

CHIEF STEWARD'S REPORT VICTORIAN ATHLETIC LEAGUE	
Meeting:	Portarlington Gift
Date:	Sunday, 4 th January 2026
Venue:	Recreation Reserve, Portarlington
Weather:	Cool to mild, 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 Peter Emerson on his excellent effort in hosting this 1st Portarlington Gift and his crew for their efforts throughout the day.

The grounds were in good condition with all handicaps marked.

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 Men: Jerome Lugo
 - 120m Women: Holly Dobbyn
 - 120m Masters: Noddy Angelakos

Injury (14-day suspension):

- 70m Men: Brayden Portelli & Keilan Galloway

LOT (Loss of Time):

- 70m Men: Zane Eldelston & Nicholas Antonino
- 300m Masters: Marcus Downs
- 400m Women: Greta Zabotto

ICP (Inconsistent Performance):

- 120m Men: Jake Ireland, Jerome Lugo, Tom Perry, Brody Smith & Dash Muir

UP (Unsatisfactory Performance):

- 1600m Open: Cooper Lubec

ATDR (Acceptable Time Deviation Ranges):

- 70m Men: 7.774 – 8.04
- 70m Women: 8.35 – 8.65
- 120m Men: 12.883 – 13.433
- 120m Women: 14.256 – 14.806
- 400m Men: 48.448 – 50.448
- 400m Women: 54.947 – 56.947

STEWARDSHIP COMMENTS - Athlete Discussions and Feedback

- Stewards were very concerned with the performance of a number of athletes in 120 Mens Gift Final. They initially spoke with Mr Jerome Lugo and Mr Jake Ireland and their respective coaches. Then on review they decided to issue ICP's to a number of athletes in the final. Athletes are reminded that under Rule 16.38: an athlete will be guilty of an offence where it is established that their performance in any event conducted by the VAL constitutes:

- a) inconsistent running;
- b) an unsatisfactory performance; and/or
- c) not trying to win

- Stewards spoke with Mr Cooper Lubec regarding his performance in the Open 1600m. They were extremely concerned with his effort and after discussion he was issued with a UP.
- Ms Katherine Wright was spoken to regarding her improvement from Maryborough and she explained that she had medical issues there which affected her performance. The stewards accepted and noted her explanation.
- Mr Brayden Portelli was given permission to scratch from the 70m Mens final due to injury.
- Ms Emily Fieldler did not turn up for the 120m Womens Gift Semi Final & Mr Lucas Pearce did not appear in 120m Mens Gift Semi Final. Both these athletes received a NAP and need to see stewards before competing 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)

04.01.2026