



MSSC PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY

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.

POLICY:

- The publishing of a photograph of swimmer under 18 either on a notice board, website or in a published article or video recording (including video streaming) of swimming competitions (“publication”) should only be done with parents’ consent **per the waiver agreed to at registration.**
- A parent or guardian has a right of refuse to have children photographed.
 1. Please opt out at registration by declining to agree to and sign the photography policy.
 2. The exercise of this right of refusal cannot be used as grounds for refusing entry into a swimming competition.
 3. 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.
 4. Similarly, photos taken by team parents of their children in practice or at competition should not include other children unless permission has been obtained from that child’s parent or legal guardian.
- **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.
- 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 activity in the meet announcement and will be given the opportunity to withhold their consent.