

BY-LAWS OF THE QUEENSLAND PROFESSIONAL ATHLETIC LEAGUE INC.

1. The management committee shall have the power to deal with and decide on any matter relating to sports meetings and activities under the control of the QPAL Inc. The management committee may, at its discretion, in the case of any person who in the opinion of the management committee is guilty of conduct inimical to the interest of the QPAL Inc. or unbecoming a person registered or connected with the O.P.A.L. Inc. fine, disqualify, suspend, or warn off such a person for a term or life. This may be in addition to any penalty imposed by the stewards.
2. A sports meeting shall be conducted in a manner approved by the management committee. The stipendiary steward who shall be appointed by and be under the control of the management committee, shall be in sole control in the conducting of all Q.P.A.L. Inc. events at sports meetings. The Handicapper shall be one of the Stewards. In his absence the Chief Steward shall fulfill the duties of the handicapper.
3. The Stewards shall lay charge, fix penalties, or give warning to any person suspected of inconsistent running, unsatisfactory performance, not trying to win, or conduct inimical to the interests of the Q.P.A.L. Inc., or unbecoming a person registered or connected with the Q.P.A.L. Inc. Stewards shall have discretion to impose a penalty up to \$500.00 and/or 3 months disqualification.
4. The Steward in charge shall have the power to make a decision in relation to a false or unfair start or break if it has not been detected by the starter.

Any athlete jostling, pushing, bumping, elbowing, shouldering or shoving during the course of a race, or else running across or willfully obstructing so as to impede another's progress shall at the discretion of the stewards, be fined and/or disqualified.
6. Any athlete who in the opinion of the stewards, deliberately looks around any time during the running of an event may be fined and/or disqualified.
7. Confederacies are strictly prohibited and in any event where a confederacy is proven, which in the opinion of the stewards, prevented the parties running on their merits, such parties to the confederacy shall be fined and/or disqualified.
8. All athletes shall be registered with the Q.P.A.L. Inc. as ordinary members. New competitors and interstate competitors competing in Q.P.A.L. Inc. events for the first time must complete a registration form giving all required details. The Stewards may fine, disqualify, or suspend any athlete declaring false or misleading information.
9. In all handicaps, any athlete who breaks shall be penalised as follows,
 - i. 0.5 metre in distance up to and including 70 meters.
 - ii. 0.75 metre in distance of 90 and 100 meters.
 - iii. 1 metres in distance over 100 and up to and including 200 metres.
 - iv. 2 metres in distance over 200 and up to and including 400 metres.
 - v. 3 metres in distance over 400 metresDisqualification from the event shall follow if any athlete breaks twice.
10. Athletes shall wear clean and complete costume, i.e. singlets, shorts, attire and footwear approved by the Stewards. Any athlete committing a breach of this rule or failure to comply with the directions of the stewards may be prevented from competing, fined, or disqualified by the stewards.
11. An athlete who sustains an injury/illness during an event, which prevents him/her from taking his/her place in a semifinal or final, will incur a suspension of 15 days.
12. Entries for all events sanctioned by the Q.P.A.L. Inc. shall be in a form approved by the management committee and shall close 14 to 28 days prior to the date of the meeting. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the management committee and maybe subject to a late payment fee. However in no case will an entry be accepted within 7 days of the event. Entries will not be accepted unless they are accompanied by the applicable fees.
13. An athlete must accept for an event no later than thirty minutes before starting time of the event or a at a time determined by the Stewards or the management committee.
14. Any Athletes under 16 are to run in Youth events unless they can provide evidence that they are capable of competing in open events off no more than the novice mark.
15. Protests shall be made verbally to the steward in charge immediately after the event in dispute and confirmed in writing within 15 minutes and the public notified.
16. A protest committee comprising the Steward in charge and two other members of the Management Committee shall decide the dispute.

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17. The Management Committee shall appoint an appeal board, comprising 3 members of the Q.P.A.L. Inc. to hear appeals from athletes dissatisfied with the decision of the Stewards. Written notice of such appeal shall be lodged within 7 days with the Secretary and accompanied by a deposit of \$50.00. In the event of an appeal being successful, all deposits of money are to be refunded to appellant.
18. The Appeal board shall determine whether the penalty by the Stewards is adequate, excessive or inadequate.
19. If the appeal is upheld, the appeal board shall dismiss the charge. In the case of suspension or disqualification the appeal board may only authorize that the suspension be reduced to a period not earlier than the finish of the sports meeting at which the charge was laid.
20. No legal presentation shall be permitted at the hearing before the board.
21. The decision of the appeals board is final.
22. The handicapper shall be appointed by the management committee and will be responsible for every meeting sanctioned by the Q.P.A.L. Inc.
23. All handicaps and handicap penalties shall be at the sole discretion of the handicapper.
24. The Management Committee shall appoint an appeal board, comprising 3 members of the Q.P.A.L. Inc. to hear appeals from athletes dissatisfied with their handicap. Written notice of such appeal shall be lodged within 7 days with the Secretary and accompanied by a deposit of \$100.00. In the event of an appeal being successful, all deposits of money are to be refunded to appellant.
25. Athletes and trainers/coaches must request permission from the Steward in charge before speaking to the stewards an/or handicapper during the course of a meeting.
26. A runner's representative shall be appointed by the management committee at each carnival.
27. A levy on all prize money shall be paid to the Q.P.A.L. Inc., the amount shall be determined from time to time by the management committee.
28. Before competing for the first time in Q.P.A.L. Inc. events, all athletes must inform the handicapper in writing of all performances in any athletic carnival subsequent to the date of completion of the registration form. The allotted handicap may be altered at the discretion of the handicapper. Failure to disclose such information may result in disqualification, suspension and/or a fine.
29. In respect of the period between the date of entry of an event and the date of competition, any placing in a handicap event, or any other performance in a non-handicap event better than that previously stated by the athlete on a registration or entry form must be notified to the handicapper before the competition. The allotted handicap may be altered at the discretion of the handicapper. Failure to disclose such information may result in disqualification, suspension, and/or a fine.
30. Q.P.A.L. Inc. officials shall not take part in any betting transaction on any event under the control of the Q.P.A.L. Inc.
31. Athletes at sports meetings compete at their own risk. Neither the Q.P.A.L. Inc. nor the officials thereof shall incur any liability in respect of:
 - a. An injury to an athlete at a sports meeting
 - b. Any other loss incurred by an athlete whether as a result of a decision of the Q.P.A.L. Inc. or its officials or otherwise.
32. Drugs are strictly prohibited and all athletes must abide by the rules laid down by Athletics Australia relating to prohibited substances.
33. Any disputed matter not covered by these By-Laws shall be determined by the Management committee, whose decision shall be final.