2020

Weather; Twilight , cool

Track; synthetic 400m

Commentator; Ollie Wurm

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Rob McIntosh, Graeme Humphrey

Photo finish; Tom Burbidge,

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

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

GENERAL COMMENTS

Amanda Crook wore flats in the 800m.

Andrew Boudrie wore flats in the 550m.

The women's 800m was conducted as a straight final.

Maki Loukeris failed to appear for the final of the 200m. Maki needs to speak with VAL stewards before his next event.

John Hilditch eased out of the concluding stages of his 70m heat, due to injury.

Chris Vi eased down in the final of the 70m, due to injury.

Athletes in circle events, in particular 300m and 400m events, please read rules, below, regarding starting positions.

Track Allowance 70m .1 second

NAP's

70m; Chris Vi (inj/cramp), John Hilditch (inj)

200m; Maki Loukeris (no appearance), James Mistarz

550m; Tim Cherry

REGULATION REMINDER

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- 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.

Starting positions on circle track

Athletes that are placed on the same handicap in a circle event.

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Bendigo 7-8 March 2020

Weather; warm (days), Cool (evenings),

Track; 373m

Commentator; Ollie Wurm

Wind gauge; Automatic

Starters; Rob McIntosh, Graeme Humphrey

Photo finish; Andre Pereira, Tom Burbidge

Results; Nila Blennerhassett

Stewards; Brian Marantelli, Wally Meechan

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

GENERAL COMMENTS

Dominic Condello was a scratching from the 300m masters final, due to injury.

Troy Atkins and Carl McMeel wore flats in the 1600m.

Jason Bailey, in the 70m final, was fined \$50 for raising his arm before the finish line. Whilst the VAL wishes not to take “celebrating” out of our racing, the stewards on this occasion deemed 6/1000th of a second winning margin, an early call.

The times recorded in the 1st semi final of the Open Gift will be discarded for future handicapping purposes. Athletes from the semi, wishing to compete interstate, should include this information in their interstate entry.

No NAP's were issued for athletes in the final of the 70m, due to a cooling in weather conditions.

After the running of the Black Opal 400m final, several athletes were interviewed, concerning a fall after the 200m mark. As a result of the interviews and after watching the VAL official video of the event, the fall could not be contributed to any particular athlete but was considered a result of a series of minor infractions by a number of participants.

At the completion of the heats of the women's 120m Gift VAL stewards and handicappers interviewed athlete Tiana Shillito, her father Scott and coach Peter O'Dwyer in regards her recent performances in 120m events. In the interim Tiana was permitted to fulfill her engagement in the Bendigo event but was subject to the completion of the inquiry in the coming week.

At the completion of the inquiry into Tiana's recent performances the VAL stewards charged her under VAL rule 16.38 (a), inconsistent running. Tiana was fined \$1000 and handicappers given a directive that a handicap review was to be applied for all distances, effective immediately.

VAL coach Peter O'Dwyer as a result of an incident on Saturday afternoon has been charged by VAL stewards under VAL rules 16:22 and 16:23 which were later

deemed under VAL rule 16:4, by an independent referee, to be a serious offence. As the charges have been deemed serious, the charges will be heard by an independent tribunal, at a date to be fixed. Peter O'Dwyer had also been advised that until further notice, he will be only permitted on any VAL arena under the following conditions; When competing, 30 minutes prior to his actual heat, semi or final advertised start time. Cannot remain on the arena any longer than 30 minutes after the completion of his Heat, semi or final. Cannot be on the arena for presentations or to assist any of his athletes.

[Tribunal Report](#) - Peter O'Dwyer

[Appeal Report](#) - Tiana Shillito

Athletes in circle events, in particular 300m and 400m events, please read rules, below, regarding starting positions.

NAP's

120m Men's: Noddy Angelakos (brk), Tom Sclanders (brk).

120m Women's: Hannah Lindstrom, Grace O'Dwyer, Jessica Burns, Lauren Edwards, Gabriella Boulton, Ellie Whittingham

UP's

120m Women's: Tiana Shillito

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