



Photography Policy of Birmingham Swim League

Purpose

There has been much talk about whether it is safe to have images taken of children participating in sports. While the great majority of images are appropriate and are taken in good faith, it is a fact that images can be misused and children can be put at risk if common-sense procedures are not observed.

What is BSL Policy?

A parent or guardian has the right to refuse to have children photographed. The exercise of this right of refusal cannot be used as grounds for refusing entry into a swimming competition. Therefore any photo that may go to press or on a notice board, be it through a member of the club or official photographer, should receive refusal of parental consent before publishing/displaying the photo, preferably in writing. Parents wishing to indicate refusal of consent for their child to be photographed should be sent via e-mail or by typed letter to the Head Coach. In the case of open meets and other competitions where the host club has an official photographer present, all parents attending should be made aware of this in the meet information. If photos are to be published anywhere, the individual parent may be given the opportunity to withhold their consent. Their right to do so may be specifically drawn to their attention. All photographs must observe generally accepted standards of decency in particular:

- Action shots should be a celebration of the sporting activity and not a sexualized image in a sporting context.
- Action shots should not be taken or retained where the photograph reveals a torn or displaced swim suit.
- Photographs should not be taken from behind swimming blocks at the start of a race or exhibit a child climbing out of the swimming pool.
- Photographs should never be taken in locker-rooms or bathrooms.