

AVSL MEMBER'S GUIDE TO PARTICIPATING 2026-27

(AS AT 16/09/2026)

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INTRODUCTION & IMPORTANT UPDATES

To those who are new, a very warm welcome to Athletics Victoria, and the Athletics Victoria Shield League. For those returning, welcome back!

We are excited to be kicking off again, and to assist you we have produced a Member's Guide designed to give you all the information you will need to know going into the 2026-27 season.

WHAT IS AVSL?

Contested during the summer season, this year from October 2026 to February 2027, the Athletics Victoria Shield League (AVSL) is Athletics Victoria's summer track and field competition. With over 50 clubs and five AVSL divisions, clubs battle it out across ten rounds of AVSL to see who takes home the Premiership Shield as well as deciding promotion and relegation from each of the divisions.

Each athlete can register for and compete in as many unique events as they wish. Athletes will be scored based on a performance scale, with their best three individual events (plus one relay) each round, counting towards their club's overall score. Full competition rules can be found on the AVSL Event Page on the Athletics Victoria website.

2026-27 AVSL CHANGES

THROWS ONLY VENUE – SEASON 2026-27 TRIAL

We will be looking to host this venue as a trial for all 10 rounds of AVSL concurrently with the Full Program venues.

We appreciate that the currently planned dedicated Throws Only venue trial may not be perfect fit for everyone, but we would work closely with the throwing community throughout the season and adjust where possible to ensure the venue best supports participating athletes.

The current proposal is for the venue to offer:

- 2 controlled sheets of Discus
- 2 controlled sheets of Javelin
- 2 controlled sheets of Shot Put
- 1 controlled sheet of Hammer
- Seated throws opportunities
- Additional non-controlled Shot Put opportunities, where available to make the best use of the available timetable and officials.

One of the challenges with a controlled Throws Only venue is that, due to safety requirements at many venues, two long throws events cannot be conducted simultaneously. The proposed timetable therefore uses two event sites/official teams to provide a full afternoon of competition.

During the initial trial phase, the controlled sheet distances will remain consistent with those used at the end of the 2025-26 AVSL season. The distances and event offerings may be reviewed and adjusted throughout the season based on entry numbers, athlete demand, requirements of the new venue and feedback from the throwing community.

Supporting the Venue

For this initiative to work, athletes competing at the Throws Only venue will need to play an active role in supporting the operation of the venue.

This will include participating in club helper duties on the day, which may involve:

- Recording;
- Assisting with measuring;
- Other competition support duties as required.

We are already experiencing challenges with official numbers at the two existing metropolitan venues. Therefore, any parents, supporters or athletes from the throwing community who are interested in beginning their officiating journey would be particularly valuable in helping us make this initiative viable.

We would also welcome anyone within the throwing community who already has relevant officiating, technical or competition experience but is not currently officiating at AVSL to get involved and support this offering. If you have the skills or experience to assist, we encourage you to reach out to us so we can discuss how you could become involved. Please contact our officials team via officials@athsvic.org.au

We are also interested in identifying members of the throwing community who may be willing to assist with **online results submission**. Athletics Victoria would provide training and a laptop for this role, with the expectation that results would be entered following each sheet and published to ResultsHub in line with the other AVSL venues. If you are interested please email sportdelivery@athsvic.org.au.

This is a Trial

It is important to emphasise that this is intended as a **trial for the 2026-27 season.**

For the initiative to be sustainable, we will need strong engagement from the throwing community, particularly in relation to helper duties, officiating and results submission.

If we are unable to obtain sufficient support to operate the venue effectively, unfortunately we may not be able to continue the Throws Only venue trial.

NOTE: Assigned officials and venue managers will be able to participate in the field events as additional athletes, without the requirement to achieve the controlled distance or completing an event entry, based on their assignment to the throws only

venue. This will assist Athletics Victoria in ensuring there are sufficient officials available to support the operation of the Throws Only venue. These approved individual attempts will be **in addition to the controlled positions offered**. Assigned officials and club helpers are to work with the officials on site to ensure they are able to complete three attempts, without impacting the published Throws Only venue timetable or the opportunities available to controlled athletes.

