The Bob Clarke Challenge

SAMA has again included the Bob Clarke Challenge series of races in its 2026/27 Summer Program. The event will cater for sprinters as well as middle distance & distance runners of all ages, both male & female, competing together in two handicapped rounds (200m & 1000m) with qualification for a 500m, handicapped, final.

The two rounds and handicapped final of The Challenge will be run over three Wednesday evenings during the months of November and December 2026. Entrants will need to register up to **72 hours** before each round to allow for handicaps to be calculated and for the track to be marked on the day of competition.

Athletes will be handicapped on a set sliding scale (based on age & gender) **with possible, discretionary, additional handicapping based on an assessment of comparative skill levels.**

Athletes need to compete in **at least one of the two qualifying rounds**, ie. 200m (handicapped) or the 1000m (handicapped) to qualify to run in the final. Points will be allocated, on a sliding scale, to all runners in each heat.

Prizes will be awarded to the top 2 point scorers at the completion of the 200m and 1000m heats.

Gift vouchers will be awarded to the three placegetters in the final as follows: -

1st	**$180 voucher**
2nd	**$ 80 voucher**
3rd	**$ 40 voucher**

Previous Winners		Age	Metres Run	Time	
2019	**Richard McMahon**	**59**	**446**	**1.09.15**	
2020	**Vicky Caputo**	**41**	**445**	**1.11.71**	
2021	**Dean Mortimer**	**65**	**376**	**1.09.36**	
2023	**Gino Geracitano**	**49**	**444**	**1.06.44**	**(held Feb following track upgrade)**
2023	**Marlene Norton-Baker**	**71**	**314**	**1.02.60**	
2024	**Sharon Johnson**	**51**	**268**	**56.68**	
2025	**Marinus Haccou**	**62**	**365**	**1.04.21**	

Round 1. 200m

Run **Wednesday, 4 November 2026** as per the SAMA Summer Program (A1 Handicap).
Athletes entered in this round will run in individual lanes and be catered for in the required number of races. It is anticipated that there will be two to three races with up to nine runners in each race.

Round 2. 1000m

Run **Wednesday, 18 November 2026** as per the SAMA Summer Program (C1 Handicap).
This round will not be run in lanes, with all runners to start as per final handicaps and marked in lane one (1).

Handicaps in metres as set for the two rounds and the 500m final (additional handicapping possible)

	200m run		1000m Run		500m Run	
Age	**M**	**F**	**M**	**F**	**M**	**F**
30-34	Scratch	12	Scratch	70	Scratch	27
35-39	Scratch	19	Scratch	106	Scratch	41
40-44	7	26	35	142	13	55
45-49	14	33	70	178	26	68
50-54	21	40	106	216	40	82
55-59	27	46	144	254	54	97
60-64	33	53	183	295	69	112
65-69	40	60	225	337	85	128
70-74	48	69	271	383	102	146
75-79	58	78	321	433	125	170
80-84	68	88	376	487	145	190
85-89	78	98	412	523	160	215

The final will be run as per the 2nd round with all runners to start as per final handicaps and marked in lane one, on **Wednesday, 2 December 2026,** as per the program (B1 Modified).

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