
GUIDELINES ON USE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC & FILMING EQUIPMENT AT COMPETITIONS & EVENTS

There is evidence that some people have used sporting events as an opportunity to take inappropriate photographs or film footage of young and disabled sports people in vulnerable positions. It is advisable that all staff be vigilant with any concerns to be reported to an official or responsible person at an event.

Professional photographers/filming/video operators

- If you are commissioning professional photographers or inviting the press to an activity or event, it is important to ensure they are clear about your expectations of them in relation to child protection.
- Provide a clear brief about what is considered appropriate in terms of content and behaviour.
- Register an issue them with (Official Photographer) identification, which must be worn at all times.
- Inform participants and parents that a photographer will be in attendance at an event and ensure they consent to both taking and publication of films or photographs (sample consent form available from England Hockey)
- Do not allow unsupervised access to participants or one to one photo sessions at events.
- Do not approve photo sessions outside the Event or at a participant's home.

Amateur photographers/filming/video operators

- There are many legitimate reasons for taking photos or film footage.
- There is no intention to prevent coaches and teachers using photo's or video as a legitimate coaching aid. However, participants and their parents should be aware that this is part of the coaching programme and care should be taken in the storing of such films. Coaches and Teachers wishing to do so at events must be registered & issued with (Amateur Photographer) identification, which must be worn at all times.
- Parents etc. wishing to take photo's/video for private use must also be issued with (Amateur Photographer) identification, which must be worn at all times.

Accreditation procedure: a system should be adopted whereby a record should be made of the individual's name and address and reason for taking photos/video. Professionals should register prior to the event and their identification details should be checked with the issuing authority prior to the event. On registering, promoters of events should issue an identification label on the day, which can serve to highlight those who have accreditation but must ensure that where regular events occur, the identifying label is changed to prevent unofficial replication.

Public information: the specific details concerning photographic/video and filming equipment should, where possible, be published prominently in event programmes and must be announced over the public address system prior to the start of the event.

The sample recommended wording is:

In line with the recommendation in the Organisation's Child Protection Policy, the promoters of this event request that any person wishing to engage in any video, zoom or close range photography should register their details with staff at the spectator entry desk before carrying out any such photography. The promoter reserves the right of entry to this event and reserves the right to decline entry to any person unable to meet or abide by the promoter's conditions.

If you have concerns: if you are concerned about any photography taking place at an event, contact the promoter or event organiser and discuss it with them. If appropriate the person about whom there are concerns should be asked to leave and the facility managers should be informed.