



VICTORIAN ATHLETIC LEAGUE INC.

REGULATIONS

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APPROVED BY THE VICTORIAN ATHLETIC LEAGUE SEPTEMBER 2023

These Regulations shall come into operation for the 2023/2024 season and all previous Rules and Regulations then in existence shall be replaced as from the above date, and such repeal shall not disturb the continuity of the status, operation or effect of any rule, regulation, report, application, penalty, liability or right made, effected, issued, granted, given, entered into, incurred or acquired or existing or continuing before the commencement of these Regulations.

DEFINITIONS

In these Regulations, unless inconsistent with the subject matter or context, “**AAC**” means the Australian Athletics Confederation.

“**Athlete**” means any person who is registered with the Victorian Athletic League for the purpose of competing in VAL sanctioned events.

“**Club**” or “**Clubs**” means a Club, or body or group of persons being unincorporated or incorporated, organised for the purpose of conducting athletic sports meetings and are duly registered with the VAL.

“**Confederacy**” means any scheme, arrangement or agreement by Athletes, Trainers, persons or other parties, which has the purpose of causing interference in a race, causing a race result to be predetermined, causing an Athlete not to compete to the best of his ability, or any other instance which results in a race not being run on the merits of the Athletes concerned.

“**Dead heat**” means when two or more athletes in the same race run the same time and are unable to be separated by the chief photo finish operator.

“**Director**” means a Director of the VAL.

“**Doping/drugs**” means any substance referred to in these Regulations, the VAL Anti-Doping Policy which is the Australian National Anti-Doping Policy through Sport Integrity Australia.

“**Gift**” means the major races on the program as declared by the hosting Club or VAL.

“**Meet Manager**” means the race program used (where appropriate) to operate the administration of races and results.

“**Meetings**” means any athletic carnival which has received a license from the VAL to conduct such activities.

“**Member**” or “**Members**” has the meaning given by the VAL Constitution.

“**Novice**”

“**Office**” shall mean the registered office for the time being of the VAL.

“**Officials**” include, without limitation, Handicappers, Stewards, Starters, Results Coordinator and Photo Finish Operators.

“**Participant**” means any Athlete, Trainer, Official, Director, Employee, Bookmaker or any other similar participant in events conducted by the VAL.

“**Photo Finish**” means the images taken from the photo finish camera to obtain results of races.

“**Registration**” means acceptance by the VAL, subject to its conditions, of a person's participation in VAL approved events.

“**Restricted**” means any Athlete who has never won an event under these Regulation and extending to AAC member organisations.

“**SIA**” means Sport Integrity Australia, the governing body for advice and assistance to counter the: use of prohibited substances and methods in sport, abuse of children and other persons in a sporting environment and manipulation of sporting competitions

“**Trainer**” or “**Coach**” means any person who is registered with the VAL for the purpose of training or coaching Athletes participating in VAL sanctioned events.

“**VAL**” means the Victorian Athletic League Incorporated pursuant to the laws of the State of Victoria.

“VAL Anti-Doping Policy” refers to the policy adopted by the VAL Board to apply to all Doping Controls over which the VAL has jurisdiction.

“VAL Appeals Tribunal” has the meaning given in Section 16 of these Regulations.

“VAL Board” means the Board of leaders duly elected by the Members of the VAL pursuant to the Constitution of the VAL.

“VAL Rules” are as contained and set out in the VAL Constitution.

“Master” means Athletes over the age of 35 years on the day of competition.

“VRTA” means the Victorian Runners and Trainers Association Inc.

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1. VICTORIAN ATHLETIC LEAGUE BOARD – POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1.1 The constituents and powers of the Board of management for the VAL (the Board) are determined pursuant to the Statement of Purposes of the VAL, which include the Rules of the VAL. Each of the powers and responsibilities set out in these Regulations are intended to operate in a manner consistent with the Statement of Purposes and Rules of the VAL.
- 1.2 The Board shall, at its first meeting each year following the Annual General Meeting, appoint the following:
- a) Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee
 - b) Rules, Regulations and Guidelines Committee
 - c) Club and event delegate
 - d) Handicap Review Panel
 - e) VAL Appeals Tribunal
 - f) Australian Athletics Confederation representative
 - g) Stawell Gift Event Management board representatives (2)
- 1.3 The Board shall have the power to:
- a) Inquire into and deal with any matter relating to activities under the control of the VAL;
 - b) Exercise the powers conferred on the Stewards or upon the Chairman of Stewards by these Regulations;
 - c) Take whatever measure it considers appropriate to prevent or overcome what it considers to be a corrupt, wrong or unfair practice affecting or likely to affect, any meeting, race or event or any other aspect of the sport so far as it is under the control of the VAL;
 - d) register and/or grant licenses to athletes/competitors, trainers/coaches, officials and bookmakers;
 - e) ratify or confirm any suspension or disqualification imposed by any recognised controlling body in this or any other country;
 - f) As soon as practical after the Annual General Meeting appoint Officials to perform specified tasks at authorised VAL Meetings, such Officials to include (without limitation) Handicappers, Stewards, Starters, Results coordinators and Photo Finish Operators;
 - g) Establish guidelines, conditions, rosters, remuneration etc. relating to the appointment of all its Officials for a season; and
 - h) Take whatever measure it considers appropriate to rectify an error which has occurred because of some mistake or mishap in the administration of these Regulations whether by itself, the stewards, a club or any person.

- 1.4 If, in the opinion of the VAL Board, a person registered with, or licensed by, the VAL:
- a) has used obscene, threatening, abusive or insulting language to or concerning any individual at a VAL sanctioned event.
 - b) is guilty of conduct contrary to the VAL code of conduct and/or constitution;
 - c) is guilty of conduct contrary to the interests of the VAL; or
 - d) is guilty of a breach of the VAL Rules and/or the VAL Regulations,

the VAL Board may, at its discretion, impose a fine of up to and including \$10,000 and/or disqualification from any form of participation in any events conducted by the VAL, or any affiliated bodies, for a period of time as determined by the VAL.

- 1.5 Where any action is brought by the VAL against any person under this Regulation then such person or persons are entitled to appeal in accordance with the Appeal Procedures set down in these Regulations.

- 1.6 The Chairperson of the Board may at any time and at his or her discretion take any action or make any decision to give effect to matters referred to in these Regulations, provided that such actions or decisions are made following consultation with, and acceptance by, a minimum of five other members of the Board. All such decisions shall then be tabled at the next Board meeting for noting and inclusion into the minutes of such meeting.

- 1.7 The VAL Board may grant special incentives, exemptions and conditions to a club as a means to increase participation. Such incentives include but are not limited to:

- No handicap penalty for winners
- Accelerated handicap graduations
- Stawell handicap bonus or handicap maintenance

Participation incentives are to be applied for on an annual basis.

- 1.8 The VAL Board may charge a levy to fund initiatives as required.

2. CLUBS RESPONSIBILITIES –

Meetings

- 2.1 Any Club or group of persons wishing to hold athletic competition or meeting, within the state of Victoria under these rules shall first make application to the VAL nominating their proposed meeting date and program of events, on the appropriate form available from the VAL.
- 2.2 If a Club's application pursuant to Regulation 2.1 is accepted by the VAL, each meeting to be conducted by a Club shall be advertised on the program and on all notices and advertisements as being a meeting conducted under the VAL Rules & Regulations.
- 2.3 Each Club shall, following the payment no later than 2 days prior to the VAL Annual General Meeting of a non-refundable affiliation/registration fee of \$250 to the VAL, be entitled to:
 - a) conduct an athletic meeting under the VAL Rules and Regulations; and
 - b) One vote at the VAL Annual General Meeting held following the completion of such athletic meeting conducted under the VAL Regulations. For the purposes of this Regulation, where an athletics meeting is cancelled either on the day or in the five (5) days preceding the meeting as a result of weather conditions or other event or direction to cause cancellation outside the control of the club, then such meeting shall be deemed to have been completed.
- 2.4 All athletic meetings shall be held subject to, and in compliance with, the VAL Rules & Regulations.
- 2.5 Any VAL affiliated Club that conducts its meetings in violation of the VAL Rules and Regulations described herein shall be subject to review and penalty at the discretion of the VAL Board. The VAL may impose the following range of penalties on any Club & members of its committee who are determined to be in breach of the VAL Rules & Regulations -
 - a) disqualification from the VAL for a period of up to & including 2 years
 - b) A maximum fine of up to \$5,000.00
- 2.6 Subject to Regulation 2.7 below, the VAL shall have sole discretion on the administration of and composition of the yearly meeting calendar including, but not limited to, determining whether or not two or more meetings may be held on the same day and whether one or more of such meetings shall receive the sanctioning of the VAL.
- 2.7 The VAL yearly meeting calendar shall be subject to confirmation at a time determined by the VAL. Following such confirmation, no other meeting may be allocated to a particular date unless approved by the VAL.
- 2.8 The following persons will be listed on the event gate list (obtained from the VAL Office) and shall be admitted without charge to the sports ground on the day of the meeting:
 - a) Competing Athletes;
 - b) Registered Trainer/Coaches;
 - c) VAL Directors;
 - d) VAL Officials;
 - e) Honorary Life Members.
- 2.9 Measurements for circle tracks are to be taken 30cm from lane 1 and 20cm out from all other marked lanes.

Officials

- 2.10 The VAL Board shall annually constitute a panel of Officials (Inc. Stewards, Handicappers, Starters, Results coordinators and Photo Finish Operators) and acting under the powers set down in the Rules of Incorporation may appoint any such official to act at any sports meeting. The VAL will pay the applicable fees and/or honorariums to VAL appointed Officials for all endorsed events.

Requirements for conducting events

- 2.11 Unless otherwise approved by the VAL Board, a Club conducting a meeting under the VAL Rules & Regulations may conduct events over the following distances:
- a) 70 metres;
 - b) 100 metres;
 - c) 120 metres;
 - d) 200 metres;
 - e) 300 metres;
 - f) 400 metres;
 - g) 550 metres;
 - h) 800 metres;
 - i) 1600 metres;
 - j) 2000 metres;
 - k) 3200 metres; and
 - l) 4x200 metres relay.
- 2.12 The VAL Board will endorse a list of Race Callers that Clubs may use for their VAL sanctioned Meeting. Clubs shall be responsible for contacting the caller and arranging the booking details.

2.13 Unless otherwise approved by the VAL Board, and subject to Regulation 2.14 below, the maximum number of competitors per event shall be as follows:

Distance (or distance range)	Heat/Semi/Final	Max. Number of Competitors*	Min. Number of Competitors in finals*
70 metres to 200 metres (inclusive)	Heat/Semi/Final	8	6
300 metres	Heat/Semi/Final	12*	10
400 metres	Heat/Semi	12	-
400 metres	Final	10*	10
550 metres	Heat	15	-
550 metres	Final	12*	10
800 metres	Heat/Final	15	10
800 metres Junior (U17-U20)	Heat/Final	24	10

*Note: In the case of min. final competitor numbers not being reached, or a draw in a heat or semi-final, the number of competitors in a final may exceed the maximum or be less than the minimum number of competitors stipulated in the table above, providing there is an available lane for straight events and will be at the discretion of the chief Steward on the day.

2.14 In conducting events at a VAL approved meeting, a Club shall also adhere to the following requirements:

- a) For sprint events conducted in lanes and where semi-finals are not conducted (i.e. runners progress from heats to final), the number of athletes in the final must be the maximum possible given the number of lanes available (e.g. 8 lanes = 8 finalists);
- b) 550 metres, 800 metres, and 1000 metres races may be run in heats and final or final only;
- c) A Club conducting an 800 metres or 1000 metres event in heats may be required to invoke the 20 minute acceptance rule for that event pursuant to Regulation 2.17;
- d) Subject to Regulation 2.14 (e) below, where entries exceed 150 for a particular event to be conducted over a distance less than 1500 metres, such events shall be conducted in two or more divisions, in the form of front markers and back markers events, or front markers, middle markers and back markers, as considered appropriate;
- e) A Club who conducts an event over a distance less than 1500 metres in lanes or in heats, with semi-finals and a final, need not comply with the requirement in Regulation 2.14 (d) above in relation to that event;
- f) Subject to Regulation 2.14 (g) below, where entries exceed 80 for a particular event to be conducted over a distance of 1500 metres or greater, such events shall be conducted in two or more divisions, in the form of front markers and back markers events, or front markers, middle markers and back markers, as considered appropriate;
- g) A Club who conducts an event over a distance of 1500 metres or greater with heats and a final need not comply with the requirement in Regulation 2.14 (f) above in relation to that event.

2.15 The VAL may require, and in such cases shall notify athletes at the time of declaration of handicaps, a 20 minute acceptance rule to apply to specified athletics meetings, or certain events at specified athletics meetings, and in such circumstances the following shall apply:

- a) For events conducted over distances of up to 400m, where there is only one acceptance for a particular heat (or heats), that runner shall be transferred to another heat. Athletes moved to other heats do not automatically progress to the next round;
- b) For events conducted from 550m, up to 800 metres, where there are only three acceptances or less for a particular heat (or heats), such remaining runners shall be transferred to another heat. Athletes moved to other heats do not automatically progress to the next round;

2.16 Where a Club is required, pursuant to the VAL Regulations, to invoke the 20 minute acceptance rule in relation to a particular event, the Club conducting such event shall:

- a) require all entrants in such an event to confirm their intention to compete in the event no later than 20 minutes prior to the first scheduled heat for such event, such confirmation of acceptance to be provided to an official so nominated by the Club (and/or the VAL);
- b) nominate an official to whom athletes must advise their acceptance (or in the absence of such nomination the official shall be the VAL appointed Handicapper responsible for handicapping the particular event at the meeting or, in their absence, the VAL appointed Chief Stipendiary Steward officiating at the meeting);
- c) cause to be included in the Club's race day program an announcement specifying the requirement stipulated in Regulation 2.16 (a); and
- d) cause to be announced over the public address system on the day of the meeting the requirement stipulated in Regulation 2.16 (a) together with the identity and location of the nominated official to whom athletes must advise their acceptance.

2.17

All Clubs are required to conduct an event at their meeting which is classified as a Restricted or Junior event by virtue of the operation of the VAL Rules and Regulations.

2.18 Clubs, at their own discretion, may choose to conduct an invitation event, or events, at their meeting. A Club may propose the format and conditions of such event/s and submit them to the VAL for approval.

