

# **ASA Photography Guidance** (As stated by ASA 'Wavepower 2016 – 2019')

This guidance applies to all images and videos taken on any type of camera or recording device (including mobile phones). It applies to all training sessions, activities and events run by an ASA affiliated organisation and is adopted by ISC. It should be acknowledged that although the majority of images taken are appropriate and in good faith, images can be misused and children can be put at risk if common sense procedures are not observed.

## **Aims**

The ASA Photography Guidance aims to help ISC avoid three potential sources of child abuse:

- The use, adaptation, sharing or copying of images for child abuse purposes, either electronically or in print.
- The possible identification of a child when an image is accompanied by significant personal information, which can lead to the child being 'groomed'.
- The identification and locating of children where there are safeguarding concerns; such cases would include, for example, children who could be compromised by an image because:
  - They have been removed from their family for their own safety.
  - There are restrictions on their contact with one parent following a parental separation. They are a witness in criminal proceedings.

## **Recommended best practice**

- The publishing of a photograph of a member under 18, either on a notice board or in a published article or video recording (including video streaming) of a competition ('Publication') should only be done with parental consent and in line with ASA guidelines.
- A parent or guardian has a right to refuse to have their child photographed. The exercise of this right of refusal should not be used as grounds for refusing entry into a competition. Therefore, any photo that may go to press or on a notice board, be it through a member of the organisation or an official photographer, should receive parental consent before being published or displayed, preferably in writing.
- In the case of any event or competition where the host organisation has an official photographer, all parents of members who are attending should be made aware of this in the event details. If photos are to be published anywhere, each individual parent should be given the opportunity to withhold their consent. Their right to do so should be specifically drawn to their attention. The ASA guidelines state that all photographs for publication must observe generally accepted standards of decency, particularly:
  - Action shots should be a celebration of the sporting activity and not a sexualised image in a sporting context.
  - Action shots should not be taken or retained where the photograph reveals a torn or displaced swimming costume.
  - Poolside shots of children should be above the waist only in a swimming costume, though full length tracksuit shots are approved.
  - Photographs should not be taken from behind the starting blocks or that show young participants climbing out of the pool.

Published photographs may identify the individual by name and organisation but should not state the member's place of residence or school attended. The ASA does not wish to stop parents photographing their child if they wish, but all organisations must ensure they do all they can to safeguard each child's wellbeing.

## **The official photographer**

The role of the official photographer is to take appropriate photos that celebrate and promote aquatics. When taking any image, they should be asked to:

- Focus on the activity rather than the individual child.
- Include groups of children rather than individuals, if possible.
- Ensure all those featured are appropriately dressed.
- Represent the broad range of youngsters participating in swimming – boys and girls, children with disabilities, members of minority ethnic communities, etc.
- ISC will screen applicants for their suitability (just as they would check any other member of staff or volunteer working with children) and then provide training and information on the ISC's child safeguarding policies and procedures.



- The official photographer (whether a professional photographer or a member of staff) should receive clear instructions, preferably in writing, from ISC at an early stage.
- ISC should provide them with a copy of this guidance and a clear brief about what is appropriate in terms of content.
- Images should not be allowed to be taken outside the activity being covered.
- ISC should determine who will hold the images recorded and what is to be done with them after they have served their purpose.

### **Guidance on filming children during training sessions**

The filming of children during training sessions is not recommended. The requirement for any filming must be justified by ISC, (e.g. to assist in stroke development). Assuming filming is justified, written consent is required from the parents of each child who should then be invited to attend the filming and to subsequently view the video. The individual who is responsible for filming should exercise caution when recording and ensure the content of the footage is appropriate, following the advice outlined above. Filming should cease and/ or the footage destroyed should any concerns be raised or if consent is withdrawn. Once the footage has served its purpose, it should always be destroyed, unless the need to keep it can be justified.

### **Mobile phones**

Mobile phones should be registered as a camera if it has that facility in order to adhere to our policy on cameras. ISC would like members to be aware that while the ASA does not support the banning of phones, as children need them to keep in touch with parents, particularly in emergencies, the ASA do support the requirement that phones should emit a 'noticeable sound' if the camera facility is used. ISC reminds members that any photos taken should fall within ASA guidelines and that if mobile phones are taken into changing rooms, the facility to take photos must not be used.

