

SAINTS SOUTHWEST

# PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILMING POLICY



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Parents, children and football clubs generally look forward to celebrating and or publicising successes by photographing young people at sessions, matches and events. Documenting a child's involvement and progress through the year both by film and photos is widely accepted as contributing to the enjoyment of taking part in sport..It's also recognised some coaches find it helpful to use photographs or film as a coaching tool to support a child's development.

Saints Southwest recognises the use of photos and film on websites, social media, posters, within the press or other publications, can pose direct and indirect risks to children if they are not managed appropriately. However, the taking of appropriate images of children is supported by The FA. Everyone wishing to film or take photos in football has a responsibility to familiarise themselves with and adhere to the following guidance.

## **Inappropriate taking and or use of images of children**

Someone may set out to take inappropriate photos or film content in ways that are potentially illegal and harmful, such as:

- Children changing;
- Photos taken in the toilets
- Using a camera at ground level to photograph up girls' skirts
- Images that appear ambiguous can be used inappropriately and out of context by others
- Images that can easily be copied and edited, perhaps to create child-abuse images
- Images shared privately online that can be re-shared, possibly entering the public domain on websites or social media
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## **The Identification of, contact with, or grooming of a child**

When a child's image is accompanied by significant personal information e.g. full name, address - it makes them more easily identifiable to third parties. This can lead, and has led, to children being located, contacted and/or 'groomed'. Even if personal details are kept confidential, details identifying the school or club, or their favourite sportsperson or team, can potentially be used to groom the child. There's an increased risk of identification of and contact with a child:

- By someone in circumstances where there are legal restrictions – such as if the child is in local-authority care or placed with an adoptive family
- 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.



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## **Commissioning Official or professional photographers and the local media**

If you are commissioning professional photographers or inviting the media to cover a football activity, ensure you and they are clear about each other's expectations. The key 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 your club's commitment to safeguarding children
- Establish who will hold the recorded images and for how long they'll be retained and/or used and what they intend to do with them, e.g. place on a website for sale, distribute thumbnails to the club to coordinate sales
- Issue the professional photographer with identification, which must be worn at all times
- Clarify areas where all photography is prohibited e.g. toilets, changing areas, first-aid areas etc
- Inform the photographer about how to identify – and avoid taking images of – children without the required parental consent for photography
- Don't allow unsupervised access to children or one-to-one photo sessions at events
- Don't allow photo sessions away from the event – for instance, at a young person's home
- Inform participants and parents or carers prior to the event that a professional photographer will be in attendance

## **Responding to concerns**

Whether it's general activities or when attending an event all Saints Southwest staff members, club officials, volunteers, children and parents/carers should be informed that if they have any concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography (in terms of the way, by whom, or where photography is being undertaken), these should be reported. Reports can be made to the:

- Staff member
- Saints Southwest Child Welfare Officer [cwo@saintssouthwest.co.uk](mailto:cwo@saintssouthwest.co.uk)
- The event organiser or another official
- Event Designated Safeguarding Officer
- County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer  
The FA Safeguarding Team via [safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:safeguarding@TheFA.com)