

## **Spectator Photography**

Most spectators – especially competitors' family and friends – will want to take photos or videos at sports events.

Organisations responsible for sports and activity events must have a photography policy and procedures in place to safeguard children. As part of their planning process, they'll need to factor in any additional facility or venue policies, as well as determine what stance to take on **when photography by the public is allowed**. Although parental consent is not required for photography by the public, event organisers should make the photography policy clear to all participants and parents ahead of the event.

In general, members of the public are entitled to take photos in public areas, whether or not this includes taking images of children involved in sports events or activities.

Regardless of any policies or procedures governing photography by those involved in or watching sports events, organisers have no right to impose these rules on other members of the public accessing or using the same public spaces.

However, if there are any indications or concerns that an individual may be taking images of children or young people that are inappropriate or illegal, this should immediately be reported to the organisers, who have responsibility for contacting the police.

This could include images of children taken in changing areas or toilets or images taken in ways or from angles that suggest inappropriate or abusive intent, for instance, when a camera or other device is operated at ground level while pointing up girls' skirts (upskirting).

SLSA Wales have in place and actively promote clear ways for anyone to report concerns they have about photography or any other aspect of children's wellbeing by displaying posters informing people how to report their concerns and providing hi visibility vests for event safeguarding personnel, displaying the title SLSA Wales Event Safeguarding

A child's personal information (full name, address) alongside their image can make them identifiable and therefore vulnerable to individuals looking to locate, contact or **'groom' children for abuse**.

Even if personal details are kept confidential, other details identifying the sports organisation, school or club, or their favourite sportsperson or team, can also be used to groom the child.

There's increased risk of identification of, and contact with, a child:

by someone in circumstances where there are legal restrictions – such as if the child is in local-authority care or placed with an adoptive family where it's potentially dangerous to reveal the child's whereabouts to an estranged parent due to previous concerns about domestic violence

For any parent who does not consent to their child/ children being included in photographic or recorded images wrist bands are provided at events where photography and recorded images are taken.

Your Club Safeguarding Officer will have a record of competitors who should not be included in photography or recorded images and it is their responsibility to inform the Lead Safeguarding Officer or event organiser so a wristband can be provided.

Club Safeguarding Officers as part of their role should also send this information to their club members and parents to raise awareness.

There is no longer a need to register your equipment unless there are venue policies to adhere to.

All parents and performers should be made aware when coaches use video equipment as a coaching aid.

