



Photography and Video Camera Policy

Statement of Intent

The aim of this policy is to provide procedures and practical guidance for all Lancaster and Morecambe Athletics Club members, volunteers and parents to safeguard children. Lancaster and Morecambe Athletics Club is keen to promote the use of positive images of children competing in athletics. It is not preventing the use of photographic or videoing equipment but will ensure that appropriate and proportionate safeguards are put in place to ensure a safe sporting environment for children and young people.

There may be other reasons why individuals may not wish their child's photograph to be taken by someone they do not know personally, for example estranged parents looking to gain access to a child.

Potential risks to consider:

1. The inappropriate use, adaptation or copying of images for use on child abuse websites on the internet (often referred to as pornography sites);
2. The identification of children when a photograph is accompanied by significant personal information that will assist a third party in identifying the child. This can lead, and has led to children being "groomed"; and
3. The identification and locating of children in inappropriate circumstances which include: where a child has been removed from his/her family for their own safety; (ii) where restrictions on contact with one parent following a parental separation exist e.g. in domestic violence cases; (iii) in situations where a child may be a witness in criminal proceedings; or (iv) other child protection concerns.

The majority of images taken are appropriate and taken in good faith. Lancaster and Morecambe Athletics Club have developed the following principles on photographs and film footage of Children in order to ensure the safety of children in athletics:-

Common sense considerations to ensure everyone's safety:

1. Permission for taking photographs/images of children is requested of parents and carers on the application form and every effort will be made to comply with

any requests that would compromise the safety of a child and so that safeguarding measures can be put in place.

2. If no consent has been given for a child on the application form, then a coach or committee member should explain to the parent typical circumstances in which photographs are taken. Also, it cannot be guaranteed that pictures will never be taken, particularly in competitions.
3. It is to be made known to the relevant person of the team (e.g. coach) of any situation of concern, so that as far as reasonably practicable, photographs or videos are not taken of that particular child.
4. The children should be informed that a person will be taking photographs/videos whenever possible however, this can be difficult at some events.
5. The children should be informed that if they have concerns they can report these to their coach or another club official.
6. Concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography/videography should be reported to the Club Welfare Officer and recorded in the same manner as any other child protection or safeguarding concern

Use of images of children:

Lancaster and Morecambe Athletics Club are committed to the safety of our athletes and when taking or publishing images/videos of children, we will ensure the following:

- We will always ask for parental permission to use their child's image and wherever practicable, show the image to the parents and child in advance. This ensures that they are aware of the way the image will be used to represent Lancaster and Morecambe Athletics Club
- We will never use athletes profiles with pictures and detailed personal information on websites
- We will never use an image for something other than that what it was initially intended and agreed
- We will never allow images to be recorded in changing rooms, showers or toilets-this includes the use of mobile phones that record images.
- We will always focus on the activity rather than the individual
- We will only use images of children in appropriate kit (training or competition), to reduce the risk of using inappropriate use, and to provide positive images of the children

- We aim to take pictures which represent the broad range of youngsters participating safely in athletics e.g. boys and girls, disabled people, ethnic minority communities.
- We will encourage the reporting of inappropriate use of images of children to the Club Welfare Officer.

Remember:

1. It is not an offence to take appropriate photographs in a public place even if asked not to do so.
2. No one has the right to decide who can and cannot take images on public land and as such, Lancaster and Morecambe Athletics Club cannot be responsible for other people taking pictures.
3. It is not always possible to exclude children from photographs, particularly during competitions or fixtures away from the club.
4. If you have serious concerns about a possible child protection issue relating to the recording of images then call the police, this action should only be taken where you believe that someone may be acting unlawfully or putting a child at risk.

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