

Baseball Ireland Photography, Video Recording and Digital Media Policy

1. Purpose

Baseball Ireland recognises that photography, video recording, live streaming and digital media play an important role in promoting baseball and softball, celebrating participation and achievement, supporting coach education, and enhancing communication with members and the wider community.

This policy aims to:

- Safeguard children and young people from potential misuse of images and digital content.
- Promote the safe and appropriate use of photography, video recording and digital media.
- Protect the privacy, dignity and welfare of participants.
- Ensure compliance with Children First, Sport Ireland Safeguarding Guidance and data protection legislation.

The welfare of children and young people shall always take precedence over the promotion of sporting activities.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Baseball Ireland events and activities.
- Affiliated club activities.
- National Team programmes.
- Irish Baseball Academy programmes.
- Competitions and tournaments.
- Training sessions, camps and clinics.
- Coaches, volunteers, officials, parents, guardians, spectators, media representatives and participants.

The policy covers:

- Photography.
- Video recording.
- Live streaming.
- Social media content.
- Websites and digital publications.
- Coaching analysis footage.
- Any digital image or recording containing participants.

3. Guiding Principles

Baseball Ireland is committed to ensuring that:

- Images are used respectfully and appropriately.
- Children are not exposed to unnecessary risk through the use of images or recordings.
- Photography and video recording support positive participation experiences.

- Participants' privacy and dignity are respected at all times.
- Parents and guardians are informed about how images may be used.

4. Consent

Baseball Ireland shall obtain appropriate consent for the use of images of children and young people through membership registration, event registration, or other approved consent processes.

Consent shall:

- Clearly explain how images may be used.
- Be freely given.
- Be capable of being withdrawn at any time.
- Be recorded and retained appropriately.

Where consent is withdrawn, Baseball Ireland will take reasonable steps to cease future use of images, subject to practical limitations relating to previously published materials.

5. Appropriate Use of Images

Images and recordings should:

- Focus on participation and sporting activity.
- Reflect positive experiences and achievements.
- Represent participants in an appropriate and dignified manner.
- Promote inclusion and diversity.

Images should, where possible:

- Feature groups rather than isolated individuals.
- Avoid unnecessary focus on individual children.
- Avoid images that may be open to misinterpretation.

6. Prohibited Images and Content

The following are prohibited:

- Images of children in changing rooms, showers, toilets or other private areas.
- Images that are sexually suggestive, exploitative or degrading.
- Images that focus unnecessarily on body parts rather than sporting activity.
- Images that could place a child at risk of harm.
- Images captured in breach of safeguarding procedures.
- Images used for purposes unrelated to Baseball Ireland activities without appropriate consent.

Any inappropriate image or recording shall be reported immediately in accordance with safeguarding procedures.

7. Publication of Images

When publishing images, Baseball Ireland and affiliated clubs shall:

- Avoid identifying children by full name where possible.
- Never publish personal information such as addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses or school details.

- Avoid linking identifying personal information with photographs.
- Consider whether publication may create a safeguarding risk.

Where participants are named in connection with achievements or representative selection, only limited information necessary for the purpose shall be used.

8. Social Media

Only authorised persons may publish content on official Baseball Ireland or club social media channels.

Coaches, volunteers and officials must:

- Maintain professional boundaries online.
- Follow Baseball Ireland's Social Media Policy.
- Avoid sharing images of participants through personal social media accounts unless authorised and appropriate consent exists.
- Avoid tagging children in images where possible.
- Avoid publishing information that may reveal a child's location or personal circumstances.

Content posted online must reflect the values and standards of Baseball Ireland.

9. Photography and Recording by Parents and Spectators

Parents, guardians and spectators are generally permitted to take photographs and recordings for personal use at sporting events.

However, they must:

- Respect the privacy and welfare of all participants.
- Comply with requests from event organisers regarding photography restrictions.
- Not photograph or record participants in changing facilities or private areas.
- Not use images in a manner that could place children at risk.

Where concerns arise regarding photography or recording, Baseball Ireland officials may intervene and take appropriate action.

10. Media Representatives

Accredited media representatives may attend events and capture images for legitimate journalistic purposes.

Event organisers may require:

- Identification and accreditation.
- Compliance with safeguarding requirements.
- Adherence to designated photography areas.

Any concerns regarding media activity shall be reported immediately to event organisers.

11. Video Recording for Coaching Purposes

Video analysis can be an important coaching and athlete development tool.

Where video recording is used for coaching purposes:

- Participants and parents shall be informed.

- Recording shall be relevant to coaching, education or performance analysis.
- Recordings shall be stored securely.
- Access shall be limited to authorised personnel.
- Recordings shall not be retained longer than necessary.

Coaches shall not use personal recordings for purposes unrelated to coaching activities.

12. Live Streaming

Baseball Ireland may livestream games, competitions and events to support participation, promotion and engagement.

Where livestreaming is used:

- Participants and parents shall be informed in advance.
- Cameras shall be positioned to focus on the sporting activity.
- Cameras shall not be placed in changing facilities or private areas.
- Recordings shall be managed securely.
- Livestreaming arrangements shall comply with safeguarding and data protection requirements.

Special consideration shall be given to youth events and activities involving children.

13. Storage and Security of Images

Images and recordings shall be:

- Stored securely.
- Accessible only to authorised persons.
- Protected against unauthorised use or disclosure.
- Retained only for as long as necessary for legitimate organisational purposes.

Baseball Ireland and affiliated clubs shall take reasonable measures to ensure the secure management of digital media.

14. Reporting Concerns

Any concern regarding photography, video recording, livestreaming or digital media shall be reported immediately to:

- The Club Safeguarding Officer.
- The Club Designated Liaison Person (DLP).
- The Baseball Ireland Designated Liaison Person.
- Statutory authorities where required.

Concerns may include:

- Inappropriate photography.
- Unauthorised use of images.
- Suspicious behaviour involving cameras or recording devices.
- Online misuse of participant images.
- Any safeguarding concern arising from digital media activity.

15. Breaches of Policy

Failure to comply with this policy may result in:

- Removal from an event or activity.
- Restriction of photography or recording privileges.
- Disciplinary action.
- Suspension from Baseball Ireland activities.
- Referral to statutory authorities where appropriate.

16. Review

This policy shall be reviewed at least every three years, or sooner if required by legislative changes, safeguarding guidance, data protection requirements or organisational needs.