

STATEMENT FROM THE AUSTRALIA DAY ULTRA AND ULTRA SERIES WA REGARDING THE DISQUALIFICATION OF MARK ROBSON FROM THE AUSTRALIA DAY ULTRA 2018

Released Tuesday 23 January 2018

The Australia Day Ultra and Ultra Series WA regretfully advises a competitor in the 100km event at the Australia Day Ultra held in Australind Western Australia on January 20 2018 has been disqualified from the event.

We believe competitor number 25 Mark Robson cut the course short on up to seven occasions and did not complete the full 100km. We have the following supporting information that led to the decision to disqualify Mr Robson:

- The race is conducted as eight 12.5km laps conducted on an out and back course of 6.25km distance each way. A timing transponder was carried by Mr Robson, however it recorded a reading on the timing mat at the 6.25km turnaround point only on the first of the eight laps of the race. On seven occasions no time was recorded.
- Two separate observers verified that Mr Robson was reaching the 3.1km aid station on race laps, however not reaching the 6.25km point. It is presumed Mr Robson turned around somewhere between the 3.1km and 6.25km mark of each lap when a transponder reading was not recorded.
- The volunteers at the 6.25km aid station were asked to look for Mr Robson coming through the aid station to check his transponder. The volunteers did not witness Mr Robson arriving or departing the aid station.
- A competitor who by the race results should have been overtaken by Mr Robson, cannot recall seeing Mr Robson pass him.
- A runner reported another competitor had seen Mr Robson running behind him, and then after the turnaround point noticed Mr Robson was now significantly in front of him.

Given this information the Australia Day Ultra felt it had no other option other than to disqualify Mr Robson from the event.

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE RACE DIRECTOR
AND TIMING OPERATOR OF THE AUSTRALIA DAY ULTRA

I was the Race Director and Timing Operator for the Australia Day Ultra 2018 held in Australind Western Australia on 20 January, here are my observations of Mark Robson, a competitor in the 100km event.

Prior to the event, this is the process used to test the timing system hardware:

Every transponder that the runners wore was repeatedly tested across the actual start finish mat/ and the actual 6.25 km split lap mat in a simulated race environment. Every

transponder tested correctly over and over with the loop strength set at 100% (highest setting) so that the transponders could be worn at any height on the body.

In testing, the transponders were tested at shoulder height with no missed readings. The manufacturer of these transponders guarantees no more than 1 dropped read in every 10,000 readings at approximately 200 km/hr. I have never had a dropped read at any of the events I have conducted the timing.

The transponder that Mr Robson was using was one of the newer models we use so the internal battery strength was good.

At 02:23:32 Saturday morning, Mr Robson came in to complete his second full lap of the 12.5 km course. As I watched the screen it was immediately obvious that the split lap that should have been recorded at the far end of the course at the 6.25 km mark was missing (as the runners pass the split mat it stores that read in the transponder itself and records it back to the main mat at the start/finish on passing).

I discussed the timing issue with Shaun Kaesler of Ultra Series WA, who informed me he believed there had been questions surrounding the validity of some of Mr Robson's results in the past. This given we set to ensure all the timing equipment was functioning correctly.

I immediately started to look for hardware issues and informed the volunteer assisting at the far end aid station turnaround point at the 6.25km mark to look at the transponder location placement on Mr Robson when he next passed to ensure that it was set on his body in an appropriate location.

After a long delay, I received no notification from the aid station of Mr Robson going through the 6.25km turnaround point, so I called the volunteer again to be advised he had not passed through the aid station. Shortly after, Mr Robson did cross the start finish line again, to read a third full lap measurement of 1:18:3, with yet again no split lap reading from the other end of the course.

I did observe that the transponder was worn on Mr Robson's ankle which is the best location for a clean read. The timing seemed to coincide with my call so the aid station volunteers should have observed him passing through the 6.25km aid station as there is only one way in and out, as well it was lit.

Next, I drove down to the aid station 2 located about half way to the turnaround point at 3.1km and observed Mr Robson leaving aid 2 in the direction to aid 3, the 6.25km turnaround point. At aid 3 I checked the loop strength of the timing box and ensured it was set at 100% signal strength. When Mr Robson did not arrive at Aid 3 while I waited for him, I drove back towards the start/finish line where I have observed him running very slowly between aid 2 and the start.

