



Irish Schools' Athletic Association - Athletics Ireland Policy Document – (Code of Ethics, section 4, page 21)

Use of Photographic and Mobile Equipment

Each School should adopt a policy in relation to the use of images of athletes on their websites and other publications, as there have been concerns about the risks posed directly and indirectly to children and young people. Teachers, adults and leaders need to work together to prevent those wishing to cause such harm to young people. Remember having photographic and filming guidelines is not about preventing parents from taking pictures, it is to ensure that only those who have a right to take photographs do so.

Anyone concerned about photography taking place at events or training sessions can contact the children's officer/ designated person and ask them to deal with the matter. The purpose is to reduce the risk of inappropriate, unsolicited attention from people within and outside the sport. Group photographs where the School is identified rather than individuals are good for publicity without creating a risk to those in the photographs.

As a guide try to remember the following:-

- If the athlete is named, avoid using their photograph.
- If a photograph is used, avoid naming the athlete.
- Ask for the athlete's permission to use their image to ensure that they are aware of the way the image is to be used to represent the sport.
- Ask for parental permission to use the athlete's image to ensure that parents are aware of the way the image is to be used to represent the sport. A permission form could be used or make an announcement at the start of an event.
- To reduce the risk of inappropriate use, only use images of athletes in suitable dress. The content of the photograph should focus on the activity not on a particular child
- Talk to children's officer/designated person if you are worried about use of images
- Amateur photographers/film/video operators wishing to record an event or practice session should seek accreditation with the children's officer, event organiser or leader of session. Permission forms should be available on site.
- To ensure spectators and participants are informed of the policy, the school/event/ organisation should display the following information prior to the start of an event and where possible make an announcement over a tannoy.

"In line with the recommendation in the (name of school/club/association's) Code of Conduct, 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 the organisers. It is not advisable that children are photographed or filmed without their permission and/or the permission of their parent/guardian".

Working in Partnership to protect young people photographs, when used with personal information, can be used as a means of identifying children. This practice can make a child vulnerable to an individual who may wish to "groom" that child for abuse. Furthermore the content of the photo can be used or adapted for inappropriate use. There is evidence of this adapted material finding its way onto child pornography sites. Adults and sports leaders need to work together to prevent those wishing to cause such harm to young people.