AVSL "RESERVE ROUND"

Across previous AVSL seasons, we have seen at least one round of AVSL cancelled due to weather conditions rendering it unsafe to compete and officiate.

For the 2026-27 season, Athletics Victoria has created a "reserve round", which will be used if one of the first nine rounds is cancelled due to weather conditions.

This "reserve round" will take place on the weekend of the 31st of January, following Round 9 (date to be finalised if required).

We are hopeful that the reserve round will not be needed, therefore minimising the workload for our Officials due to Lakeside Stadium hosting the Australian Athletics Short Course Championships that weekend.

If a round is cancelled, this "reserve round" will be activated and published on the AV Calendar.

Any Reserve Round opportunity will be open to all eligible athletes. Athletes who entered the abandoned venue for the initial round must re-enter if they wish to participate in the Reserve Round.

The Reserve Round will be considered a continuation of the initial cancelled AVSL round.

Athletes who were able to compete at an incomplete round may also compete at the Reserve Round. However, in accordance with Rule 3.4.4 – Entering More Than One Event Discipline, athletes cannot enter the same event discipline again during the Reserve Round, as this would constitute entering the same event discipline more than once in the same AVSL round.

Athletes who did not compete in an event discipline during the incomplete round may enter that event discipline at the Reserve Round.

If Round 10 is cancelled, there will not be an additional reserve round hosted; similarly, if no rounds are cancelled, no additional events will be held to provide a much-needed break for our volunteer officials.

HOME ZONE ENTRY PRIORITY PERIODS

HOME ZONE ENTRY PRIORITY

The 2026-27 season will see the priority entry process for athletes entering their home zone for AVSL continue. **There will be NO priority period to certain clubs for the additional throws only venue.** Club zone allocation is as follows:

Metropolitan Zones	
[Zone A]	**[Zone B]**
Athletics Essendon	Athletics Nunawading
Brunswick Athletic Club	Athletics Waverley/Malvern
Coburg Harriers Athletic Club	Box Hill Athletic Club
Collingwood Harriers Athletic Club	Casey Cardinia Athletics
Diamond Valley Athletic Club	Dandenong Springvale Athletics
Doncaster Athletic Club	Frankston Athletic Club
Ivanhoe Harriers Athletic Club	Glenhuntly Athletic Club
Keilor St Bernards Athletic Club	Knox Athletic Club
Mansfield Athletic Club**	Maccabi Athletic Club
Melbourne University Athletic Club	Mentone Athletic Club
Old Melburnians Athletic Club	Mornington Peninsula Athletic Club
Preston Athletic Club	Old Scotch Athletic Club
Richmond Harriers Athletic Club	Old Xaverians Athletic Club
South Melbourne Athletic Club	Ringwood Athletic Club
Western Athletics	Sandringham Athletic Club
Whittlesea Athletic Club	South Coast Athletics**
Williamstown Athletic Club	St Kevins Amateur Athletic Club
	Yarra Ranges Athletics

Regional Zones		
[Ballarat]	**[Geelong]**	**[Bendigo]**
Ballarat Harriers Athletic Club	Athletics Chilwell	Albury
Ballarat YCW Harriers Athletic Club	Athletics South West	Bendigo Harriers Athletic Club
Eureka Athletic Club	Bellarine Athletics T&F Club	Bendigo University Athletic Club
Wendouree Athletic Club	Corio Athletic Club	Eaglehawk Athletic Club
	Deakin Athletic Club	Shepparton Athletic Club
	Geelong Guild Athletic Club	South Bendigo Athletic Club
	South Barwon Athletic Club	Echuca Moama Athletics
	Wyndham Track & Field Club*	

** Club allocated home zone will be the relevant regional zone but will not be defined as a country club for country records or championships.*

*** Club allocated home zone will be the relevant metro zone but will be defined as a country club for country records and championships.*

Feedback on club allocations or AVSL should be submitted to the relevant zone/region committee for referral to the AVSL Committee.

