

Photography and Photographing Swimmers Policy

Why have a policy?

This guidance applies to all images and videos taken on any type of camera or recording device (including mobile phones). It applies to all training sessions, activities and events run by a Swim England affiliated organisation.

It should be acknowledged that although the majority of images taken are appropriate and in good faith, 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.

Aims of this policy

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

- a) The use, adaptation, 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 proceeding

Recommended best practice

a) 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 Swim England guidelines.

b) 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 noticeboard, be it through a member of the club or official photographer should only be done with parents' consent.

c) 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. Swim England guidelines on photos for publication are as follows:

All photographs must observe generally accepted standards of decency in particular follow ASA recommendations:

- 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 the starting blocks or that show young participants climbing out of the pool.

Thame Swimming Club Photography and Photographing Swimmers Policy

Photographs (with or without) names of children on the club website

It is a policy of the club that individualised photographs of swimmers will not be kept on the club's website with identifying names.

The only exception to this policy is where the child's parent or carer provides consent to the club publishing photographs. This consent may be withdrawn at any time and the club will take all reasonable steps to respect the wishes of the parent/carer.

Policy on photographing and videoing children during club sessions

The club may, on occasion, use image capturing equipment to support the development of a swimmer e.g. under water turns.

Thame Swimming Club does not allow the use of any photographic equipment, including mobile phones and other image capturing equipment at any training sessions, except where permission has been given by the committee.

Thame Swimming Club will allow the use of photographic equipment, including mobile phones and other image capturing equipment at any Gala's held by the club, but strictly in accordance with the following ASA Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures:

'Any parents or carers of swimmers under the age of 18 who wish to take photographic or video images are requested to focus on their own child as much as reasonably possible and to avoid including other children in those images, particularly if those images are being shared with family and friends through social media platforms.'

These policies will be vigorously enforced and any person found to be contravening them may be asked to leave the club.

Mobile phones

In line with Swim England guidelines Thame Swimming Club does not support the banning of mobile phones, as children need them to keep in touch with parents, particularly in emergencies. We support the 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 the club will not tolerate the use of any photographic equipment, including mobile phones and other image capturing equipment, at any sessions and in particular in the changing rooms. Anyone found not adhering to this policy will be dealt with by the committee by following the disciplinary procedure.