

Victorian Athletic League – Stewards Report

Meeting: Warrnambool

Date: Saturday 29th November 2025

Venue: Reid Oval Warrnambool

Weather: Overcast in morning cleared to a mild afternoon

Track: 400m grass track

Officials

- **Commentator:** Ollie Wurm
- **Wind Gauge:** Automatic
- **Starters:** Matt Webster & Rob McIntosh
- **Photo Finish:** Chloe and Max Blennerhassett
- **Results:** Nila Blennerhassett
- **Stewards:** Chief Steward Richard Wearmouth, Tim Mason & John Henry
- **Handicapper:** Colin Lane, Darren Arthur & Kim McDonough
- **Official Media:** Neil Jameson
- **Colour Stewards:** Jess Burrows
- **Ground Setup:** Scott Burrow

Performance Classifications – Non-Acceptable Performances

NAP – Injury (14-day suspension)

- 300m Women Layla Kinnane 14 days

NAP - Break

- 70m Men Aubery Watson
- 300m Men Hugh Hoffman

ICP Inconsistent Performance

- 300m Noddy Angelakos
- 120m Tristan Shiers

LOT (loss of time)

- 70m Women Allira May
- 70m Men Mark Glassborow
- 120m Men Jake Ireland, Kipp Wilson & Luke Simpson
- 300m Men Hudson Downes
- 800m William Callaghan, Declan Goodwin & Ben Stevens

General Notes

Acknowledgements:

- Congratulations to the **Warrnambool Gift Committee** for their excellent effort in hosting the meeting.
- Special thanks to Gill and all of the Committee for organisation and presenting an excellent straight and 400m track.

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:

- Athlete Olufemi Komolafe, winner of the Men's Gift, was spoken to by Stewards following the final after concerns were raised regarding his performance in South Australia in the preceding week. Mr Komolafe explained that his poorer results were due to medical exams and three weeks of intensive study leading up to the event. Stewards acknowledged his explanation and advised that they would continue to monitor consistency in his performance.
- Phil Noden was given permission to compete in flats. He was reminded to notify stewards when returning to spikes.
- Declan Gould spoke with stewards about a medical issue that may impact his performance. This was accepted and noted.
- Jack Kinnersley was injured pre under 18 120m final. There was no penalty because it was caused by another athlete.
- Tristan Shiers was spoken to about his endeavour and effort in races. He was subsequently given a NAP.
- Mark Boxer was questioned as to his performance in the Masters 800m +45. Athlete Boxer was moving into a winning position at the top of the straight and finished 3rd. Mr Boxer responded by indicating he was tightened for room at the top of the straight by athlete McMeel (the eventual winner) and did not wish to cause interference. By the time he had free running, the eventual winner was well clear. Mr Boxers explanation was accepted and noted.
- Stewards spoke with Blake Favretto about his performance in the m70m. He explained that is his running style. Because stewards had not seen him compete before his explanation was noted.
- Kayla Lemm was successful in the 70m women's final and was then a disappointing third in her 120m heat. She explained that she was sore after her 70m and struggled to run. Ms Lemm subsequently made the final. Her explanation was accepted and noted.
- John Mackay was spoken to about his endeavour in the closing stages of the 300m. He explained that he was still getting fit and needed the run. His explanation was accepted and noted.
- Stewards had concerns with Tim Rosens endeavour in the 300m. He explained that the run was his second faster RPMs for the distance. Hi explanation was accepted.

- Paul Tancredi pulled up distressed after his 300m heat. He explained that he had been unwell but thought he would be ok to compete. His explanation was accepted.
- Declan Gall changed course abruptly in the home straight in his 300m heat. Although he didn't interfere with other runners, he was told to exercise more care.
- It was noted that there appeared to be timing inconsistencies, with many athletes in certain semi-finals recording significantly slower times compared to their heats. The VAL will conduct a review and, if required, implement additional controls to validate whether any systemic issues may have affected timing accuracy during high-wind and wet conditions.

All athletes and coaches are advised that this rationale adversely impacting performances in other events will not be accepted by the Stewards. Future occurrences will be subject to review and may result in formal sanctions.

- Athletes and coaches are reminded that all competitors must run through the finish line on every occasion. Several athletes failed to do so, which not only reflects poorly on the sport but may also jeopardise the outcome of the event.

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.