

Victorian Athletic League – Stewards Report

Meeting: Cobden Gift

Date: Sunday, 25th October 2025

Venue: Cobden Recreation Reserve

Weather: Mild to cool, with showers late afternoon and light winds throughout the day.

Track: 400m grass track

Officials

- **Commentator:** Matthew Webster & Drew Semmons
- **Wind Gauge:** Automatic
- **Starters:** Rob McIntosh & Graeme Humphrey
- **Photo Finish:** Chloe Blennerhassett & Joe Spenceley
- **Results:** Nila Blennerhassett
- **Stewards:** Chief – Richard Wearmouth; Tim Mason & John Henry
- **Handicapper:** Colin Lane
- **Official Media:** Neil Jameson, Didier Le Miere & Max Blennerhassett
- **Colour Stewards:** Jess Burrows
- **Ground Setup:** Scott Burrows

Performance Classifications

NAP (No Allowance Performance)

Breaks:

- **100m Men:** *Dom Condello*
- **300m Men:** *Jamie Johns*

NAP – Injury (14-day suspension)

- **70m Open:** *Jesse Cordoma*
- **100m Men:** *Jarod Glover & Tom Pellow*

LOT (Loss of Time):

- **70m Open:** *Zane Eddleston & Matt Stanfield*
- **100m Men:** *Benjamin Esquilant*
- **100m Masters:** *Ben Abriani*

- **300m Men:** *Lenny Robin*
- **300m Masters:** *Daniel Sammut*
- **300m Women:** *Katherine Wright, Allira May, Olivia Parnell & Nicola Ogle*

OTR (Outside Time Range):

- **70m Open:** *Jennifer King, Hugh Hoffman, Kristerfer Kardakovski, Troy Carey, Keely Henderson, Madeline Parris & Luke Mitchell*
- **100m Men:** *Matt Stanfield*
- **100m Women:** *Kelsey Roberts, Tiana Shillito, Tara Beasley, Jennifer King, Chloe Kinnersley & Katherine Wright*

False Starts

- Breaking in a heat or semifinal and not progressing = **NAP (No Allowance Performance) at best.**
- Breaking in a final = **automatic NAP at best.**

General Notes

Acknowledgements:

- Congratulations to the **Cobden Recreation Reserve Committee of Management** for their excellent effort in hosting the meeting.
- Special thanks to **Jacob D** for organisation and 400m track setup with all handicaps clearly marked, as required for every VAL meeting.
- Appreciation to **Craig Dwyer and his crew** for their efforts throughout the day.

Operational Reminder:

- Clubs must provide personnel to **remove starting blocks** from the track after all sprint races.
- Non-compliance causes delays between events and is **not the responsibility of the starters.**

Stewarding Comments

Athlete Discussions and Feedback:

- **Stuart Dobrzynski:** Spoken to after the 300m Masters Final regarding contact with Rob Irwin near the finish line. Instructed to exercise caution and fined **\$100 under Rule 14.6:** *"Any athlete jostling, pushing, bumping, elbowing or shoving during the course of a race shall, at the discretion of the stewards, be fined or disqualified."*

- **Ben Abriani:** Discussed substantial time drop between 100m Masters heat (11.61s) and final (12.05s). Explaining late arrival disrupted preparation. **NAP issued**; Athlete reminded of responsibility to follow race progressions.
- **Ruby Sulitich & Elizabeth Melrose:** Spoke regarding participation in 300m heats before 100m Women's Final. Field had not yet been announced. Explanation accepted.
- **Rob Mayston:** Requested permission for a **three-point start** in sprint events. Granted; must notify stewards if reverting to starting blocks.
- **Zoe Neale:** Spoken to regarding easing before the finish line. Stewards noted it may have cost her the heat, though she progressed to semis on time. Full effort maintained for the remainder of the weekend.
- **Cooper Lubeck:** Spoken to regarding celebrating his stable mates' victory - pointing to sky and crowd 50-60m from the finishing line. This is not the image the sport needs and his celebrations could have been interpreted as a lack of effort. A repeat of this type of behaviour will result in a sanction.

Reminders to Athletes and Trainers

Attendance:

Athletes are responsible for being present at the start line on time for all heats and finals.

Performance Declarations:

- All athletes must declare any performance history outside of the VAL prior to competing.
- Personal Bests (PBs) must be reported immediately to the VAL office.
- New athletes must ensure that all performance history is complete and accurate.
- Failure to comply may result in sanctions.

Consistency & Intent:

All competitors are reminded to review the **Stewarding Notes** issued at the start of last season, focusing on "*winning intent*" and maintaining *consistent performances* from week to week.

Access Control:

Only **registered runners and trainers** are permitted on the infield for warming up or competing. Any non-registered persons will be asked to vacate the area immediately.