

**Investigation Tribunal  
ANDRA Regional Sportsman Series Grand Final 18 April 2026  
Timing System Integrity Issues**

**Board Report – 27 May 2026**

**1. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Background**

The Australian National Drag Racing Association, or ANDRA for short, is officially recognised as the controlling body of drag racing in Australia by Motorsport Australia and the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA). The ANDRA Rulebook is the official competitors' handbook governing drag racing. ANDRA's governing body, its Board, is empowered under clause 1.5.5.2 of the ANDRA Rulebook to convene Investigation Tribunals to investigate matters nominated by the Board.

At its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026, the Board of ANDRA resolved to establish an Investigation Tribunal to investigate and make recommendations to the Board on the matters set out below.

The ANDRA Regional Sportsman Series Grand Final was conducted at Dragway at the Bend on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

It became evident in the days after the completion of the event, and after round and championship winners were acknowledged and awards given, that the timing system issues experienced at the event may have led to incorrect results and seedings throughout the elimination racing format.

Consequently, the integrity of the competition was considered to be compromised and some results were questioned, with some winners potentially awarded in error.

**Scope & Purpose**

The Board of ANDRA accordingly convened an Investigation Tribunal (**Tribunal**) to investigate and make recommendations.

The Tribunal was empowered to request information and interview/take statements from those whom it deems appropriate.

The ANDRA Board requested recommendations as listed, but not limited to:

- Any changes required to ANDRA rules and procedures to ensure the situation is not repeated.
- An appropriate way forward to resolve the issue.
- Determine if the technology used at the event was deficient.
- Determine if any officials present were deficient in their duties.
- Review the event official's hierarchy and its effectiveness during the event.
- Any other considerations to be assessed by the ANDRA Board.

## **2. TRIBUNAL COMPOSITION**

Under clause 1.5.6.10 of the ANDRA Rulebook, Tribunals are normally conducted by a panel of three Tribunes.

However, in this instance the Board determined to exercise its power under clause 1.2 to suspend that requirement.

It was acknowledged that the Board's preference for five tribunes was to ensure a wider scope of experience and expertise and to ensure representation from Dragway at the Bend due to their critical involvement in helping deliver possible outcomes that may impact staffing and procedures at that venue in the future.

The Tribunal will proceed with five tribunes in line with the Terms of Reference as follows. Colin Brassington was elected as Chair.

- Colin Brassington (Chair)
- Ray Treasure
- Ross Jackson (Motorsport Australia)
- Tim Savell (Dragway at the Bend)
- Tim McAvaney (ANDRA)

It was acknowledged that Colin Brassington, Ray Treasure and Ross Jackson had no involvement in the event, while Tim Savell and Tim McAvaney attended in their roles as Dragway at the Bend Drag Manager and ANDRA CEO.

Technical & administrative assistance was provided when requested by:

- Scott Halfyard (ANDRA Technical Officer)
- Tammy Brown (ANDRA Office Manager)

## **3. COMPETITOR, OFFICIAL & MEMBER SUBMISSIONS**

A high number of submissions from competitors, officials and members were received prior to and during the Tribunal process, in the form of email and SMS messages. All correspondence was considered by the tribunal, which notes the opinions, positions, event experiences, formal statements and general feedback submitted on all aspects involving the timing issue and event.

The Tribunal thanks all members who took the time to provide this valuable feedback, which assisted in giving competitor and official's perspectives and experience to the benefit of the Tribunal.

## **PART 1: COMPETITION INTEGRITY, ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **4. VIDEO EVIDENCE REVIEW**

- Footage from behind the start line of a specific race run at 6.20pm was reviewed (Competition Bike, Round 1).
- That footage revealed Jake Hamilton-Moderate (right hand lane) knocking out the white reflector block at the 1254-ft speed trap.
- Staff were observed replacing the white reflector block.
- Discussion focused on whether the 1320-ft finish line timing block was also hit (even if this was not visible from the start line video footage) and if so, was replaced correctly.
- Footage from the photo-finish camera (at the 1320-ft finish line) indicated a red reflector block was present at the 1320-ft finish line, prior to also being hit by Jake Hamilton Moderate at 6.20pm.
- It was noted that the 1320-ft finish line reflector block was red, while the 1254-ft speed trap reflector block was white.
- The red reflector block was not replaced for the remainder of the event after 6:20pm. This was critical to what unfolded across the remainder of the meeting.

