**GCSTO’s PHOTOGRAPHY POLICIES**

*The following is a model procedure provided to assist USA Swimming member clubs who wish to develop a club photography policy. A club photography policy is not required by the Safe Sport Program, but clubs who wish to implement one may use the following as a resource.*

# 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 are appropriate and are 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.

# POLICIES & PROCEDURES

1. The publishing of a photograph of swimmer under 18 either on a notice board or in a published article or video recording (including video streaming) of swimming competitions (“publication”) should only be done with parents’ consent per their agreement to register as a team member.
2. ***Note that a parent or guardian has a right of refuse to have their child(ren) photographed.*** To do so they are to contact GCSTO head coach & owner to request partial or complete exemption from this policy if they wish their athlete(s) not have pictures, images or video recordings made public or even for internal team use.
3. Note that even if a parent agrees to allowing the team use of pictures, images or video recordings of their athletes they may request that these pictures, images or video recordings of their athlete be removed from the team’s website and barred from further use at any point in time for whatever reason it is that they have for making this request.
4. GCSTO athlete members of any age also have the right to choose not to have pictures, images or video recordings of themselves made public or even for internal team use.

1. The exercise of this right of refusal cannot be used as grounds for refusing entry into a swimming competition. Therefore, any photo that may go to press or on a notice board, be it through a member of the club or official photographer, should receive parental consent before publishing/displaying the photo, preferably in writing.

In the case of open meets and other competitions where the host club has an official photographer present, all parents attending will be made aware of this in the meet information packet. If photos are to be published anywhere, individual parents are given the opportunity to withhold their consent by contacting the GCSTO coach in charge of that meet session so that they may then contact meet management. If it is a GCSTO hosted meet or event, the parent, guardian or athlete should simply contact one of the meet director’s to exercise this request.

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 swimsuit.
* Photographs should not be taken from behind swimming blocks at the start of a race or exhibit a child climbing out of the swimming pool.
* Photographs should not be taken in locker‐rooms or bathrooms.