When Mr Robson came in to complete his 4th lap time in 1:09:14, he crossed the timing mat and went to the toilet. He spent approximately 5 minutes in the toilet which accumulated towards his lap 5 time. He appeared to change clothes, and then took off to run lap 5. This

was his fastest lap in 1:02:02 for 12.5 km which once again had no split measurement from the far aid station. This would make that lap somewhere near 58 minutes for 12.5 km discounting the toilet stop. At this point I informed volunteers manning the far aid station again to look for Mr Robson to pass, they did not observe him coming through the aid station.

During this lap Rob Donkersloot observed Mr Robson run through aid station 2, Mr Donkersloot then drove to the turnaround point aid station and waited for Mr Robson to arrive there. Upon hearing Mr Robson had arrived at the start / finish to complete the lap, he left the aid station, not having seen Mr Robson arrive there.

It was at this time that I noticed Mr Robson was starting to overtake some of the runners in the results, so I asked Shaun Kaesler to ask a competitor who appeared in the rankings to have been overtaken if Mr Robson had come past him on the previous lap. Shaun stated to me that the competitor said that no, Mr Robson had not passed him on that previous lap.

On Mr Robson's lap 7, I once again attempted to observe him crossing the line at aid 3 and noted that he went through aid 2 and did not arrive at aid 3. He then returned to the start/finish line to record a 7th lap time without a split reading. It was at this point that I felt it confirmed he was not reaching the far aid station on many of his laps.

I felt Mr Robson had to be leaving the course and tried to locate the position, and catch him doing this, but was unable to spot him on the course when I drove down to aid 3.

On completion of his 8th and final lap for a completion time of 9:34:10 for the 100km event Shaun Kaesler approached Mr Robson with myself as an observer, and asked him to explain why he was at one-point 500m behind someone leaving aid 2 and then on returning to aid 2 he was 1 km in front of that same runner, and that runner was running much faster than he was and had remarked he had not been overtaken. Mr Robson was unable to give any answers to the numerous questions put to him. After a couple of examples, Mr Robson was told that he was not welcome at any Ultra Series WA events in the future. Mr Robson commented "I am not going to go through this again" and left the event.

After the race another competitor approached me and mentioned that another runner (a close friend) had observed a runner who was travelling way slower than him and was considerable distance behind, appeared to then be quite some distance in front of him after he turned for home from the aid station 3. He stated that that runner was Mark Robson. I mentioned we were already investigating Mr Robson's run.

These are the 7 missed split readings for Mr Robson. It is important to note that on the first lap Mr Robson's split was recorded at the half way point aid station (shown below as 1111).

25 MARK ROBSON

Results	
1001 Lap1:	01:14:30.281
1002 Lap2:	01:08:44.293
1003 Lap3:	01:18:13.641
1004 Lap4:	01:09:14.312
1005 Lap5:	01:02:02.946
1006 Lap6:	01:08:21.41
1007 Lap7:	01:24:49.406
1008 Lap8:	01:08:14.379
1009 Lap9:	
1010 Lap10:	
1111 SplitLap1:	-00:37:23.043
1112 SplitLap2:	
1113 SplitLap3:	
1114 SplitLap4:	
1115 SplitLap5:	
1116 SplitLap6:	
1117 SplitLap7:	
1118 SplitLap8:	

On reviewing the results for all competitor across the 25/50 and 100km events, not one split result was missing other than those of Mr Robson.

