



Mini and Junior Photography Policy

Background

The RFU positively encourages parents and spectators to take photographs of participants involved in rugby union to celebrate the ethos and spirit of the sport.

However, there may be circumstances where taking a photograph of a child might not be acceptable. Any photograph (digital or printed) which is produced and released into the public domain may be misused by anyone. Once this has been done, control has been lost.

In this age of technological advancement, when it is so easy to upload or email a photograph within seconds of it being taken, it is worth taking a moment to consider the issue of control.

Parents may have many reasons for not wishing their child(ren) to be filmed or photographed. Some children are also sensitive about being photographed, and this must be respected.

Policy

For the purposes of this policy, photography includes still shots and/or video with camera equipment and/or mobile telephones, live media streaming and any other form of taking images of children.

Blackheath FC ("the Club") will:

- Ensure that photographic consent is obtained from all parents / guardians / carers at the start of each season for the use of photographs in promotional activity, press releases and social media postings etc.
- Ensure that, where there are restrictions on photographing a particular child, the Club will inform the Club Safeguarding Officer, the relevant coaches and the owners of the social media accounts. Guidance and advice will also be given to the parents of the child, and the parents will be involved in discussions about communicating the requirements.
- Ensure any official photographers appointed by the Club to events are appropriately vetted, and have necessary checks carried out.
- NEVER identify individual children by full name in promotional images or the Club's social media accounts.
- Where the Club is alerted to an image in the public domain (posted by a third party or another parent) we will take reasonable steps to request the image is removed / deleted.
- Ensure that all parents and carers are aware of their responsibilities when taking photographs.

Age group coaches / photographers will:

- Ensure that photographs are of the team, and the team activity rather than focusing on one individual child.

- Ensure personal information which can lead to a child being identified should never be used. If it is necessary to name a child, they must ensure there is written parental consent and the parents have been informed as to how the image will be used. This is particularly important when issuing press releases and match reports.
- Comply with the Club policy when putting images into the public domain (website, social media etc).

Parents will:

- Adhere to any instructions given by coaches in terms of photography restrictions.
- Be welcome to photograph their own children and use the images how they please. If posting to social media (or making public in any other way) they must ensure other people's children are not identified in any text describing the image. It is preferable (if possible) to crop the image and remove other children.
- Not use facilities which LIVE STREAM activities. This puts images / video into the public arena with little or no control over which children are pictured.
- Respect the wishes of children who may not wish to be photographed.
- If asked to stop filming / taking photographs, speak to a coach to seek further guidance.

Training Films / Videos:

- Are to be taken purely for the purpose intended, and deleted when no longer required, or after 12 months whichever is the sooner.
- Will be viewed only by the DBS cleared coaches.
- Images / videos must NOT be shared on any social media / public platform.

Festivals and Events:

The organiser MUST:

- Ensure that all clubs attending confirm that they have obtained parental consent for photography of their players. Attending clubs will be made aware of Blackheath FC's Photography Policy before the event.
- Only appoint official photographers with the permission of the Club's Minis and/or Juniors Chairs (to ensure adequate checks are made).
- Ensure the parents of any child with photography restrictions makes themselves known to the organisers and any official photographer.

Huw Gronow

Honorary Secretary, Blackheath Football Club

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Related policies:

Blackheath Football Club Privacy Policy

Blackheath Football Club Safeguarding Policy

Available on www.blackheathrugby.co.uk