2.19 Clubs must include a prizemoney breakdown for all events, including losing semi-finalists, in their event day program.

Classification of Events

2.20 All events conducted by a Club shall be classified according to the following guidelines based on the advertised total participation/prize money applicable to each event;

GIFT

Classic	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
\$10,001+	\$7,501-\$10,000	\$3,001 - \$7,500	\$1,500 - \$3,000

OPEN/WOMEN

Classic	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
\$4,001 +	\$2001 - \$4000	\$1001- \$2000	\$0 - \$1000

MASTERS - WOMENS/MASTERS

Classic	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
\$2,001+	\$1001 - \$2000	\$800 - \$1000	\$0 - \$799

JUNIOR/RESTRICTED

There are no minimum penalties relating to Groupings for these events.
Penalties applied to these events are at the handicappers' discretion.

2.21 The groupings specified in Regulation 2.22 shall assist in the determination of handicap limits & handicap penalties.

2.22 a) Each Club shall nominate which event is to be the "Gift" event for their meeting when lodging their application to conduct a meeting under Rule 2.1. Should a Club not nominate which event it wishes to be the "Gift" event for its meeting, the VAL shall nominate the "Gift" event prior to the meeting being conducted.

b) Clubs may conduct a second 'Gift' event upon application and acceptance to the VAL Board. Considerations may include (but not limited to) race limits, impact on entry numbers, and prize money. Gift races must carry a minimum of \$1,500 prize money.

2.23 A Club may also provide marketing titles for other events, including but not limited to "Memorial", "Purse", "Challenge", "Handicap", "Feature" etc. in order to help promote these events. The adding of a marketing title shall not affect the event group status or "Gift" status of an event.

Event Participation / Prize money and Entry Fees

2.24 The allocated net participation/prize money (excluding other prizes such as sash or trophy) for each meeting shall be stated in the program and cannot be amended after publication, except with the prior permission of the VAL Board.

2.25 Clubs registered under these rules shall provide minimum participation/prize money of \$300 for each Junior and/or Restricted event, \$700 for combined events and \$600 for each other event. This includes races conducted in divisions in accordance with Rule 2.14. Gift races have a minimum prize pool of \$1,500. A club may seek permission from the VAL Board to conduct an event below the minimum participation/prize money.

*Clubs that wish to split their U18 races into boys & girls can provide a minimum prize pool of \$150 for each event.

2.26 Where an event is run in heats and a final, or heats, semi-final and final, all finalists shall receive participation/prize money of not less than the entry fee.

2.27 Where an event with total participation/prize pool in excess of \$2,000 is run in heats, semi-finals and final, all losing semi-finalists shall receive participation/prize money of not less than the entry fee.

NOTE: Where races are worth less than \$1,000 and do not have semi-finals, if the number of entries exceed the ability to have heat winners to a final, clubs can either introduce semi-finals or split the event into FM & BM.

2.28 Where a Gift event runs in heats, semi-finals and final, all losing semi-finalists shall receive participation/prize money of not less than the entry fee irrespective of the total participation/prize money for the event.

2.29 For all events (other than Gift events) where the total participation/prize money is \$1,000 or less, a Club may at its discretion elect to pay participation/prize money to losing semi-finalists and, in such cases, there is no minimum amount to be paid to losing semi-finalists. It is desirable that the amount paid to losing semi-finalists is not less than the entry fee for the race.

2.30 Entry fees are set by the VAL and apply to each VAL approved event. Meetings that conduct a Classic event may apply to the VAL to revise their race entry fees. Any changes requested by a club must be approved by the VAL. Entry fees for races with a total prize pool of more than \$15,000 are subject to negotiation between the VAL and the Club. Refer to the schedule below for all race category entry fees:

NOTE: From the 2023/24 VAL Season, Gift races defined as Men's, Open & Women's Gifts will be required to have equal prize pools.

PRIZE MONEY	ENTRY FEE	VAL	CLUB	PRIZE MONEY	ENTRY FEE	VAL	CLUB
\$ 300	\$ 15	\$ 7.65	\$ 7.35	\$ 3,000	\$ 26	\$ 11.50	\$ 14.50
\$ 400	\$ 15	\$ 7.65	\$ 7.35	\$ 3,100	\$ 27	\$ 11.50	\$ 15.50
\$ 500	\$ 15	\$ 7.65	\$ 7.35	\$ 3,200	\$ 27	\$ 11.50	\$ 15.50
\$ 600	\$ 15	\$ 7.65	\$ 7.35	\$ 3,300	\$ 27	\$ 11.50	\$ 15.50
\$ 700	\$ 15	\$ 7.65	\$ 7.35	\$ 3,400	\$ 27	\$ 11.50	\$ 15.50
\$ 800	\$ 15	\$ 7.65	\$ 7.35	\$ 3,500	\$ 27	\$ 11.50	\$ 15.50
\$ 900	\$ 15	\$ 7.65	\$ 7.35	\$ 3,600	\$ 28	\$ 11.50	\$ 16.50
\$ 1,000	\$ 16	\$ 8.50	\$ 7.50	\$ 3,700	\$ 28	\$ 11.50	\$ 16.50
\$ 1,100	\$ 17	\$ 9.35	\$ 7.65	\$ 3,800	\$ 28	\$ 11.50	\$ 16.50
\$ 1,200	\$ 18	\$ 10.20	\$ 7.80	\$ 3,900	\$ 28	\$ 11.50	\$ 16.50
\$ 1,300	\$ 19	\$ 11.05	\$ 7.95	\$ 4,000	\$ 28	\$ 11.50	\$ 16.50
\$ 1,400	\$ 20	\$ 11.50	\$ 8.50	\$ 4,500	\$ 30	\$ 11.50	\$ 18.50
\$ 1,500	\$ 21	\$ 11.50	\$ 9.50	\$ 5,000	\$ 30	\$ 11.50	\$ 18.50
\$ 1,600	\$ 22	\$ 11.50	\$ 10.50	\$ 5,500	\$ 32	\$ 11.50	\$ 20.50
\$ 1,700	\$ 23	\$ 11.50	\$ 11.50	\$ 6,000	\$ 32	\$ 11.50	\$ 20.50
\$ 1,800	\$ 24	\$ 11.50	\$ 12.50	\$ 6,500	\$ 34	\$ 11.50	\$ 22.50
\$ 1,900	\$ 25	\$ 11.50	\$ 13.50	\$ 7,000	\$ 34	\$ 11.50	\$ 22.50
\$ 2,000	\$ 25	\$ 11.50	\$ 13.50	\$ 7,500	\$ 36	\$ 11.50	\$ 24.50
\$ 2,100	\$ 25	\$ 11.50	\$ 13.50	\$ 8,000	\$ 36	\$ 11.50	\$ 24.50
\$ 2,200	\$ 25	\$ 11.50	\$ 13.50	\$ 8,500	\$ 38	\$ 11.50	\$ 26.50
\$ 2,300	\$ 25	\$ 11.50	\$ 13.50	\$ 9,000	\$ 38	\$ 11.50	\$ 26.50
\$ 2,400	\$ 25	\$ 11.50	\$ 13.50	\$ 9,500	\$ 40	\$ 11.50	\$ 28.50
\$ 2,500	\$ 25	\$ 11.50	\$ 13.50	\$ 10,000	\$ 40	\$ 11.50	\$ 28.50
\$ 2,600	\$ 26	\$ 11.50	\$ 14.50	\$ 11,000	\$ 45	\$ 11.50	\$ 33.50
\$ 2,700	\$ 26	\$ 11.50	\$ 14.50	\$ 12,000	\$ 45	\$ 11.50	\$ 33.50
\$ 2,800	\$ 26	\$ 11.50	\$ 14.50	\$ 13,000	\$ 45	\$ 11.50	\$ 33.50
\$ 2,900	\$ 26	\$ 11.50	\$ 14.50	\$ 14,000	\$ 45	\$ 11.50	\$ 33.50
				\$ 15,000	\$ 45	\$ 11.50	\$ 33.50

Junior & Restricted Race Category Entry Fees*
 (for races over \$900 in prizemoney, refer to the entry fee table above):

PRIZE MONEY	ENTRY FEE	VAL	CLUB
\$ 300	\$ 6	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00
\$ 400	\$ 8	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00
\$ 500	\$ 11	\$ 4.25	\$ 6.75
\$ 600	\$ 12	\$ 5.10	\$ 6.90
\$ 700	\$ 13	\$ 5.95	\$ 7.05
\$ 800	\$ 14	\$ 6.80	\$ 7.20
\$ 900	\$ 15	\$ 7.65	\$ 7.35

Handicap Limits

- 2.31 Subject to Regulations 2.32 and 2.33, maximum handicap limits apply to events conducted by Clubs at meetings held under the VAL Rules & Regulations. The maximum handicaps can be found in the VAL Handicap Regulations on page 33 under 'Handicap Limits'.
- 2.32 In special circumstances the VAL Board may approve a handicap limit that is not in accordance with the requirements set down in the VAL Handicap Regulations, page 33 'Handicap Limits'.
- 2.33 Prior to the commencement of each season, a Club may apply to the VAL Board nominating the specific handicap limits for the events they intend to conduct at their meeting. Upon approval by the VAL Board of the handicap limits for each event, the VAL shall ensure all handicap limits for all meetings are advertised.
- 2.34 If a Club does not apply for a specific handicap limit for an event under Regulation 2.33, the maximum possible handicap limit for the event as determined by VAL Handicap Regulations, page 33 'Handicap Limits' shall apply to that event.
- 2.35 If, in the Handicappers assessment the entry and an Athletes ability exceeds the current target time handicapping system, the relevant Club shall adjust their advertised handicap limits by an equal amount to that set by the Handicapper as the difference between the current target time and the adjusted target time for the event.

Track Specifications

- 2.36 a) All events conducted over distances up to and including 200 metres must be run on a track lined or staked and stringed that each competitor must have a separate course or lane. The width between the lines or strings, shall not be less than or more than, 1.22 meters wide and the stakes shall not be more than 10 metres apart. In the straight sprint races the starts shall be marked off in increments of 0.25 metres from the back mark to the limit mark by means of lines across the track. The starts for 200 metres around each turn shall be separately marked off for each lane.
 - b) Pursuant to Rule 2.36 a), events over 200m may be conducted in lanes with the approval of the VAL Board.
- 2.37 All circular tracks, or tracks for races to be run around a turn shall be measured 30 centimetres from the outside of the pole line.
- 2.38 Prior to the commencement of each meeting, all tracks shall be properly checked and re-measured by the Club, or its delegated official under the supervision of the Steward in Charge.

- 2.39 Clubs are to provide a clearly defined warm-up track for athletes to use, which must be within the oval where practicable.
- 2.40 Clubs shall mark all finish lines approximately 3 meters past either side of the competition track, to assist in aligning the photo finish camera.

Heat Draws and Event Progression

- 2.41 The allocation/drawing of entrants in to heats for all events shall be undertaken by the VAL, which shall in turn notify each Club of all heat draws relating to events at their meeting, together with the number of runners per event. Such heat draws cannot be amended by a Club.
- 2.42 For events conducted over distances ranging from 70 metres to 200 metres, if the track used by a Club cannot practically and physically accommodate eight (8) lanes, the maximum number of competitors per heat shall be reduced accordingly. A Club that satisfies such criteria shall notify the VAL prior to the drawing of the heats.
- 2.43 All heats shall be randomly drawn in back marker to front marker format. Athletes with handicaps withheld shall be listed as the front marker of the event in which they are drawn.
- 2.44 When drawing the fields for semi-finals, the following criteria shall be applied:
- a) All athletes being seeded (fastest qualified – F/Q), shall be based on the fastest qualifying wind adjusted time. If a number of fastest times used to progress are identified as the same, the least favourable wind condition shall be the first to proceed.
 - b) The number of athletes seeded, (fastest qualified) shall be the number of semi-finals x 2 i.e. 2 S/F = 4 F/Q, 3 S/F = 6 F/Q, 4 S/F = 8 F/Q, 5 S/F = 10 F/Q, 6 S/F = 12 F/Q.
 - c) The remaining athletes shall be drawn alphabetically from Backmarkers to Frontmarkers, based on declared handicaps. (BMR – Backmarkers Remaining)
 - d) F/Q to be placed in 1st S/F, then in order as per table.
BMR to be placed in last S/F, then in order per table.

In BMR, if athletes have the same handicap, alphabetical order takes precedence. Also this applies with athletes with the same 2nd letter etc. in surname i.e. Diegan, Dooley, Dunbar. If the athletes have the same surname, then their first name takes precedence i.e. C. Hargreaves, M. Hargreaves, S. Hargreaves.

- e) Athletes will be then be placed in handicap order in each S/F as per below.

S/F 1	S/F 2	S/F 3
F/Q 1	F/Q 2	F/Q 3
F/Q 6	F/Q 5	F/Q 4
BMR 3	BMR 2	BMR 1
BMR 4	BMR 5	BMR 6
BMR 9	BMR 8	BMR 7
BMR 10	BMR 11	BMR 12
BMR 15	BMR 14	BMR 13
BMR 16	BMR 17	BMR 18

S/F may have 5, 6, 7 or 8 athletes.

- f) Where fastest times are used to select a final field, the VAL will attempt to follow the above procedure but will not be held by that procedure.

- 2.45 The following criteria shall be applied in determining the progression of athletes from one round to the next:
- a) Progression from Heats: Winners and fastest times shall advance to semi finals and/or finals. The only exception is where there are insufficient vacant positions in the next stage eg: 8 heats and no semi finals = 8 winners only, due to 8 lanes only
 - b) Progression from Semi Finals to Finals: Winners and fastest times shall form the basis of the progression.
 - c) In the absence of semi finals all lanes available must be utilised in the final up to and including 200m events.
- 2.46 Upon application by a Club, or such other organisation or body (including for the avoidance of doubt the VRTA), the VAL Board may approve a different qualification system for finals for certain events that span a period of dates and are conducted as a series.
- 2.47 In making an application to conduct a series under Regulation 2.46, a Club, or such other organisation or body, shall propose a points system, or a combination of existing rules and a points system, to apply to such an event. Any such system or rules for such a series shall be subject to the review and approval by the VAL Board.
- 2.48 Women's races ; for distances of up to and including 200m, where the total prizemoney is \$1000 or greater, semi finals must be run and losing semi finalists paid participation/prizemoney not less than the entry fee. Should the number of heats be less than six, the club can elect to run heats and final.

