



# Middleton Sports Club



## Photography, CCTV, phone cameras and video Policy

There has been much talk about whether it's safe to take pictures of under 18's playing sport. Middleton Sports Club ("The Club") is keen to promote positive images of children playing sport and is not preventing the use of photographic or videoing equipment. "The Club" would like to assure parents, carers, coaches, spectators, players and the media that we encourage the taking of appropriate images of children in sport.

Potential Risks:

1. The inappropriate use, adaptation or copying of images for use on websites on the internet
2. The identification of children when a photograph is accompanied by significant personal information that will assist a third party in identifying the child. This can lead, and has led to children being "groomed".
3. The identification and locating of children in inappropriate circumstances including:
  - where a child has been removed from his/her family for their own safety; where restrictions on contact with one parent following a parental separation exist e.g., in domestic violence cases; in situations where a child may be a witness in criminal proceedings; or other child protection concerns
  - It must be considered that some adults may not wish to have their photograph taken and posted on social media, so be aware of this possibility. Be respectful at all times.

The majority of images taken are appropriate and taken in good faith. "The Club" has adopted the following in line with the CPSU (Child Protection in Sport) common sense considerations to ensure everyone's safety:

1. Photographs/images are not to be taken at matches or training without the prior permission of the parents/carers of the children. This permission can be given by proxy by the coach of each team only after parental consent for this has been granted. The coach must arrange this prior to attending matches.
2. If no consent has been given for a child on the player profile form, then it is to be made known to the relevant person of the other team (e.g., Coach / Team manager) so that the appropriate person/s taking photos for the other team is aware and can avoid taking photos of that particular child.
3. The children should be informed that a person will be taking photographs.
4. The children should be informed that if they have concerns, they can report these to the Coach or Team Manager.
5. Concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography should be reported to the Club Safeguarding Officer/s and recorded in the same manner as any other child protection concern.
6. It is recommended that at sporting tournaments/festivals/events/competitions set up a camera registration book for parents to complete.

## **Common Sense Considerations of Use of Images of Children (e.g., on the web, in the media or in league handbooks):**

1. Ask for parental permission to use their child's image and wherever possible show the image to the parents and child in advance. This ensures that they are aware of the way the image will be used to represent sport and "The Club".
2. Ask for the child's permission to use their image. This ensures that they are aware of the way the image will be used to represent any sport at Middleton.
3. **If the player is named, do not use their photograph.**
4. **If the photograph is used, do not name the child.**
5. Do not use player profiles with pictures and detailed personal information on websites.
6. Do not use an image for something other than that what it was initially intended and agreed.
7. **Do not allow images to be recorded in changing rooms, showers or toilets. This includes the use of mobile phones that record images.**
8. Focus on the activity rather than the individual.
9. Only use images of children in appropriate kit (training or competition) to reduce the risk of inappropriate use, and to provide positive images of the children.
10. Aim to take pictures which represent the broad range of youngsters participating safely in any sport e.g., boys and girls, disabled people, ethnic minority communities.
11. Encourage the reporting of inappropriate use of images of children to the Club Safeguarding Officer and/or the relevant sport County Welfare Officer.

### **Remember:**

1. It is not an offence to take appropriate photographs in a public place even if asked not to do so.
2. No one has the right to decide who can and cannot take images on public land.
3. If you have serious concerns about a possible child protection issue relating to the recording of images then call the police. This action should only be taken where you believe that someone may be acting unlawfully or putting a child at risk.
4. The land or facility owner can decide whether or not photography and/or videoing at any sporting activities will be permitted when carried out on private land. However, you need to make this known before allowing individuals access to private property. If they do not comply then you may request them to leave.
5. If you are commissioning professional photographers or inviting the press to cover a sporting activity, ensure you and they are clear about each other's expectations. Best practice is to plan ahead and communicate early on:
  - Provide a clear brief about what is considered appropriate in terms of content and behaviour.
  - Inform them of "The Clubs" commitment to safeguarding children and young people and establish who will hold the recorded images and what they intend to do with them.