



### **Walton Athletic Club Photography Policy**

During events or training sessions coaches, volunteers officials and members of the public will often want to take photographs or record video footage in the environs of the track. WAC is committed to providing a safe environment for children/young people under the age of 18 to participate in athletics. Essential to this commitment, is to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to protect children/young people from the inappropriate use of photographic images and to ensure that the rights of our athletes are respected and to provide an environment free of harassment.

Whilst the great majority of images of children participating in sport are appropriate and are taken in good faith, it is a fact that images can be misused and children put at risk if common sense procedures are not observed.

This policy is applicable to all forms of visual media, including film, print, DVD and websites.

#### **WAC guidelines on photography and consent**

Consent to taking photographs and videos is sought each year as part of the membership application process. A parent or guardian has the right to refuse to have children photographed. This consent may be withdrawn at any time and reasonable steps shall be taken to respect this.

Whilst taking photographs no athlete should suffer undue disruption or behaviour that could be construed as harassment. This may vary according to the circumstances or sensitivities of the individual. Officials are encouraged to intervene if such a situation arises and make polite but firm requests on behalf of the athlete.

No photographs or filming of any sort is allowed in any changing area or other areas where athletes will have an expectation of privacy.

#### **Guidelines on published Images**

Using the annual membership form, we will ask for the permission of young athletes and their carers to take and use their image. If an athlete does not consent, we will avoid using their photograph.

WAC shall ensure that all published photographs meet generally accepted standards of decency in particular:

- Action shots should be a celebration of the sporting activity and not a sexualised image in a sporting context.
- We will only authorise the use of images of athletes in suitable dress (Tracksuit, on court clothing i.e. T-shirt/shorts/skirt, off track clothing) and will ensure that all those featured are not placed in any embarrassing position
- If a photograph is used, the athlete may be named in a group photograph, but we will NEVER publish personal details (email addresses, telephone numbers, addresses etc) of a child/young person
- WAC will ensure that any photographic images taken and used will be stored safely and keep photographs for a limited time and delete them upon request within a reasonable period.
- Spectators should not take images of children other than their own, except as part of a group or activity shot.

#### **Policy on videoing children during club sessions**

Coaches may video athletes during training sessions to assist in the development of an athletic technique. The consent of parents of children or vulnerable athletes is sought as part of the annual membership process. Where possible the athlete's own device will be used for videoing purposes and copies will not be made. If that is not possible the coach will use a club owned device and delete the images following use. The athlete and parents are invited to request to view video recordings. All videos should be deleted once they have served their purpose.

#### **Use of Photographic Filming Equipment at Athletic Events**

WAC may invite professional or press photographers to events and club sessions and will ensure that the photographer always carries an official pass for easy identification. WAC will:

- Not allow photographers unsupervised access to athletes or one-to-one photo sessions at events
- Act on the concerns of any athletes and/or parents regarding the inappropriate use of photographic equipment

**Approved 18 December 2019**