



## Aghaderg GAC & Ballyvarley HC



### **POLICY ON PHOTOGRAPHS AND IMAGES OF CHILDREN**

There are concerns about the risks posed directly and indirectly to children and young people through the use of photographs on sports websites and other publications. Photographs can be used as a means of identifying children when they are accompanied with personal information – this is X who lives at y, is a member of the z gymnastics club and who likes a certain music group. This information can make a child vulnerable to an individual who may wish to start to “groom” that child for abuse. Secondly 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.

To increase the awareness of the potential risks and reduce the potential for misuse of images Aghaderg GAC & Ballyvarley HC Club will:

- Consider using models or illustrations if you are promoting an activity.
- Avoid the use of the first name and surname of individuals in a photograph. This reduces the risk of inappropriate, unsolicited attention from people within and outside the sport.

#### **Guidance:**

- If the child is named, avoid using their photograph.
- If a photograph is used, avoid naming the child.
- Ask for the child’s permission to use their image. This ensures that they are aware of the way the image is to be used to represent the sport. A Child’s Permission Form is one way of achieving this.
- Ask for parental permission to use an image of a young person. This ensures that parents are aware of the way the image of their child is representing the sport. A Parental Permission Form is one way of achieving this.
- Only use images of children in suitable dress to reduce the risk of inappropriate use.
- With regard to the actual content it is difficult to specify exactly what is appropriate given the wide diversity of sports. However there are clearly some sports activities swimming, gymnastics and athletics for example when the risk of potential misuse is much greater than for other sports. With these sports the content of the photograph



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should focus on the activity not on a particular child and should avoid full face and body shots. So for example shots of children in a pool would be appropriate or if poolside, waist or shoulder up.

- Create a recognised procedure for reporting the use of inappropriate images to reduce the risks to children. Follow your child protection procedures, ensuring both your sports child protection officer and the Social Services and/or Police are informed.

### **Aghaderg GAC & Ballyvarley HC has:**

- Established the type of images that appropriately represent the sport for the Web and other media.
- Thought about the level of consideration we give to the use of images of children in other publications, for example, the processes involved in choosing appropriate images for the newsletter or magazine. Apply an increased level of consideration to the images of children and young people used in the web site.

### **Guidelines for Use of Photographic Filming Equipment at Sporting Events**

#### **Aghaderg GAC & Ballyvarley HC will:**

- Provide a clear brief about what is considered appropriate in terms of content and behaviour.
- Issue the official photographer with identification which must be worn at all times.
- Inform children and parents that a photographer will be in attendance at an event and ensure they consent to both the taking and publication of films or photographs.
- Not allow unsupervised access to children or one to one photo sessions at events.
- Not approve/allow photo sessions outside the events or at a child's home.
- Ensure that if parents or other spectators are intending to photograph or video at an event they should also be made aware of your expectations.
- Ask spectators to register at an event if they wish to use photographic equipment.
- Inform children and parents that if they have concerns they could report these to the organiser.
- Encourage anyone with concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography to report these to the event organiser or official and recorded in the same manner



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as any other child protection concern.

### PHOTOGRAPHS AND IMAGES OF CHILDREN PARENT/CARER CONSENT FORM

Aghaderg GAC & Ballyvarley HC feel that it is important to recognise the achievements and successes of our youth and of the club as a whole. One of the ways to do this is to publish photographs and details of achievements in our local press. As a club we would like to use pictures of our youth members in the local press and at times, on the club website.

We take the issue of child safety very seriously and this includes the images of the children in our care. Our duty to our young members is paramount and this form of publicity must be carefully monitored to ensure that it is consistent with our Child Protection Policy and the Data Protection Legislation.

For this reason we have put the following guidelines into place:

- We ask parental consent for the club to take and use photographs of their children and for permission to use the press and media to promote the youth programme.
- Photographs and interviews will at all times take place in the presence of a coach.
- We will only use team photographs and action photographs on our website.
- Action and individual photographs will only be used, with individual parental consent, prior to the inclusion on the club website or in the local press.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ PRO



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## Appendix 1 POLICY ON PHOTOGRAPHS AND IMAGES OF CHILDREN

### Parental Consent form for Photographs

I have read the conditions of use and consent to my child/children photograph being used. If there is any change to my decision, I will inform the club.

Name of child/children: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_