***PLEASE NOTE:** Gippsland clubs not listed above will be provided with access to Zone B events within the priority period where possible.*

This will allow Sport Delivery to provide a period for Home Zone athletes to enter the zone to which their club is allocated for AVSL prior to all other zoned athletes being able to fill positions.

Entry to an athletes assigned home zone venue will open at **5pm Wednesday** a week and a half prior to the competition date.

At **12pm** on the **Friday,** entries will then open for athletes from all zones to access all venues. This will allow athletes to fill any spaces not filled by the Home Zone athletes.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no ability to change priority zones throughout the season or based on home location; allocation to zones will be based solely on an athlete's club.

2026-27 OFFICIALS SCORING CHANGES

The introduction last season of Official Scoring in AVSL provided encouragement and reward for the hard work of our volunteer officials. Encouragingly, it also resulted in 12 new volunteers starting on their Official Education Journey (seven country-based and five metro-based). We hope to see them return to AVSL and our summer competitions in 2026-27!

Also, if officials comprised their own AV club in AVSL for 2024-25, they would have finished third in the Premier Division, a well-earned reward for the time and effort they put into allowing AVSL to happen!

A ladder point is still on offer for new officials, although for 2026-27, these new officials will have to complete a minimum of three (3) online World Athletics modules along with officiating at three (3) AVSL Rounds to be awarded a ladder point, along with the ability to score points for any subsequent rounds following completion of the two above criteria.

Further changes will take place around scoring to encourage officials to continue to develop their skills and knowledge.

The requirements to score as an official at AVSL in 2026-27 have been altered slightly for those officials who were eligible to score points in 2025-26.

To be eligible to score, officials will need to meet one of the following criteria:

- Hold at minimum the National Athletics Referee (NAR) Status with World Athletics –
  - ***Please Note: The previous Australian Athletics Official Levels (Levels 1, 2, and 3) no longer exist.***
- **OR**, become a new official in line with the above guidelines in the 2026-27 season.
- **OR**, scored as a non-NAR official in 2024-25 (e.g. existing or new official in 2024-25)
- **OR**, provide technical knowledge that requires additional training beyond that of a club helper (e.g., Administration of Meet Manager for entries and results) – these individuals would strongly be encouraged to continue their official journey to develop their understanding of the sport via the World Athletics Online Education system.

This is to ensure that officials awarded points are progressing with their Official education and that all scoring officials will be progressing toward having the ability to achieve NAR level within 3 years.

If you are unsure if you will be eligible to score as an official, or how you can continue to develop your officiating knowledge and skills, please contact sportdelivery@athsvic.org.au

PRE-EVENT

Full competition rules can be found on the AVSL Event Page on the Athletics Victoria website.

TIMETABLES

Draft timetables for each round of AVSL will be available on the AVSL Event Page on the Athletics Victoria website. Please note that following close of entries, timetables may be amended to reflect entry numbers, so ensure you check the timetable the day before the round.

ENTERING THE EVENT

There will be five venues offering AVSL with two metropolitan venues and three regional venues. To compete at a round of AVSL, a member must preregister via the Athletics Victoria Member's Portal (Metropolitan, Ballarat and Geelong), or via the specified links below (Bendigo)

- Entry for Bendigo will be available at the Athletics Bendigo Webpage.

Whilst Athletics Victoria do not take registrations for Bendigo, there will be a linked page provided to each round in the Member's Portal.

