

CHIEF STEWARD'S REPORT	
VICTORIAN ATHLETIC LEAGUE	
Meeting:	Wangaratta Gift
Date:	Saturday, 24 th January 2026
Venue:	Wangaratta Showgrounds, Wangaratta
Weather:	Hot day & evening with very little wind
Track:	400m grass track
Report Prepared By:	Richard Wearmouth (Chief Steward) 24 th January 2026

GENERAL COMMENTS

Thank you to Anna, Greg & Paul for staging the 105th Wangaratta Gift.

The overall condition of the ground was in good condition with handicaps well marked on the circular and straight tracks.

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 Restricted: Addison Ramirez
• 120m U18 Mixed: Beau Johns

Injury (14-day suspension):

- 400m Mens: Nick Howard

LOT (Loss of Time):

- 120m Womens: Ruby Crisp

IE (Insufficient Effort):

- 120m Mens: Brendan Mathews & Harmann Dhiman
- 300m Masters: Steven Hurl
- 800m Open: Sam Zotti

ICP (Inconsistent Performance):

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UP (Unsatisfactory Performance):

- 800m Open: Kyle Hilson

ATDR (Acceptable Time Deviation Ranges):

- 70m Open: 7.699 – 7.999
- 70m Women:
- 120m Men: 12.440 – 12.990
- 120m Women: 13.759 – 14.309
- 400m Men: 47.606 – 49.606
- 400m Women:

STEWARDING COMMENTS - Athlete Discussions and Feedback

Due to insufficient athletes the 800m Open & 400m Restricted were both run as finals.

Mr Richard Polkinghorne & Ms Angela Wilson were given permission to run in flats.

Mr Kyle Hilson was spoken to by stewards after the 800m final about his improvement from his previous run at Frankston. He was unable to give an explanation for his improvement and was issued with a *UP (Unsatisfactory Performance)*

Stewards spoke with Mr Brendan Mathews about his effort in the 120m Mens heat. It was felt that he put in a stop start effort throughout the race. He explained that he was coming back from an injury and would be improved by a run, so was issued with an *IE (Insufficient Effort) It was noted that the semi final performance was an improved effort.*

Mr Sam Zotti was asked about his effort in the 800m Open, he stated that he was new to the sport and was learning how to race. Stewards issued him with an *IE (Insufficient Effort)*

Stewards spoke with Mr Steven Hurl regarding his performance in the 300m Masters heat, as it was noticed he had hit the front near the finish and eased up. He argued that he had difficulty seeing out the final stages of this race but we decided he would be given an *IE (Insufficient Effort)*

Mr Lonain Burnett was spoken to in regards to his effort in the 800m. He indicated that he had had an interrupted year. The stewards advised they expected a more consistent effort at his next start.

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.

R. Wearmouth

(Chief Steward)

24.01.2026