SECTION 3: POSTPONEMENT AND CANCELLATION OF EVENTS

- 3.1 Individuals outlined in the Unfavourable Weather Policy have the power to postpone the sports meeting from hour to hour and from time to time and make any alterations to the program as they deem necessary. Postponement and cancellation of events can be due to:
- a) Reasons outlined in the Unfavourable Weather Policy and/or
 - b) any other extenuating circumstances.
- 3.2 Neither the member Club conducting the meeting that has been subject to a postponement under Regulation 3.1, or the VAL shall be responsible for any expense or loss incurred by any Athlete or Trainer or other party as a consequence of any postponement or other action taken in relation to this Regulation.
- 3.3 In the event of the cancellation of an event, the entry fee paid by an athlete for that event shall be refunded after the deduction of VAL administration charges.
- 3.4 In the event of insufficient athletes or exceptional circumstances, the Chief Steward, in consultation with the affected athletes, may alter or change the event to be conducted as a straight final.

SECTION 4: OFFICIALS TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

- 4.1 All Officials appointed by the VAL Board pursuant to these Regulations are entitled, subject to Regulation 4.2 below, to receive accommodation only at the expense of the Club (or Clubs) whose meeting is being attended if the meeting satisfies one or more of the following;
- a) located more than 200 kilometres or more than 2 hours (one way) of the Officials residential address;
 - b) conducted over 2 or more days;
 - c) commences prior to 10.00am;
 - d) concludes after 9.00pm.
- 4.2 If the meeting is the first meeting of a dual meeting weekend where both meetings are more than 200 kilometres from the Melbourne GPO, then any accommodation costs of Officials to be borne by the Clubs pursuant to Regulation 4.1 above shall be divided equally between the two Clubs concerned. The VAL will advise individual Clubs of their obligation in regard to this Regulation.
- 4.3 Where possible, the VAL shall arrange or provide travel to all VAL sanctioned meetings for all Officials. If travel is not able to be provided or arranged, the VAL shall pay a per kilometre travel allowance, subject to an annual limitation, such allowance to be detailed in the relevant terms and conditions of appointment for each Official. Claims for travel cost reimbursement made outside those detailed in the terms and conditions of appointment will not be considered.

SECTION 5: REGISTRATION AND LICENSING

- 5.1 The VAL Board shall carry out its powers under Regulation 1.3e) to register and/or grant licenses to athletes/competitors, trainers and officials in accordance with this Section.
- 5.2 Registrations shall be for the 12 month period from 1 September to the following 31 August.
- 5.3 An application to register with the VAL as an Athlete or Trainer shall be made by the person in the manner and form and be accompanied by such documentation, information and fees as the VAL may determine.
- 5.4 An application to be endorsed by the VAL as an official (where required) shall be made by the person in the manner and form and be accompanied by such documentation, information and fees as the VAL may determine.
- Note: The VAL cannot not issue bookmakers licenses, Clubs are required to apply for a Mixed Sports Gathering betting permit through the Victorian Government, if successful the permit will allow Clubs to appoint a registered bookmaker/s to attend and accept bets at the meeting on the VAL races outlined in the permit.*
- 5.5 To compete in VAL sanctioned events each Athlete must register with the VAL before submitting their first entry.
- 5.6 Every person applying to register with the VAL must acknowledge that they shall at all times, abide by the Regulations and Constitution of the VAL and shall be liable for any offence that they may be guilty of whilst registered with VAL. For the avoidance of doubt, where a person registered with the VAL commits an offence whilst registered, but investigation, hearing, appeal or such other action in relation to that offence is commenced (or completed) after the person's registration has expired then the person shall remain liable for the offence and any penalties or sanctions that are imposed.
- 5.7 An application for registration as an Athlete or Trainer (or both) may be refused by the VAL without assigning any reason.
- 5.8 An application for endorsement as an official may be refused by the VAL without assigning any reason.
- 5.9 Where an application for registration has been refused for a particular season, the applicant cannot submit another application for registration until the following season.
- 5.10 Upon accepting a registration, the VAL shall enter the name of the Athlete or Trainer in the VAL data base and the person shall have access to a registration number and details regarding events, entry procedures, and their responsibilities as an Athlete or Trainer (including access to a copy of these Regulations).
- 5.11 An applicant for registration shall immediately notify the VAL of any change to personal particulars.
- 5.12 Athletes registering with the VAL for the first time shall provide complete details of their athletic history, including previous athletic organisation affiliations, athletic performances, as required by the VAL registration form or any further details as required by the Handicapper.
- 5.13 Any race or competition whether for any prize, stake, trophy, remuneration or gain, or otherwise whatsoever shall be considered a performance within the meaning of these Regulations and must be included on the registration form and entry form where required.

5.14 The VAL will offer the following competition groups. Events may be offered for each group as outlined in Regulation 2.14

Events in each competition group may be Men's, Women's or combined.

For an athlete to be eligible to run under VAL Regulations and compete in each group must meet the criteria as set out in the below table:

COMPETITION GROUPS	MENS/ BOYS	WOMENS/ GIRLS	COMBINED/ MIXED	*RESTRICTED	ENTRY CONDITION
U14	✓	✓	✓		11 or older on day of competition.
U/17 to U/20	✓	✓	✓		11 or older on day of competition. Must not be above the age category on the day of competition.
Open	✓	✓	✓	✓	14 or older on day of competition
Masters			✓		35 or older on day of competition
Masters 45+			✓		45 or older on day of competition

*Restricted is pursuant to Section 8 of the Regulations.

5.15 Athletes previously registered with the VAL and renewing registration after a lapse of one or more years will be required to declare all their performances during the season in which they were last registered, as well as a complete list of all subsequent performances (including but not limited to interstate, overseas, amateur or unregistered performances) up to the date of the application.

5.16 Athletes registered or previously registered with affiliated interstate or any overseas organisation must complete their registration with the VAL before entering for conducted under the Rules and Regulations of the VAL. Such Athletes shall furnish complete details of their performances as required on the registration form. Prior to granting registration to such Athletes the VAL may, at its discretion, request that the accuracy and authenticity of any performances supplied by the athlete be ratified and certified by the Secretary of the interstate or overseas organisation with which the runner is/was registered.

5.17 a) Registration as a Trainer, or Athlete/Trainer, shall entitle the registrant to the following benefits:

- i. Free admission to all VAL athletic sports meetings
- ii. Access to all sports arenas for the tending of their athletes immediately involved in events coming up
- iii. Personal accident and insurance coverage*
- iv. Results archive
- v. Member offers and discounts

*Subsidised personal accident insurance options outlined during membership registration process. Cover subject to members selection during membership purchase.

b) Registration as an Athlete shall entitle the registrant to the following benefits;

- i. Free access to all sporting arenas for competing athletes.
- ii. Access to enter any applicable VAL race
- iii. Personal accident and insurance coverage
- iv. Results archive
- v. Member offers and discounts

- 5.18 Each registered athlete shall nominate their trainer at the time of registration and provide to the VAL any information, which varies the registered information as it occurs.
- 5.19 All monies applicable for registration fees and race entry must be paid before the advertised closing date of the Athlete's first race. Failure to do so will result in the athlete being ineligible to compete in that event. The responsibility for the payment of all fees rests with the Athlete.
- 5.20 Any person who has outstanding monies payable to the VAL under the VAL Rules and Regulations (whether registration fees, entry fees, fines or any other such monies due) shall, until such time as the outstanding monies are paid:
- a) not be allowed to start in any events or functions conducted under the auspices of the VAL
 - b) forfeit any entitlements they have under the VAL Regulations (including but not limited to Trainer entitlements listed in Regulation 5.17); and
 - c) be fined or disqualified where considered appropriate by the VAL.
- 5.21 The VAL may suspend or cancel a registration or license where:
- a) The form completed and signed by the Athlete, Trainer, official or bookmaker has been proven to contain false or misleading information;
 - b) There has been a serious breach of the VAL Constitution or Regulations; or
 - c) The VAL is satisfied that the person holding the registration or license is not a fit and proper person to be associated with the VAL and the sport of athletics.
- 5.22 Where an Athlete or Trainer, as a result of forces beyond their control, is unable to correctly detail the information required on the registration form, their case shall be placed for consideration before the VAL Board. The VAL Board may make any order, or grant any dispensation it deems fit, to permit the Athlete or Trainer to be duly and correctly registered, or to refuse or cancel the registration.
- 5.23 Any VAL registered member under the age of 18 is required to have a parent or nominated guardian in attendance at any VAL meeting where they're competing.

SECTION 6: HANDICAPPING

- 6.1 The VAL Handicapping Regulations provide guidance, rules and policy for the allocation athlete handicaps for individual events and categories of competition. The Handicapping Regulations also contain the relevant rights of review and appeal.
- 6.2 The Handicappers will be responsible for the handicapping of every athletic meeting conducted under the VAL Regulations and shall determine the handicaps in accordance with the Handicapping Regulations issued by the VAL Board.
- 6.3 The Handicappers are required to be in attendance at each VAL sanctioned sports meeting. Should more than one event be conducted on the same day, or the Handicappers are not able to attend, the Handicappers shall arrange with the Chief Steward, or such other persons as agreed in advance with the VAL Board, to deputise on their behalf.
- 6.4 The Handicappers shall not knowingly handicap a disqualified Athlete, except any Athlete appealing under VAL Regulations or Constitution, or one who has obtained a clearance from the VAL Board. Such clearances and the date of same shall be included on the entry form for any sports meeting.
- 6.5 The Handicappers shall have the power to withhold the handicap of an Athlete whose entry does not comply with the VAL Regulations pending further investigation by the Handicapper in conjunction with the VAL.
- 6.6 The Handicappers shall at the time of declaration of handicaps for any meeting, forward copies of such handicaps to the VAL.
- 6.7 The handicap of any competitor shall not be disclosed by the Handicappers or the VAL before the complete list of handicaps has been finally declared.
- 6.8 Once handicaps have been declared for a meeting:
 - a) they become the property of the VAL;
 - b) the VAL shall make available a copy to the relevant Club and competing Athletes;
- 6.9 The Handicappers must carry out their duties immediately they are aware of any alteration required to the handicaps and inform the VAL at the earliest opportunity. The VAL shall immediately notify the Athletes and Clubs involved. In the event of the Handicappers not being present at a meeting, or where circumstances do not permit the Handicapper/s to carry out the requirements of this Regulation, the Chief Steward shall allot a handicap to the Athlete for the event.
- 6.10 Subject to the other provisions of these Regulations, all penalties for winning an event shall be in accordance with the Regulations set down for the Handicappers by the VAL Board or otherwise at the sole discretion of the Handicappers.
- 6.11 All Athletes' performances in winning events designated as non-penalty shall NOT be subject to any reappraisal of their current handicapping status over any distance for the remainder of the season in which the winning performance was achieved - provided the Athlete in winning the event does not break the designated target time for that event, as adjusted for track & wind conditions. In the event the Athlete in winning the event DOES break the designated target time for that event then the Athlete shall forfeit the non-penalty status of the event and shall be then subject to the Handicappers' discretion as to an appropriate future handicap.
- 6.12 The Handicappers shall inform the Starter of any athlete becoming liable for a penalty before the start of any event for which such a penalty could apply.

- 6.13 In invitation events the Backmarker shall run off scratch and all other participants shall be awarded handicaps relative to that mark as determined by the appropriate Handicappers.
- 6.14 Handicap penalties shall not apply to a match race or invitation race upon application from the Club to the VAL Board.
- 6.15 The handicappers shall use wind adjusted times for all straight events up to and including 200m to assist in the evaluation of Athlete performance and subsequent handicapping. The equation shall be 0.05 sec. adjustment, either positive or negative, for every 1m/sec of registered wind reading. Reference to wind adjusted times can also be made by stewards and at any handicap review, VAL Tribunal hearing, protest and appeal. All target times are based on wind adjusted times.
- 6.16 Where an athletes rating, or cumulative penalties, results in a mark less than scratch, the handicapper is permitted to allocate a negative handicap.

A negative handicap allocated under this Rule, will require Board approval prior to handicaps being declared.

SECTION 7: HANDICAPPING REVIEWS AND APPEALS –

- 7.1 In accordance with its powers under Section 1 of these Regulations, the VAL Board shall appoint an internal Handicap Review Panel (the “Handicap Review Panel”) comprising at least three members:
- a) an Independent Chairperson (who can be a VAL Board member);
 - b) at least one VAL Board member; and
 - c) the Chief Steward or another VAL Board member.
- 7.2 In accordance with its powers under Section 1 of these Regulations, the VAL Board may appoint a Director of Handicapping – the role of the director of Handicapping is to;
- a) Sit on the Handicap Review Panel & VAL Rules Committee;
 - b) Review all handicaps and ensure Handicappers operate within the VAL Handicap Regulations;
 - c) Manage and respond to all Athlete/Trainer handicap queries in consultation with the relevant handicapper.
- 7.3 The term of office for each member of the Handicap Panel appointed pursuant to Regulation 7.1 shall be 12 months, extending from 1 September to the following 31 August.
- 7.4 The Chairperson shall be totally responsible for the conduct and agenda of each Handicap Panel meeting.
- 7.5 Each member of the Handicap Panel shall have one vote and any decision shall be based on the balance of probabilities. A majority of the votes will be the basis for the panel's findings.
- 7.6 The function of the Handicap Review Panel is to:
- a) review Athlete handicaps, as produced by the Handicappers, for anomalies and/or vagaries in the relativity of handicaps between athletes and between distances competed over by the athlete;
 - b) ensure Handicappers apply approved Handicap Regulations and intervene if a Handicapper has operated outside of the VAL Handicap Regulations;
 - c) direct the Handicapper as to the course of action as decreed by the majority vote of the panel;
 - d) develop, review and recommend amendments to handicap and Handicapper guidelines and protocols; and
 - e) provide guidance in relation to handicapper quality control.
- 7.7 Subject to Regulation 7.16, an Athlete can request that the Handicappers review their handicap for one or more events (a “Handicap Review”) by lodging a written request on the prescribed application form with the VAL office.

