

## THE RECORDING IMAGES OF CHILDREN POLICY

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In general, the RFL believes that recording images of children's involvement in Rugby League, whether as photographs or video, can be beneficial and would recommend that parents/guardians agree to the images of their child being recorded within the terms of this policy. To ensure that the potential for any misuse of images is minimised, however, this policy must be followed.

### CONCERNS ABOUT RECORDING IMAGES

To understand the reasons for the policy relating to the recording of images, it is important to understand how they can be misused. The key concerns regarding the use of images of children are:

- People taking inappropriate photographs or recording images of children.
- The possible identification of children when a photograph or video is accompanied by inappropriate information, in particular this can be used to give credence to a stranger pretending that they know a child with a view to abduction or grooming or **may allow an estranged parent to track down children in contravention of a court order.**
- The inappropriate use, adaptation or copying of images for use on websites showing child abuse images.

### BENEFITS OF RECORDING IMAGES

#### Match Videos

The RFL believes that the recording of matches has many benefits for children in particular:

- Providing family mementoes and reminding the child of achievements/fun that they had playing the sport.
- Footage can be an invaluable coaching and educational aid if used positively and is used as such extensively in the professional game.
- Recorded footage can provide key evidence in cases of alleged breaches of the Safeguarding Policy and/or the RESPECT code of conduct or respect of other disciplinary and compliance matters.

#### Team/Player Photographs

The RFL believes that photographs of teams and players provide many benefits for children and the sport in particular:

- Promoting positive images of children playing Rugby League, which can increase participation.
- Recording significant events both for Clubs and for individual children.
- Produce a record and sense of history for a Club.
- Providing mementoes for families.

For the recording of these images to be used to deliver these benefits, the concerns must be understood and acted upon by following the guidelines set out below.

## **RECORDING IMAGES GUIDELINES**

- Ensure Parents/Guardians have given consent for the taking and publication of photographic images and have signed and returned the Player Profile form.
- Ensure all children are appropriately dressed for the activity taking place, which in the vast majority of cases will mean full playing kit.
- Any photographs or recordings should focus on the activity rather than a particular child.
- Personal details which may make a child vulnerable, such as their address, name or contact details should never be revealed.
- If a player is named, avoid using their photograph – if a photograph is used, avoid naming the player.
- If you use a team photograph, use only the first names of players, and do not give the name of the child in the order in which they appear in the photograph.
- Any concerns about inappropriate or intrusive photography should be reported to the RFL Safeguarding team.
- The use of mobile phones or other cameras is strictly forbidden in the dressing room.

## **GUIDELINES TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE MEDIA OR OTHERS WHEN TAKING PHOTOS AT EVENTS**

- Anybody who wants to take photographs or otherwise record images must have a valid reason for doing so, i.e. has a child taking part or is a Club official photographer or media and must have all relevant consents and permissions.
- The photographer/camera person should make themselves known to the organiser or person in charge before taking any images to ensure that all children can be photographed.
- Clubs or organisers must never allow photographers to have unsupervised access to players or to have one-to-one photo sessions at events.

## **HOW TO DEAL WITH SOMEONE WHO IS RECORDING IMAGES & HAS NOT SOUGHT PERMISSION**

There will be occasions from time to time when someone you do not recognise will be taking photographs or recording images at a Rugby League event. If this situation arises, you should have the confidence and courage to challenge the individual(s). You should:

- Approach the individual & check who they are.
- If an individual is observed taking photographic images in a way that raises concerns or is 'suspicious' and does not desist when challenged, the Police should be informed.