**Rule Notification FY2324-9 – Nomination of Timekeepers**

At its meeting on 4 March 2024 the AFA committee resolved to require host clubs to nominate timekeepers in their sanction applications. Unless the committee agrees at least one of the nominees must be a normal or senior level registered timekeeper. To allow time for the sanction application form to be updated to include provision for nomination of timekeepers the on trial rule changes to give effect to this decision which are set out below will be effective for sanction applications made from 1 June 2024. The rules published on the AFA website will be updated shortly.

**Background**

The AFA committee acknowledges that it is in the best interest of the sport of flyball and all participants that there is a high standard of officiating at race meetings and has for some time been considering ways to achieve this.

The committee noted the particular importance of the role of timekeepers in ensuring race meetings are run efficiently and results are accurately recorded and that although there is a process for AFA members to progress from being registered stewards to registered timekeepers, there is currently no requirement for an adult AFA member to be a registered timekeeper to be able to time keep at a race meeting.

The committee also noted that while host clubs are required to nominate judges in their sanction applications there is currently no requirement to nominate timekeepers. As a result, when the committee is considering sanction applications it has no visibility of, and no control over, the appointment of timekeepers.

The committee considered that provisions corresponding to those for nominating, and replacing, judges should be introduced for timekeepers. To ensure an adequate level of expertise on the timing table the committee decided that at least one nominated timekeeper should be a normal or senior level registered timekeeper. The committee accepted that some tolerance will be required having regard to specific circumstances, particularly in those jurisdictions with few registered timekeepers.

**Rule Changes**

Add at the beginning of rule 7.3:

In a ***sanction application*** for a ***race meeting*** the ***host club*** must nominate at least two ***timekeepers*** to officiate at the ***race meeting***. Unless the ***AFA committee*** agrees at least one of the nominees must be a normal or senior level ***registered timekeeper***. The ***race meeting*** ***organiser*** may replace a nominated ***timekeeper*** with another ***timekeeper*** approved by an officiating ***judge*** or ***AFA representative***.

Exa*mple: If the* ***race meeting*** *is being held in a State or Territory in which there are no resident normal or senior level* ***registered timekeepers*** *or where the* ***host club*** *demonstrates that no resident normal or senior level* ***registered timekeeper*** *is available the* ***AFA committee*** *may agree that a suitably experienced* ***AFA member*** *be nominated in place of a normal or senior level* ***registered timekeeper****.*