- 7.8 Any application for a Handicap Review pursuant to Regulation 7.7 must:
- a) be received by the VAL office within two (2) days of declarations of the handicaps for the event to which the queried handicap relates, and in any event no later than 24 hours prior to the commencement of the VAL meeting where the event is to be conducted;
 - b) set out the nature of the complaint, clearly identifying the evidence in support the Athlete's argument that the handicap is incorrect, anomalous or unjust in the circumstances.
- 7.9 The VAL must refer the matter, including the completed Handicap Review application together with any written submissions provided by the athlete in support of his or her Review Application, to the within 24 business hours of receipt of the Handicap Review application.
- 7.10 In exceptional circumstances relating to handicap reviews and appeals determined solely by a majority vote the VAL Board (a minimum of three Board Members constitutes a quorum), particularly where time is of the essence, the necessity to provide written submissions will be dispensed with and the athlete will be allowed to address the Handicapper by way of oral representations confined to 15 minutes in duration. The athlete may be represented by an advocate who will make the representation on behalf of the athlete. The advocate may not be a lawyer.
- 7.11 When undertaking a Handicap Review, the Handicapper:
- a) shall review the Athlete's handicap taking into account any relevant circumstances presented by the Athlete;
 - b) shall advise the VAL of the decision by way of brief written report within 7 days (or such earlier time as determined by the VAL where time is of the essence);
 - c) shall advise the success or failure of the Handicap Review application and of any revised handicap where appropriate; and
 - d) may provide the Athlete with reasons for the Handicapper's decision.
- 7.12 Where an Athlete appears before the Handicapper in person following the appropriate meeting request protocols) in relation to a Handicap Review, the Handicapper may advise their decision directly to the Athlete and provide a written report to the VAL in due course but not later than 48 hours after reaching the decision.
- 7.13 The VAL shall forward a copy of the Handicap Review results to the Athlete within business hours of receipt from the Handicapper.
- 7.14 Only in exceptional circumstances to be determined solely at the discretion of the VAL, will an Athlete be allowed to call witnesses to support their Handicap Review application.
- 7.15 If witnesses are called by the Athlete in support of a Handicap Review application, the Handicapper has the right to ask relevant questions of the witnesses.
- 7.16 Where an Athlete remains unsatisfied with the result of the Handicap Review application he or she may appeal to the VAL Handicap Review Panel.
- 17.17 Where an Athlete remains unsatisfied with the result of the HRP Handicap Review application he or she may appeal to the VAL Tribunal for a fee.
- 7.18 Any appeal to the VAL Tribunal under Regulations 7.16 must be accompanied by an application fee of \$200.00 for events other than the Stawell Gift. Where the application relates

to the Stawell Gift (Open or Women's), the application fee is \$500.00. This fee is non-refundable in the event the appeal is dismissed. If the appeal is upheld, the VAL Tribunal may refund up to 50% of the application fee. The remaining amount shall be retained by the VAL. The attendance costs of the VAL Tribunal shall be met by the VAL.

- 7.19 In hearing appeals relating to handicaps, the appropriate standard to which the VAL Tribunal must be satisfied is on the balance of probabilities, i.e. it is more reasonable than not that the Athlete's argument is acceptable and that the original handicap is incorrect, anomalous or unjust in the circumstances.

SECTION 8: RESTRICTED ATHLETES AND EVENTS

- 8.1 An Athlete is defined as Restricted, and shall therefore be eligible for an event designated solely for Restricted athletes if that athlete has not won ANY final in any event conducted by the following organisations (and/or any successor organizations):
- a) the IAAF and/or affiliated bodies (being State, National, World Title including Junior Divisions above under 16), excluding School competition;
 - b) the Scottish Games Association for events totalling a prize pool of \$300 or more;
 - c) the Australian Athletics Confederation and/or affiliated bodies (including the VAL) for events totalling a prize pool of \$300 or more; or
 - d) the International Olympic Committee and/or affiliated bodies in an athletics related discipline (including for the avoidance of doubt Triathlon).
- 8.2 All events previously designated as Novice events or Maiden Events shall be referred to as Restricted events.
- 8.3 All Restricted events shall be deemed non-penalty for any open/senior events for the currency of the season in which the event was conducted, provided that the following criteria is adhered to:
- a) the Athlete in winning the event does not break the designated target time for that event, as adjusted for track & wind conditions; and
 - b) the event time recorded by the Athlete in winning the event is not faster/lower than the time recorded by the winner of the open/senior event conducted at the same meeting, over an equal distance, and as adjusted for track & wind conditions.

If the above conditions are not met then the Restricted Athlete shall forfeit the non-penalty status of the event & shall be then subject to the Handicappers' discretion as to an appropriate future handicap.

- 8.4 Any Athlete winning the final of a Restricted event shall be ineligible to compete in any future Restricted events.
- 8.5 Subject to Regulations 8.6 and 8.7, Athletes who have entered a Restricted event and, prior to competing in that event, lose their Restricted status shall be re-allocated by the Chief Steward to another suitable event of similar distance to the Restricted event entered at that carnival (where such event is available).
- 8.6 Where an Athlete has lost their Restricted status and the suitable event of similar distance to the Restricted event entered at a particular carnival to which they would be transferred in accordance with Regulation 8.5 is classified as a Classic event, then the Athlete shall not be transferred to that Classic event until such time as they pay to the VAL the difference in the entry fee between the Restricted event and the Classic event.
- 8.7 Athletes that enter a Restricted event after they have lost their Restricted status will not be allocated into a similar event despite paying an entry fee for the subsequent Restricted event. Entry fees will not be refunded for this Athlete error. The Chief Steward may place the Athlete into a more appropriate event at his/her discretion, provided the balance between the Restricted entry fee and the open entry fee is provided to the VAL by the athlete.

SECTION 9: JUNIOR RACES

9.1 For the purpose of these regulations, all races relevant to athletes aged under 20 years old but older than 11 years old, shall be referred to as Junior Races. Junior Races can be categorised where appropriate, for example: U14 Girls, U14 Mixed, U18 Mixed, U20 Boys.

*Athletes that turn 14 during the current season can continue in U14 series races, as long as they first competed in the series at age 13.

9.2 Subject to Regulation below, where an athlete wins a Junior Race they shall only be subject to a handicap penalty for other Junior Races. That is, all Junior Races attract non penalty status in relation to other events (excluding Junior Races) conducted by the VAL. Penalties may be applied to other junior races under a different age restriction.

9.3 Where an athlete wins a Junior Race and in doing so runs a time that is so fast that the VAL Handicapper is permitted to apply a handicap penalty to the athlete as a result of either other Regulations contained herein or Handicapping Guidelines as may be set out by the VAL Board from time to time in accordance with these Regulations, then such handicap penalty shall still apply notwithstanding the operation of Regulation 9.2 above.

9.4 Winning a Junior event does not effect a Restricted status of an athlete.

9.5 The entry, registration, handicapping method, penalty method, and performance assessment rules of these events may be varied from season to season as agreed by the VAL Board.

SECTION 10: ENTRY PROCEDURE

- 10.1 Entries shall be sent to the VAL by athletes on the form in use by the VAL at the time of entry. All entries shall be made and races run in the legal name of the competitor.
- 10.2 Entries shall close for all VAL sanctioned events at the date so determined by the VAL and advertised to Athletes.
- 10.3 All entries must be submitted by the athlete and received by the VAL no later than the advertised closing date.
- 10.4 Telephone entries are strictly not permitted.
- 10.5 An individual Club may apply to the VAL up to and including 5 calendar days prior to the date of the event requesting a "Wild Card" entry for an athlete who is categorised within the following criteria:
 - a) a member of an Athletics Australia sanctioned international team within the 3 years prior to the date of the event,
 - b) any national or international athlete, who is ranked in their national top 10 rankings over the specific or relevant distance to the event entered as compiled by their National Association in the previous year.
 - c) a previous winner of the event being entered.
 - d) an athlete whose current performances exceeds the minimum performance standard required to establish a top 10 performance as defined by item (b).
 - e) Wild card entries shall incur an entry payment penalty equivalent to twice the originally advertised entry fee for the event entered.
 - f) A Club applying for a wild card entry shall be responsible for furnishing unequivocal proof to the VAL of the Athlete's validity to qualify for a Wild Card entry as required by the VAL. Failure to do so shall mean rejection of the application.
- 10.6 The VAL shall advise entrants of the starting time of each series of events and their handicap marks approximately five days prior to the meeting entered.
- 10.7 Where an Athlete is not included in the list of entrants for an event and the Athlete can establish that the entry form was submitted, the VAL has the power to ensure that the entry is still processed and that the Athlete be handicapped and permitted to compete. Where such it becomes clear on the day of the event that an Athlete is not included in a heat, the Athlete shall be included in a heat at the sole discretion of the Chief Steward. The athlete will be placed in the first available heat with an empty lane for sprint track events or as the final number and/or colour in a circle event and subject to Regulation 2.44 where possible/practical.
- 10.8 The VAL Board may refuse to accept, or cancel, any entry before the commencement of an event, without reason.
- 10.9 The VAL Board may disqualify an Athlete at any time if it has been shown that their entry was made under false pretences or contains false or incorrect information, irrespective of whether it was an inadvertent or deliberate act.

- 10.10 Every entry by an Athlete is received by the VAL on the condition that any decisions of the VAL in relation to the entry are final.
- 10.11 Entry fees paid by a disqualified or suspended Athlete for meetings following their disqualification or suspension and for the period of their disqualification or suspension will not be refunded to the Athlete. Athletes may enter events whilst suspended provided the events entered are outside the suspension period.
- 10.12 All entries will be deemed final as per the final list of entries published on the VAL website. All athletes are advised to confirm their entries for each athletics meeting on the published entry lists and report any discrepancy to the VAL no later than the last working day prior to the meeting. No alteration to entry fields will be taken on the day of any meeting.
- 10.13 The VAL shall retain all original entry forms for a period of not less than 6 months for inspection as required.
- 10.14 An Athlete may apply in writing to the VAL office, no later than the official advertised closing date for entries of the relevant meeting, seeking a refund of the entry monies paid. If an application is received by this date, the Athlete is entitled to receive a full refund for events in which a refund has been requested, subject to restrictions on refund that may be imposed by other Regulations in this Section.
- 10.15 Where a closing date for late entries is in place (and that date is later than the official advertised closing date for entries), an athlete may apply in writing to the VAL office, no later than the closing date for late entries of the relevant meeting, seeking a refund of the entry monies paid. In such circumstances the Athlete shall receive a maximum refund of 75% of the value of the entry money paid.
- 10.16 No refund of entry fees shall be payable to the athlete after the date for the closure of late entries.

SECTION 11: ATHLETE AND TRAINER RESPONSIBILITIES

- 11.1 Any Athlete, after nominating or accepting for any event at a meeting conducted under these Regulations shall be liable to forfeit all fees or monies won by him at that meeting on being disqualified for any offence committed at, or prior to, such meeting.
- 11.2 Any Athlete and/or Trainer who is called before the Stewards shall present themselves at the time requested by the Stewards. Failure to present themselves to the Stewards will render the athlete ineligible to compete or participate in any further events at that meeting, or future meetings.
- 11.3 Athletes shall wear a clean and complete competition uniform (singlets, vests, shorts, bicycle shorts and footwear) as approved by the VAL. The VAL has sole governance on the competition singlets that athletes are required to wear in all VAL sanctioned events. This may include stipulated colours, designs, materials and the appropriate display of VAL branding and that of any VAL partners. In the event of any uncertainty on the day of an event, as to whether an Athlete has complied with this Regulation, the Chief Steward shall have the sole discretion to approve the Athlete's competition uniform for the particular event. Any Athlete committing a breach of this Regulation or failing to comply with the directions of the Chief Steward may be prevented from competing, fined or disqualified by the Chief Steward.
- 11.4 Athletes shall be supplied with, and wear, numbers and/or colours corresponding to the program for all event finals. For heats and semi-finals, athletes can provide their own colour, providing it corresponds with their colour allocation and has been approved by the colour steward.

Any Athlete committing a breach of this Regulation may be prevented from competing, fined or disqualified by the Chief Steward.

- 11.5 Athletes are expected to wear acceptable footwear for the event they are competing in aligned to shoe technical specifications and approved shoes by World Athletics. For VAL track events it is expected that track spikes be worn. Athletes may apply to the Chief Steward for permission to compete in bare feet and/or other footwear. If approval has been granted, the Athlete shall continue to compete in bare feet and/or approved footwear until otherwise approved by the Chief Steward.
- 11.6 Sponsorship clothing supplied by the Clubs must be worn by the athlete if requested. Failure to do so shall disqualify the athlete from that event.
- 11.7 Without express prior approval from the Chief Steward, only the following persons shall be permitted on the arena during the course of a meeting:
- a) VAL officials;
 - b) Club Officials relevant to the club conducting the meeting;
 - c) Athletes taking part in the meeting;
 - d) registered Trainers with Athletes who are due to compete, or have competed, within a reasonable time frame; and
 - e) approved media.

The Chief Steward or Steward shall have the discretion to impose a fine of up to \$500.00 for any breach of this Regulation.

- 11.8 All persons except officials inside the arena must not be standing or must be seated whilst an event is underway. Persons failing to comply with this direction will be subject to a fine of up to \$500.00 for each individual breach at the discretion of the Stewards.
- 11.9 No Athlete, Trainer or other person shall encourage or coach an Athlete who is in the course of actual participation from within the interior of the running arena. Where a ground perimeter fence is in place, the running arena will be defined as the area inside unless otherwise decreed by the Chief Steward. The Chief Steward or Steward shall have the discretion to impose a fine of up to \$500.00 for any breach of this Regulation and also the discretion to disqualify the Athlete to which the encouragement or coaching was referred to.

