

Safeguarding and Photography

The management of photography of children in rowing is a very difficult subject as competition and training is almost exclusively carried out in large open public spaces where it is not possible to control admission.

However as a coach, club or event organiser there are certain issues with which you must be aware and you may like to ensure in certain circumstances that you do obtain specific permission to photograph juniors for publicity material. For example if you are planning to use specially commissioned photography for a specific publicity purpose such as a brochure or website, particularly if it is posed for or taken in training, you are advised to ask for explicit consent from the juniors' parents or guardians.

Where it is possible to control admission, for example in indoor rowing competitions, it is strongly recommended that anyone wishing to use a camera of any description is registered by the competition organisers and made identifiable, for example by a sticky label or badge. A simple form or register asking for name, address and purpose of photography would suffice and may be enough to deter someone with ulterior motives.

There has been increased concern about the misuse of video. In rowing video of athletes training is an essential tool in improving technique. We would advise that clubs incorporate into their membership forms for junior members a statement explaining that video and photography may be used during the course of training at the club for the explicit purposes of technical coaching, that such video will not be used for any other purposes and will on request be made available to the appropriate parent for viewing. Should any parent object they should notify the club in writing.

Advice on photographic content

Make sure that you take your audience and purpose into proper consideration when publishing any photographic/film material:

Identification - you must ensure that the visual contents or captions cannot be used as means of identifying children. This includes names, addresses or any other unnecessary information, which could be used to trace the child. Ensure that this information is withheld in all reproductions.

Dress - children should be photographed or filmed in suitable dress. Some sporting activities have a higher risk for potential misuse of imagery than others, such as swimming, gymnastics and athletics, but the clothing worn in rowing could be seen to have a number of similarities with these sports. Make sure that the footage or photographs focus on the activity, rather than a full body shot.

Safety - it is important that children are not featured wearing jewellery, body piercing or clothing that could present a safety risk. Also ensure that the photographer photographs the subject(s) in the appropriate safety equipment. For example where appropriate, lifejackets should be worn.

If you suspect someone of taking photographs for an inappropriate use you should report him or her to the Club Welfare Officer, Police or Social Services.