CHIEF STEWARD'S REPORT
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ATHLETIC LEAGUE

MEETING NAME	Toby Schreier Flinders Pro Meet
DATE	18TH October 2026
WEATHER	Fine and Sunny
TRACK CONDITIONS	Sprint (120m) and Circle (400m)
REPORT PREPARED BY	Acting Chief Steward Phil Daws with Chris Dimitrak

What a fantastic race meeting at Flinders from all reports, with the warm weather arriving earlier than predicted!

A huge thank you to Paul Sutcliffe, Damien Robinson and Alison Sorrell for the extra effort, dedication and hard work behind the scenes. Your commitment helped ensure all athletes, coaches and spectators enjoyed a wonderful day of running, competition and camaraderie. Truly appreciated by everyone at SAAL!

Thank you to Terry McAuliffe for introducing the next generation of "race calling talent", no pressure KYLE FELTUS!

But seriously, welcome aboard and we look forward to hearing your pro running race calls in action when assisting at Mt Barker carnival.

I would like to personally thank Damien Tohl, Jamie Sibbick and Kevin McAnaney for their hard work and dedication in handicapping the Open Categories and Under 18s over many years, they did a terrific job. Their contribution has been greatly appreciated by SA Athletic League.

Moving forward, we welcome our new group of handicappers, led by Mark Faulkner, who brings a very strong understanding of the sport, as an athlete and handicapper (done role previously). We have Damian Robinson who is a seasoned and now experienced middle distance handicapper (in all categories) and "newcomers" Jordi McMillan, James Dunn and Simon Pols who will have support as required from our allrounder Shane Grimwade (heaps of running/handicapping experience). Their knowledge and enthusiasm will help build consistency across our handicapping process throughout the season.

As part of this approach, handicappers will provide the Chief Steward with a summary of the individual races that might have needed some discussion.
We hope the summaries below assists our coaches, athletes, parents in understanding the process, with the aim of improving consistency and communication as the season 2026/2027 progresses!

DEFINTIONS - (AP) ACCEPTABLE PERFORMANCE / (NAP) NON-APPROVED PERFORMANCE / (UP) UNACCEPTABLE PERFORMANCE

PERFORMANCES OUTSIDE OF AP RANGE 2026/2027

The following athletes, or their coaches, were spoken to regarding performances exceeding the applicable extreme-range threshold of 0.4 seconds from their predicted time, as calculated by the system using their average MPS rate for the 120m distance.

The explanations provided by the athletes and/or their coaches were accepted by the Chief Steward and Sprint Handicapper as valid. Following consideration of the performances and the circumstances explained, the athletes listed below were issued with a Non-Acceptable Performance (NAP) in accordance with Rule 5.15 of Appendix 2 – Handicapping and Stewarding Rules, Season 2026/2027.

UNDER 18 GIRLS – 120M

Heat 2

- Evelyn Cornish – 3.00m
- Madiha Aaliyah Zoalang Mouri-Florent – 9.00m

Heat 3

- Matilda Buchanan – 1.50m

Final

- Anya Horgan – 8.00m (ran off 7.00m due to a break)

UNDER 18 BOYS – 120M

Heat 4

- Tyler Rowston – 3.00m

WOMEN – 120M

Heat 1

- Ashlee Munt – 10.50m
- Adelaide Boulton – 7.25m

Heat 2

- Matilda Buchanan – 5.00m

Final

- Matilda Buchanan – 5.00m

MEN – 120M

Heat 3

- Joel Cedric Ebomo Zoalang – 5.00m

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400m Open Races

After considering the conditions on the day, the fact that it is still early in the season, and that the 400m events were held at the end of the programme, with many athletes doubling up on events, including some who had competed in one or two 800m races earlier in the meeting, the applicable extreme-range threshold for these 400m races was significantly adjusted from 1.1 seconds to 2.5 seconds outside the athletes' predicted times, calculated using their average MPS rate for 400m.

Following discussion, the Sprint Handicapper and Acting Chief Steward agreed that no athletes or their coaches needed to be approached for an explanation of their performances. A review of the results against the adjusted threshold has resulted in the athletes listed below being issued with a Non-Acceptable Performance (NAP) in accordance with Rule 5.15 of Appendix 2

400m Women

Heat 1

- Mercedes Tierney – 52m
- Ava Adcock – 28m
- Olivia Tierney – 58m

Heat 2

- Maddy Humphry – 53m
- Ashlee Munt – 45m

Final

- Mercedes Tierney – 52m

400m Men

Heat 1

- Hayden Rothe – 17m
- Isaac Marschall – 24m
- Cameron Konnis – 28m

Heat 2

- Xavier Poole – 16m

Final

- Hayden Rothe – 17m
- Isaac Marschall – 24m
- Cameron Konnis – 28m
- Xavier Poole – 16m
- Tyler Rowston – 23m

DEFINTIONS - (AP) ACCEPTABLE PERFORMANCE / (NAP) NON-APPROVED PERFORMANCE / (UP) UNACCEPTABLE PERFORMANCE

Consequence of NAP Classification

In accordance with Rule 5.15, these athletes will be ineligible for a handicap lift at the applicable distance in the category in which the NAP was recorded until they subsequently achieve an Acceptable Performance (AP) at that distance and in that category.

