

WELFARE POLICY

Sandbach United F.C

Photography & Video



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Policy owner - (Club Welfare Officer)

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Photography of children has always been a topic which has caused concern and anxiety for parents, organisations and social groups. With the increased scrutiny surrounding CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) and safeguarding it is no wonder that people are left confused by what is acceptable and legal.

In recent years the ever changing rules and regulations from primary school nativity photography through to the use of your own images on social media coupled with what images can be stored on equipment has become a minefield of protective legislation, this has led to excessive and often misinterpreted set of guidelines

The purpose of this policy is to lay down simple **guidelines** for Sandbach United F.C. Committee and its members. (*The term members in this document will represent managers, players, parents and any visitors to the club*) For the purpose of this policy the taking of images both moving and still will relate specifically to persons **under 18** years of age.

Chapter 2: Legality

A question which is often asked “Is it illegal for someone to take a photograph of a child at a football game without permission?” the answer is **NO**, unless that image is indecent, obscene or used for another’s personal gratification. However the FA have set some guidelines (see Chapter 4 Do’s & Don’ts)

What does this actually mean for Sandbach United F.C. ?

If a person is taking photographs the chances are they are not breaking the law and if it is a location in which the public are permitted then they are doing nothing wrong and there is nothing that can be done (unless the photographs are obscene or indecent) . However the club reserves the right to eject at its discretion any person from within the boundaries of the facility whom does not cease photography when reasonably asked to do so by any member. It would be good practice for managers to consult with each other on match days to establish if there are any known issues with safeguarding which prohibits photographs from being taken of any member of their retrospective squad.

A photographer or owner of photographic material should not to publicise or share images of children under 18 years of age where they know a court order or legal safeguarding measure is in place. To do so could constitute a criminal offence.

The example below puts it in context for ease of understanding :-

Example 1 - child A plays for a football team but is subject to a court/protection order with one parent having full custody. The parent of that child protects them from harm by not disclosing where they live to the other parent. An unsuspecting photographer uploads a picture and tags a name to it on social media of the child playing football at a club. (The law is not broken but a child has now been potentially put at risk of harm because a child can now be identified by image and name together along with a recognisable outfit (Football strip) The non custody parent could now identify a location that child would be every weekend increasing the chance of unwarranted contact and subjecting the family to harm/distress.)

Example 2 - A photographer innocently takes a photograph and publishes it with significant personal details alongside it, this is used by another party to identify the child, now knowing his/her name and age which could assist in the child being subjected to grooming.

In both of these examples, the importance can be seen as to why we do not publish personal information alongside images without the consent of the child/parent involved (See Chapter - Consent) This is guidance only.

For further guidance and advice individuals should in the first instance contact the CWO (Club Welfare Officer) or County FA Welfare Officer.

Chapter 3: Publication of images

Sandbach United F.C. retains the right to use images taken of members of the club for the purpose of media relations, promotional material and for the benefit of the club. The use of such images will be at the discretion of the club committee or photograph owner but shall be restricted to football related matters.

Sandbach United F.C. will only use photographs for the above purpose where consent has been provided or implied consent given by virtue of a signature on the annual membership application (Parents of a child member have a duty to identify child protection issues and legal proceedings to the CWO who can assist in the protection and safeguarding of the child)

Members will share the overall responsibility to safeguard children, especially those in positions of trust (Managers and Committee) and should be aware of the potential fallout and risk from publicising material in any media.

Social media and email have become widely used and photographs are often uploaded with a view to others seeing the pictures. Before attaching these images consider the above paragraphs. Is safeguarding an issue, who will be able to see the image when it is uploaded and how identifiable are the people in the picture.

Many managers and members have set up face book groups (There is no issue with this if the membership of the group is regulated and not an open profile) The same rationale applies to the posting of pictures on Team App, posting an image is permitted and encouraged but consider who needs to see it and set the authority accordingly.

Any image taken at the facility or of children in SUFC playing attire should not be released to the media without the approval of a committee member. Ideally permission sought from the CWO or the Press/Communication liaison officer.

Professional photography is permitted at Sandbach United F.C. with the prior consent of a committee member where it involves photography of any person under the age of 18. Media coverage of open age games will not require prior permission and is to be actively encouraged, however the open age manager must inform the CWO and member of the press if a member of the team is under 18.

Any attending professional photographer or media representative must display a visible ID.

Chapter 4: Use of video as a training aid

Video recording is a useful tool for coaching and there is limited restrictions in its use, in order to use this function the manager/coach shall communicate the intention in advance to members. Recordings shall be kept safe and destroyed when no longer required. Recording used for training aids will be considered property of the club and must not be shared outside of Sandbach United F.C. without approval of the committee

Chapter 5: Do's & Don'ts (Guidelines)

This policy is to be shared with new members to the club and will be made available to current members through the appropriate medium.

Do's

When taking photographs concentrate on the activity rather than the individual
Ensure all those within the photographs are dressed appropriately, the image must be decent.

Aim to take a broad range of photographs, do not exclude by type

Avoid taking picture for later publication which could damage the reputation of the club and facility.

Film as a coaching aid if it helps.

Seek permission as a matter of courtesy and respect the decisions of others.

Contact the CWO if you have a concern

Don't be afraid to take pictures, after all it is all about the children, and photographs make for great memories.

Don't

Don't publish photographs with full names, unless you have the consent of the member.

Use your image for anything other than the original purpose it was taken/recorded for.

Never take photographs/video in restricted areas (Changing rooms) as this could be construed as obscene and illegal

Don't be afraid to challenge anything which seems out of the ordinary

Don't publicise pictures of errors, mistakes or embarrassing situations as this could constitute bullying.

Chapter 6: Consent

At least once per annum Sandbach United F.C. will distribute a consent form requiring a signature from the member/guardian providing permission or refusal for photography. A member who does not sign the consent form will be subject to an implied consent. Members have a duty to disclose any potential safeguarding issues or relevant circumstances to the CWO of the club. The consent will where possible be done in conjunction with the annual membership application