Name	Bib	Comp	Split 1	12.5	Split 2	25	Split 3	37.5	Split 4	50	Split 5	62.5	Split 6	75	Split 7	87.5	Split 8	100	Final Time
1 KEVIN MATTHEWS	14	100	0:28:47	0:57:30	1:25:58	1:54:34	2:22:50	2:51:20	3:19:38	3:48:38	4:16:46	4:45:25	5:14:13	5:44:53	6:14:13	6:45:00	7:15:44	7:47:33	7:47:25
2 JON PENDSE	20	100	0:28:46	0:57:30	1:25:57	1:54:35	2:22:49	2:51:22	3:19:39	3:49:26	4:20:41	4:53:21	5:25:54	5:58:34	6:30:40	7:02:55	7:34:59	8:06:50	8:06:43
3 TONY SMITH	7	100	0:29:46	0:59:36	1:29:30	1:59:25	2:30:52	3:00:44	3:30:42	4:02:16	4:37:38	5:13:53	5:49:08	6:21:12	6:52:08	7:24:34	7:57:15	8:31:27	8:31:19
4 NICK O'NEILL	12	100	0:31:06	1:02:23	1:34:22	2:06:04	2:37:56	3:10:27	3:42:44	4:15:44	4:51:13	5:26:03	6:02:19	6:36:32	7:12:33	7:45:58	8:22:01	8:56:33	8:56:23
6 BEN TREASURE	11	100	0:31:31	1:03:42	1:35:41	2:07:21	2:39:25	3:11:49	3:45:11	4:19:27	4:59:47	5:40:30	6:19:57	7:11:36	7:53:22	8:36:20	9:11:56	9:47:34	9:47:24
7 SCOTT BUNNY	15	100	0:37:21	1:14:05	1:50:27	2:26:48	3:03:30	3:40:25	4:17:07	4:53:53	5:31:24	6:08:09	6:45:04	7:23:04	8:01:18	8:39:11	9:17:08	9:54:02	9:53:50
8 GLENN MONAGHAN	13	100	0:37:46	1:14:19	1:50:38	2:26:46	3:03:27	3:41:06	4:20:58	5:04:16	5:48:19	6:35:41	7:22:22	8:06:47	8:50:06	9:45:36	10:29:34	11:10:56	11:10:41
9 CHRIS KNOTT	19	100	0:30:36	1:00:21	1:30:04	2:00:30	2:31:41	3:04:56	3:41:47	4:18:40	5:03:02	5:45:20	6:31:44	7:15:17	8:09:19	9:05:19	10:24:13	11:13:58	11:13:47
10 CHRIS PULLEY	23	100	0:39:18	1:18:39	1:56:46	2:35:02	3:14:24	3:51:43	4:31:42	5:10:20	5:53:10	6:35:46	7:20:50	8:06:16	8:56:32	9:45:35	10:41:01	11:33:44	11:33:26
11 GRAHAM BELL	4	100	0:39:54	1:20:57	2:02:10	2:43:05	3:24:13	4:05:00	4:47:18	5:28:55	6:11:43	6:55:07	7:41:26	8:31:52	9:22:19	10:15:18	11:17:32	12:22:21	12:22:09
12 DAVID NOONAN	21	100	0:39:18	1:18:39	1:56:43	2:35:02	3:15:03	3:54:25	4:38:11	5:21:12	6:07:50	6:55:48	7:45:35	8:35:15	9:32:43	10:30:49	11:32:35	12:34:33	12:34:20
13 ANDREW O'BRIEN	2	100	0:38:24	1:18:35	1:51:43	2:44:27	3:31:45	4:16:24	5:03:30	5:47:56	6:34:41	7:19:31	8:12:08	9:00:49	9:55:08	10:50:19	11:55:09	12:48:45	12:48:31
14 PETER JONES	24	100	0:44:01	1:28:47	2:14:59	3:02:53	3:54:47	4:44:13	5:34:11	6:22:37	7:16:03	8:06:13	8:59:06	9:51:58	10:46:05	11:41:56	12:41:58	13:40:24	13:40:07
15 RICHARD AVERY	5	62.5	0:26:26	0:52:13	1:18:08	1:43:59	2:09:51	2:36:16	3:02:29	3:30:29	4:16:19	5:08:14							DNF
16 DANIEL O'BRIEN	17	50	0:28:43	0:57:13	1:26:21	1:55:34	2:26:58	2:59:28	3:31:51	4:05:24									DNF
17 ALLAN GAULT	18	50	0:31:32	1:04:40	1:39:46	2:15:12	2:53:28	3:36:52	4:27:55	5:34:55									DNF
18 MATT BYLES	10	50	0:33:18	1:08:59	1:45:52	2:27:38	3:14:32	4:08:50	5:01:57	5:51:58									DNF
19 ANDY CORNISH	16	50	0:39:14	1:20:21	2:04:35	2:50:16	3:53:38	5:03:05	6:11:50	7:13:07									DNF
20 ANDREW MCLEISH	22	37.5	0:30:05	1:00:02	1:31:13	2:03:40	2:36:04	3:10:54											DNF
5 MARK ROBSON	25	100	0:37:24	1:14:47		2:23:31		3:41:45		4:50:59		5:53:02		7:01:24		8:26:13		9:34:27	Disqualified

On testing Mr Robson's transponder after the event, it worked perfectly under a simulated race test.

