



ASA 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.

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 the 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. Under ASA guidance on the taking of photos, once a parent has signed the club's Photography Book Register we are happy for them to take photos in the belief that their swimmer is the main subject of the photo. However, another person can object to a parent/carer taking a photo if they believe their child, not the child of the photographer to be the main subject of the photo.
4. 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 the 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.
5. Published photographs may identify the swimmer by name and club but should not state the swimmers place of residence or school attended.
6. It is recommended that individualised photographs should not be kept on a club's website and certainly not with identifying names as this could lead to a child being approached and placed in a vulnerable position. The same applies to a club's printed materials such as a club's annual report.
7. The videoing of children during club sessions is not recommended. Any videos that are taken would have to be justified as to why this video has been made, (e.g. to assist in stroke development). 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.

The ASA guidelines 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 the starting blocks at the start of a race or exhibit young swimmers climbing out of the swimming pool.