- If you have an AVSL package, no payment will be required for registration at an AVSL round, but please ensure you complete the check-out process and receive a confirmation email for your entries.
- If you do not have an AVSL package a compulsory individual round entry fee of $26 will need to be purchased with your AVSL event entries.
- Please ensure once you complete the check-out process you receive a confirmation email for your entries.
- If you do not receive a confirmation email, please check "My Entries" on your Members Portal by clicking on Account located at the top of the membership portal when you have logged in.
- If it does not appear here, your entry has not been received so please re-process your entry or contact sportdelivery@athsvic.org.au for more assistance.

Entries for all AVSL Rounds will open at 5:00pm for Home Zone Venue Priority on the Wednesday and then access for all other members will open on Friday at 12pm. All Entries will close at 11:59am (Midday) on the dates specified below.

Round	Date	Venues	Home Zone Venue Priority Entries Open	All AV Athlete Entries Open	Entry Closing
1	Sat 17th Oct	Zone A – Doncaster Zone B – Murrumbeena Ballarat Bendigo Geelong **Throws – Sandringham**	5pm Wed 7th Oct	12pm (Midday) Fri 9th Oct	12pm (Midday) Wed 14th Oct
2	Sat 24th Oct	Zone A – Williamstown Zone B – Frankston Ballarat Bendigo Geelong Throws – Collingwood	5pm Wed 14th Oct	12pm (Midday) Fri 16th Oct	12pm (Midday) Wed 21st Oct
3	Sat 31st Oct	Zone A – Aberfeldie Zone B – Casey Ballarat Bendigo Geelong **Throws – Sandringham**	5pm Wed 21st Oct	12pm (Midday) Fri 23rd Oct	12pm (Midday) Wed 28th Oct
4	Sat 7th Nov	Zone A – Meadowglen Zone B – Frankston Ballarat Bendigo Geelong Throws – Williamstown	5pm Wed 28th Oct	12pm (Midday) Fri 30th Oct	12pm (Midday) Wed 4th Nov
5	Sat 14th Nov	Zone A – Doncaster Zone B – Yarra Ranges Ballarat Bendigo Geelong **Throws – Casey**	5pm Wed 14th Oct	12pm (Midday) Fri 16th Oct	12pm (Midday) Wed 11th Nov
6	Sat 21st Nov	Zone A – Williamstown Zone B – Knox Ballarat Bendigo Geelong Throws – Collingwood	5pm Wed 14th Oct	12pm (Midday) Fri 16th Oct	12pm (Midday) Wed 18th Nov
7	Sat 28th Nov	Zone A – Aberfeldie Zone B – Casey Ballarat Bendigo Geelong Throws – **TBC**	5pm Wed 14th Oct	12pm (Midday) Fri 16th Oct	12pm (Midday) Wed 25th Nov
8	Sat 9th Jan	Zone A – Doncaster Zone B – Knox Ballarat Bendigo Geelong Throws – Williamstown	5pm Wed 30th Dec	12pm (Midday) Fri 1st Jan	12pm (Midday) Wed 6th Jan
9	Sat 16th Jan	Zone A – Aberfeldie Zone B – Yarra Ranges Ballarat Bendigo Geelong **Throws – Sandringham**	5pm Wed 6th Jan	12pm (Midday) Fri 8th Jan	12pm (Midday) Wed 13th Jan
Reserve	Sun 31st Jan	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
10	Sat 6th Feb	Zone A – Doncaster Zone B – Murrumbeena Ballarat Bendigo Geelong Throws – Aberfeldie	5pm Wed 27th Jan	12pm (Midday) Fri 29th Jan	12pm (Midday) Wed 3rd Feb

Please Note: *Country Regions may have varying competition dates, entry dates and closing dates & times. Please view their timetables and websites to confirm.*

AGE GROUPS

- Athletes will compete using the event specifications relevant to their championship age group as of the 2026 season (as noted below). Athletes who wish to progress to a higher specification in hurdles, steeplechase and throws to match their Championship specification must contact Athletics Victoria no later than the set closing date prior to competition round with their change of specification.

