

St Edmundsbury Life Saving Club



Photography Policy

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Policy Statement

The RLSS UK is keen to promote positive images of young people participating in Lifesaving and is not banning the use of photographic or videoing equipment. However, there is evidence that some people have used sporting events as an opportunity to take inappropriate photographs or film footage of young people.

The RLSS UK states that all clubs must adhere to their guidelines and so these have been adopted by SELSC and are attached in Appendix 2. Our policy is that no photography should be undertaken without prior authorisation and the use of any images will be restricted according to the guidelines.

Principles

Use of Images of Young People

The use of images of young people, for example on the club's website, in the media or in club publications:

- a. Parental permission will be sought to use the young person's image. This ensures that they are aware of the way the image is to be used to represent lifesaving. Parents/Guardians will be asked to sign the consent form included in the annual club Membership Application form. If permission is denied then the young person's image will not be used;
- b. For young people over the age of 12, the young person's permission will also be sought to use his/her image. This ensures that he/she is aware of the way the image is to be used to represent lifesaving. Young people will be asked to sign the consent form included in the annual club Membership Application form. If permission is denied then the young person's image will not be used;
- c. If the young person is named, his/her photograph will not be used unless alongside group images where they would only be identifiable by those who know them;
- d. If a photograph is used, the young person will not be named nor will personal information be given that would enable them to be identified;
- e. Images of young people in appropriate dress and engaged in appropriate activities only will be used, to reduce the risk of inappropriate use, and to provide positive images of the young people;
- f. Images will only be taken by authorised persons. For the purposes of this policy, all SELSC trainers and committee members are automatically authorised. Other persons wishing to take photographs will be authorised so long as they seek permission and register their intention, see below;
- g. Inappropriate use of images of young people should be reported. If you are concerned, report your concerns to a Club Official or the Club Welfare Officer.

Use of Photographic Equipment

The RLSS UK does not want to prevent parents, carers or other legitimate spectators from taking photographs. However, certain individuals visit sporting events to take inappropriate photographs or video footage of children/young people. The club will be vigilant about this possibility, but will also require those who wish to take such photographs or video footage to seek permission and register their intention with the club.

At any event persons (parents/carers, members themselves and any other spectators) wishing to be authorised to take photographs or video footage should:

- a. At club nights, seek Trainer permission and then enter their details on the Photography register.
- b. At SELSC competitions, enter their details on the relevant Event Photography register.

- c. At Club Camp, enter their details on the relevant Event Photography register.

In entering their details on the registers (see Appendix 1) all persons are confirming their understanding of the club and the RLSS UK's expectations for the use of any images (as outlined in Use of Images of Young People), and undertake not to use the images in any way that might be deemed to be inappropriate.

Review of Policy

This policy will be subject to review in line with RLSS UK guidance.

Appendix 1

St Edmundsbury Life Saving Club Photography Registers

In line with the recommendation in the RLSS UK Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy, the club and/or the event organisers, request that any person wishing to engage in any video, zoom or close range photography should enter their details in the following registers before carrying out any such photography. The club and/or the event organisers reserve the right to decline entry to any person who they feel may not abide by the organiser's conditions, in particular those relating to publication of images:

- a. If the young person is named, his/her photograph will not be used unless alongside group images where they would only be identifiable by those who know them;
- b. If a photograph is used, the young person will not be named nor will personal information be given that would enable them to be identified;
- c. Images of young people in appropriate dress and engaged in appropriate activities only will be used, to reduce the risk of inappropriate use, and to provide positive images of the young people;

Inappropriate or intrusive photography and inappropriate use of images of young people should be reported. If you are concerned, report your concerns to a Club Official or the Club Welfare Officer.

Appendix 2

RLSS UK Guidelines for the use of photography and video images (Appendix D of the Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy)

Definition

Photographic Images and Video Images includes the use of cameras, digital cameras, video recorders, mobile phones and PDAs.

Introduction

The Royal Life Saving Society UK is committed to ensuring that all young people who participate in Lifesaving have a safe and positive experience. The Royal Life Saving Society UK is committed to developing and implementing policies and procedures which ensure that everyone understands and accepts their responsibility in relation to their duty of care for young people. Essential to this commitment, is to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to protect young people and vulnerable adults from the inappropriate use of their images in resource and media publications, on the internet, and elsewhere.

Photographs and video can be used as a means of identifying children and young people when they are accompanied with personal information, for example, - this is 'X' who is a member of Townsville Lifesaving Club who likes Take That and supports Manchester United. This information can make a child vulnerable to an individual who may wish to start to "groom" that child for abuse.

