



West Wight Swimming Club

Photography and Photographing Swimmers Policy

This policy applies to all photographs taken on film or digital camera (including mobile phones) and all sorts of moving pictures including video recordings (and video streaming).

Whilst the great majority of images are appropriate and are taken in good faith, it is a fact that images can be misused and children can be put at risk if common-sense procedures are not observed. The term “child” or “children” include anyone under the age of 18 years.

This policy is in line with the ASA Photography Policy.

Aims of this policy

First, as in all matters concerned with the safeguarding of children, the ASA aims to help clubs establish and develop good practice. Second, the ASA aims to help clubs avoid three potential sources of child abuse:

- a) The use, adaption, or copying of images for child abuse, either on the Internet or in print.
- b) The possible identification of a child when an image is accompanied by significant personal information, which can lead to the child being ‘groomed’.
- c) The identification and locating of children where there are safeguarding children concerns. Such cases would include, for example, children who could be compromised by an image because:
 - They are removed from their family for their own safety.
 - There are restrictions on their contact with one parent following parent separation.
 - They are a witness in criminal proceedings.

Recommended best practice

1. The publishing of a photograph of a swimmer under 18 either on a notice board or in a published article or video recording (including video streaming) of swimming competitions (“Publication”) should only be done with parents’ consent and in line with ASA guidelines.
2. A parent or guardian has a right to refuse to have children photographed. The exercise of this right of refusal should not be used as grounds for refusing entry into a swimming competition. Therefore any photo that may go to press or on a notice board, be it through a member of the club or official photographer, should have received parental consent before publishing/displaying the photo, preferably in writing.
3. In the case of open meets and other competitions where the host club has an official photographer present, all parents attending should be made aware of this in your meet details. If photos are to be published anywhere, the individual parent should be given the opportunity to withhold their consent. Their right to do so should be specifically drawn to their attention. The ASA guidelines on photos for publication are as follows:

All photographs must observe generally accepted standards of decency, in particular:

- Action shots should be a celebration of the sporting activity and not a sexualised image in a sporting context.
- Action shots should not be taken or retained where the photograph reveals a torn or displaced swimming costume.
- Poolside shots of children should normally be above the waist only in a swimming costume, though full length tracksuit shots are approved.
- Photographs should not be taken from behind swimming blocks at the start of a race or exhibit young swimmers climbing out of the pool.

The official photographer

In some cases, West Wight Swimming Club may ask a club member/officer to act as an official photographer for an event and in some cases they may employ a specialist photographer. Their role is to take appropriate photos that celebrate and promote swimming. Anyone in this role should be CRB checked and when using a self-employed photographer the ASA recommends the club ask to see proof that the photographer has a current CRB and references from other service users.

Filming children during club sessions.

Any filming of children during a club session must be justified by the club as to why the film has been made, (e.g. to assist in swimming stroke development). Assuming filming is justified, written consent is required from the parents of the children with an invitation to the parents to attend the videoing and subsequently view the video. Filming should cease and or the footage destroyed should any concerns be raised or if consent is withdrawn. After filming, unless it can be justified as to why the footage is to be kept, it should be destroyed once it has served its purpose.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones should be registered as a camera if it has that facility in line with ASA guidelines, West Wight Swimming Club does not support the banning of phones, as children need them to keep in touch with parents, particularly in emergencies, they support a requirement that manufacturers ensure they add a “noticeable sound” that it is audible if a phone camera is used.

All swimmers and parents are notified, by this policy, that any photos taken should fall within the ASA guidelines and that if mobile phones are taken into changing rooms, the facility to take photos must not be used.

Photographs or filmed footage of children posted on club websites, to include social media sites such as Facebook.

Photographic images for promotional purposes will not be used by West Wight Swimming Club without signed consent from a parent. Any images uploaded to the Club’s website or Facebook page will adhere to the ASA’s guidelines on accepted standards of decency. The ASA recommend that individualised photographs should not be kept on a club’s websites and certainly not with identifying names as this could lead to a child being approached and placed in a vulnerable position. The only exception to this policy is where the child’s parent/carer provides specific written consent to the club publishing photographs. This consent may be withdrawn at any time and clubs should take all reasonable steps to respect the wishes of the parent/carer.