



Whitegrove Football Club

Recording Player Images Policy

Version 1.0

Last Reviewed: 01/07/2013

Introduction:

Whitegrove Football Club is committed to providing a safe environment for children/young people under the age of 18. Implicit in this is the commitment to ensure that all publications, resources and media represent participants appropriately and with due respect. The points outlined in this policy are to ensure that we are putting into place the best possible practice to protect children and young people wherever photographs or recorded images are taken and stored.

Key Concerns :

The key concerns contained within this policy regarding the use of images of children/young people relate to:

1. The possible identification of children when a photograph is accompanied by personal information.
2. The inappropriate use, adaptation or copying of images for use on child pornography websites.
3. The taking of inappropriate photographs or recorded images of youngsters.

RECORDING IMAGES OF CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE :

There have been concerns about the risks posed directly and indirectly to children and young people through the use of photographs on sport web sites and other publications.

Firstly, photographs can be used as a means of identifying children when they are accompanied with personal information, for example:

“This is a member of the Anytown Junior Football Club who likes Atomic Kitten”.

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.

GUIDELINES FOR RECORDING IMAGES:

Whitegrove Football Club shall ensure that images of any young person known to be under a court order, are NOT recorded or published.

All children featured in recordings shall be appropriately dressed with outer clothing garments covering their torso from at least the bottom of their neck to their thighs, (i.e. a minimum of vest/shirt and shorts)

The photograph shall ideally focus on the activity. Where possible images of children/young people shall be recorded in small groups (the group may comprise any combination of adults and children)

Any instances of the use of inappropriate images shall be reported to The Club Committee.

All Club Official's, Managers and coaches shall still be allowed to use video equipment as a legitimate coaching aid. However, footballers and their parents/carers shall be aware that this is part of the coaching programme and care shall be taken in the storing of such films and video.

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLISHING IMAGES :

If the child is named, avoid using their photograph.

If a photograph is used, avoid naming the young person or use their first name only. Personal details of children such as an email address, home address and telephone numbers shall never be revealed on a website.

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.

Ask for parental/carer permission to use an image of a young person. This ensures that parents/carers are aware of the way the image of their child is representing the sport. (This now forms part of our Signing on Form).

In order to guard against the possibility of a young person under a court order appearing on a website, we shall not apply any form of streamed images on to any website.

In choosing any image to be used on any website or in any publication, the Club Committee will meet and decide the appropriateness of any image. Images chosen should try and focus on group shots wherever possible, and in keeping with Whitegrove Football Club equal opportunities policy, should try and include the broad range of youngsters participating safely in football including, wherever possible, boys and girls, minority ethnic communities and disabled people. Images used should also feature:

1. A range of clothing e.g. tracksuit/jogging trousers
2. Girls with hair covered e.g. baseball cap or scarf
3. Glasses if not actually playing at the time
4. Shin pads shall be on if they are pictured playing
5. Jewellery shall be removed in all images
6. No image is to be used or published without the approval of the Club Committee.

GUIDELINES FOR USE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC FILMING EQUIPMENT AT WHITEGROVE FOOTBALL CLUB EVENTS :

There is evidence that some people have used sporting events as an opportunity to take inappropriate photographs or film footage of young and disabled sportspeople. While this might be rare in football we still have a duty of care to young people to ensure that this risk is as small as possible.

By taking some simple steps we shall be reducing that risk.

1. If we are commissioning professional photographers or inviting the press to a football activity or event it is important to ensure they are clear about our expectations of them in relation to child protection.
2. Provide a clear brief about what is considered appropriate in terms of content and behaviour.
3. Inform participants and parents that a photographer shall be in attendance at an event and ensure they consent to both the taking and publication of films or photographs.
4. Do not allow unsupervised access to footballers or one to one photo sessions at events.
5. Do not approve/allow photo sessions outside the event or at a footballer's home.
6. Parents and spectators might also wish to take photographs or record their children participating at the event; they also need to be made aware of our expectations.

In addition:

Participants and parents shall be informed that if they have concerns about inappropriate or intrusive photography these shall be reported to the event organiser or official and recorded in the same manner as any other child protection concern.

Event organisers shall approach and challenge any person taking photographs who has not registered with them. They might need to refer to the local police force if this person continues to record images.