- 11.10 No Athlete, Trainer or other person, if inside the running arena, shall insult, discourage, abuse or the like other athletes whilst they are participating in an event. The Chief Steward or Steward shall have the discretion to impose a fine of up to \$500.00 for any breach of this Regulation.
- 11.11 All Athletes must compete in the heats into which they are drawn except as follows;
- a) where an athlete has been transferred under Regulation 2.44.
 - b) where a heat has been reduced to one competitor in distances up to and including 550m, or 3 competitors in the 800m or above, the Chief Steward shall reallocate the competitor to the next available heat.
 - c) pursuant to Regulation 11.11b above, the reallocated competitors shall receive the monies allocated to the heat winners of the deleted heat. However, if the Athlete is successful in winning their reallocated heat they shall only receive one allocation of heat money, that being for the deleted heat, not for the reallocated heat. The resulting unallocated monies shall remain with the Club conducting the meeting.
- 11.12 If a heat has been deleted then the fastest non-automatic qualifier, shall progress to the next round designated for that event.
- 11.13 Where Clubs conduct heats of the 800m the Athlete may be required to accept at the Clubs marshalling area, 20 minutes prior to the commencement of the first heat of that event. It is the responsibility of the Athlete to ensure they have accepted for their event.
- 11.14 It shall be the duty of each Athlete to ensure that they start from proper allocated handicap and if in default may be disqualified from the race in question. An Athlete, on being disqualified, shall forfeit any fees they may have paid or participation money won along with any other tangible gift presented to them.
- 11.15 After any disqualification or suspension has been imposed on any person or persons by the VAL or any other governing body to which this body is affiliated, no such person or persons shall be eligible to compete in any events to which these rules apply until such time as the person or persons can produce a clearance from the body by whom the disqualification or suspension was imposed or from the Committee. The certificate of the Stewards that any Athlete has been disqualified may be received as conclusive evidence of such disqualification.
- 11.16 Any Athlete who sustains an injury or illness during an event, which prevents the athlete from running to the best of their ability or is unable to take their place in a semi-final or final for similar reasons, may incur a suspension of 14 days. The use of a Medical Certificate may be used at the discretion of the Chief Steward to substantiate the claim of injury or illness. In determining the 14 days, the day on which the injury occurred is counted as day one. Return to the competition may be permitted by the Chief Steward in charge and/or left to their discretion after 7 days on production of a suitable Medical Certificate and/or a satisfactory trial. All injury or illness suspensions will be enforced by the AAC professional athletic leagues but are not enforced for amateur competition. However, all other forms of suspension or disqualification will be enforced by all athletic codes including amateur competition including suspension until fines are cleared with the issuing athletic body.
- 11.17 Any Athlete who fails to take their position in a semi-final or final of an event without the prior approval of the Chief Steward having previously competed in a heat or semi-final shall be guilty of an offence and subject to a suspension of up to 12 months and/or a fine of up to \$1,000.
- 11.18 Athletes and Trainers must request permission from the VAL via appointment before speaking to the Handicapper during the course of a meeting.

- 11.19 Athletes must declare all athletic performances outside the jurisdiction of the VAL (both hand held and electronic times) to the VAL within 7 calendar days of their occurrence, or prior to the athletes next performance at a VAL sanctioned meeting, if the said performance improves (lowers) the latest performance submitted by the athlete to, and registered by the VAL and/or is the first performance over a distance not previously registered with the VAL, irrespective of all, and any prevailing circumstances and conditions. All such performances shall be termed - "Personal Bests".
- 11.20 Athletes must declare to the VAL any performance outside the jurisdiction of the VAL prior to competing under VAL Rules and Regulations.
- 11.21 All declarations by the Athlete pursuant to this Section of the Regulations shall be accurate, correct, and verifiable by the VAL.
- 11.22 Having qualified for a final of an event, any athlete wanting to compete in an alternative event prior to that final, must receive permission from the Chief Steward prior to competing or face a possible fine and/or suspension.
- 11.23 Where an Athlete fails to meet their obligations under Regulations 11.19 to 11.22 they shall be guilty of an offence.

SECTION 12: STARTERS AND STARTING RESPONSIBILITY

- 12.1 The Starter shall have total control of the athletes preparing for, and on their marks and shall have sole responsibility for all aspects of the starting process.
- 12.2 The Starter shall provide a starting pistol, cartridges or caps, which has been approved by the VAL. The VAL shall supply to the starter with approved apparel, which shall be worn by the starter during the discharge of their duties.
- 12.3 The Starter must be able to fire a second barrel in case of necessity.
- 12.4 In the event of the Starter's pistol becoming unworkable the Chief Steward of the meeting shall have the power to make arrangements to start the events.
- 12.5 The Starter shall ascertain from the Chief Steward and/or the photo finish operator that the all-clear has been issued on the previous heat, and that the photo finish and results operators ready prior to the start commands being given.
- 12.6 Unless the permission of the Chief Steward has been obtained, the time of starting, as stated in the program, shall be strictly adhered to and races started regardless of absentees.
- 12.7 No event shall be started before the stated time except with the consent of every Athlete participating in that event and with the agreement of the Chief Steward.
- 12.8 The Starter in all races run in lanes shall position themselves in line, or as near as possible, from the Backmarker to Front marker and stand a minimum of 5 metres behind the Backmarker in those events.
- 12.9 Each Club shall supply a minimum of two (2) Starter's assistants who shall take direction from the Starters to remove athlete starting blocks.
- 12.10 In all races conducted in lanes, the Starter shall have the power to address the Athletes at their discretion, then give the following commands prior to firing the pistol:
 - a) 'To Your Blocks'
 - b) 'On Your Marks'
 - c) 'Set'
- 12.11 In circular events a whistle blast may be substituted for commands (b) and (c) in Regulation 12.10.
- 12.12 The Starter shall commence the event by discharging a single shot from the Starter's gun, fired from an elevated position & above their head.
- 12.13 The Athletes shall remain still after the "set" command, and while in the "set" position. Any forward movement of the foot or body whilst in the "set" position, prior to the pistol being fired, shall be deemed to be a "break" from the "set" position, except when a runner signals to the Starter, by raising their hand whilst retaining both feet in contact with the blocks (or the ground where blocks are not used), that they are not ready. The starter may stand all of the athletes up, without penalty if athletes are clearly unsteady.
- 12.14 The VAL shall provide the services of a recall Starter to assist the Starter in the detection of false starts.
- 12.15 The recall Starter shall:
 - a) be equipped with equipment by the VAL as required.
 - b) be totally responsible to, and take direction from, the Starter in the discharge of their duty.

- c) place the Athletes on their respective marks and shall give the all clear to the Starter. No other command shall be given by the recall starter
 - d) ensure that all Athletes in laned events shall use two starting block pedals and that the front block shall be positioned at the back of the handicap line prior to giving the all-clear to the Starter. Unless the chief steward has provided prior approval for the athlete not to use starting blocks.
 - e) Ensure that in all non-laned events the athletes starting foot position shall be behind the back of the handicap line prior to giving the all clear to the starter.
 - f) have the right to recall the runners at any time by a second discharge of the pistol.
 - g) be empowered to enact a recall of the Athletes by firing their gun, if in their opinion a false start has been made and has been undetected by the Starter.
 - h) consult the Starter and advise on the reason for the declaration of a false start.
- 12.16 Where a false start has been declared and agreed following discussion between the Starter and recall Starter, the Starter shall administer the appropriate penalty, warning and/or disqualification that the Starter deems applicable in accordance with these Regulations.
- 12.17 The Chief Steward is not empowered to overturn the decision of the Starter in relation to a false start and any related penalty, but may relieve the Starter of their duties if, in the opinion of the Chief Steward, the performance of the Starter is unsatisfactory.
- 12.18 Any Athlete who causes the false start shall be penalised as follows:
- a) 0.5 metre in distances up to and including 70 metres;
 - b) 0.75 metres in distances of 90 metres and 100 metres;
 - c) 1 metre in distances over 100 metres up to and including 200 metres;
 - d) 2 metres in distances over 200 metres up to and including 400 metres;
 - e) 3 metres in distances over 400 metres up to and including 800 metres;
 - f) 5 metres in distances over 800 metres up to and including 1600 metres;
 - g) 10 metres in distances of 3200m or more;
 - h) Disqualification from the event shall follow if any Athlete breaks twice.
- 12.19 Where an Athlete has caused a false start, the Recall Starter or Starter's Assistant shall advise the Athlete of their adjusted mark and direct them to it accordingly. Should there be an existing athlete on the same adjusted mark, the athlete that false started will be placed to the outside position.
- 12.20 Starting positions on the circle track
- a) In handicap events, stations shall be awarded according to the order of the program. Under no circumstances can the colour or number order be altered from the program. In scratch races athletes shall draw lots for their respective station. The Starter shall decide any disputes as to stations
 - b) If athletes are placed on the same handicap in a circle event, the athlete closest to the line is allowed no more than half a body width from the line, unless the wider athlete permits.

12.21 The sequence of colours shall be as follows;

- 1 Red,
- 2 White,
- 3 Blue,
- 4 Yellow,
- 5 Green,
- 6 Pink,
- 7 Black,
- 8 Grey,
- 9 Orange,
- 10 Purple,
- 11 Red/White,
- 12 Blue/White,
- 13 Yellow/White,
- 14 Green/White,
- 15 Pink/White,
- 16 Black/White,
- 17 Grey/White,
- 18 Orange/White,
- 19 Purple/White.

Note: Persons with withheld marks or entered via wildcard criteria shall wear the colour which corresponds with their allocated lane unless another applicable colour is provided. Lane allocation in heats shall be determined by the Chief Steward with first consideration to use outer lanes in those heats with multiple scratching's or those with less athletes allocated to the heat.

12.22 The VAL Board may authorise different colours or different colour sequence.

SECTION 13: JUDGES RESPONSIBILITIES

13.1 Each Club shall provide at least one (1) VAL approved backup timing Judge and one (1) other VAL approved placing Judge, both whom shall stand not less than 10 metres from any finishing post.

*Clubs should contact the VAL office to confirm approved judge and equipment requirements.

13.2 An area of 10 x 5 metres shall be cleared either side of the finishing line angled back to the Judges position.

13.3 Judges must confirm with VAL Officials of the specific judging requirements prior to the start of each meeting. This may include (but not limited to) the finish positions of athletes in races and back up timing of races.

13.4 Clubs shall be required to use timing equipment approved, provided and installed by the VAL at their athletic meeting. In the event of the unavailability of this equipment the Club may seek approval from the VAL Board to use other equipment and operators.

13.5 The Photo Finish Operator, in consultation with the Chief Steward, shall have the power to declare an event (be it heat, semi final, final or any other event) a 'no race' and shall have the power to order the race to be re-run, if, in their opinion, anything of substance, except a call to overrule the start by the Starter and recall starter occurred during the race, to interfere with any athletes chance of winning.

13.6 In the event of a dead heat in one of a series of races which counts for points, it shall not be run off, but the points shall be allocated equally to the athletes involved in the dead heat. Athletes involved in a dead heat shall each receive the full points allocated to the place given to the athlete, as set out in the series information at the start of the season.

13.7 In the event that 2 or more athletes being on equal points prior to a series final where the race is restricted by lanes or numbers, the athlete ahead on points in the previous round will progress. A count back may occur as far back as required in that particular series to achieve a final field.

13.8 In the circumstance of a dead heat in the final of any event of on the program, the decision will stand and prize monies shared equally between the dead heating athletes.

13.9 Judges may be called upon to provide backup information regarding race results to the Photo Finish or Meet Manager Operators in the case of timing, electronic or other failures.

13.10 Upon providing information to Officials pursuant to Regulation 13.8, Judges relinquish the final decision to the Photo Finish or Meet Manager Operators.

SECTION 14: RULES RELATING TO RACING

- 14.1 All Regulations in this section should be read in conjunction with the Regulations dealing with Offences. A breach of any requirement set down in this section shall be considered an offence.
- 14.2 Athletes shall place the leading edge of their starting block, or their foot in the case of events where starting blocks are not used, at the back of the line denoting their handicap.
- 14.3 An athlete who starts off and incorrect handicap may be disqualified and forfeit all prizemoney. The onus is on the Athlete to start from the correct handicap.
- 14.4 An athlete who starts in the incorrect singlet colour or number or in the wrong lane may also be disqualified and forfeit all prizemoney.
- 14.5 An Athlete overtaking another athlete must always pass the athlete on the outside (unless the athlete being passed has retired from the track or is clearly competing wide) and must be two clear metres ahead before taking ground in front of the passed athlete. The Stewards may fine and/or disqualify an Athlete who does not comply with this rule.
- 14.6 Any Athlete jostling, pushing, bumping, elbowing, shouldering or shoving during the course of a race, or running across or willfully obstructing so as to impede another athlete's progress shall, at the discretion of the Stewards, be fined and/or disqualified.
- 14.7 If the first placed Athlete is disqualified in a final, the 2nd placegetter shall be declared the winner, and the placing of other Athletes shall be adjusted accordingly. For example, 3rd becomes 2nd, 4th becomes 3rd etc.
- 14.8 If an athlete whose performance has progressed them to the semi-finals, or final is disqualified the next eligible athlete to qualify for the next round of the event shall replace them in the event. Athletes who are ill or suffer injury are not deemed to be disqualified for this purpose of advancement. Similarly, athletes failing to report to the start of the heat, semi-final, or final will not be replaced by the next eligible athlete.
- 14.9 Any Athlete who, in the opinion of the Stewards, deliberately looks around at any time during the running of the event in which they are competing may be fined or disqualified.
- 14.10 Confederacies are strictly prohibited and in any race where a confederacy is proven, which in the opinion of the Stewards, prevented the parties concerned or any other parties running on their merits, such parties to the confederacy shall be guilty of an offence.
- 14.11 Any Athlete on being advised by the Stewards of the likelihood of them being lapped by other athletes shall move out a minimum of 3 metres from the running line to allow the unimpeded path of the following athletes.
- 14.12 Athletes must ensure their performance is not impaired by the wearing of timing devices, if an athlete's performance is hindered by the use of or wearing of a timing device they may be sanctioned as determined by the Chief Steward.
- 14.13 An athlete must not run on the inside of the designated course of the event. An athlete shall be disqualified if they receive an unfair advantage by leaving their designated course during the race. Where events have lanes allocated an athlete must not leave his designated course and shall be disqualified if they receive an unfair advantage by leaving the designated course or they interfere and disadvantage another athlete by leaving their designated course.
- 14.14 The finish of a race shall be denoted by a white line 5cm wide. The athletes shall be placed in the order in their torso (torso is defined as between the base of the athletes neck and the top of their hips) reaches the vertical plane of the nearer edge of the finish line.

14.15 If the Judges or the Photo Finish Operators are unable to separate the athletes for any place according to Rules 14.14 and 14.16 or (as may be applicable), it shall be determined to be a tie and the tie shall remain. In determining whether there has been a tie between athletes in different heats for a ranking position according to Rule 166.3(b) of the World Athletics rules or for the last qualifying position for a subsequent round based on time, the Chief Photo Finish Judge shall consider the actual times recorded by the athletes to 0.001 second. If it is thus (or according to 167.1 of World Athletics rules) determined that there has been a tie for a ranking position the tie shall be broken by draw. Where there is a tie for the last qualifying position for a subsequent round based on time or place, the tying athletes shall be placed in the next round or, if that is not practicable, lots shall be drawn to determine who shall be placed in the next round.

