

## Rule Notification FY2526-3 Risk assessment of flyball events

At its meeting on 2 February 2026 the AFA committee resolved to introduce a requirement for organisers of flyball events to carry out a risk assessment for their event and complete a risk assessment form which is to be reviewed by an officiating judge (for a race meeting) and AFA representative before commencement of the event.

The completed form will need to be submitted to the web team after the event. For a race meeting this is to be done at the same time as submission of official timesheets.

The rule changes to give effect to this decision will be effective from 1 July 2026 and will be included in the next published version of the rules. Relevant guidelines and manuals will be updated to reflect the rule changes.

### Background

Over an extended period, the rules subcommittee had been reviewing the risk exposure of the AFA and affiliated clubs in conducting flyball events.

The subcommittee concluded that it would be in the best interest of all participants in flyball events for organisers to carry out a formal assessment to identify risks and, where appropriate, document what steps are being taken to mitigate those risks. The subcommittee anticipated that another benefit of having a formal process and being able to demonstrate compliance with would be to assist the AFA with future insurance renewals.

The subcommittee was concerned to ensure that although any process should be comprehensive it should not impose unduly onerous obligations on organisers and officials. To that end the subcommittee prepared a short risk assessment form which was then trialled at several events, including the 2025 Nationals. Following feedback from those trials the subcommittee recommended to the AFA committee that the requirement for a risk assessment, using the prescribed form, should be included in the rules.

The approved rule changes are:

1. Insert new definition:  
**risk assessment** means an assessment undertaken using the risk assessment template for a **flyball event** downloaded from the **AFA** website. See rule 2.2.
2. Insert an additional bullet point in rule 2.2:
  - complete a **risk assessment** and submit it for review by an officiating **judge** and **AFA representative** before the commencement of the **flyball event**.
3. Insert a new bullet point in rule 2.11 between “official timesheets” and “witness statements”:

- the completed **risk assessment**;
4. Amend the relevant bullet point in rule 7.2:  
**Judges** must:
- report to the **race meeting organiser** at least 30 minutes .....
  - .....
  - before the first **race**, ..... any relevant AFA policies **and review the risk assessment so far as it relates to the judge's responsibilities.**
5. Include the following paragraph in rule 7.5 immediately before the last paragraph:  
Before the commencement of the **flyball event** the **AFA representative** must review the **risk assessment** so far as it relates to the responsibilities of the **AFA representative**.

The risk assessment form can be accessed here [AFA Flyball Event Risk Assessment Form.xlsx](#)