

Photography and Videoing Policy

In response to recent queries from parents and swimmers regarding videoing of children swimming, Dover Lifeguard Club would like to remind all parents regarding the ASA Policy on Photography and Videoing at club training sessions and gala competitions. Vista Leisure adhere to this Policy also as members of the public maybe in the pool at the same time. It is a serious breach of this Policy to take photographs/videos without another parent's permission and consent and could result in formal action being taken against the persons involved.

All the following information has been gathered from the Wavepower document 2009/2011 "The ASA Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures"

The aim of this policy is to help clubs establish and develop good practice and to help avoid three potential sources of child abuse i.e. copying images of children from the Internet, "grooming" and identifying and locating children already involved in safeguarding concerns.

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 of swimming competitions should only be done with the parents' consent
2. A parent has the a right to refuse to have their children photographed. This should be in writing to indicate refusal of consent. The club's membership renewal form covers the policy on photography/videoing which parents sign accordingly.
3. Once a parent has signed the club's Photography/Videoing Book register the ASA are happy for them to take photos on the belief that their swimmer is the main subject of the photograph. Other competitors nearby may be included in the shot but should not be the main subject of the photo .However another person can object to a parent taking a photo if they believe their child ,not the child of the photographer ,be the main subject of the photo but in practice this seldom happens.
4. At open meets and other competitions where the host club has an official photographer all parents attending should be made aware of this in the meet details. If the photos are to be published anywhere the individual parent should be given the opportunity to withhold their consent. At most galas parents should be aware that by entering the competition they are usually agreeing that their child can be photographed within the ASA guidelines on videoing and photography

All photographs taken must observe generally accepted standards of decency:

- No action shots should be sexualised in anyway
- No photograph should reveal a torn or displaced costume
- Poolside shots should be above the waist only in a swimming costume
- Photographs should not be taken from behind the swimming blocks at the start of the race or show young swimmers climbing out of the pool.

Policy on videoing children during club sessions.

The videoing of children during club sessions is not recommended .

Any videos that are taken would have to be justified by the club as to why this video has been made .e.g. to assist in swimming stroke development.

Only nominated club coaches should be involved in videoing of children during club sessions

Assuming a video is taken then 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.

Any concern and the videoing should cease and the video not used.

After videoing ,unless it can be justified as to why the video is to be kept the video 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 the ASA policy on cameras. All members need to be aware that while the ASA does not support the banning of phones, as children need to keep in touch with parents especially in emergencies, any photos taken on a mobile phone should fall within the guidelines for an ordinary camera. If mobile phones are taken into changing rooms the facility to take photos should not be used.

Any queries should be made to the Club Welfare Officer:

Jan Hyde e-mail @ janet.hyde7@ntlworld.com