

# **TASMANIAN ATHLETIC LEAGUE SPRINT HANDICAPPING GUIDELINES 2017/2018**

## INTRODUCTION

The guidelines are designed to facilitate athlete participation and regular competitive racing and are subject to annual review by the TAL Executive and TAL Council.

## OBJECTIVES

To encourage athletes to regularly and consistently compete to the best of their ability, and to provide to athletes, trainers and other interested parties as to how handicaps are derived.

## HOW DOES IT WORK

The TAL Handicapping Guidelines are to provide a structured process for athletes to receive incremental lifts in their handicap by competing a specified number of times, consistently, and to the Handicapper, Handicapping Panel, and Stewards satisfaction.

## INITIAL AND STARTING HANDICAPS

When a TAL registered athlete enters an event for the first time they will be allocated a starting handicap based on their best performance over that or a similar distance.

The maximum initial starting handicap an athlete can receive is the Novice handicap for that distance, and may also be dependent on the gender and age of the athlete.

The TAL Handicappers will take into account an athlete's track performances, track and wind conditions of personal best performances when determining an initial handicap allocation.

Current Novice handicaps are :-

6.00 metres - 120 metre handicap

10 metres - 200 metre handicap

20 metres - 400 metre handicap

## SEASON START MARKS

Prior to the commencement of each season the Handicapping Panel will determine the starting handicap for each registered athlete. This handicap is based on the last allotted handicap from the previous season and is subject to any penalties that may apply from results obtained in various competitions and carnivals after the completion of the previous TAL season.

The Handicapping Panel reserves the right to review the handicap of any athlete who has not competed in TAL events for a period of two (2) years.

## HANDICAPS

An athlete's handicap is based on:

70 metres - novice mark to be 4.00 metres

100 metres - proportional to 120 metres handicap

200 metres -  $1.66 \times 120$  metres handicap - (generally but there may be a handicappers discretion +/-)

300 metres -  $0.75 \times 400$  metres handicap

Please note that for the 2017-2018 season with the introduction of more open 70 metre events, the TAL Handicapping Panel will review all 70 metre handicaps after each Carnival, with the winner of any 70 metre race to receive a minimum 0.25 penalty with discretion to apply.

## ONGOING ASSESSMENT

The TAL Handicapping Panel has the discretion to review performances of athletes in order to make that athlete more competitive, and as such can adjust the athlete's handicap on more regular occasions at greater increments than the standard increases.

## ATHLETE OBLIGATIONS

A TAL registered athlete achieving a new personal best must advise the TAL within seven (7) days of that achievement, advising race time, wind reading where applicable and venue.

A TAL registered athlete competing in other sanctioned professional events ( e.g VAL, NSWAL, SAAL) must advise the TAL within seven (7) days, or prior to competing in a TAL Carnival, whichever may come first, of updated performances and any prize money.

Failure by an athlete to adhere to the above may result in a fine and/or a suspension.

## ATHLETE CARNIVAL DAY OBLIGATIONS

Athletes are not to approach the Handicapper at Carnivals on race days regarding their handicaps. Once handicaps are released there is a process within the TAL Constitution for an athlete to dispute their handicap. The Handicapper and Handicapping Panel will not discuss with an athlete or trainer/coach a third party athlete. Should any further clarification be required an athlete should contact the TAL Runners and Trainers representatives.

Athletes are obliged to start races off their correct starting mark. Should any athlete disagree with the TAL Starting Panel's direction at the start regarding their handicap the athlete should advise the Starter that further confirmation is required from the Handicapper or Handicapping Panel before the race commencement. Should an athlete start off the incorrect handicap they may face a fine and/or automatic disqualification from that event.

## HANDICAP INCREMENTS / ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE

Every time an athlete runs, their performance is reviewed by the TAL Handicapping Panel and TAL Stewards, and in order for an athlete to receive a lift in handicap, they must have achieved a sufficient number of acceptable and satisfactory performances over the relevant distances. The TAL Handicapping Panel and TAL Stewards will assess every run that the athlete has with the TAL, each performance assessment based on the athlete's time run and appropriate effort throughout the run. The expectation is that the athlete will present themselves in race condition, unhindered by lack of fitness, sickness or injury, and display the appropriate degree of effort in their performance. Their performance should not be affected by any participation in a previous event or round.

The number of acceptable performances to receive a lift is three (3), but the TAL Handicapping Panel has the discretion to give an athlete a lift in handicap for less than 3 performances and at a greater increment to create greater competition.

Please note that all finalists in a Classic listed event will not receive an acceptable performance for that event on that particular day.

For any Handicapping review and Appeals please refer to the TAL Constitution for details.

