



ELMHURST SWIM TEAM PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY

The Board of Directors has adopted this policy concerning photography at team activities of all types in order to make it clear to parents and children alike that photographs in sport are common, frequently taken by parents and swimmers we may not know personally, and potentially disruptive to a person's sense of security for themselves and their children. With this in mind, photography during swim meets can be distracting, unfair to competitors, disruptive and even dangerous. The following policy enhances the model procedure provided by USA Swimming as an alternative. The photography policy is not required by the Safe Sport Program, but particular aspects of Safe Sport and USA Swimming Rules (adopted 2015, and as amended) will continue to require implementation of rules and policies relating to photography.

PURPOSE

There has been much talk about whether it is safe to have images taken of children participating in sports. While the great majority of images will be appropriate and taken in good faith, it is a fact that images can be misused and children can be put at risk if common-sense procedures are not observed. Additionally, photography can interfere with the proper running of practices and meets as well as other team events.

CONSENT AND PARENTAL CONSENT GIVEN UPON REGISTRATION/ OPT-OUT FORM FILING

1. Elmhurst Swim Team engages in the photographing and video recording of children.
2. Upon registration with Elmhurst Swim Team, the swimmers over 18 and the parents of swimmers under the age of 18 consent to the publishing of photographs of the swimmer over 18 or the child swimmers under 18 as the case may be.
3. A swimmer over 18 may refuse to have his or her photographs published and a parent or guardian of someone over 18 with a disability or someone under 18 has a right to refuse to have photographs of his/her children published. The exercise of this right of refusal cannot be used as grounds for refusing acceptance into the team or and team event or entry into any swimming competition.
4. The form for refusing consent to publish appears at the end of this policy.
5. Any parent who refuses consent to publish must indicate on the form that they have discussed this refusal with their swimmer, advised the swimmer to avoid photographs taken by anyone and reviewed the form with the swimmer who shall also sign an acknowledgment of his or her understanding. Elmhurst Swim Team operates in an open environment, so the parent and swimmer must be equally aware of the refusal because memories of other swimmers can be lost due to the lack of consent and this can cause unnecessary irritation or alienation among peers.



TEAM PHOTOGRAPHERS

Elmhurst Swim Team relies on team photographers and parent volunteers who may photograph or record swimmers at team events. These photographers are the only photographers allowed on deck during meets. Team photographers will have appropriate indicia of their position and responsibility, and they are trained in USA Swimming rules and this policy. Please do not enter the pool deck area and take photographs without appropriate credentialing. Volunteers on the pool deck must not use their cameras or other recording devices from any area to the side of or behind the starting end of the pool.

Elmhurst Swim Team attends and hosts many meets. There is no feasible manner by which Elmhurst Swim Team can prevent photography. Additionally, the Club wishes to foster an opportunity in parents, friends, coaches and volunteers to enjoy the program and responsibly engage in preserving these memories.

COACHES AND OFFICIALS AS PHOTOGRAPHERS

Coaches and officials will engage in periodic recording that will include swimmers. Coaches may use video (dry and underwater, and from any location in or around the pools) during instruction in order to assist in swim instruction during practices or at any meet. Officials may use recording devices during training, though this occurs much less often. Recordings in this instructional category will not be shared outside of EST or, in the case of officials, Illinois Swimming, Inc.

RULES CONCERNING ALL PHOTOGRAPHS

All photographs must observe generally accepted standards of decency in particular:

- Action shots should be a celebration of the sporting activity and not a sexualized image in a sporting context.
- Action shots should not be taken or retained where the photograph reveals a torn or displaced swim suit.
- Photographs should not be taken from behind swimming blocks or at the start end for 25 SCY or 50 LCM events (referred to as “blocks” as well).
- Photographs at the start of a race should only be taken from beyond the flags towards the blocks.
- Photographs should not exhibit a child climbing into or out of the swimming pool.
- Photographs should not be taken in locker-rooms or bathrooms.
- No flash photography is permitted at practice or meets unless with the consent of the head coach when there is no competition.



- Spectators taking photographs or videos may not interfere with the view of this team event by other spectators, nor may they take additional space in seats that have been purchased. In addition, all photographs and videos taken by spectators at the event are for personal use only. The use of photographs or videos for commercial or scouting purposes is strictly prohibited. Elmhurst Swim Team reserves the right to remove offenders from the facility and invoke additional penalties.
- Anyone engaged in photography will respect, without appeal, the direction of coaches, officials and deck marshals who shall have the authority to enforce these rules.
Immediate removal at the direction of the Meet Referee during competition or at the direction of the head coach shall not be appealable, but a review will be undertaken of the circumstances during the next available Board meeting.

These rules should be periodically printed in all meet programs and periodically announced at meets.

Elmhurst Swim Team will implement this policy at team events and activities. However, it cannot control the behavior of other teams' members and swimmers at events not sponsored by Elmhurst Swim Team or at events run by others at the request of Elmhurst Swim Team.

Every member, parent, coach, volunteer, officer and parent for swimmers under 18 acting for their swimmer(s) waives and relinquishes Elmhurst Swim Team from the conduct of any team member, parent, coach, volunteer, officer and swimmer in violation of this policy, provided that this waiver and release does not apply to parents who have refused consent.



Refusal of Publication Consent Form

Elmhurst Swim Team may wish to take and publish photographs or videos (individual and in groups) of swimmers over 18 and under the age of 18 that may include you or your child during their membership in the Club. All photos should be taken and published in line with club policy. The Club requires swimmers and parents of swimmers to opt out and specifically refuse consent, in written form, to publish photographs or videos taken of their swimmer(s). This refusal does not extend to instructional photography or recording. Additionally, anyone refusing consent through this form represents that they have discussed this refusal with their swimmer. The refusal of consent acknowledges the practical environment in which swim meets and practices occur and a refusal of consent does not require the Club to engage in policing the conduct of parents or other swimmers or individuals who are members of the Club or members of other teams. Refusal of consent does not mean that no photos will be taken of the swimmer(s) that are the subject of the consent, but it does mean that EST will not publish the photos taken. Lastly, if my child appears in them, I understand that this refusal of consent does not apply to the team photo or photos of my child with relay teams or groups of more than two swimmers.

Parents must provide this form to EST as described below in order to exercise a refusal of consent to the publication of photographs of their children.

I, _____, directly for myself or as the parent/caregiver of _____, I refuse to allow publishing photographs of myself or of the above-noted swimmer except as set forth in the paragraph above..

PARENT/SWIMMER OVER 18

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

I, _____, have discussed this refusal of consent with my parent(s) and will not intentionally appear in photos with others while at meets, practices or on deck. I also will not appear in the team photo or in photos with two or more other swimmers.

SWIMMER UNDER 18

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Please return this form to the Registrar (registrar@swimest.org) at the time of registration or to the team president (president@swimest.org) at all other times.