



FOOTBALL
WEST

**Photographing Children
Policy**

Photographing Children Policy

INTRODUCTION

Football West is committed to creating an environment in which children can participate in football safely and securely. Essential to this commitment, is to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to protect children from the inappropriate use of their images, particularly if the images are published on the internet or other media. The interests and welfare of the child are of paramount importance.

This document aims to assist clubs and associations in implementing policies in order that children are protected from the use of photography which could place them at risk. It is not intended to restrict those people who are taking photographs of children for legitimate reasons.

Photographs can be used as a means of identifying children if accompanied by personal information such as a name. In addition, the content of a photograph can be used or adapted for inappropriate use.

REASON AND PURPOSE

1. In general terms, there is no law in Australia which restricts capturing photographs of human beings. Some exceptions exist such as indecent or voyeuristic images, those prohibited by a court order, or those which are defamatory or for commercial purposes. The rights of children are also protected via the criminal code which prohibits the photography of children in a provocative or sexual manner.
2. Photographs should only be taken by an authorised person who has a legitimate reason related to the child, the organisation or the sport.
3. A photograph must not allow a person unconnected with the child to identify that child or his or her whereabouts.

GUIDELINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHING CHILDREN

1. Provide a clear brief about what is considered appropriate in terms of content and behaviour of the children being photographed.
2. Inform children and parents that a photographer will be in attendance at an event and ensure they consent to both the capture and publication of images. A consent form may be used.
3. Issue the photographer with identification which must be worn at all times during the event. The photographer should have a current Working with Children Check.
4. Do not allow unsupervised access to children or one-on-one photograph sessions at events.
5. Do not allow photographs to be taken outside the event or outside a child's home.
6. If parents or other spectators are intending to take photographs at an event, they should also be made aware of your policies and procedures.
7. Spectators should be asked to register at an event if they wish to use photographic equipment.

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8. Concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography should be reported to the event organiser and recorded in the same manner as any other child protection concern. Ensure that the contact person understands the application of relevant legislation and policies.
9. Video can be a legitimate coaching aid for coaches. However, you should ensure that parents have provided written consent, and understand that it is part of the coaching programme. Such footage should always be securely stored.

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLISHING IMAGES OF CHILDREN

1. Only use images of children in suitable dress to reduce the risk of inappropriate use. The content of the photograph should focus on the activity and not on a particular child.
2. If the child is named, avoid using the photograph.
3. If a photograph is used, avoid naming the child and never publish personal details (email addresses, telephone numbers, addresses etc.) of a child.
4. Create a recognised procedure for reporting the use of inappropriate images.
5. Give an appropriate level of consideration to the use of images of children in publications such as a newsletter or magazine. Apply an increased level of consideration to the images of children used on your website.
6. Consider using models or illustrations for promotional or advertising purposes.
7. Reduce the ability to directly copy images from a website to another source.
8. When employing professional photographers, clearly stipulate in writing who will retain ownership of the images. Include arrangements made for negatives, digital files and proofs and outline any restrictions for their use and sale.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Department for Child Protection (www.community.wa.gov.au/dcp)

The Department of Sport and Recreation (www.dsr.wa.gov.au)

The Australian Sports Commission (www.ausport.gov.au)