

APPENDIX NO 18.8 CHIEF TIMEKEEPER, TIMEKEEPERS

There are two sets of Timekeepers designated; one for short distance events (SD - hurdles, 200m, 100m, 400m & relays) and one set for long distance events (LD - 1500m and 800m). The ACC currently times all runners in each track event.

SHORT TRACK: Timekeeping for SD - hurdles, 200m, 100m, 400m & relays events is automated using the photo finish system. If PF is unavailable than manual timekeepers and judges are used to judge and time for short distance events. A back up time for the winner of each race is also recorded.

LONG TRACK: Timekeeping for LD - 1500m and 800m events is all manual and does not use photo finish.

All timekeepers should view the Timekeeping Tips Video on the ACC web site at:

<https://www.accsport.asn.au/carnivals/athletics/officials-info/officiating-video-tips>

The following procedure is used when nine (9) Timekeepers are used:

- Chief Timekeeper - First Place
- Timekeeper No 1 - First Place
- Timekeeper No 2 - 2nd Place
- Timekeeper No 3 - 3rd Place
- Timekeeper No 4 - 4th Place
- Timekeeper No 5 - 5th Place
- Timekeeper No 6 - 6th Place
- Timekeeper No 7 - 7th Place
- Timekeeper No 8 - 8th Place

The following procedure is used when three (3) ‘Back up’ Timekeepers to the PHOTO FINISH system are used. The three (3) Timekeepers time 1st place only. The middle time of the three is the official time.

Timekeepers, as are all track officials, are under the control of Track Referee.

The ‘Chief’ Timekeeper is to allocate watches and to assign placings to the various Timekeepers to time. He/she should see that the recording sheets on which to record the times are in order.

The Timekeepers shall be in line with the finish and outside the track. Wherever possible they should be placed at least five metres from the outside lane of the track, and in order that they may all have a good view of the finish line, they should be on an elevated stand.

The parts of the body not included as being part of the torso are head, neck, arms, legs, hands or feet. The shoulder IS part of the torso and should be taken into account when timing an event.

Each Timekeeper shall act independently and without showing his watch to, or discussing his time with any other person and shall enter his time on the printed form that should be available to him. The Timekeeper advises the Chief Timekeeper of his/her recorded time. The Chief Timekeeper is responsible to see that the correct time is recorded on the recording sheet (Appendix 25.4). The Chief Timekeeper is to examine watches before recording is done.

Three timekeepers shall time the winner of every event. These include the Chief Timekeeper, the Assistant Chief Timekeeper and the timekeeper who is assigned to time first place.

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In the event of two of the three official watches agreeing and the third disagreeing, the time shown by the two shall be the official time. If all three watches disagree the middle time shall be official e.g. 11.3, 11.2, 11.4 the middle time is 11.3, which becomes the official time. If for any reason only two times are available and they disagree the longer time shall be the official time e.g. 11.2, 11.3 then 11.3 becomes the official time.

NB: Having three timekeepers for first place also confirms the validity of times for new records.

ALL hand-timed races on the track shall be recorded to 1/100ths seconds. If the hand of the watch stops between two lines indicating the time the longer time shall be accepted. If a 1/100th second digital watch is used, all times not ending in ZERO in the second decimal, shall be rounded to the next longer 1/10th e.g. if the watch is 11.21 the time recorded is 11.3.

If the time taken indicates a record, the timekeepers should HOLD THEIR WATCH so that the Chief Timekeeper can check it. It is essential that if a record occurs then the chief timekeeper signals to the starter to hold the next race until the relevant paperwork has been completed to validate the record. It is essential that the chief timekeeper checks the winning times for every event against the time in the programme to ensure a record is not missed. If a record occurs do not clear any watches and call for the track referee. A record verification form (Appendix 35) will then be completed. Referee will send the form to the recording room.

The photo finish time will be recorded as the “official or given” time. In circumstances when the photo finish or fully automatic timing (FAT) system fails and a manual start is used to record a time with either a stop watch or photo finish system then the “given” or “official” time will be adjusted up by a factor of 0.24 sec for events up to 200m and 0.14 sec for 400m events. These are the “manual adjustment” times used for *Australian Qualifying Standards* by Athletics Australia. The adjustment will be added on to the stop watch time as given by the chief timekeeper. Time adjustments will be performed in the results room in conjunction with the recorders, photo finish operator and chief timekeeper.

The ACC commenced use of photo finish timing for short track events in 2000. In normal circumstances existing short track records set after 1999 can only be broken with an accurate photo finish time as manual “hand” times are always faster than a photo finish time. Manual times can only be used to break records in long track events, if the record existed before 1999 or if in the opinion of the track referee and carnival manager there is evidence to suggest that a manual time can be considered as record breaking in the absence of an accurate photo finish time. The chief track referee in consultation with the chief timekeeper, photo finish operators and carnival manager has the authority to verify if a new record has been set.

The Carnival Manager assigns a separate set of Timekeepers for the 1500m events, which are to run at the same time as the hurdle events. The 800m events run at the same time as the 100m events.

The **Long Distance Timekeepers** (x2) work in unison (to be able to time each successive event) uses two (2) multi place stopwatches. In 800m and the remaining 1500m events, both Divisions within a gender age group, run in the one race (i.e. 16 competitors). If a record occurs follow the procedure for short track records as listed above. Timekeepers are to time all place getters in each Division separately. (N.B. In 800m and 1500m events at this level of carnival, runners are usually of varied ability, and consequently are spread over a greater distance, minimising the pressure on timekeepers).

Long distance timekeepers are to align their timekeeping procedures to the LD judging. Procedure described in Appendix 18.7 where a ‘running clock’ is used.