

## **West Coast Splash Synchronised Swimming Club**

### ***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). The terms "child" or "children" include anyone under the age of 18 years.

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. This policy sets out to clarify these procedures and address three main areas of concern;

1. The potential use, adaptation, or copying of images for child abuse, either on the Internet or in print.
2. The possible identification of a child when an image is accompanied by significant personal information, which can lead to the child being 'groomed'.
3. 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:
  - They are removed from their family for their own safety.
  - There are restrictions on their contact with one parent following a parental separation.
  - They are a witness in criminal proceedings.

#### ***Recommended best practice***

1. The publishing of a photograph of a swimmer under 18 either on a notice board or in a published article, social media site or video recording (including video streaming) should only be done with parents' consent.
2. A parent or guardian has a right to refuse to have children photographed, therefore any photo that may be distributed should have received parental consent before publishing/displaying the photo, preferably in writing. The club asks a parent/guardian to give written consent to the display of images when a swimmer joins the club.
3. Where a video is taken to assist training, it should be deleted when no longer required.

**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 may be full length or above the waist depending on the context.

Published photographs may identify the swimmer by name and club but should not state the swimmer's place of residence or school attended.

The club does not wish to stop parents photographing their children if they wish, we all have a responsibility to ensure they we do all we can to safeguard children's well-being in the current climate of concern.