ATHLETE NOTIFICATIONS

Matilda Buchanan - Andrew Beck reported to Acting Chief Steward at the start of the meet advising she had been unwell during the week.

Comments supplied by Distance Handicapper (DR) and Reviewed by Chris Dimitrak

800m U/14
Victor Bernfeld (winner of event) broke net time (2:20) by 1.8 seconds running 2:18.2. Athlete will receive an additional penalty to his win penalty for his next run in the age group and at the distance.
Athlete also ran a significant PB at ASA on Saturday which wasn't declared.
We need to remind coaches and parents to notify Chief Steward/Handicappers before racing on the day!

Elliette Pyrah a new athlete to the distance got beaten by a significant margin.
Needs handicap support to become competitive across the distance.

800m U/18
Significant improvement noted across a few athletes' performances from Marion a week earlier. Winner Lachlan Hodges improved 5.5 seconds, 2nd place getter Wyatt Taylor (**received NAP**) improved 14.2 seconds, and 3rd place getter Jack Fanning improved 5.3 seconds**.**
Athletes are reminded of their obligations to ensure they are producing consistent performances week on week.

800m Open
Significant improvement noted across a few athletes' performances from Marion a week earlier. Winner Darcy brown improved 6.3 seconds (back from knee surgery, spoke to Chief Steward) from his run last week to his heat run; Brock Thompson improved 5.5 seconds in his heat run from last week.

Athletes are reminded of their obligations to ensure they are producing consistent performances week on week.

James McManus ran 1:59.42 in his heat to qualify for the final and then proceeded to run 2:06.16 in the final (down by 6.7 second).
James McManus NAP for the finals run, as per rules.

Clancy Jensen a new athlete to the distance was beaten by a significant margin.
Handicapper to review accordingly.

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800m Women

Significant improvement noted across a few athletes' performances from Marion a week earlier.
Finalist Isabel Hobbs improved 15.2 seconds from her run last week to her heat run, finalist Grace Pfitzner improved 7.1 seconds from her run last week to her heat run

ISABEL HOBBS NAP, as per rules.

GRACE PFITZNER NAP, as per rules

Athletes are reminded of their obligations to ensure they are producing consistent performances week on week.

Consequence of NAP Classification

In accordance with **Rule 5.15**, these athletes will be ineligible for a handicap lift at the applicable distance in the category in which the **NAP** was recorded until they subsequently achieve **an Acceptable Performance (AP)** at that distance and in that category.

EVENTS

12.00pm	800m Women 2 Heats
12.08pm	800m Men 2 Heats
12.16pm	120m Under 14 4 Heats
12.32pm	120m Under 18 2 Girls 3 Heats
12.44pm	120m Under 18 3 Boys 4 Heats
1.00pm	120m Women 3 Heats
1.12pm	120m Men 3 Heats
1.44pm	**800m Under 14 Straight Final and Presentation**
1.53pm	**800m Under 18 Straight Final and Presentation**
2.02pm	**800m Women Final and Presentation**
2.11pm	**800m Men Final and Presentation**
2.20pm	**120m Under 14 Final and Presentation**
2.29pm	**120m Over 35 Straight Final and Presentation**
2.38pm	**120m Under 18 Girls Final**
	Break – Anya Horgan – Penalty 1m
2.47pm	**120m Under 18 Boys Final and Presentation**
	Break – Seth Best – Penalty 1m
2.56pm	**120m Para Straight Final and Presentation**
3.05pm	**120m Women Final and Presentation**
3.14pm	**120m Men Bill Ross Memorial Final and Presentation**
3.23pm	**David Abbott Memorial 3200m Open - Final and Presentation**
3.38pm	400m Under 14 2 Heats
	Heat 2 – April Joyce started off the incorrect mark – 30m rather than 60m
3.46pm	400m Under 18 Girls 2 Heats
3.54pm	400m Under 18 Boys 2 Heats
4.02pm	400m Women 2 Heats
4.10pm	400m Men 2 Heats

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4.33pm	**400m Under 14 Final and Presentation**
4.42pm	**400m Under 18 Girls Final and Presentation**
4.51pm	**400m Under 18 Boys Final and Presentation**
5.00pm	**400m Over 35 Final and Presentation**
5.09pm	**400m Women Final and Presentation**
5.18pm	**400m Men Final and Presentation**

REMINDER:

It is important that we establish a **clear, fair and consistent approach.** Any athlete performing outside the extreme range will be spoken to (with coach or representative) and given the opportunity to provide an explanation. This will be done with conjunction **only with CHIEF STEWARD and HANDICAPPER concerned**. This will allow each performance to be assessed on its individual merits before determining whether an **NAP** or **UP** is warranted for the steward's report.

The intention is not to penalise athletes unnecessarily, but rather to ensure **transparency, accountability** and **consistency** in the application of performance standards throughout the season.

Athletes are responsible for notifying their coach if they believe their performance may be below an acceptable standard. Whether due to a school sports day, ASA meeting, a friend's 18th/21st birthday or simply feeling unwell, these circumstances must be communicated to the **Chief Steward or Appropriate Handicapper** before their event. Again, this is essential for fairness and transparency.

Failure to communicate these circumstances in advance may result in penalties being considered, in accordance with the relevant performance guidelines.

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