Athletes should note that due to the early closing date of entries for the Tasmanian Christmas Carnival series, the Handicapper will where possible ensure that any increments due (credits) will be allocated, but once the entries have been forwarded to the clubs any ensuing credits will be allocated to the next available Carnival where entries have not closed.

## ENTRY CLOSING DATES / LATE ENTRIES

Due to time constraints between Carnival closing dates entries and Clubs requiring notification, closing dates are strictly adhered to. Should the Handicapper and Handicapping Panel be in a position to accept a late entry, any late entry fees will be at a penalty of 100%, and be accepted only where a vacancy exists in a heat of the event entered by the athlete. Heats will not be redrawn due to a late entry. No entry will be accepted on the day of competition.

## PRIZEMONEY / HANDICAP PENALTIES

The handicap penalties will apply over two (2) groups : -

Group 1 - 70 metres – 200 metres inclusive

Group 2 - 300 metres – 400 metres inclusive

For both groups the first \$300.00 will be exempt, and then: -

The penalty will be for Group 1, 0.25 metres for every \$250.00 in prize money for male athletes, 0.25 metres for every \$200.00 in prize money for female athletes.

The penalty for Group 2, 1.00 metre for every \$250.00 in prize money for male athletes, 1.00 metre for every \$200.00 in prize money for female athletes.

These penalties will be overridden where set penalties are imposed by the Handicapping Panel.

#### PENALTIES – EVENTS GROUPING

For penalties the carnivals will be grouped as follows :

Classic - set penalties to apply.

Latrobe - 120 metres Gift and 400 metres

Devonport - 200 metres and 400 metres Gift

Burnie - 70 metres, 120 metres Gift and 400 metres

Hobart Bikes and Spikes – Gift

Group 1- standard penalties to apply

Launceston

Central Coast

Richmond

Burnie PCCCT

Rosebery

Hobart Bikes and Spikes – 300 metres

St Helens

Winners of events can be penalized within a carnival for an event that is yet to commence, i.e heats for an event have not commenced. Penalties are to be in accordance with the Sprint and Handicapping guidelines 2017/2018.

# **TAL SPRINT PENALTIES 2017/2018**

\*\* Subject to change depending on final confirmation of prizemoney

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>MALE PENALTY</b>	<b>FEMALE PENALTY</b>
<b>LATROBE</b>		
120 metres Latrobe Gift	1.50 metres +/- 0.50 Handicapping Panel Discretion	0.75 metres +/- 0.50 Handicapping Panel Discretion
400 metres handicap	1.00 metre  Other placings as per TAL Handicapping Penalties	1.00 metre  Other placings as per TAL Handicapping Penalties
<b>DEVONPORT</b>		
200 metres open handicap	3.00 metres +/- 1.00 metre Handicapping Panel Discretion  plus  *** 1.00 metre +/- 0.50 metre Handicapping Panel Discretion for 120 metres handicap  Other placings as per TAL Handicapping Penalties  *** Discretion will apply to any penalty imposed in relation to the Burnie Gift	3.00 metres +/- 1.00 metre Handicapping Panel Discretion  plus  *** 1.00 metre +/- 0.50 metre Handicapping Panel Discretion for 120 metres handicap  Other placings as per TAL Handicapping Penalties  *** Discretion will apply to any penalty imposed in relation to the Burnie Gift
400 metres Devonport Gift	Winner - 8 metres  Second - 2 metres  Third - 1 metre	Winner - 8 metres  Second - 2 metres  Third - 1 metre

<b>BURNIE</b>		
70 metres handicap	0.50 metres +/- 0.25 metres Handicapping Panel Discretion Other placings as per TAL Handicapping Penalties	0.50 metres +/- 0.25 metres Handicapping Panel Discretion Other placings as per TAL Handicapping Penalties
120 metres Burnie Gift	3.00 metres +/- 0.50 metres Handicapping Panel Discretion  Second - 1.0 metre  Third - 0.5 metre  Other placings as per TAL Handicapping Penalties	3.00 metres +/- 0.50 metres Handicapping Panel Discretion  Second - 1.0 metre  Third - 0.5 metre  Other placings as per TAL Handicapping Penalties
400 metres handicap	Winner - 2 metres  Other placings as per TAL Handicapping Penalties	Winner - 2 metres  Other placings as per TAL Handicapping Penalties
<b>HOBART</b>		
100 metres Hobart Gift	1.00 metres +/- 0.50 Handicapping Panel Discretion  Second - 0.50 metre  Other placings as per TAL Handicapping Penalties	0.75 metre +/- 0.50 Handicapping Panel Discretion  Other placings as per TAL Handicapping Penalties