



CHIEF STEWARD'S REPORT SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ATHLETIC LEAGUE	
Meeting Name:	CAMDEN CLASSIC CARNIVAL 2026
Date:	Sunday 01/02/2026
Weather Conditions:	Fine & Sunny (Day: 28-31 degrees)
Track Conditions:	Sprint (70m): Very windy on the straight track Circular (400m): Very Good running surface
Report Prepared By:	Chris Dimitrak
Conduct of Meeting:	<p>Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank everyone involved at the Camden Athletic Club for their tremendous effort in delivering a superb 47th Camden Carnival for both our pro-athletes to compete and enjoy plus the running community who attended!</p> <p>Also, congrats especially to all committee members of Camden, volunteers, families and runners who contributed to such a successful racing Carnival. Your dedication behind the scenes ensured the day ran smoothly and created a fantastic atmosphere for sponsors, competitors and spectators alike.</p> <p>It was incredibly pleasing to see such strong participation and support — likely the best-attended Camden Carnival since COVID! — which is a credit to the entire club and wider community who attended in perfect spectator conditions.</p> <p>The feature CLASSIC 400-metre events for both men (5 heats) and women (4 Heats) produced outstanding racing, showcasing depth, determination and classy finishes!</p> <p>Congratulations to our men's winner MAX THOMPSON and women's winner ALI TREWARTHA, who have now added their names to the long and prestigious honour roll of past winners — both athletes will look back on this achievement with great pride.</p> <p>Also, the Junior 400m boys Under 18 won by Jackson Camilleri, 2nd Tyler Schmitt and 3rd Lachlan Fanning and Junior 400m girls Under 18 metres won by Scarlett Poole, 2nd Emma Potter and 3rd Anya Morgan, all three placegetters in each event raced brilliantly, pushing each other to the line and creating an exciting finish for spectators. It was fantastic to see such strong performances from our emerging young athletes.</p>



ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE			
(NAP) - Non Approved Performance	Athlete	Race/Reason	Penalty
	Please refer to the SAAL Handicap guidelines for definitions of NAP		
UP – (Unacceptable Performance)	Please refer to the SAAL Handicap guidelines for definitions of UP		
Injuries			
70 Metre Over 35 – Heat 3	Mark Simons	Sustaining an injury and walked through to the line	28 days



<p>Overview of Race Day Comments/Performances</p>	<p>OVERALL, 51 RACE PROGRAM from 70m to 1600m open mile</p> <p>WIND READINGS exceptionally high in the 70 metre events – straight head wind</p> <p>VERY DISAPPOINTING we had only 3 runners in the 400m women consolation! Main reasons given were soreness and tightness for not competing.</p> <p>REVIEW/ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL/CHIEF STEWARD DECISION– Camden 400m Xavier Poole of Camden Athletic Club requested a review of his Camden 400m mark, claiming he should have received a 2m bonus increase for competing in qualifying events. The handicapper (Damian Tohl) denied this request.</p> <p>An appeal was subsequently lodged and referred to the Administrative Tribunal. The Tribunal found there was no basis to apply the 2m increase. However, in reviewing his record, it determined that a 6m reduction applied following a previous 400m event was inconsistent with League rules.</p> <p>While the 2m bonus was not granted, the 6m adjustment was reinstated. This outcome was communicated to Xavier Poole, who—likely in a “first for professional athletics”—requested that the 6m reinstatement not be applied and that he remains on his original mark. He believed the adjusted mark would provide him with an unfair advantage and could reflect poorly on everyone, particularly given past Bay winners have undergone full handicapping reviews.</p> <p>Xavier Poole approached me directly, and as Chief Steward, I agreed to his passionate request. This decision was not in disagreement with the Tribunal’s ruling, but rather an acknowledgement of the athlete’s unusual and principled request.</p> <p>As it turns out, Xavier Poole missed on making the final by .002 of a second and likely would have made the podium.</p>	



<p>(AP) ACCEPTABLE PERFORMANCE Handicapping and Steward Rules Definition page 18 of 22 Season2025/2026</p> <p>(NAP) NON-APPROVED PERFORMANCE Handicapping and Steward Rules Definition page 18 of 22 Season2025/2026</p>	<p>Event 47: 1600m Open Thomas Wright Memorial Mile: NET TIME 4m 10.0 secs</p> <p>Significant mile race for some time, outside the BAY CARNIVAL, 20 registered and 15 started.</p> <p>Conditions not easy, fair to say played a role in the winning time of 4:13.30. Some athletes showed some improvement, Matt Fallon, especially from the Bay Carnival and Tom Lancaster even thou not seen much of him due to illness/injury improved.</p> <p>Sam Kean (AP) and Eden Grant (AP) expected a little better from them on the day; both have run better times.</p> <p>Bennett Maxwell (NAP) – basically, had a very disappointing run.</p> <p>Gianny Scoleri (NAP)- even with 2x400m races in his legs, expected slightly better performance, going by pre-bay run</p> <p>John Thomson (NAP)- poor run compared to Bay carnival and Wangaratta week before!</p> <p>Alison Sorrell (NAP)- competes regularly, is consistent but had a genuine drop-off in this race</p> <p>Charlie Ellis (AP) – very good run, spoke to coach regarding watch wearing, all good</p> <p>Event 18: 800 METRE NOVICE FINAL: NET TIME 1.54.0 secs</p> <p>Small field contested the event (5 athletes) , Hannah Tourner, 1st win in the league, Piper Hudson had her 1st podium in the league also, Reynella had 2 young athletes over the distance for the first time (both made debuts at Brighton meet) both did very well and will be assisted by the handicapper to become competitive in due course, Noah Cutting and Mason Sheahan. Brock Thompson raced well and performed at the expected level.</p>	
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