Note: Where qualifying for the next round is based on place and time (e.g., the winner in each heat plus the next two fastest), and there is a tie for the last qualifying position based on place, placing the tied athletes in the next round shall reduce the number of athletes qualifying based on time.

14.16 A system which operates automatically at either the start or the finish, but not at both, shall be considered to obtain official times.

Note: If the timing mechanism is not started by the Starter's signal, the time-scale on the image shall indicate this fact automatically.

14.17 Ceremonial, advertising or marketing structures such as finish gates or advertising material may be used close to the finish line but in no way obstruct any official or back up timing equipment in use. These items or structures must be approved by the VAL Board.

14.18 In the event of the electronic timing and/or wind gage failing to record an accurate result for any event, the following is to take place:

- a) The Chief Steward can consult the Photo Finish Officials and the impacted athletes to authorise a re-run where necessary or possible.
- b) The hand time can be sought and 0.24 seconds added to that time;
- c) The wind is to be decided as (1) an average of all heat recordings or (2) a block of heat recordings if the heats are conducted over an extended length of time. The block of heats is to be decided by the Chief Steward.

Times as applied by the officials as set out in this regulation shall be used as official times for all subsequent handicapping, stewarding and officials purposes.

14.19 After progressing to a semi-final or final of an event, an athlete may seek permission to scratch from that event under the following circumstances;

- a) If the athlete at that same meeting later qualifies for a group 1 or Classic semi-final or final.
- b) The decision is at the discretion of the Chief Steward.

SECTION 15: STEWARDS - RESPONSIBILITY AND DUTIES

- 15.1 The VAL Board may appoint Stewards as required.
- 15.2 One Steward shall be appointed Chairman of Stewards.
- 15.3 The Chairman of Stewards will be responsible to the Board for the proper conduct of all VAL events at sports meetings held under these Regulations. The appointment will be for a term of one year from 1 September to 31 August (or such other period as may be determined by the VAL Board) under the guidelines established by the VAL Board pursuant to these Regulations.
- 15.4 The Chairman of Stewards shall be the Chief Steward at any meeting or race officially attended by the Chairman of Stewards unless the Chairman of Stewards otherwise directs.
- 15.5 The Chairman of Stewards shall officiate where possible at all meetings.
- 15.6 At any meeting or race attended by Stewards one shall be the Chief Steward including the case where only one Steward is in attendance. The nominated Chief Steward shall assume all powers and responsibilities of the Chief Steward for the meeting.
- 15.7 At any meeting or race attended by more than one steward the Chief Steward shall have a casting as well as a deliberative vote.
- 15.8 Except with the approval of the VAL Board, a club shall not conduct a meeting or race in the absence of the Stewards.
- 15.9 The VAL may substitute other names for Chairman of Stewards, Chief Steward or Stewards and these Regulations will then be read accordingly.
- 15.10 Stewards are empowered:
 - a) to direct and control at any meeting or race the activities of officials, athletes, trainers, bookmakers, clerks, and anyone else appointed, employed or engaged in or about the meeting or race;
 - b) to entertain and determine all matters under question or in dispute at or arising out of a meeting or race, or concerning the meaning or application of these Regulations, or concerning any aspect of the sport so far as it is under the control of the VAL;
 - c) at any meeting or race to appoint or remove any person from or to any office, position, responsibility or task;
 - d) to exclude or direct the removal of a person from the sports ground and track;

In the event that a Steward seeks the removal of another Official, the steward shall refer the matter to the Executive Officer for approval. The EO may consult with the appointed Race Day Referee and/or the VAL President or Vice President as they see fit, to address the grievance.
 - e) to refuse or revoke entry to the carnival of any person. Failure to comply with a request by the Stewards under this Regulation shall incur a fine of up to \$1,000.00 and/or further legal action;
 - f) to furnish information about any person excluded, directed or warned off any racecourse to such persons and in such form as they consider appropriate;
 - g) to stop, restart, rerun, postpone or abandon any race;

- h) to place additional Athletes in lane events in handicap order (or as near as practical to handicap order);
- i) to declare any race void;
- j) to postpone any meeting;
- k) to make announcements or issue publications or notices;
- l) to inspect, examine or test in such manner as they consider appropriate any person, track, changing facility or other place, document, equipment, vehicle or substance;
- m) to conduct an inquiry into the recorded performance of any Athlete;
- n) to conduct an investigation into any Athlete, including research into the Athlete's prior performances;
- o) to provide reports and recommendations to the VAL about or arising out of any inquiry, investigation or determination or upon any subject connected with the sport so far as it is within the control of the VAL;
- p) to impose fines;
- q) to impose any other penalties provided for in these Regulations;
- r) to utilise any equipment;
- s) to confiscate or take possession of any substance or equipment or document permanently or for a period;
- t) to suspend or disqualify any Athlete or Trainer;
- u) to withdraw, bar or disqualify an Athlete from a race, or declare an Athlete to be a non starter, or late scratching;
- v) to reinstate an Athlete withdrawn or scratched or direct that an Athlete start in a race;
- w) to require an Athlete to be handicapped or subject to handicap review;
- x) to take such action as is required to lay charges and fix penalties to caution or warn any person suspected committing an offence as set out in these Regulations;
- y) to make declarations and orders with respect to betting, including suspending all betting on an event, or on a particular Athlete, where an inquiry has been initiated.
- z) to engage the assistance or services of any person as a deputy or in any other capacity; and
- aa) to do anything else reasonably necessary to the performance of their duties.

15.11 When conducting an inquiry, or questioning an Athlete regarding a performance, the Stewards shall clearly explain their role and what is required of the Athlete. If requested, the Stewards shall provide the Athlete and/or their registered trainer and/or their representative with a copy of the VAL Regulations together with a verbal explanation of the appeal procedure.

- 15.12 The Stewards shall, where necessary, explain the VAL Regulations and their application to the Athletes, Trainers and Club Officials, either before, during or after a sports meeting.
- 15.13 The Stewards shall not be required to make any explanations to any individuals as to any action taken.
- 15.14 The Stewards may, and when directed by the VAL Board shall, conduct inquiries or investigations in such manner as they think fit into any occurrence or matter at or arising out of or connected with a meeting, race or event, or into any aspect of the sport so far as it is under the control of the VAL, or into anything concerning the administration or enforcement of these Regulations.
- 15.15 The Chief or Acting Chief Steward shall be in sole control of a Meeting and have free access to all parts of the sports ground relevant to the conduct of the athletic meeting.
- 15.16 The Stewards may, at Meetings, races, and events exercise the powers conferred upon them by these Regulations.
- 15.17 No Steward shall exercise any power conferred by these Regulations in respect of any matter in which the steward has a financial or family interest or which in any other way gives rise to a conflict of interest. Unless the VAL Board directs otherwise, a Steward's office is vacated if the Steward acts in contravention of this Regulation.
- 15.18 No Steward shall bet or have a financial interest in any bet on a race. Unless the VAL Board directs otherwise, a Steward's office is vacated if the Steward acts in contravention of this Regulation.
- 15.19 In any case where the Stewards have decided to lay a charge pursuant to these Regulations, the Stewards must provide to the person (or their representative) a notice of charge specifying:
- a) the offence; and
 - b) the particulars of the facts and circumstances relating to the alleged commission of the offence.
- 15.20 The Stewards must provide the VAL office with a copy of the notice of charge and any material that accompanied the notice no later than 2 days after the notice of charge has been provided to the person charged by the Stewards.
- 15.21 In issuing a notice of charge pursuant to Regulation 15.18 in relation to the performance of an Athlete at an event conducted by the VAL or an incident occurring at an event conducted by the VAL, the Stewards shall make all reasonable efforts to provide, or attempt to provide, the notice of charge to the person charged as soon as practicable and, subject to Regulations 15.22 and 15.23, no later than two (2) hours after the incident or alleged offence warranting the charge. In all other cases the Stewards shall make all reasonable efforts to provide, or attempt to provide, the notice of charge to the person charged as soon as practicable.
- 15.22 As an alternative to the issuance of the notice of charge within 2 hours of the incident, the Chief Steward shall notify the person or their representative within 2 hours of the incident/event, of a pending charge or an active investigation into the performance or incident, and that a relevant charge may be issued within 7 days either personally or by registered mail.

- 15.23 Where a person or their representative refuses to accept the issuance of a notice of charge from the Chief Steward or is unavailable to receive the issuance of the notice of charge (or to receive notification of the pending charge) within the designated time allocation, the notice of charge shall be served to the person by registered mail within 7 days of the charge issue to the person. Where the notice of charge is provided in this manner it shall not constitute any breach of the intent of the specific charge or any other VAL Regulations.
- 15.24 On application by anyone affected adversely by a decision of the Stewards they may proceed to a rehearing if fresh evidence relevant to the matter is produced to them within 14 days of the decision.
- 15.25 The Stewards shall within a reasonable time before a rehearing give appropriate notice to affected persons.
- 15.26 On a rehearing the Stewards may depart from normal procedural arrangements to meet the convenience of parties or otherwise for purposes considered appropriate by the stewards.
- 15.27 The Stewards shall not have any power to commence or proceed with a rehearing once an appeal to the VAL Tribunal or a proceeding in a Court of Law relating to the matter is initiated.
- 15.28 Pending the outcome of an inquiry, investigation or objection, or where a person has been charged with an offence, the Stewards may direct that an Athlete shall not compete in a race.
- 15.29 The Chief Steward shall report in writing at the conclusion of each meeting to the VAL Board on the conduct of the carnival and any other such matters as may be required by the VAL Board. Recommendations for the benefit of the VAL or Club may be made by the Chief Steward. All charges, penalties and active investigations against individuals must be provided, together with a detailed account of the incidents in question.
- 15.30 In the absence of a Bookmaker's Supervisor the Chief Steward will act to signal the "all clear" to the Bookmakers.
- 15.31 The Chairman of Stewards shall make recommendations to the VAL Rules Board regarding changes to the Regulations, which will be to the betterment of the sport in general.
- 15.32 The Chairman of Stewards or VAL Board shall have the power at any time, and either upon or without objection being made, order an examination of the identity credentials of any Athlete entered in a race, or who has run in a race, and if in the opinion of the Stewards or the VAL Board such Athlete has been guilty of any offence against these Regulations, either in connection with the race in question or at any time antecedent thereto. They may disqualify such Athlete or take such action with regard to such Athlete as they may deem fit.

SECTION 16: OFFENCES

- 16.1 A person whose conduct or negligence has led or could lead to a breach of the VAL Rules and / or the VAL Regulations is guilty of an offence.
- 16.2 A person shall not breach any Regulation before, during or after any sports meeting conducted under these Regulations. A breach of any Regulation constitutes an offence.
- 16.3 For the avoidance of doubt, a person who fails to comply with any Regulation in this Section is guilty of an offence.
- 16.4 There are two categories of offences:
a) minor offences; and
b) serious offences.
under which category the offence falls will be at the sole discretion of the VAL &/or their official on the day.
- 16.5 The categorisation of an offence pursuant to Regulation 16.3 is at the sole discretion of VAL, including the following nominated officials:
a) the Race Day Referee where the offence occurs at a sanctioned VAL event; and
b) the Chief Executive Officer (or such other similar senior administrative role) in consultation with the VAL Board for offences committed other than at a sanctioned VAL event.
- 16.6 The Race Day Referee shall be any member of the VAL Board member present at a VAL sanctioned event that has no involvement with the alleged offender.
- 16.7 In exercising their discretion under Regulation 16.5, the Race Day Referee or Chief Executive Officer may be guided in the categorisation of an offence/s by one or more of the following non-exhaustive factors:
a) the impact or damage caused by the offending upon the sport and/or the victim;
b) the intent of the person;
c) the need for a penalty to be imposed;
d) the appropriate level of penalty proportionate to the offending conduct;
e) the need for general and specific deterrence; and
f) parity and consistency of approach.
- 16.8 Conduct considered to be a serious offence must be reported to the Chief Executive Officer by the Chairman of Stewards or VAL Board as soon as possible. A brief report setting out the circumstances surrounding the offence as well as identifying material witnesses and a summary of the evidence those material witnesses can give must be submitted with the report.
- 16.9 The Chief Executive Officer, with the assistance of the VAL Board if required, will determine whether a matter identified pursuant to Regulation 16.8 should be dealt with as a serious offence or a minor offence. In determining whether a matter is serious or not, the Chief Executive Officer will be guided by the circumstances surrounding the commission of the alleged offence.
- 16.10 If the Chief Executive Officer and/or the VAL Board determine that a matter is not a serious offence, the matter will be referred back to the Race Day Referee, who will then conduct a hearing in accordance with the procedures for determining minor offences. The fact that more than seven (7) days has elapsed since the commission of the alleged offence does not preclude the matter from being heard by the Race Day Referee.
- 16.11 A person who is directed by the Stewards to attend an inquiry or investigation convened or conducted by the Stewards shall do so.

- 16.12 A person shall not refuse to answer questions or to produce a document, piece of equipment, or give false or misleading evidence or information at an inquiry or investigation.
- 16.13 A person shall comply with an order or direction given by the Stewards.
- 16.14 A person shall undergo any inspection, examination or test required by the Stewards.
- 16.15 A person shall not abuse, intimidate or be deliberately obstructive of the Stewards.
- 16.16 A person shall not frustrate or endeavour to frustrate an inquiry or investigation.
- 16.17 A person employed, engaged or participating in events conducted under the control of the VAL shall not knowingly or recklessly furnish false information to the VAL, the Stewards or anyone else.
- 16.18 A person shall not give or offer any money or other inducement improperly to anyone employed, engaged or participating in events conducted under the control of the VAL.
- 16.19 A person employed, engaged or participating in events conducted under the control of the VAL shall not accept or agree to accept any money or other inducement improperly.
- 16.20 A person employed, engaged or participating in events conducted under the control of the VAL who is offered or given any money or other inducement improperly shall immediately inform the Chairman of Stewards or Chief Steward.
- 16.21 A person shall not improperly influence, or attempt to improperly influence, a Handicapper in the performance of the Handicapper's duties.
- 16.22 A person shall not threaten, harass, intimidate, abuse, assault or otherwise interfere improperly with anyone employed, engaged or participating in events conducted under the control of the VAL or otherwise having a connection with the sport.
- 16.23 A person shall not misconduct themselves in any way.
- 16.24 A person shall not fail to comply with any order, direction or requirement of the VAL or the Stewards relating to events conducted under the control of the VAL.
- 16.25 A person shall not do anything which can only be done at the order, direction or requirement of the VAL or the Stewards in the absence of or contrary to, such order, direction or requirement.
- 16.26 A person shall not, whether alone or in association with others, do, permit or suffer anything before, during or after a race which in the opinion of the Stewards or the VAL may cause someone to be unlawfully advantaged or disadvantaged or be penalised or corrupt or otherwise improper.
- 16.27 A person shall not in connection with events conducted under the control of the VAL do anything which is fraudulent or corrupt
- 16.28 A person whether alone or in association with others shall not communicate improperly with the VAL, its members or employees about anything which is or is likely to be the subject of an inquiry by or appeal to the VAL.
- 16.29 A person shall not direct, persuade, encourage or assist anyone to breach these Regulations or otherwise engage in an improper practice.

