

Broomfield Park Swimming Club

Photography Guidance

(based on Wavepower 2024)

This guidance applies to all images and videos, which are not suspected of falling under the guidance on indecent/child abuse images of children, taken on any type of camera or recording device (including mobile/smart phones). It applies to all training sessions, activities and events run by a Swim England affiliated organisation.

BPSC does not want to stop parents photographing their children's achievements but there has been much talk about whether it is safe to have images taken of children participating in sport. Whilst the great majority of images are appropriate and are taken in good faith, it is a fact that images can be misused and children can be put at risk if common sense procedures are not observed.

Aims of this policy

This policy aims to help avoid often unintended and unforeseen potential sources of child abuse:

- The possible identification of a child when an image is accompanied by significant personal information, which can lead to the child being 'groomed'.
- The identification and locating of children where there are safeguarding children concerns. Such cases would include, for example, children who could be compromised by an image because:
 - a. They are removed from their family for their own safety.
 - b. There are restrictions on their contact with one parent following a parental separation.
 - c. They are witnesses in criminal proceedings.
- Photo or video content may itself be used inappropriately or out of context:
 - a. Some individuals deliberately target the aquatic sports and set out to take inappropriate photos in ways that are potentially illegal and harmful, such as:
 - › images of children changing;
 - › photos taken in the toilets; or
 - › using a camera at ground level to photograph up girls' skirts.
 - b. Images that appear ambiguous can be used inappropriately and out of context by others (for example, images from behind a starting block, or children climbing in or out of the pool).
 - c. Images can easily be copied and edited, perhaps to create child-abuse images.
 - d. Images shared privately online can be re-shared, possibly entering the public domain on websites or social media.

Minimising the risks

The publishing of a photograph of a swimmer under 18 either on a noticeboard or in a published article or video recording [including video streaming] of swimming competitions ["publication"] should only be done with parents' consent and in line with Swim England guidelines.

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 noticeboard, be it through a member of the club or official

photographer, should have received parental consent before publishing/displaying the photo, preferably in writing.

In the case of open meets and other competitions where the host club has an official Photographer present, or for example intends to stream the event or competition online, all parents attending should be made aware of this in the meet details. If photos are to be published anywhere, the individual parent/guardian should be given the opportunity to withhold their consent. Their right to do so should be specifically drawn to their attention.

As part of BPSC registration process it is required for parents to allow nominated BPSC DBS checked officials to take and use photographs of their child following this policy. If there are any reasons why you do not wish your child to appear in any photographs, please contact BPSC welfare officer at welfare.bpsc@gmail.com

Swim England guidelines on photos for publication state that all photographs for publication must observe generally accepted standards of decency, particularly:

- 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. Full length shots are permitted if the children are fully clothed.
- Photographs should not be taken from behind swimming blocks at the start of a race or that show young swimmers climbing out of the swimming pool.
- Published photographs may identify the individual by name and organisation but should not state the member's place of residence or school attended. BPSC do not wish to stop parents photographing their children if they wish but we all have a duty to help safeguard every child's wellbeing and should refrain from including other individual children in such shots.

The official photographer

The aim of each official photographer should be to help celebrate and promote swimming. When taking an image they should be asked to:

- Focus on the activity rather than the individual child.
- Include groups of children rather than individuals if possible.
- Ensure all those featured are appropriately dressed.
- Represent the broad range of youngsters participating in swimming
- BPSC will screen applicants for their suitability [just as they would check any other member of staff or volunteer working with children] and then provide training for them in the club's Safeguarding Children policies and procedures.
- The official photographer [whether a professional photographer or member of the club staff] should receive clear instructions, preferably in writing, from the club at an early stage.
- BPSC will provide them with a copy of this policy and a clear brief about what is appropriate in terms of content - images should not be allowed to be taken outside the activity being covered.
- Clarify areas where all photography is prohibited (toilets, changing areas etc)
- BPSC will clarify issues about ownership of and access to all images and for how long they will be retained or used.
- BPSC will not allow unsupervised access to children or one-to-one photo sessions.

Guidance on filming children during club training sessions

The filming of children during club sessions is not recommended unless there is a legitimate need or purpose for the filming. For example, wishing to film children to assist in stroke technique.

If there is a legitimate need or purpose parents/guardians must be provided with full information such as when the filming is proposed, its purpose, who is filming, how the film will be used or published and an agreement on what will happen once the film has served its purpose. This allows parents/guardians to provide informed consent, or otherwise. Written consent to the filming should be requested from parents/guardians. Where practicable parents/guardians should be invited to be present at the filming. Where this is impractical parents/guardians will be allowed to view the film before publication.

Should photographs or footage of children be posted on the club's website or social media platform?

It is recommended that photographs or footage of individual children should not be kept on the club's website or social media platform if the site is publicly "open for the world to see", particularly images of a child with their name displayed, that could lead to that child being identified, approached and placed in a vulnerable position. The same could apply to printed materials such as the clubs' annual report or kit.

Parental consent may be withdrawn at any time and the club will take all reasonable steps to respect the wishes of the parent/guardian.