

FAST Photography Policy

(Updated 1 March 2021)

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 sharing images widely without consent may betray the confidence or identity of a child, which could present a risk of harm if common sense procedures are not observed.

Photos and/or videos may be taken of swimmers, both above and under the water, for promotional and/or instructional use. FAST may take photos and/or videos for use on notice boards, in membership newsletters, on social media, on the team's website, and in marketing materials. FAST may also take videos to better instruct swimmers on stroke technique and to illustrate both positive and negative aspects of a swimmer's stroke or racing skills.

Parents or guardians of swimmers under the age of 18 who wish to take images are requested to focus on their own children as much as reasonably possible and to avoid including other children in their images, particularly if those images are being shared with family and friends or through social media platforms. While it is acknowledged that parents or guardians wish to celebrate the achievements of their own children, it should be recognized and respected that other parents or guardians may not wish for their child's image to be taken and shared in this way.

All images must observe generally accepted standards of decency. 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 image reveals a torn or displaced swimsuit. Images should not be taken from behind the swimming blocks at the start of a race or exhibit a child climbing out of the swimming pool. Images should not be taken in locker rooms or bathrooms.

USA Swimming rules do not allow for any photography behind the starting area during the sequencing of the start. This includes digital and/or video cameras, cell phones, or any other recording devices. This begins with the whistle commands for the race and ends once the swimmers are in the water. Two-piece swimsuits are prohibited at any swim meet.

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras, and video cameras increase the risk for different forms of misconduct in locker rooms and other changing areas. The USA Swimming Athlete Protection Policies prohibit the use of such devices in the locker room and other changing areas.

A parent or guardian has the right to refuse to have their child photographed. The exercise of this right of refusal cannot be used as grounds for refusing entry into a swimming competition. If images are to be published anywhere, the individual parent or guardian should be given the opportunity to withhold their consent. The right to do so should be specifically drawn to their attention. This policy is considered notification that a parent or guardian has the right to refuse consent at any time. A suggested form allowing parents or guardians to indicate refusal of consent is available upon request. Any image that may go to the press (newspaper or television), be it through a member of FAST or an official photographer, should receive parental or guardian consent before publishing the image, preferably in writing.

FAST events will be photographed and may be live streamed. In such instances where the event is being live streamed, it will not be possible to provide the option to refuse consent to filming.

FAST is committed to ensuring that all children who participate in FAST activities can take part in an enjoyable, safe environment and be safeguarded from harm. If there are any concerns, please speak with a FAST coach or a member of the Board of Directors.

***** THIS POLICY IS AGREED TO ELECTRONICALLY DURING REGISTRATION *****