- 16.30 A person who has reasonable grounds for believing that someone is behaving, may behave or has behaved in a way causing, likely to cause or which has caused a breach of these Regulations shall promptly bring the matter to the notice of the VAL or the Stewards.
- 16.31 A person attending before the VAL its members or employees, the Stewards, Officials, or at any proceeding under these Regulations, shall not speak or behave in a malicious, intimidatingly or otherwise improper manner.
- 16.32 A person shall not say, publish or write or cause to be said, published or written anything malicious, intimidatory or otherwise improper about the VAL, its members and employees or the Stewards or anyone else associated with events conducted by the VAL.
- 16.33 A person shall not say, publish or write or cause to be said, published or written anything unbecoming, slanderous, threatening or defamatory on the day of any VAL sports meeting or 24 hours thereafter.
- 16.34 A person whether alone or in association with others shall not say, publish or write or cause to be said, published or written anything intended improperly to influence a decision of the VAL, its members or employees, or the Stewards, on any matter.
- 16.35 A person shall not engage in any improper conduct, offensive behaviour, unsportsmanlike behaviour, assault to any person, on the day of any VAL sports meeting or 24 hours thereafter.
- 16.36 A person shall not engage in any behaviour or action that may bring the sport into disrepute.
- 16.37 Unless the VAL otherwise approves, a person shall not use an assumed name or alias.
- 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.
- 16.39 In making a determination pursuant to Regulation 16.38, the Stewards shall assess inconsistent running by reference to the following:
- a) the recorded performance by the athlete at any meeting must be within the acceptable performance range (refer to the VAL Handicap Regulations, Schedule 4).
 - b) the variance in an Athlete's performance between events (refer to the VAL Handicap Regulations, Schedule 4), or heats of an event during the course of a Meeting.
 - c) the average of all other Athlete performances relevant to the event are to be assessed to consider variance in conditions. An accurate variance assessment can then be made in respect to the Athlete's performances.
 - c) track and weather conditions, wind adjusted times (if applicable), as well as any handicap adjustment.
- 16.40 The Performance Range in the VAL Handicap Regulations, Schedule 4 shall be used to determine the degree to which the recorded performance was unsatisfactory and/or inconsistent and used as a guide for the penalty options available to the Chief Steward.
- 16.41 For the purposes of Regulation 16.38, an unsatisfactory performance shall be defined as a performance, as decided by the Stewards, which was less than at optimum level and commitment at all times during the event.

16.42 Any Athlete who is unable to compete to the best of their ability for reasons of injury, illness or fitness shall disclose this information to the Chief Steward prior to the commencement of their event. The Chief Steward shall determine whether the Athlete is permitted to compete and, if the Athlete is permitted to compete, shall take these factors into account when assessing the Athlete's performance.

SECTION 17: PENALTIES

- 17.1 One or more of the penalties set out below may be imposed on an Athlete, Trainer, other person, or body who is found guilty of an offence under these Regulations:
- a) a fine within the limits fixed by the VAL, but in any event no greater than \$10,000;
 - b) a handicap penalty or review;
 - c) disqualification from an event competed in;
 - d) a forfeiture (in whole or part) of any prizemoney won;
 - e) a forfeiture (in whole or part) of any entry fees;
 - f) conditional or unconditional suspension for a period;
 - g) disqualification, either for a period or permanently;
 - h) warning off, either for a period or permanently;
 - i) exclusion from a sports ground, either for a period or permanently;
 - j) conditional or unconditional suspension of registration for a period or cancellation of registration;
 - k) conditional or unconditional suspension of a license for a period or cancellation of a license;
 - l) a severe reprimand;
 - m) a reprimand, caution or warning.
- 17.2 As part of any penalty assessment the Stewards may require an Athlete to start at the next meeting and/or a nominated meeting and/or a number of predetermined meetings. The Stewards shall explain that they need to see an improved performance and are giving the Athlete the opportunity to do so.
- 17.3 If the Stewards require an Athlete to start in an event, or events, pursuant to Regulation 17.2, and the Athlete refuses to start, the Athlete will be automatically subject to a handicap review and may be suspended from competing at all future Group 2 events and above for the duration of the season in which the offence occurs.
- 17.4 Should a Regulation of its own terms impose a penalty in respect of an offence created by that Regulation then, subject to any contrary intention expressed or otherwise apparent in that Regulation, that penalty is the only one which can be imposed in respect of that offence.
- 17.5 Penalties, whether under this or any other Regulation, apply from the time they are imposed, except that the VAL or the Stewards may postpone such application.
- 17.6 Penalties other than a period of disqualification or a warning off under this or any other Regulation may be suspended for a period not exceeding 12 months upon such terms and conditions as the VAL or Stewards see fit.
- 17.7 Where a penalty is suspended pursuant to Regulation 17.6, if the offender does not breach any term or condition imposed during the period of suspension, the penalty shall be waived.

- 17.8 Where a penalty is suspended pursuant to Regulation 17.6, if the offender breaches any term or condition imposed during the period of suspension then, unless the VAL or Stewards otherwise order, the suspended penalty thereupon comes into force and penalties may also be imposed in respect of any offence constituted by the breach.
- 17.9 Although an offence is found proven a penalty need not necessarily be imposed.
- 17.10 Before an offence is found proven, the following conditions shall be satisfied:-
- a) the offender shall be afforded reasonable opportunity to cross examine witnesses, make submissions, present evidence to the VAL, VAL Tribunal, or the Stewards as the case may be;
 - b) those submissions or evidence shall be taken into account;
 - c) evidence relied upon in establishing the offence shall be identified;
 - d) in a matter before the Stewards, those Stewards who finally determine that an offence has been committed shall be present during the whole of the proceedings.
- 17.11 Unless the VAL or the Stewards direct otherwise, a penalty by way of suspension or disqualification shall be served cumulatively to any other penalty of suspension or disqualification being served or ordered to be served.
- 17.12 Payment of fines must be finalised within seven days to the VAL or prior to the Athlete's next meeting (whichever occurs first). Athletes will not be permitted to compete in any athletic event in any affiliated competition until the fine/s are paid.
- 17.13 If a charge is proven the defendant will be given an opportunity to present material in mitigation relevant to penalty only. This is not an opportunity for the defendant to re-argue his/her case and any attempt to do so will be immediately halted.
- 17.14 The prosecutor will also be afforded the opportunity to make submissions on the appropriate penalty to be imposed in the circumstances. If the defendant makes submissions on penalty then any submissions made by the prosecutor shall be made in response to the defendant's submissions and no further reply by the defendant will be allowed.
- 17.15 Prior offending may be taken into account for the purposes of assessing the penalty where an offence has been proven, and no submissions dealing with prior offending shall be made in the course of considering the charge itself.

SECTION 18: RACE DAY PROTEST PROCEDURE

- 18.1 Any Athlete who has competed in an event and wishes to dispute and/or protest the Officials decision on the results of the event and/or any breach of rules or regulations in relation to racing shall notify the Chief Steward of their intention to so protest as follows:
- a) For protests relating to any alleged breach of Rules or Regulations in relation to racing, immediately following the completion of their performance in the event, or heat of the event, contested and prior to the running of the next event or heat of the event; and
 - b) For protests relating to the Officials decision on the results of the event, as soon as practical following the announcement of the results of the event and, in any event, no later than 10 minutes after the Officials decision has been announced by the official meeting announcer.
- 18.2 Once notified of the Athlete's intention to protest, the Chief Steward shall cause an announcement to be made via the public address system as soon as is practical advising that a protest has been lodged.
- 18.3 Once notified of an Athlete's intention to protest, the Chief Steward shall provide the Athlete with a copy of the Intention to Protest application form.
- 18.4 An athlete seeking to protest in accordance with this section of the Regulations shall formally advise the Chief Steward in writing of their Intention to Protest within 20 minutes of the completion of the relevant heat, semi final or final of an event. The protest application shall be accompanied by a protest fee of \$50.00 (or \$250 in the case of a Classic event). This protest fee shall be refunded should the protest be upheld.
- 18.5 Any protests and disputes held pursuant to this section of the Regulations shall be referred to a three (3) person Race Day Protest Committee who shall hear the protest and shall comprise:
- a) an independent chairperson, who may be a member of the VAL Board or a senior official of the officiating Club; and
 - b) an independent VAL Board member; and
 - c) an independent representative of the Victorian Runners & Trainers Association Committee or membership.
- 18.6 The Race Day Protest Committee Chairperson shall determine the appropriate time and place of the hearing having due regard to the continuation of the race program and the fair and reasonable time afforded to the persons involved in the hearing for protest preparation and natural justice.
- 18.7 Each member of the Race Day Protest Committee shall have one vote and the burden of proof shall be on the balance of probabilities. A majority of votes shall be basis of the hearing findings.
- 18.8 Any majority decision of the Race Day Protest Committee shall be immediately enforceable and binding on all parties.

- 18.9 Except as provided in Regulation 19.12, there is no right of appeal against decisions of the Race Day Protest Committee in connection with any protest or objection against placed Athletes arising out of any incident or incidents occurring during the running of a race or event, save for any fines, suspensions or disqualifications otherwise capable of appeal in accordance with these Regulations
- 18.10 Parties appearing before the Race Day Protest Committee are entitled to be represented by an advocate (who can not be a lawyer).
- 18.11 A protest cannot be withdrawn by the Athlete without leave from the Chief Steward.
- 18.12 No participation monies shall be paid out to any Athlete involved in the event involving a matter before the Race Day Protest Committee until the results of the protest hearing have been determined.
- 18.13 Upon determination by the Race Day Protest Committee the Chief Steward shall cause the announcement of the result of the Athlete's protest hearing to the public.
- 18.14 Bookmakers shall not be required to pay any dividends on an event until the results of any Race Day Protest Committee hearing relevant to that event are announced.
- 18.15 If no protest or dispute is made by an Athlete prior to the commencement of the next event (or heat or semi final of that event), the Chief Steward shall advise bookmakers and the public by causing an all clear signal to be made.
- 18.16 The Race Day Protest Committee is empowered to forfeit all or part of any protest deposit to the VAL where the protest is unsuccessful.

SECTION 19: APPEAL PROCESS AND VICTORIAN ATHLETIC LEAGUE TRIBUNAL

- 19.1 In accordance with its powers under Section 1 of these Regulations, the VAL Board shall appoint not less than 5 persons and not more than 10 persons, as members of the VAL Appeals and Disciplinary Committee (the "VAL Tribunal").
- 19.2 The term of office for each member of the VAL Tribunal appointed pursuant to Regulation 19.1 shall be 12 months, extending from 1 September to the following 31 August.
- 19.3 The VAL Board shall each year appoint a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the VAL Tribunal from the members of the VAL Tribunal.
- 19.4 The VAL shall pay remuneration and allowances to persons appointed to constitute the VAL Tribunal as determined by the VAL Board from time to time.
- 19.5 The function of the VAL Tribunal is to hear and determine:
- a) appeals in relation to decisions made under these Regulations to impose penalties on persons;
 - b) appeals in relation to handicapping;
 - c) charges made by Stewards against persons for Serious Offences;
 - d) appeals in relation to decisions made under the Regulations following a direction made by the VAL Board; and
 - e) any other matter referred by the VAL Board..
- 19.6 Any proceeding before the VAL Tribunal being in relation to a Serious Offence must be heard by:
- a) the Chairperson and up to 4 other members; or
 - b) the Deputy Chairperson and up to 4 other members.
- 19.7 Any proceeding before the VAL Tribunal being in relation to any matter than does not relate to a Serious Offence may be heard by:
- a) the Chairperson; or
 - b) the Deputy Chairperson and at least one other member of the VAL Tribunal; or
 - c) at least 3 members of the VAL Tribunal not including the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.
- 19.8 A person may appeal to the VAL Tribunal against a decision made under these Regulations to impose a penalty on the person.
- 19.9 A person wishing to appeal shall notify the VAL in writing in the form so required from time to time by the VAL.
- 19.10 When called before the VAL Tribunal or Race Day Referee a Steward, Handicapper or Board Member shall be permitted to question the defendants and defendant's witnesses and to present his own witnesses.
- 19.11 Except as provided by Regulation 19.12, an appeal cannot be made against the decision of the Stewards or the VAL in relation to the following matters or circumstances:
- a) any decision in connection with any protest or objection against placed Athletes arising out of any incident or incidents occurring during the running of a race or event, save for any fines, suspensions or disqualifications otherwise capable of appeal in accordance with these Regulations;
 - b) where the penalty is a fine of less than \$250.

19.12 Where the VAL Board so directs, the VAL Tribunal must hear and determine an appeal made by a person against a penalty imposed on the person notwithstanding that the penalty imposed was a fine of not more than \$250.

19.13 Where an offence has been determined to be a minor offence, the Chief Steward has the discretion to determine whether the offence should be referred to the VAL Tribunal for a hearing or heard by the Stewards.

19.14 Any person charged by the Stewards with a minor offence may exercise the right to have the charge further examined by the Race Day Referee. Where an Athlete waives this right, the penalty issued in the charge shall stand and no further right of appeal is available.