Transponder Module - C:\...2018_Australia_Day_Ultra_2550100_km rev1 - Test.ses

File Extras ?

Counter	Bib No.	Time	with Difference	Contest	Result	Transponder	Data 1	Data 2
17	25	13:41:32,445	13:36:32,445	100km	SplitMeasurement8	BBUNF71	MARK ROBSON	25
16	25	13:41:39,167	13:36:39,167	100km	LapMeasurement8	BBUNF71	MARK ROBSON	25
15	25	13:41:19,742	13:36:19,742	100km	SplitMeasurement7	BBUNF71	MARK ROBSON	25
14	25	13:41:25,820	13:36:25,820	100km	LapMeasurement7	BBUNF71	MARK ROBSON	25
13	25	13:41:05,960	13:36:05,960	100km	SplitMeasurement6	BBUNF71	MARK ROBSON	25
12	25	13:41:13,304	13:36:13,304	100km	LapMeasurement6	BBUNF71	MARK ROBSON	25
11	25	13:40:55,476	13:35:55,476	100km	SplitMeasurement5	BBUNF71	MARK ROBSON	25
10	25	13:41:02,570	13:36:02,570	100km	LapMeasurement5	BBUNF71	MARK ROBSON	25
9	25	13:40:44,699	13:35:44,699	100km	SplitMeasurement4	BBUNF71	MARK ROBSON	25
8	25	13:40:51,730	13:35:51,730	100km	LapMeasurement4	BBUNF71	MARK ROBSON	25
7	25	13:40:30,921	13:35:30,921	100km	SplitMeasurement3	BBUNF71	MARK ROBSON	25
6	25	13:40:39,781	13:35:39,781	100km	LapMeasurement3	BBUNF71	MARK ROBSON	25
5	25	13:40:16,820	13:35:16,820	100km	SplitMeasurement2	BBUNF71	MARK ROBSON	25
4	25	13:40:25,062	13:35:25,062	100km	LapMeasurement2	BBUNF71	MARK ROBSON	25
3	25	13:39:54,722	13:34:54,722	100km	SplitMeasurement1	BBUNF71	MARK ROBSON	25
2	25	13:40:07,304	13:35:07,304	100km	LapMeasurement1	BBUNF71	MARK ROBSON	25
1	25	13:39:34,265	13:34:34,265	100km	LapMeasurement0	BBUNF71	MARK ROBSON	25

On Saturday 20 January I contacted Mr Robson via email and requested a copy of any supporting GPX file or watch based map that would help support him having completed the course correctly. Mr Robson's response as shown below was he did not wear a GPX watch.

From: mark robson
Sent: Monday, 22 January 2018 6:50 AM
To: Ron McGlinn
Subject: Re: ADU 2018 result

Ron unfortunately I did not run with a Gpx watch, as it was an out and back loop and I was only interested in the distance not the splits I ran with a time watch only.

Are you able to send me the data which shows the missing times please

Mark

Sent from my iPhone

On 20 Jan 2018, at 5:32 pm, "Ron McGlinn" <ronin99@hotmail.com> wrote:

Mark,

I will be posting the results of today's run to AURA on Monday night, and would like to give you the opportunity to provide a GPX or any relevant electronic files to support your time today for consideration prior to that. At this point, given the information I have, I will be disqualifying you from an official time, however if you can provide me with a GPX file of your run today, I am happy to reconsider and work through the data. Please get back to me prior to today afternoon should you have any relevant data which could support your claim.

Ron McGlinn

My only course of action is to disqualify Mr Robson from the 2018 Australia Day Ultra event and preclude him from participating in future Ultra Series WA events. I believe he was dishonest in claiming a completed 100 km run when in my best estimates, he only completed 60-70 km.

I intend to check back through any historical data sets for other events Mr Robson may have run in and see if there are any other similar instances of him not completing the correct course occurring.

Ron McGlinn
Race Director - Australia Day Ultra
0439496765