

CHIEF STEWARD'S REPORT VICTORIAN ATHLETIC LEAGUE	
Meeting:	Maryborough Gift
Date:	Thursday, 1 st January 2026
Venue:	Princes Park, Maryborough
Weather:	Mild to warm, with strong winds throughout the day
Track:	400m grass track
Report Prepared By:	Richard Wearmouth (Chief Steward) 1 st January 2026

GENERAL COMMENTS

Congratulations to Nick Weaver on his excellent effort in hosting this meeting and his committee for their efforts throughout the day.

The grounds were in good condition with all handicaps clearly marked, as required for every VAL meeting.

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.

ATHLETIC PERFORMANCES - NAPs (Non-acceptable performances)

Break:

- 70m Women: Harriet Fox & Sonya Pollard
- 200m Open: Tim Rosen
- 400m U18: Shakira Lual

Injury (14-day suspension):

- 120m Men: Joshua Lotsu & Preston Degarnham
- 200m Open: Owen De Vries
- 300m Masters: Luke Mathews & Neale Gunning

LOT (Loss of Time):

- 120m Women: Lilliana Hoffman, Katie Moore & Amelia Spenceley
- 200m Open: Tim Rosen, Matt Stanfield & Paul Hughes
- 800m Open: Cameron Yorke

ATDR (Acceptable Time Deviation Ranges):

- 70m Men: 7.753 – 8.053
- 70m Women: 8.553 – 8.833
- 120m Men: 12.669 – 13.219
- 120m Women: 13.720 – 14.270
- 400m Men: 48.806 – 50.806
- 400m Women: N/A

STEWARDING COMMENTS - Athlete Discussions and Feedback

- Stewards spoke with Ms Clea Clifford regarding movement on the blocks pre-race.
- Ms Eleanor Cooney Hunt was spoken to regarding her looking around during her heat. She didn't realise that this wasn't allowed and her explanation was accepted.

- Mr David Griffin was given permission to have a three-point start for his 120m Masters heat.
- Ms Sophie Burrows was given permission to scratch from the U18 Final due to illness.
- Stewards spoke with Mr Fraser Stott regarding looking around in his 400m heat and he said he wouldn't do it again.

Reminders to Athletes and Trainers

Stewards will be monitoring athletes' consistency in future meetings. Inclement weather and soft tracks inhibited consistent performances at earlier meetings. Now with good conditions and surfaces we will be looking more intently.

Photos & Videos

After an incident at Waverley:

Under the VAL Code of Conduct for Dealing with Children and Young People and the Victorian Athletic League Photography Policy (2022), all participants, officials and spectators are reminded of the following:

Although there is currently no Australian law prohibiting filming in public places without permission, the VAL's policy places specific obligations on anyone capturing images or video of Children and Young People involved in VAL activities.

Photographs / Video Footage of Children & Young People

- a) You may only take photographs or video footage if:
 - i. Prior approval has been granted by the parent/guardian, typically through the registration process;
 - ii. The photo/footage is directly related to VAL activities;
 - iii. Children and Young People are appropriately dressed and appropriately posed;
 - iv. The image/footage is taken in the presence of other VAL participants or officials.
- b) Images must not be shared or distributed to anyone outside the VAL without the knowledge and approval of both the parent/guardian and the VAL Executive Officer.
- c) Images must not be posted online without parent/guardian approval unless the Children and Young People are fully de-identified.

R. Wearmouth
(Chief Steward)

01.01.2026