Open	20 years of age or over on 31 December 2026	**40+**	40 to 49 years of age on 31 December 2026
U20	19 and 18 years of age on 31 December 2026	**50+**	50 to 59 years of age on 31 December 2026
U18	17 and 16 years of age on 31 December 2026	**60+**	60 to 69 years of age on 31 December 2026
U16	15 and 14 years of age on 31 December 2026	**70+**	70 years of age on 31 December 2026
U14	13, 12 or 11 years of age on 31 December 2026		

TRIALLING ENTRIES

- Non-Members can complete a maximum of one (1) 'Individual Round Entries' as a trial athlete throughout the 2026-27 AVSL season.
- A 'Trial Entry' are those that are not a member of Athletics Victoria currently or have been in the past.
- Individuals, who are not a current member and have not been a member in the past, are to submit an online form to confirm their eligibility to be a Trial Entry.
- For the 2026-27 season a trial entry request must be submitted to Athletics Victoria before the closing date for each round (see rule 3.4.3 for entry process). A Trial Entry will only be accepted if there are positions available after the registered Athletics Victoria members entry period has concluded.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Following close of entries, an Important Information email will be distributed to all athletes registered in a nominated round of AVSL. Please ensure you review this email as it may contain the following:
    - Link to an updated provisional timetable

ON EVENT DAY

Full competition rules can be found on the AVSL Event Page on the Athletics Victoria website.

ATHLETE CHECK-IN

- Event Registration Check-In will be implemented at **both Metro Zones, Ballarat & Geelong**, unless otherwise advised for **ALL TRACK & FIELD EVENTS.**
- Athletes will need to check in no later than **60 minutes prior** to the scheduled start time of the relevant event.
- The Check-in process may vary at based on venue official and technology availability, which may include either in-person check-in or an Online Check-in System. If an online check-in system is implemented there will be the ability to check-in at the venue, but must do so 60 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- Check-in Processes will be made clear to athletes once entries have closed for the upcoming round of AVSL.

ON THE DAY ENTRIES

- No on the day entries will be offered at AVSL in season 2026-27.

WITHDRAWALS

- Athletes must pre enter online for events before the closing date of each round. We ask athletes to please email sportdelivery@athsvic.org.au if you wish to withdraw from an event prior to 5pm Wednesday each round. This will allow us to minimise blank lanes and make available as many field opportunities for participants on the weekend.
- Athletes on the wait list should report into the event site 10 minutes before the start of the event to confirm their place in the event. Athletes who have not pre-registered will not be eligible to compete.

ATHLETE WARM UP

- To ensure all athletes have an opportunity to participate, World Athletics rest periods may not be followed.
- In some instances, athletes may not have an opportunity to have a practice/warm up attempt, this opportunity will be provided on an event-by-event basis. This process will be reviewed throughout the season, any changes will be communicated to members via email and published on the AV website.

FOOTWEAR

- The ruling for maximum spike length is 7mm for all track events and 9mm for all field events. Only conical & pyramid (Christmas tree) are allowed, unless otherwise stated by individual venue policy.

FIRST AID

- Colmed will be located within the first aid location provided by each venue.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

- Athletics Victoria's unfavourable weather policy can be found on the Rules & Policies section of the AV website.

TRACK EVENTS

- Track events may operate concurrently on the straight and circular track.
- Athletes are to marshal at the event start line no later than 10 minutes prior to their expected start time (heats will be available via Results Hub.

False Start Rule

- If an athlete breaks, the athlete is disqualified but will be allowed to run to receive a time in the same heat. The Starter's Marshal needs to notify the scorers that this athlete cannot score points and is now competing as a disqualified athlete. If an athlete breaks a second time, they will not be eligible to run as a disqualified athlete.
- A time run by the disqualified athlete will be able to be obtained but it will not be valid for National Qualifiers or a Victorian record. Per Rule 6.1 a disqualification is a recorded performance and will count towards AVSL eligibility.
- Due to AVSL competition being a graded competition, this applies to all age groups.

