

Chalfont Otters Swimming Club Photography Policy



Why Have a Policy?

This Policy applies to all photographs taken on film or digital camera (including mobile phones) and all sorts of moving pictures including video recordings (and video streaming).

The terms “child” or “children” include anyone under the age of 18 years.

There has been much talk about whether it is safe to have images taken of children participating in sport. Whilst 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. To set out such procedures, this Policy has been prepared by the ASA and adopted by Chalfont Otters, (“the Club”).

The ASA acknowledged the assistance of the Premier League and is grateful for their consent to the reproduction of elements of the Premier League Code of Practice “Images of Children participating in Activities at Premier League Clubs” within this Policy.

Aims of this Policy

First, as in all matters concerned with the safeguarding of children, the ASA aims to help clubs establish and develop good practice.

Second, the ASA aims to help clubs avoid three potential sources of child abuse:

- The use, adaptation, or copying of images for child abuse, either on the Internet or in print.
- The possible identification of a child when an image is accompanied by significant personal information, which can lead to the child being ‘groomed’.
- The identification and locating of children where there are safeguarding children concerns. Such cases would include, for example, children who could be compromised by an image because:
 - They are removed from their family for their own safety.
 - There are restrictions on their contact with one parent following a parental separation.
 - They are a witness in criminal proceedings.

Chalfont Otters Policy Statements

1. The publishing of a photograph of swimmers under 18 either on a notice board or in a published article or video recording (including video streaming) of swimming competitions (“Publication”) will only be done with parents consent and in line with ASA guidelines.
2. A parent or guardian has a right to refuse to have children photographed. The exercise of this right of refusal should not be used as grounds for refusing entry into a swimming competition.
3. Under ASA guidance on the taking of photos, once a parent has signed the clubs Photography Book Register at any swimming meet we are happy for the parent to take photos on the belief that their swimmer is the main subject of the photograph. Other competitors nearby may be included in the shot but should not be the main subject of the photo. However, another person can object to a parent/carer taking a photo if they believe their child, not the child of the photographer, to be the main subject of the photo, but in practice this seldom happens.
4. 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 details.
5. The ASA guidelines on photos for publication, which the Club follows, are as follows:
All photographs must observe generally accepted standards of decency in particular:
 - Action shots should be a celebration of the sporting activity and not a sexualised image in a sporting context.
 - Action shots should not be taken or retained where the photograph reveals a torn or displaced swimming costume.
 - Poolside shots of children should normally be above the waist only in a swimming costume, though full length tracksuit shots are approved
 - Photographs should not be taken from behind swimming blocks at the start of a race or exhibit young swimmers climbing out of the swimming pool.

Published photographs may identify the swimmer by name and club but should not state the swimmers place of residence or school attended.

The ASA do not wish to stop parents photographing their children if they wish at their “moments of glory” but all clubs have to ensure they do all we can to safeguard children’s well being in the current climate of concern.

Official Photographers

When Chalfont Otters invite an official photographer to an event the aim will be to help celebrate and promote swimming. When taking an image they will be asked to:

- Focus on the activity rather than the individual child.
- Include groups of children rather than individuals if possible.
- Ensure all those featured are appropriately dressed.
- Represent the broad range of youngsters participating in swimming - boys and girls, children with disabilities, members of minority ethnic communities

Policy on videoing children during club sessions

The videoing of children during club sessions, by coaching staff, is solely done to assist in swimming stroke development or to improve swimming technique. Assuming a video is taken then the parents of the children are invited to attend the videoing and may subsequently view the video. The video will be deleted once it has served its purpose.

Mobile phones

At events a mobile phone should be registered as a camera if it has that facility in line with the Club's policy on cameras. While the ASA does not support the banning of phones, as children need them to keep in touch with parents, particularly in emergencies, the ASA and the Club support a requirement that manufacturers ensure they add a "noticeable sound" that it is audible if a phone camera is used. Any photos taken should fall within the ASA and the Club's guidelines and that if mobile phones are taken into changing rooms, the facility to take photos must not be used.

Photographs with or without names of children on the club website

Generally individualised photographs will not be kept on the public part of the Club website. The same applies also to the Club's printed materials such as the annual report.

The only exception to this policy is where the child's parent or carer provides specific written consent to the Club publishing photographs. This consent may be withdrawn at any time and the Club will take all reasonable steps to respect the wishes of the parent/carer.