Secondly, the content of the photo or video can be used or adapted for inappropriate use. While this is rare in Lifesaving, there is evidence of adapted material finding its way onto child pornography sites. Lifesaving Clubs, Branches and Regions therefore need to develop a policy in relation to the use of images of children/young people on their web sites and in other publications. When assessing the potential risks in the use of images of players, the most important factor is the potential of inappropriate use of images of children.

If your Club, Branch and Region are aware of the potential risks, and take appropriate steps, the potential for misuse of images can be reduced.

Key Concerns

There have been concerns about the risks posed directly and indirectly to children and young people through the use of photographs on Lifesaving web sites and other publications. By adopting the points highlighted in these guidelines, you will be putting into place the best possible practice to protect children/young people wherever and whenever photographs and recorded images are taken and stored. These guidelines focus on the following key areas:

- The publishing of photographic and/or recorded images of children/young people.
- The use of photographic filming equipment at Lifesaving events.

- The use of video equipment as a coaching aid.

And adopt the following key principles:

- The interests and welfare of children taking part in Lifesaving are paramount.
- Parents/carers and children have a right to decide whether children's images are to be taken, and how those images may be used.
- Parents/carers and children must provide written consent for children's images to be taken and used.
- Images should convey the best principles and aspects of Lifesaving, such as fairness and fun.
- Care should be taken to ensure that images are not sexual or exploitative in nature, nor open to obvious misinterpretation and misuse.
- Images should only be taken by authorised persons, as agreed in the protocol for a particular event.
- All images of children should be securely stored.
- In the case of images used on web-sites, particular care must be taken to ensure that no identifying details facilitate contact with a child by a potential abuser.

Publishing Images

Easy Rules to Remember:

- Ask for written permission from the athlete and parent/carers to take and use their image. This ensures that they are aware of the way the image is intended to be used to represent the sport. The Consent Form is one way of achieving this (see Template 6, Photography and video consent form) 48
- If the athlete is named, avoid using their photograph;
- If a photograph is used, avoid naming the athlete and NEVER publish personal details (email addresses, telephone numbers, addresses etc.) of a child/young person;
- Only use images of players in suitable dress to reduce the risk of inappropriate use;
- Try to focus on the activity rather than a particular child and where possible use photographs that represent the broad range of children/young people taking part in Lifesaving. This might include:
 - Boys and girls
 - Ethnic minority communities
 - Children/young people with disabilities
 - Girls with hair covered e.g. swim cap or a scarf

Ensure that images reflect positive aspects of children's involvement in Lifesaving.

Use of Photographic Filming Equipment at Lifesaving Events

The Royal Life Saving Society UK does not want to prevent parents, carers or other

spectators being able to take legitimate photographs or video footage of competitors. However, there is evidence that certain individuals will visit sporting events to take inappropriate photographs or video footage of children/young people.

All Clubs, Branches and Regions should be vigilant about this possibility. Any concerns during an event should be reported to the Club, Branch, Event or RLSS UK lead Child Welfare Officer. The Royal Life Saving Society UK strongly recommends registration for those wishing to take photographs or video footage of children/young people:

An application should be made to the organising body who will issue an identification pass giving an individual the authority to take photographs or video footage of children/young people at a particular nominated event. Upon request, the Royal Life Saving Society UK will issue the appropriate pass to the individual who has applied. You should:

- Inform athletes and carers that a photographer will be in attendance at an event and ensure they consent to both the taking and publication of films or photographs.
- Introduce a system to ensure that press photographers are made aware of those children/young people without consent for images to be taken.
- Provide a clear brief about what is considered appropriate in terms of content and behaviour.
- Issue the photographer with identification which must be worn at all times.
- Do not allow unsupervised access to athletes or one to one photo sessions at events.
- Do not approve/allow photo sessions outside the events or at an athlete's home.

If parents/carers or other spectators are intending to photograph or video at an event they should also be made aware of your expectations:

- Parents/carers and spectators should be asked to register at an event if they wish to use photographic equipment including mobile phones with photographic technology.

The recommended wording for any announcement is:

'In line with the recommendation in the RLSS UK Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy and Procedures, 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 before carrying out any such photography. The event organisers reserve the right to decline entry to any person unable to meet or abide by the organiser's conditions.'

If you are asking the press or a professional photographer to a competition or event,

it is important to ensure they are clear about expectations of them in relation to child protection and the welfare of young people.

- Athletes and spectators should be informed that if they have concerns they can report these to the organiser.
- Concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography should be reported to the event organiser or official, and recorded in the same manner as any other child protection concern.

Videoing as a coaching aid

Video can be a valuable coaching aid for club, branch, regional and national coaches. When using video ensure that:

- Children and their parents/carers have given written consent.
- Athletes and their parents are aware that this is part of the coaching programme and clear of the purpose of filming as a coaching aid.
- The films are then stored safely.

Related Documents

Template 6 - Photography and video consent form