



# HVAC Photography Policy

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.

- 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) should only be done with parents' consent. A Photography Waiver is included with the registration process.
- 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 parental consent before publishing/displaying the photo, preferably in writing.
- 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 should be given the opportunity to withhold their consent. Their right to do so should be specifically drawn to their attention.
- All photographs must observe generally accepted standards of decency.
- 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 not be taken in locker rooms or bathrooms.
- HVAC Coaches and Staff may only take photographs or video of athletes for a specific purpose which pertains to club business.