

Guidelines for Taking and Using Images of Children



Introduction

Most people taking images of children at Little Athletics events are doing so for acceptable reasons and are using appropriate methods. Examples include:

- A parent videoing their child at a centre presentation night.
- A parent photographing their child competing on the track.
- A professional photographer taking photos for Little Athletics NSW at a championship event.
- A photographer from a local newspaper taking photos at a Little Athletics activity.

Little Athletics NSW does not want to place undue restrictions on those people who are taking images of children for legitimate reasons.

Definition

Image

An image is defined as a photo or video.

Advancements in Technology and Associated Problems

- Advances in technology have enabled the ability to take photographs on a variety of devices including high powered mobile phone cameras and telescopic lenses. This increases the difficulty in monitoring photographs/filming practices.
- Photographs can be taken secretly without the consent of the subject and used for inappropriate purposes.
- Digital photographs can easily be altered and/or transmitted quickly to vast audiences and place children at risk.

This greater ease of taking, modifying and distributing images has raised concerns about the potential for the inappropriate use of images of children by certain individuals.

Also of concern is the potential for images and information posted on an internet site or published in a magazine or newspaper being used or adapted for inappropriate use or to target children.

Little Athletics NSW takes these potential risks seriously. Therefore, the following is recommended:

Acquiring Images

- A level of awareness and vigilance must be maintained regarding the possibility of certain individuals visiting Little Athletics events to take photos or video footage of children for inappropriate adaptation and use. Care must be taken, however, to avoid undue hysteria and paranoia about this issue.
- Where a Little Athletics event is held in a public place it is not illegal to take photographs nor is consent required. Where an activity is held on a private property such as a school or council-owned facility, a sensible mutually agreed photographing policy should be developed between venue users (e.g. a Little Athletics centre) and venue owners. The owners of the property or venue are able to restrict or ban photography. There is nothing, however, to prevent a person from photographing outside the property boundary unless it is taken for indecent or improper purposes.
- Mobile phones or cameras should not be used in change rooms or toilets. Where possible, signage should be displayed advertising these restrictions.
- Some people may consider photography or videos of themselves or their child at Little Athletics as 'unwarranted or obtrusive'. Common sense and courtesy should apply in these situations. If an individual does not want themselves or their child photographed or videoed, they should approach the photographer and make it clear that they do not want themselves or their child photographed. Individuals are not entitled or empowered to confiscate or attempt to confiscate a person's camera.
- If an official is aware or made aware of any person who appears to be taking photographs or video which may be considered 'unwarranted or obtrusive', that official should approach the person to enquire what they are doing and why they are taking the photographs or film. Remember, however, that it is not illegal to take photographs in a public place, nor is consent required and an official should at all times behave courteously in these situations.
- It is encouraged that suspicions or concerns of suspicious photographic/video behaviour be immediately reported to a relevant official.
- If a person is thought to be taking images suspiciously or breaching the restrictions in place for the venue, then venue management or a designated official can request the person to stop. If the person refuses, the police or security may be called to escort them off the property.
- If an official has reason to believe that a photographer is taking inappropriate or indecent images, he or she should seek to notify the police or other relevant security. The incident should be recorded, and reasonable steps should be taken to remember and record the person's attire, appearance and any other identifiable characteristic.

- Photographers (professional photographers, spectators, coaches, etc.) should not be allowed unsupervised one-on-one access to children.
- Professional/official photographers should wear an identification pass during an event at which they are a designated photographer.
- Coaches should inform athletes and parents, and gain their consent, if the coach wants to photograph or video athletes as a tool to analyse and improve performance.

Displaying Images

The following guidelines relate to all forms of public multimedia.

- Permission should be obtained from a child's parent/guardian before taking and displaying images of a child. All concerned should be made aware of the way in which the image is to be used and how long the image will be displayed. Unauthorised public display of images of children must be avoided.
- If an image is used the child should not be named without the permission of a parent/guardian. If a child is named, consideration should be given to only using their first name.
- Information about a child's hobbies, like/dislikes, school, etc., should not be displayed as this information has the potential to be used as grooming tools by paedophiles or other persons.
- Only appropriate images of a child, relevant to the sport or activity, and in which the child is suitably clothed should be used. Images of athletes participating in minimal clothing or in unusual body positions/poses could potentially be misused. The age of a child is another factor to consider when deciding if the image is appropriate.
- Where images of a child are displayed on a website, the ability for direct copying from the website to another source should be reduced (i.e. disable the 'right mouse click' function).
- Individuals should take care not to inadvertently publically display images of children who are incidentally captured in an image but are not the intended main subject of the image. e.g. A parent videos their child in a race. The image captured includes other children in the race. The parent posts the video on a public website however in doing so has undertaken an unauthorized public display of the images of the other children.
- Concerns or complaints about inappropriate image use should be directed to the Chief Executive Officer of Little Athletics NSW.

Centre Appointed Photographers

Centres wishing to appoint their own 'official' photographer, or engage a paid or contracted professional photographer, need to undertake some checks prior to appointment.

Volunteer Photographer

In the case of a volunteer 'official photographer', centres should ensure that the person appointed:

- Is provided with a copy of these guidelines and acknowledges, in writing, that they have read, understood, and agree to abide by the contents.
- Signs the relevant Working with Children Check documentation (which should already be completed by all volunteers/parents).
- Is issued with a visible form of identification as the official photographer (i.e. vest, lanyard, badge etc.), once the above documentation has been received.

Professional (paid) Photographer

In the case of a paid or contracted professional photographer, centres should ensure that the person appointed:

- Is provided with a copy of these guidelines and acknowledges, in writing, that they have read, understood, and agree to abide by the contents.
- Provides a copy of a 'Certificate for Self Employed People' or a 'National Police Certificate', as issued by NSW Police.
- Provides a copy of a certificate of currency indicating that they have their own Public Liability Insurance, with a cover of not less than \$10,000,000.
- Provides details of their Australian Business Number (ABN).
- Is issued with a visible form of identification as the official photographer (i.e. vest, lanyard, badge etc.)

Use of Contracted or Paid photographers

All photographers who are contracted or paid to take photos at a Little Athletics event must have gained formal accreditation from Little Athletics NSW. Photographers who have not gained this accreditation should not be used.

For further details, please contact Little Athletics NSW on 02 9633 4511 or via admin@lansw.com.au.