**Key Observation:** *The finish line reflector block (red) was missing in subsequent video footage, leading to potential timing system anomalies.*

**Junior Competition:** *It was determined that junior competition was not compromised, having raced to the eighth mile distance.*

### **5. APPROPRIATE WAY FORWARD TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE**

#### **Rerun:**

The Tribunal agreed that a full re-run of the event is not a feasible or an appropriate outcome due to the logistical and financial implications that doing so would involve.

#### **Nullifying Results:**

It was acknowledged that nullifying all results after 6.20pm was a possible way forward.

Precedent does exist for nullifying results of individual brackets or rounds. The Tribunal is aware that this occurred, for example at the 2012 ANDRA Winternationals at Willowbank Raceway.

#### **Accordingly, the Tribunal proceeded as follows:**

- Complete a full data analysis to determine the extent of the compromised results, per category.
- Consider category by category approach to address compromised results.

### **6. SUMMARY OF DATA ANALYSIS**

It was determined that no runs prior to 6.20pm were compromised.

There were 232 runs completed after 6.20pm (including the run where the blocks were knocked), including junior competition (which was unaffected given it did not use the full track length). Of the 168 senior bracket runs, only 30 runs can be considered valid, as once one run is compromised within an elimination round, the entire elimination round is deemed invalid.

136 runs are therefore deemed invalid.

## 7. ANALYSIS METHOD

- Category by category review – results were analysed for each category individually.
- Determining (if any) valid rounds: The decision was made to recognize and count rounds that were not compromised. (e.g. if one run or more is compromised in a round, then that round is unable to be included in the results).
- Points allocation: Points to be awarded as per the current ANDRA Rulebook, based on the outcome of the last valid round. (e.g. win points for advancing, loss points for being eliminated from a valid round).
- Any rounds beyond the determined cut off were considered null and void.
- Integrity of the results should be given priority.

## 8. DETAILED CATEGORY ANALYSIS & CHAMPIONSHIP CHANGES

Junior Dragster & Junior Drag Bike deemed valid.

### • **Modified:**

- **Issue:** Only Round 1 was counted.
- **Points:** Round 1 loss = 20 pts; Round 1 win = 40 pts.
- **Original Outcome:** Adriana Cartledge (Champion), Fiona Crisp (Runner-up).
- **Revised Outcome:** Adriana Cartledge (Champion), Daniel Hodgins (Runner-up).
- **Reason for Change:** Fiona Crisp's points were reduced from 80 to 40, demoting her to 4th place. Daniel Hodgins accrued 40 points, placing him second. Adriana Cartledge maintained her championship lead.

### • **Modified Bike:**

- **Issue:** No rounds could be counted due to round 1 timing system issues affecting some competitors.
- **Points:** All competitors received 20 points (first round loss points).
- **Outcome:** Dean Jamieson (Champion), Bryan Finn (Runner-up). No change from the original outcome.

### • **Super Comp:**

- **Outcome:** all race results were deemed true and correct and unaffected by the timing system irregularities. No changes to championship standings for Competition and Super Stock, however ET and Speed data was deemed invalid.

### • **Super Gas:**

- **Issue:** Only Round 1 was counted.
- **Points:** Round 1 loss = 20 pts; Round 1 win = 40 pts.
- **Original Outcome:** Graham Spencer (Champion), Jason Wilson (Runner-up).
- **Reasons:** Despite point adjustments for some competitors, the top two positions remained unchanged. A tie between Jason Wilson and Adrian McGrotty was resolved by countback on the better performer in relation to their Class Index.

### • **Super Sedan:**

- **Issue:** Only Round 1 was counted.
- **Points:** Round 1 loss = 10 pts; Round 1 win = 20 pts.
- **Original Outcome:** Darren Russell (Champion), Peter Furlanetto (Runner-up).
- **Revised Outcome:** Darren Russell (Champion), Tony Tedesco (Runner-up).
- **Reason for Change:** Peter Furlanetto was demoted to 4th place due to point reductions. Tony Tedesco, who withdrew after qualifying but contested the final event, received zero points for the event but retained event winner/runner-up bonus points from earlier in the season, lifting him to second place.