Hip Numbers

- Athletes will not be required to wear hip numbers at AVSL. Athletes will be made aware of their finishing position and told to report into administration/results tent by the track officials. A briefing will be provided to athletes before each heat/event.
- Photo Finish will record Sprint events however athletes are advised to report into the admin tent after their event for result processing.

FIELD EVENTS

- Athletes are to marshal at the event area no later than 10 minutes prior to their expected start time
- Athletes will be provided with instructions on what processes need to be followed when at the event site
- Athletes will be given one warm-up if time permits, and three competition attempts in field events and must complete warm up and all three attempts within the allocated slot provided.

Maximum Athletes Per Event Site

- A maximum allocation of athletes per timetabled field event session will be allowed through the AVSL pre-entry system.

Field Attempts & Warm Up

- To ensure all athletes have an opportunity to participate, World Athletics rest periods may not be followed.
- In some instances, athletes may not have an opportunity to have a practice/warm up attempt, this opportunity will be provided on an event-by-event basis. This process will be reviewed throughout the season, any changes will be communicated to members via email and published on the AV website.
- In discus, javelin and hammer, all attempts will be pegged and only an athlete's longest throw will be measured and recorded. If an EDM is available, it can be used instead of pegging distances once approved by the Competition Manager.

High Jump

- The progressions in the high jump shall be 5 centimetres. Athletes must nominate their minimum starting height when signing in for their event. The lowest starting heights for high jump are featured in the event timetables, with any height caps also listed (if no top height is listed, there is no height cap in the sheet).
- In high jump competitions each athlete will have a maximum of eight (8) attempts unless eliminated with three (3) consecutive fouled attempts. Even with a successful clearance, athletes cannot progress past the height limit set by the timetabled event (unless allowed under Rule 4.13).
- All venues within the round MUST follow the same lowest start height listed in the timetable and hit the same progressions throughout the competition.

Pole Vault

- In pole vault competitions, jumpers will be permitted to jump until they are eliminated by posting three (3) consecutive fouled attempts. Athletes must nominate their minimum starting height when signing in for this event.
- The lowest starting heights for pole vault are featured in the event timetables and must only progress in 15cm increments, any height caps for sheets will also be listed (if no top height is listed in the timetable, there is no height cap in the sheet).
- All venues within the round MUST follow the same lowest start height (unless equipment does not allow participation at the lowest height in a safe manner) listed in the timetable and hit the same progressions throughout the competition.

'Throw/Jump and Go' Sheets

- To allow more opportunities for those athletes wishing to participate in throwing/jumps events there will be 'Throw/Jump and Go' sheets. These sheets will allow those athletes looking to throw/jump once to obtain points for their club.
- Athletes will only have one (1) attempt, regardless of a foul, if entered in a 'Throw/Jump and Go' sheet.
- 'Throw and Go' Athletes at Metro Venues will be eligible to participate in any NON-CONTROLLED sheet, but to do so must check in online and then attend the event site 10 minutes prior to the sheet they wish to take their attempt. If they do not do so, they must check-in and take their attempt at a following NON-CONTROLLED sheet.

Private Implements

- Athletes may use their own implements for field events, unless COVID Safe protocols deem it unsafe to do so. Such equipment should have a Weights and Measurements' Certificate completed in season 2026-27 or verified on the day of competition. **Note:** In the case of pole vault events, no athlete shall be allowed to use any other athlete's vaulting pole, except with the consent of the owner.

RESULTS

RESULTS HUB

- Results Hub is your go-to place for all AVSL results and scores.
- In Results Hub you can view the current AVSL Ladder standings, analyse and review results, scores and powerplays at any time.
- Following the meet, if you believe a result to be incorrect, please submit a query via the Results Queries button on Results Hub. All queries must be submitted by 5pm of the Monday immediately following competition.

We look forward to welcoming you back, and best of luck for this season.

Team AV