

### Introduction

Baseball Ireland endorses the use of photographs and use of videoing of shoots, training and coaching sessions, and association/club events to promote our sport in general.

This Policy is designed to bring together safeguards to minimise the risk or threats that inappropriate use of photographs or the recording of images may pose, particularly for our junior Members.

These safeguards should still permit and facilitate:

- the recording of relevant and suitable material to promote our sport,
- the photographing and recording of the enjoyment gained by participating in our sport,
- coaches to use the latest technology in the delivery of training skills
- enable the organisation and our clubs to promote its activities in a safe and non-threatening manner.

The above can be through a number of appropriate channels

- for use on the Baseball Ireland and our club websites or social media channels,
- through press and broadcast media,
- for display on printed material or display boards.

Our key concerns regarding the use of images and photographs of children/young people relate to:

The possible identification of children when a photograph is accompanied by personal information and its inappropriate use thereafter.

The inappropriate use, adaptation or copying of images for use in child pornography or for illegal or inappropriate website use.

The taking of inappropriate photographs or recorded images of children.

Baseball Ireland will always strive to adopt a common-sense approach when deciding on what may or may not be appropriate as we do not wish to prohibit the recording of shoots, coaching or celebrations at any level using photography or by recording on video equipment.

This Policy aims to, at the outset, provide clarification for all concerned.

## The Policy

Baseball Ireland assumes permission from parents/guardians and juniors for the consent of the taking and publication of images and recording of video to promote Baseball Ireland. For Under 18-year-olds, such permission will be informed of on Membership application form. All Under 18-year-olds featured in images or recordings must be appropriately dressed.

The photography or recording should focus on the activity rather than a particular young person. No personal details relating to the young person should be revealed as accompanying materials to the photograph or recorded image.

Clubs, coaches and volunteers should be permitted to use video equipment as a legitimate coaching aid and as a means of recording special occasions; however, care should be taken in the dissemination, storage and use of such material.

Parents and spectators taking photographs/recordings should seek permission in advance from Baseball Ireland/Club and should also be prepared to identify themselves if requested and state the purpose for their photography/filming. If Baseball Ireland/Club personnel are unhappy about any matter relating to such photography the permission granted should be withdrawn immediately.

Group and team photographs may be taken for Under 18-year-old teams. But within media and any social media, a player will not be named in the position in which they may be standing or seated in the team photograph. This is a precautionary measure arising from possible misuse of photographs to exploit a junior.

It is recognised that on certain occasions individual young people may receive recognition and may be presented with an award. When this happens in the case of an underage player certain levels of sensitivity and indeed common sense are required and a balance should be drawn between the publication of a photograph of an individual, who may or may not be named, and the safety aspects of publication. Any such photography or recording of events that involves individual presentations should be discussed in advance of the event and agreement reached with all parties, including the association, club, parents and the young person themselves, as to what is and what is not permitted.

Any individual – parent, mentor, member, supporter or person from the wider public – who has concern in respect of any inappropriate picture taking, use of images or recording relating to Baseball Ireland or an affiliated club should report to **Baseball Ireland’s National Children’s Officer** and failing that the **Baseball Ireland Chairman**. They may also bring it to the attention of the relevant statutory authorities if deemed appropriate.

Photography and the recording of images at a Baseball Ireland event or on club grounds does not generally require explicit or prior consent. However, if an event is taking place, involving Under 18 individuals, a person in charge/mentor, or club personnel is entitled to request a person to desist from taking photos if they feel that such action or photography may be inappropriate. A coach / administrator, supporter or spectator may bring such incident/incidences to the attention of Baseball Ireland or club official and ask they address the matter forthwith.

**Baseball Ireland would advise clubs to:**

- Consider using models or illustrations if you are promoting an activity
- Avoid the use of the first name and surname of individuals in a photograph. This reduces the risk of inappropriate, unsolicited attention from people within and outside the sport.

**Easy rules to remember are:**

- If the child is named, avoid using their photograph
- If a photograph is used, avoid naming the child
- Ask for the child’s permission to use their image. This ensures that they are aware of the way the image is to be used to represent the sport. A Child’s Permission Form is one way of achieving this
- Ask for parental permission to use an image of a young person. This ensures that parents are aware of the way the image of their child is representing the sport. A Parental Permission Form is one way of achieving this.
- Only use images of children in suitable dress to reduce the risk of inappropriate use. The content of the photograph should focus on the activity not on a particular child and should avoid full face and body shots.
- Create a recognised procedure for reporting the use of inappropriate images to reduce the risks to children. Follow your child protection procedures, ensuring both your sports child protection officer and the Social Services and/or Police are informed.

### **First steps and things to think about**

- Establish the type of images that appropriately represent the sport for the Web and other media
- Think about the level of consideration you give to the use of images of children in other publications, for example, the processes involved in choosing appropriate images for the newsletter or magazine. Apply an increased level of consideration to the images of children and young people used in the web site.

### **Guidelines for Use of Photographic Filming Equipment at Sporting Events**

- Provide a clear brief about what is considered appropriate in terms of content and behaviour, including the displaying of notices at each event
- Issue the photographer with identification which must be worn at all times
- Inform children and parents that a photographer will be in attendance at an event and ensure they consent to both the taking and publication of films or photographs
- Do not allow unsupervised access to children or one to one photo sessions at events
- Do not approve/allow photo sessions outside the events or at a child's home
- If parents or other spectators are intending to photograph or video at an event, they should also be made aware of your expectations
- Spectators should be asked to register at an event if they wish to use photographic equipment
- Children and parents should be informed that if they have concerns, they can report these to the organiser
- Concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography should be reported to the event organiser or official and recorded in the same manner as any other child protection concern.