- **Super Street:**
  - **Issue:** Only Round 1 was counted.
  - **Points:** Round 1 loss = 10 pts; Round 1 win = 20 pts.
  - **Original Outcome:** Stefan Lainis (Champion), Neil Mellett (Runner-up).
  - **Revised Outcome:** Neil Mellett (Champion), Malcolm Todd (Runner-up).
  - **Comment:** This was the most significant reversal. Stefan Lainis was demoted to third place. Neil Mellett became champion, and Malcolm Todd runner-up.
- **Supercharged Outlaws:**
  - **Issue:** Only Round 1 was counted.
  - **Points:** Round 1 loss = 20 pts; Round 1 win = 40 pts.
  - **Original Outcome:** Shane Baxter (Champion), Mark Hunt (Runner-up).
  - **Comment:** Both championship contenders exited in Round 1, and point adjustments did not affect the championship positions.
- **Top Sportsman:**
  - **Issue:** Round 1 and Round 2 were counted as valid after reviewing finish line footage.
  - **Points:** Round 1 loss = 20 pts; Round 2 loss = 40 pts.
  - **Original Outcome:** Tommy Turic (Champion), Darryl Stephen (Runner-up).
  - **Comment:** Point adjustments did not affect the championship standings. Tony Miskelly, who won the event, could not catch the leaders.
- **Competition Bike:**
  - **Issue:** The three round (Chicago) format in this instance provides for valid runs within compromised rounds.
  - **Points:** E. Mallis & J. Khoury both win 3 rounds but do not run final =60 points. C. Beddoes & J. Hamilton Moderate both win 2 rounds, 1 loss = 50 points
  - **Original Outcome:** Edge Mallis (Champion), Jake Hamilton-Moderate (Runner-up).
  - **Revised Outcome:** Edge Mallis (Champion, 390 pts), Cheryl Beddoes (Runner-up, 380 pts).
  - **Reason for Change:** It was verified that both Edge Mallis & Joe Khoury were the only competitors who could have secured three wins. Cheryl Beddoes & Jake Hamilton Moderate's 2 wins and 1 loss each were also verified as correct with no integrity compromised.

## John Storm Memorial Trophy

The Tribunal carefully considered the John Storm Trophy award, which recognizes the competitor in Group 2, 3 and/or 4 who scores the highest accumulative points total from all rounds of the ANDRA Sportsman Championship, including all points from the Grand Final event, from any/all valid competition in any Class from any Group/s. This year, Junior Drag Bike competitor Cooper Plummer won the trophy. However, concerns were raised that the points system unfairly benefits junior competitors, who can accrue higher points (up to 100 for winning the final) compared to other categories where maximum points are significantly lower depending on the round of elimination.

To rectify this, the Tribunal determined to adjust the points calculation for the John Storm Trophy. The proposed solution, is to count points only up to the end of qualifying, before eliminations begin. This method ensures that all competitors are evaluated at a consistent stage, preventing any category from gaining an artificial advantage due to different round structures or point allocations in early elimination rounds. This approach effectively means zero points are allocated from eliminations, and the points leading into the grand final, based on qualifying, would determine the winner, which still resulted in Cooper Plummer being the recipient.

## **9. ROUND RESULTS & AWARDED TROPHIES**

All Top Qualifier results are deemed valid.

The overall Grand Final round results are deemed valid for the following brackets:

- Junior Dragster
- Junior Drag Bike
- Super Comp

All other categories/brackets overall round results are deemed invalid and accordingly are declared null and void.

It is recognized that all competitors raced in good faith, competing for a round win, despite the timing issue being exposed after the event.

In light of this, and despite the relevant results becoming null and void, the Tribunal recommends the competitors have the option to keep their round winner and runner up trophies in recognition of a non-points event finish. Alternatively, if any competitor is not comfortable with keeping their trophy, they have the option of returning it to ANDRA. The decision should be the individual's, with no expectations or judgements from ANDRA or others.

## **10. CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS & AWARDED TROPHIES**

The following Championship results are deemed valid:

- Junior Dragster
- Junior Drag Bike
- Super Stock
- Competition

The following Championship results have no change:

- Supercharged Outlaws
- Modified Bike
- Super Gas
- Top Sportsman

The following Championship results have changed:

- Modified
- Super Sedan
- Super Street
- Competition Bike

In the instances where the Championship results have changed, we respectfully encourage competitors to return their trophies. However, this once again, ultimately this is a matter for the common sense and judgement of the individual competitor.

The adjusted winners and runners-up shall be awarded Championship trophies and celebrated, recognized and promoted accordingly.

## **11. PART 1 COMPLETED**

The Tribunal is publishing its report and recommendations in two parts. This Part 1, which is of urgent importance to competitors, is published first. Part 2, which deals with carefully considered procedural and policy analysis and recommendations will be published in due course.

### **TRIBUNES**

**Colin Brassington**

**Ray Treasure**

**Ross Jackson**

**Tim Savell**

**Tim McAvaney**

**27 May 2026**