



PHOTOGRAPHING CHILDREN GUIDELINE

Ridgewood Athletics Centre is focused on ensuring all members can participate in a safe environment. Most people taking images of children at sporting events are doing so for acceptable reasons and are using appropriate methods, for example a parent videoing their child at a sports presentation, grandparents photographing their grandchild on the field during play, or a professional photographer taking photos for a club. There are important considerations for sports clubs and associations when acquiring and displaying images of children and young people on social media, websites, online, in publications or other mediums.

THE LAW

In Australia, generally speaking, there is no law restricting photography of people (including children) in public spaces as long as the images are not:

- indecent (such as 'up skirt' or 'down blouse' photographs taken covertly in change rooms or toilets)
- being used for voyeurism or made for the purpose of observing and visually recording a person's genital or anal region.
- protected by a court order (eg. child custody or witness protection)
- defamatory
- being for commercial purposes (person's likeness is used to endorse or entice people to buy a product).
- Photos of a child (including your own child) also contravene Criminal Codes and censorship laws if the child is photographed in a provocative or sexual manner.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS

- All images or video taken must be for private (non-commercial) use only, unless otherwise approved by Athletics West.
- Permission should be obtained from the child's parent/guardian prior to taking any images or video of a child or young person, particularly if they can be identified and you intend to post the images or video onto social media.
- Photographers (professional photographers, spectators, fans, coaches or members of the media) are not permitted to have unsupervised access to children.
- Any coach or team leader must inform any athlete and guardian(s) if they want to video the athlete as a tool to analyse and improve performance.
- Members of the media and professional photographers must be clearly identifiable for any events hosted by Ridgewood Athletics Centre and its member associations.





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GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DISPLAYING PHOTOGRAPHS

- Consider using models or illustrations for promotional / advertising purposes.
- Obtain permission from the child's parent/guardian prior to taking the images of a child or young person. Ensure that all concerned are aware of the way in which the image is to be used and how long the image will be displayed.
- If an image is used, avoid naming the child. If this is not possible avoid using both a first name and surname.
- Avoid displaying personal information such as residential address, email address or telephone numbers if images are being posted on websites or distributed in publications.
- Do not display information about hobbies, likes/dislikes, school, etc as this information has the potential to be used as grooming tools by offenders or other persons.
- Only use appropriate images of the child, relevant to the sport or activity, and ensure that the athlete/child is suitably clothed. Images of athletes participating in sports or activities that involve minimal clothing (e.g., swimming and gymnastics) or unusual body positions/poses could potentially be misused.
- Clearly outline in a written contract to photographers who are contracted or paid to take photos, who will retain the images taken, include arrangements made for negatives, digital file and proofs and outline any restrictions for use and sale.
- Member Associations are to maintain a record of children who are not to be photographed either via a formal request from the child's guardian or through court order and apply the child protection practices accordingly within their jurisdiction.

REPORTING & RAISING CONCERN OF INAPPROPRIATE PHOTOGRAPHY

If you believe photographs are being taken inappropriately on site then you are to contact Venue or Event Management with your allegations, who will then assess the situation and may request the person to stop taking images. If the person refuses, the police or security may be called to escort them off the property. If there are reasonable concerns that a person (adult or child) is taking photographs that are indecent or in areas like toilets/change rooms, then an Ridgewood Athletics Centre Board member will contact the police immediately.

If an image or video of your child has been posted online without your permission and you wish it to be removed, then in the first instance you should ask the person who posted the photo or video to remove it. If the person refuses or you don't know who posted it, you should contact or report your concern directly to the social media site.

If you believe you have witnessed a photograph or act of photography that is unlawful, then you are to submit your allegations to the Western Australia Police Force immediately.

Should you wish to raise a concern with Ridgewood Athletics Centre directly please contact:

Name: Rachel Williams

Role: President

Email: info@ridgewoodlac.org

Phone: 0420 974 533

