



## **Wear Valley Amateur Swimming Club Photography Policy**

### **Why is there a policy?**

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

The term “child” or “children” includes anyone under the age of 18.

It is acknowledged that the great majority of photographs are taken in good faith; however, it is a fact that images are misused, and children can be put at risk if common-sense procedures are not observed.

This Policy has been prepared by the Swim England from Wavepower 2024 p.94-99 and adapted and adopted by the WVASC Committee.

Swim England does not advocate the banning of photography or the use of images and videos of children. Therefore, WVASC will follow Wavepower to safeguard swimmers.

### **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 a parental separation.
- They are witnesses in criminal proceedings.

### **Recommended best practice.**

1) The publishing of a photograph of a swimmer under 18 either on a noticeboard 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.

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 when WVASC are the host club an official photographer, if available, will be present. They will be asked to wear official identification which will be always worn. All photos will focus on action around the pool. This will be communicated to all parents attending. In addition, each attending club can nominate e.g. a coach or team manager to take their photos. They will already be poolside and have the relevant DBS check. 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 Swim England 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 swimming pool.

### **Photographs (with or without) names of children on the club website/Facebook Group**

It is a policy of the club that individualised photographs will not be kept on the club's website & Facebook group with identifying names. The same applies to the club's printed

materials. The only exception to this policy is where the child's parent or carer provides specific written consent to the club publishing photos. 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 & videoing children during club sessions**

Wear Valley Amateur Swimming Club does not allow the use of any photographic equipment, including mobile phones and other image capturing equipment at any club or training session.

However, the coaches have the right to use image capturing equipment which is owned by the club (at the swimming club) only for the development of stroke work. Any concern raised during the session will result in filming ceasing and the moving images not being used.

At the end of each daily training session, all videos used in swimming development will be erased. The image capturing equipment will be locked away until the following training session. Coaches are the only personnel who have access to this equipment.

### **Mobile Phones**

In line with Swim England guidelines WVASC does not support the banning of mobile phones (however please note the above paragraph concerning photography during club sessions). Children need to have mobiles present to keep in touch with parents, particularly in emergencies. It is recommended that manufacturers ensure they add a "noticeable sound" that is audible if a phone camera is used.

All swimmers and parents are notified, by this policy, that the club will under any circumstances tolerate the use of any photographic equipment, specially mobile phones and other image capturing equipment, at any sessions and in particular in the changing room areas. Anyone found not adhering to this policy will be dealt with by the committee by following a disciplinary procedure. Wavepower, p.82 Safeguarding.

**Reviewed March 2024 & adapted from Wavepower p.94-99, 2024**