



**Lacey
Football Club**



Photography and Video Policy

Football is a sport that we all want to celebrate, and especially for the young players in our Club that may be through the taking of photographs and videos to look back on in later life.

We encourage parents and players to take pictures and/or videos at games or training, but there are things we can do to ensure that the practice of capturing images is done safely in order to protect players from potential harm. This policy makes note of some key things to consider and adhere to in order to keep players safe. This policy is derived from guidance from the FA Safeguarding structure; Guidance Note 8.3 – Photographing and Filming Children.

What are the Potential Risks?

There are two main potential risks surrounding the taking of photographs and videos with players under the age of 18.

Inappropriate taking and or use of images of Children

Someone may set out to take inappropriate photos or film content in ways that are potentially illegal and harmful, such as:

- Children changing
- Photos taken in the toilets
- Using a camera at ground level to photograph up girls' skirts (upskirting)
- Images that appear ambiguous can be used inappropriately and out of context by others
- Images that can easily be copied and edited, perhaps to create child-abuse images.
- Images shared privately online that can be re-shared, possibly entering the public domain on websites or social media (further information in 'Section 6: Safeguarding in the Digital World' of the safeguarding section on www.TheFA.com)

The identification of, contact with, or grooming of a Child

When a child's image is accompanied by significant personnel information e.g. full name, address – it makes them more easily identifiable to third parties. This can lead, and has led, to children being located, contacted and/or 'groomed'.

Even if personal details are kept confidential, details identifying the school or club, or their favourite sportsperson or team, can potentially be used to groom the child.

There's an increased risk of, and contact with a child:

- By someone in circumstances where there are legal restrictions – such as if the child is in local-authority care or placed with an adoptive family

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- Where restrictions on contact with one parent following a parental separation exist, e.g. in domestic violence cases
- In situations where a child may be a witness in criminal proceedings

Club Based Photography

At the beginning of each season parents will choose whether to sign a consent form for the **Club** to take photographs and videos of the children within the Club. This could include Club officials (including managers and coaches) or hired professionals for advertising/marketing, promotional pieces (such as Player of the Match or recognition awards), or for website photos.

Club led photos will only be used on official social media sites and in line with the consents given. They will also be used considering all Club policies and the need for safeguarding the children within our Club.

Where consent is not given a consultation will be made with parents to identify concerns and ensure that agreed protocols exist, for example, players not being included in team pictures. During matches, players who are not under consent to be photographed or filmed should be identified by a known marker, such as a coloured armband or visible wristband.

We understand that circumstances can change during the course of a season and should this be the case it is the responsibility of the players parent(s) to inform the Club of any changes we need to know about in order to maintain the players safety.

Photography Within Teams

Each team within Laceby Football Club may wish to take photographs or videos for the same purposes as the Club, but at team level. The consent provided to the Club applies to each team within Laceby Football Club.

It is also recognised that parents within teams may wish to photograph or film parts of matches or training. Team managers are responsible for ensuring that all parents who photograph or film any aspect of football within the team setting are familiar with both the FA Guidance Note 8.3 and this policy.

It is placed in trust that all parents taking photo's and videos do so in good faith and with the right intentions. However, it would be easy for them to inadvertently contravene safeguarding guidance if not made aware of it. To aid the awareness and education of parents in respect of photography and video, this policy and FA Guidance Note 8.3 should be made aware to them to familiarise them with the potential dangers.

Recommended Actions

To further minimise the risk of potential danger to the children in our Club, these are recommended practices for teams to employ under two main scenarios.

Photographs or Filming During Training Sessions (by Team Officials)

- Inform parents that cameras will be used during the session to capture either photographs or videos
- Explain what the photographs or video is to be used for
- Explain where the photographs or videos will be used/shown
- If the images are to be used/shown in a manner outside of approved and consented purposes, request further consent from parents (e.g. local newspaper/TV).

Photographs or Filming During Training Sessions (by Players or Parents)

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- Photographs and short clips of training sessions is not considered out of the ordinary and no special permissions need be applied by parents or players. To aid safeguarding however, at the start of each season – and on acquiring new players – parents should be informed and updated of any circumstances which require the need of special safeguarding measures, e.g. players with protected status.
- Players or parents who wish to film an entire training session on devices such as GoPros should make a request via the team manager no less than 48 hours prior to the session, detailing the reason and intended use.
- The manager should inform the parental group via communication channels and seek consent within 24 hours of the request, allowing parents the opportunity to consider their position. Nil returns are void and are not viewed as non-consent by the Club.
- If consent is not given by any parent the manager has the choice to either inform the affected players that permission has been given to film (providing the choice for the player to miss training) or reject permission to film.
- When permission for filming has been granted, confirmation that the persons conducting filming have read Guidance Note 8.3 and this policy should be obtained in writing and kept as a record.

Photographs and Filming During Matches

Parents routinely take photos and videos of youth football matches up and down the country every weekend and there are no special requirements above those listed in the Guidance Notes (e.g. appropriate level of clothing).

However, coaches can be both courteous and professional on matchdays by informing the opposition team that parents that are likely to capture parts of the game and also to ask if there are any concerns with individuals on their team that they should be aware of, for example, players with protected status.

In situations where there are legal sensitivities to the taking of photographs or videos it would be considered best practice to liaise with the manager and/or parents of the player to determine what level of protection the player requires. It may be that photos are ok but must not enter the public domain via social media. To aid this it may be agreed that the player wears an identifying marker to ensure any images including the player are kept to a minimum.

Overriding Statement

Given the vast array of different circumstances surrounding the taking of pictures and videos it is not possible to define a fixed singular policy. So many variables exist that every match can be different from the last. This policy therefore details the potential dangers that we should be aware of and provides general best practice that coaches and parents can take to ensure the highest levels of safety for the players in grassroots football.

Where the best practices outlined may not be suitable or applicable then careful consideration should be given as to whether a potential danger is posed in that moment. Coaches and parents should utilise situational awareness and common sense and are encouraged to discuss the situation together to determine the best course of action, considering the information contained within this policy and the FA Guidance Note 8.3.