19.15 Where a person requests the review of a charge by the Race Day Referee pursuant to Regulation 19.14:

- a) the matter must be dealt with as soon as is practically possible but no later than seven (7) days after the alleged offence has been brought to the attention of the Race Day Referee;
- b) the Race Day Referee may elect to deal with a charge on the day so long as the alleged offender is given a minimum of ten (10) minutes notice and no real prejudice is suffered by the alleged offender if the matter were to proceed on the day. Where a hearing proceeds before the Race Day Referee on the day of the alleged offence and the alleged offender does not object to the hearing proceeding, the alleged offender waives any future right to argue prejudice; and
- c) the party laying the charge/s (being the representative of the Stewards) and the defendant will be provided with the opportunity to make submissions to the Race Day Referee and may wish to call evidence in support of their case;
- d) evidence and/or submissions will be verbal only, with the Stewards proceeding first;
- e) witnesses may be called to give evidence but only upon the Race Day Referee being satisfied that the evidence that the witness can give is material to the charges. A witness may give evidence by telephone link-up. There is a general right to cross examine a witness but only in relation to relevant matters. Witnesses will only be allowed to be recalled to give further evidence in the event that relevant new evidence is presented;
- f) the standard of proof upon which the Race Day Referee will determine the matter is the balance of probabilities;
- g) the findings of the Race Day Referee will be delivered orally and there is no obligation on the Race Day Referee to publish reasons for their decision;
- h) the Race Day Referee has the power to adjourn a matter part-heard if the circumstances warrant an adjournment;
- i) in making a decision the Race Day Referee may exercise the powers of the VAL Tribunal set out in Regulation 19.38.

19.16 Subject to Regulation 19.11, decisions of the Race Day Referee may be appealed to the VAL Tribunal.

19.17 Once the VAL receives notification of the appeal, it shall:

- a) convene a hearing of the VAL Tribunal; and
- b) as soon as is reasonably practicable, notify the Stewards that the appeal has been lodged.

19.18 The VAL Tribunal may in its absolute discretion and subject to such conditions as it thinks fit suspend in whole or in part the operation of the decision which is the subject matter of the appeal to the VAL Tribunal pending the determination of the appeal.

- 19.19 An appeal to the VAL Tribunal may not be withdrawn or otherwise not proceeded with by the appellant:
- a) unless by leave of the VAL Tribunal; and
 - b) except upon such terms and conditions as the VAL Tribunal may impose.
- 19.20 An appeal sought to be commenced after the end of any appeal period stipulated in these Regulations is deemed to be an application for leave to appeal under Regulation 19.8. The VAL Tribunal may grant leave to appeal if it is of the opinion that the appellant has given an adequate explanation for his or her failure to institute the appeal within the stipulated appeal period and it would be unjust to refuse leave.
- 19.21 Notwithstanding anything else to the contrary in these Regulations, the Stewards or the VAL (or VAL Board) in exercising any power conferred on the Stewards must not hear or determine any matter or penalize any person relating to a Serious Offence.
- 19.22 The Stewards may charge persons with offences under any of the Regulations referred to in Regulation 19.21 which are defined as a serious offence.
- 19.23 In conjunction with the notice of charge referred to in Regulation 15.19, the Stewards must provide to the person charged by the Stewards copies of any complaint, report, videotape evidence, witness statements and other evidence which will be relied upon to support the charge.
- 19.24 Upon receipt of the notice of charge and the materials referred to in Regulation 19.22, the VAL must as soon as is reasonably practicable notify the Stewards and the person charged by the Stewards of the date of the VAL Tribunal hearing.
- 19.25 If in relation to a charge pursuant to Regulation 19.22, the Stewards are of the opinion that there is no reasonable prospect of a conviction being secured, then the Stewards must:
- a) publish short written reasons for their opinion;
 - b) provide a copy of those reasons to the person charged by the Stewards and the VAL; and
 - c) provide a notice of withdrawal of the charge to the Chair of the VAL Tribunal accompanied with the material referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) above, and the charge shall be deemed to be withdrawn and the proceedings in relation to that charge will be deemed to be concluded.
- 19.26 If more than one charge has been laid against a person arising out of the same set of circumstances and any of those charges have been laid pursuant to a serious offence, all of the matters the subject of the charges must be heard and determined by the VAL Tribunal.
- 19.27 Subject to the requirements of procedural fairness, the VAL Tribunal may hear proceedings in any way it thinks fit, including (but not limited to):
- a) in the presence of the parties or in the absence of any or all of them;
 - b) by hearing evidence given by means of telephone, video or closed circuit television;
 - c) upon the notes of evidence taken by the Stewards or the Investigators;
 - d) upon the case stated by the parties to the proceedings; or
 - e) by rehearing upon affidavits, statutory declarations and viva voce evidence;
 - f) with as much expedition and as little formality as a proper determination requires;
 - g) that the rules of evidence as generally applied in court of record shall not apply.

- 19.28 For the avoidance of doubt, it is declared that an appeal to the VAL Tribunal is not required to be conducted as a hearing de novo (that is, a full new hearing).
- 19.29 The VAL Tribunal may dismiss a proceeding without a hearing if it is satisfied that the proceeding is frivolous, vexatious, misconceived or lacking in substance.
- 19.30 At a hearing or inquiry conducted under these Regulations:
- a) a person or body is entitled to have a representative present in the room or place where the inquiry is being conducted;
 - b) a person under the age of 18 must be represented by an agent or parent;
 - c) a person with an English language disability may be assisted by an interpreter;
 - d) a club or other body may be represented by a member or official;
 - e) where scientific, medical or other expert questions arise a person affected may have present an adviser in such a field to hear evidence and to assist in the framing of questions and submissions and at the discretion of the stewards to question a witness;
 - f) written or oral evidence may be tendered;
 - g) a written or oral opinion on legal, scientific, medical or other expert matters may be tendered in evidence;
- 19.31 Subject to Regulation 19.33, no member of the legal profession will be permitted to represent an appellant in any hearing conducted under these Regulations.
- 19.32 Regulation 19.31 does not preclude a member of the VAL Board from being a member of the legal profession or preclude a Committee Member or independent person, who is a member of the legal profession, from presiding at a hearing initiated by order of the VAL Board, including the VAL Tribunal.
- 19.33 An athlete who is a member of the legal profession shall be entitled to participate in hearings where he is the appellant, defendant or protester.
- 19.34 Where a party is unrepresented and it is the view of the VAL Tribunal that representation by an advocate (as opposed to legal practitioner) would assist with the conduct of the proceeding, the VAL Tribunal may at its discretion appoint an appropriate advocate from a pool nominated and provided by VAL.
- 19.35 The VAL Tribunal must give reasons for any decision made in relation to a matter before it, and whether oral or written, such reasons form part of the record of the proceeding in which the decision was made.
- 19.36 If the VAL Tribunal gives oral reasons, a party may within 28 days of the decision, request the VAL Tribunal to give written reasons in which case, the VAL Tribunal must comply with the request within 28 days after the request was made.
- 19.37 The VAL Tribunal may in the hearing or determination of any matter:
- a) draw inferences of fact;
 - b) penalize any person, and for that purpose a reference in the Regulations to any penalty by the Stewards or the VAL includes a penalty by the VAL Tribunal; and
 - c) give any judgment or decision or make such order as in the VAL Tribunal's opinion the justice of the case requires.

- 19.38 Without limiting Regulation 19.37, the VAL Tribunal may in hearing an appeal:
- a) confirm, set aside or vary the decision appealed against;
 - b) quash, set aside, mitigate, reduce, alter, vary, increase or add to the penalty imposed by the Stewards or the VAL in exercising any power conferred on Stewards by the Regulations; and
 - c) refer the matter on appeal back to the Stewards or the VAL for rehearing or reconsideration of the decision.
- 19.39 The powers of the VAL Tribunal may be exercised notwithstanding that in the notice of appeal part only of the decision was objected to or sought to be reviewed, varied, or otherwise dealt with.
- 19.40 The powers of the VAL Tribunal may be exercised against all or any other person or persons considered by the VAL Tribunal to be in breach of the Regulations notwithstanding that he or she or they may not be a party to any proceedings or may not have been dealt with by such Stewards, or the VAL provided that due notice is given to him or her by the VAL Tribunal of its intention to investigate and deal with the matter in relation to him or her.
- 19.41 The VAL Tribunal may make any interim orders it thinks fit in any proceedings before the VAL Tribunal.
- 19.42 The Chair or Deputy Chair of the VAL Tribunal may give directions on any matter or thing not provided for by the Regulations in relation to any proceeding before the VAL Tribunal.
- 19.43 Any person guilty of improper or insulting behaviour at any time towards the VAL Tribunal or any member thereof or person in attendance at a hearing of the VAL Tribunal may be penalized by the VAL Tribunal as it thinks fit.
- 19.44 All decisions of the VAL Tribunal are final subject only to any further rights of appeal provided by law.

SECTION 20: BETTING

Please refer to the VAL Betting Regulations

SECTION 21: DOPING

- 21.1 The VAL shall put in place an Anti-Doping Policy to apply to all Doping Controls over which the VAL has jurisdiction.
- 21.2 The Anti-Doping Policy shall apply to each Participant in the activities of the VAL or any of its Member organisations by virtue of the Participant's membership, accreditation, or participation in the VAL, its Members, or their activities or Events.
- 21.3 The Anti-Doping Policy shall form part of these Regulations and be subject to the other provisions of these Regulations, including but not limited to those provisions relating to hearings, appeals and penalties.

SECTION 22: RECORD PERFORMANCES

- 22.1 Representatives of Member Clubs shall forward to the VAL details of the results of an event where they consider a record has been established. For a record to be recognised by the VAL the following conditions must be complied with,
- a) the record must be made in a VAL sanctioned competition;
 - b) in a special event duly advertised and conducted under VAL Rules and Regulations.
 - c) An Athlete does not have to win an event to have a record recognised provided that all other rules contained herein are complied with.
 - d) No record shall be allowed where the level of the track at the finish is below the level of the track at the start.

If automatic timing is not being used then the watches shall be started at the flash of smoke from the retort of the pistol. All races shall be timed by watches, which register one-hundredth part of a second. At least three timekeepers shall time the race and the time recorded by each watch shall be forwarded to the VAL. The three watches used in timing must be tested by a qualified watchmaker prior to and after the event. If electronic watches are being used the responsibility for testing shall be with the Chief Steward.

- 22.2 All record attempts shall be run from the actual scratch mark. That is with the Athletes hands behind the starting line. This also applies to invitation scratch events.
- 22.3 At least three days notice shall be given to the VAL by the Club where a record attempt is being made.
- 22.4 Prior to and after the record race, a certificate shall be issued to the VAL by the Club by a licensed Surveyor stating that the distance has been measured & accurate. In circular events the track shall be measured 30 centimetres out from the pole line.
- 22.5 No record shall be allowed for any straight course where the assisting wind velocity as measured by the VAL wind gauge exceeds 2 metres per second or where 50% or more of the distance is not raced with an equal opposing wind if other than a straight course is used.

SECTION 23: REGULATIONS AND AMENDMENTS

- 23.1 A current edition of the Regulations shall be published on the VAL internet site and made available to the Clubs, Athletes, and Trainers. Athletes or Trainers registering for the first time and new Clubs shall receive a copy free of charge.
- 23.2 All persons:
- a) registered or licensed under these Regulations;
 - b) carrying on or purporting to carry on activities related to the sport of athletics as so governed by the VAL; or
 - c) who in some other way are affected by these Regulations, are deemed to have knowledge of and be bound by these Regulations and of all things done under them.
- 23.3 From time to time the VAL Rules Committee may recommend changes to the Regulations. Any such recommendation shall be communicated in writing to member Clubs for their comments. Clubs wishing to provide comments shall respond in writing to the VAL within 21 days of being provided with the proposed changes.
- 23.4 The VAL Rules Committee shall review all correspondence received in relation to proposed changes to the Regulations and if required amend the proposed Regulations to reflect any issue deemed appropriate by the VAL Rules Committee.
- 23.5 The VAL Rules Committee shall then present their recommended changes to the Regulations to the VAL Board for approval. The VAL Board shall determine the merits of each proposed change to the Regulations and by majority vote either support, reject or seek further review by the VAL Rules Committee.
- 23.6 In circumstances where the VAL Board seeks further review of a proposed change to the Regulations then this review shall be undertaken by the VAL Rules Committee. At the conclusion of its review the VAL Rules Committee shall resubmit the proposed changes to the Regulations, inclusive of any revisions, to the Board for a further vote. This process shall continue until a majority vote of the Board either supports or rejects the proposed changes.
- 23.7 Approved changes to the Regulations shall be communicated to Clubs, registered Athletes and registered Trainers as soon as possible.

SECTION 24: OFFICIALS

- 24.1 The VAL will appoint the appropriate Officials as it sees fit for a duration decided by the VAL. Officials include (but not limited to) starters, stewards, video operators, judges, timekeepers, photo finish operators and Results Coordinators.
- 24.2 All Officials must be appointed and approved by the VAL Board prior to the beginning of each season.
- 24.3 All Officials must abide by the VAL Regulations.
- 24.4 Officials operating the race results (Photo Finish and Results Operators) are the official judges and time keepers of race results.
- 24.5 Photo Finish and Results Operators may request information from Judges, backup time keepers or anyone deemed relevant in the event of a timing error or failure or at any time they see fit.
- 24.6 All VAL appointed Officials must hold a valid Working with Children Check (volunteer or employee) and complete the applicable VAL documents prior to the season commencing:
- Conflict of Interest Declaration;
 - Child Safe Code of Conduct;
 - Volunteer Service Agreement.

SECTION 25: INTERPRETATION

- 25.1 In the interpretation of a Regulation a construction that would promote the purpose or object underlying it, whether expressly stated or not or which would facilitate or extend its application, is to be preferred to a construction that would not promote that purpose or object or which would impede or restrict its application.
- 25.2 Expressions used in these Regulations which are defined in the dictionary have or include as indicated the meanings given to them in the dictionary
- 25.3 Words or expressions in the singular form in these Regulations include the plural form and words or expressions in the plural form include the singular form.
- 25.4 Regulation 24.3 does not apply where it is obvious from the context that either the singular form or the plural form solely applies.

SECTION 26: LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Life membership may be offered to anyone meeting at least one of the following criteria:

***Criteria to be expanded/clarified and communicated to all Clubs.**

- (a) Member of the VAL board - 10 years
- (b) Competitor - 25 years
- (c) Coach - 25 years
- (d) Official - 20 years
- (e) Club Official - 20 years