



PHOTOGRAPHY & MOBILE POLICY

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC AND MOBILE EQUIPMENT

In relation to the use of images of athletes on their websites and other publications, as there have been concerns about the risks posed directly and indirectly to children and young people. Adults and sports leaders need to work together to prevent those wishing to cause such harm to young people. Remember having photographic and filming guidelines is not about preventing parents from taking pictures, it is to ensure that only those who have a right to take photographs do so. Anyone concerned about photography taking place at events or training sessions can contact the children's officer/ designated person and ask them to deal with the matter.

The purpose is to reduce the risk of inappropriate, unsolicited attention from people within and outside the sport. Group photographs where the club is identified rather than individuals are good for publicity without creating a risk to those in the photographs. Use the following as a guide:-

- If the athlete is named, avoid using their photograph.
- If a photograph is used, avoid naming the athlete.
- Ask for the athlete's permission to use their image to ensure that they are aware of the way the image is to be used to represent the sport.
- Ask for parental permission to use the athlete's image to ensure that parents are aware of the way the image is to be used to represent the sport. A permission form could be used or make an announcement at the start of an event.
- To reduce the risk of inappropriate use, only use images of athletes in suitable dress. The content of the photograph should focus on the activity not on a particular child
- Talk to children's officer/designated person if you are worried about use of images

Amateur photographers/film/video operators wishing to record an event or practice session should seek accreditation with the children's officer, event organiser or leader of session. Permission forms should be available on site.

To ensure spectators and participants are informed of the policy, the club/event/organisation should display the following information prior to the start of an event and where possible make an announcement over a tannoy.

"In line with the recommendation in the _____ (name of club / association's) Code of Conduct, the promoters of this event request that any person wishing to engage in any video, zoom or close range photography should register their details with the organisers. It is not advisable that children are photographed or filmed without their permission and/or the permission of their parent/guardian".

Working in Partnership to protect young people

Photographs, when used with personal information, can be used as a means of identifying children. This practice can make a child vulnerable to an individual who may wish to "groom" that child for abuse. Furthermore the content of the photo can be used or adapted for inappropriate use. There is evidence of this adapted material finding its way onto child pornography sites. Adults and sports leaders need to work together to prevent those wishing to cause such harm to young people.

In all circumstances if unsure or uncomfortable, contact the children's officer or designated person.

Mayo Bulls Ice and Inline Hockey Club



Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are often given to children for security, enabling parents to keep in touch and make sure they are safe. Young people value their phones highly as it offers them a sense of independence. In addition mobile phones allow quick and easy contact, which can make a safe and efficient way to carry out club business. However such technology has also allowed an increase in direct personal contact with young people, in some cases used to cross personal boundaries and cause harm to young people. Within clubs there is a need to encourage responsible and secure use of mobile phones by adults and young people.

As a young person remember

- If you receive an offensive photo, email or message, do not reply, save it, make a note of times and dates and tell a parent or children's officer/designated person within the club.
- Be careful about who you give your phone number to and don't respond to unfamiliar numbers
- Change your phone number in cases of bullying or harassment
- Don't use the phone in certain locations; inappropriate use of your camera phone may cause upset or offence to another person, e.g. changing rooms
- Treat you phone as you would any other valuable item so that you guard against theft

As a Leader remember

- Use group texts for communication among athletes and teams and inform parents of this at the start of the season
- It is not appropriate to have constant communication with individual athletes
- Don't use the phone in certain locations; inappropriate use of your camera phone may cause upset or offence to another person, e.g. changing rooms

Mobile Phones Disrupting Sessions

In addition to the safety aspect of younger members with mobile phones, there is also the impact they have on training if a junior member or even senior member is distracted by the device during sessions.

First and foremost, social media is banned during sessions as it is too distracting, this includes communication with friends, selfies, Tik Tok, Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram etc. This is totally disrespectful of the coaches and volunteers who give up their time to ensure young people enjoy and get the most from training sessions and games, not to mention their team mates.

Action will be taken as follows:

- If seen on the device it will be at first assessed if it is impacting training
- A quick glance to see for missed call from parent/guardian on a water break or rest is not deemed to impact on training
- If seen on the phone talking/texting/typing, they will be asked what they are doing, if deemed by the coach/volunteer it is for a genuine reason, then we will accept this, but will confirm after the session with the parent/guardian if it was necessary
- Phones are not allowed to be taken to the toilet, juniors must ask when leaving the training area and the coach/volunteer will make sure they do not take their phone with them

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If seen using the phone in a manner that unnecessarily disrupts training, then action will be taken as follows:

During breaks

- Asked to put phone away immediately
- If done then player returns to training
- If not done immediately but in a short amount of time, they are asked to apologise to coaches, volunteers and their team mates
- If not done in a reasonable time or refuses to apologize, player may not return to that session, parent/guardian contacted

Left surface without permission or telling anybody (Zero Tolerance)

- Asked to not take part in training
- Parent/guardian contacted
- A written apology required before returning to training
- Participant will not be expected to play next game

We take too many precautions and spend a lot of time to make a safe environment for juniors to practice and play within, leaving without telling anyone to use their phone is by far the most disrespectful and dangerous thing a junior can do and cannot be tolerated as it has and does impact training too much. One player cannot affect the group negatively like this.

We don't want to have a 'no phones allowed' situation as they can have their place for promotional and safety benefits as well as peace of mind for parents. But there is a time and a place for them, and it is simply the juniors actions that will determine our attitude towards them at training, so if phones are to be accepted on them in training sessions, they need to use them responsibly during sessions.