



# Sidmouth Rugby Football Club Ltd



## Images of children and Photography Policy

Intended for  
all players, coaches,  
officials, members,  
spectators and our  
visitors

### **WHY WE NEED A POLICY:**

There have been many concerns about the risks posed either directly or 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 their personal information. This information can make a child vulnerable to an individual who may wish to start to 'groom' that child for abuse. This can be online through websites or social networking or

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through direct contact. Information has also been placed on the internet and used by estranged parents to identify, trace and cause significant difficulties to children.

The content of some photographs can be inappropriate or even used or adapted for inappropriate use. There has been some evidence of this adapted material finding its way onto sites showing child abuse images and being shared with groups of offenders.

We, therefore need a policy to clarify good practice for taking images of children in Sidmouth Rugby Club.

## OUR PRINCIPLES:

- The safety and welfare of children taking part in sporting activities is paramount
- Players and their parents/carers have the right to decide whether their photograph or recording is taken and how those images may be used.

## OUR POLICY IS:

- All children and their parents/carers must provide written consent for their images to be taken and used at the start of the season.
- Parents and carers and children will be informed that a photographer will be in attendance at an event and it will be ensured prior to any training or game that they consent to both the taking and publication of films or photographs which feature and clearly identify their child either in close ups, small groups or team photos.
- **Only parents or an adult with parental responsibility (not the same as carer)** must sign the declaration on the SRFC permission form each season to give consent for their children to be photographed or have videos taken.
- Photos and film recordings will only be used for official SRFC business for the purpose of publicity, promotional work, newsletters and to represent the sport.
- Only official SRFC password protected websites will be used and SRFC does not endorse the use of any other sites.
- SRFC will not ask for everyone to register their intent to photograph or record at games or events but we will seek to ensure that reasonable safeguards are in place.

There will be occasions when organisers and others will reasonably wish to take wide angle, more general photos of the event sites, opening and closing ceremonies. Separate to the matter of consents for identifying photographs/filming (as mentioned above), parents/carers and children should at least understand that these types of images will be taken during or at specific points in the event. It is not reasonable, practical or proportionate to require specific consents on the day for this type of photography, or to preclude it on the basis of the concerns of a small number of parents. (Any parent with concerns should get in touch with the Safeguarding Officer for advice)

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- All users of SRFC either home or away have a general duty to safeguard young people and if they have any concerns they should report it to the club Safeguarding Officer.

## **BEST PRACTICE FOR SAFE PRACTICE FOR USE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC FILMING EQUIPMENT INCLUDING MOBILE PHONES BY PARENTS/CARERS AND SPECTATORS AT SPORTING EVENTS FOR PLAYERS UNDER 18.**

- Where possible to reflect Sidmouth RFC's Equity policy, photography and recordings should represent the diverse range of young people participating in rugby
- Avoid the use of any names of individuals in a photograph or conversely if a child is named – don't use their photograph.
- Always ask the child's permission to use their image. This ensures that they are aware of the way the image is being used to represent the sport.
- Only use images of children in suitable dress for the activity to reduce the risk of inappropriate use.
- Any photograph should focus on the activity and not a particular child.
- Photographers should avoid full face shots.
- Under no circumstances will SRFC allow photo or filming sessions in changing rooms or toilet areas. Filming devices are banned from these areas.
- We do not allow unsupervised access to children at a child's home or a coach's home or in one to one photo sessions at events.
- Official photographers will be briefed and carry ID from SRFC at all times and will be asked to register at an event if they wish to use photographic equipment. (This includes our local newspaper representatives)
- Anyone taking photos or recording at any rugby event must have a valid reason for doing so and seek the permission of the persons in charge.
- All concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography should be reported to the Welfare Officer.

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## EVENT AND EXTERNAL PHOTOGRAPHERS SAFE RECRUITMENT

**This section refers to outside professional photographers and filming operators:**

- Any professional wishing to record the event should seek permission from SRFC by producing their professional identification for the details recorded.

**This section refers to amateur photographers and film makers not affiliated to the club:**

### PUBLIC INFORMATION

The specific details concerning the use of photographic/filming equipment will, wherever possible, be published prominently in event programmes and must be announced over the public address system before the start of the event.

Recommended wording is as follows:

“In line with the recommendation in RFU policy, the promoters of this event request that any person wishing to engage in any filming, or close range photography, should register their details with staff (coaches) before carrying out any such photography. If parents have any particular concern about their child being photographed or filmed they should notify the organisers.”

“SRFC will reserve the right to decline entry to any person unable to abide by our conditions. If you are concerned about any photography taking place at this event, please contact a coach who will be pleased to discuss the matter with you.”

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE CONCERNED

If you have any concerns about intrusive photographers you should ask them to leave and contact a club official or the Club Safeguarding Officer. This should be recorded in the same way as any other child safeguarding concerns. If no one is available at the time you can contact the RFU safeguarding unit [www.rfu.com](http://www.rfu.com). If you have severe concerns please contact the police.

Sidmouth Rugby Football Club will take all steps to ensure that any images taken are used solely for the purpose they are intended.

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If you become aware that these images are being used inappropriately you should inform a club official or the Club Welfare Office and follow the club's safeguarding policy immediately.

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## Parental consent form

I consent to SRFC photographing or filming my child named below and images being published in accordance with our Photographic/Filming policy for the protection and welfare of young people in rugby union.

Parent's name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I do not give consent for any images being taken of my child named below.

Parent's name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Under \_\_\_\_\_

I confirm that I am legally entitled to give this consent and that my child is not subject to a court order.

Parent's name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## EVENT AND EXTERNAL PHOTOGRAPHER'S DECLARATION

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I agree to follow the RFU guidance as adopted by Sidmouth Rugby Football Club, for the use of photographs and filming/coaching/publicity purposes. I have read the Club's Policy and agree to adhere to it.

Print name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

Organisation name \_\_\_\_\_

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