



# AUSTRALIAN FUTSAL ASSOCIATION

## VIDEO & PHOTOGRAPHY ACQUIRING AND DISPLAYING IMAGES OF CHILDREN POLICY

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<b>POLICY NAME:</b>	<b>AFA Video and Photography – Acquiring and Displaying Images</b>
<b>DATE OF ISSUE:</b>	<b>July 2012 for adoption in August 2012</b>
<b>POLICY COVERAGE:</b>	<b>All AFA events and activities including competitions, education events, meetings, seminars or any other activity organised by AFA</b>
<b>DATE OF REVIEW:</b>	<b>Annually in July</b>
<b>CONTROLLING BODY:</b>	<b>Australian futsal associaiton</b>

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### INTRODUCTION

The ease of taking and modifying images has raised concerns about the potential risk of child abuse posed directly and indirectly to children and young people through the inappropriate use of photographs on sports web sites and in publications. Evidence in Australia and internationally, indicates that information posted on an internet site or published in a magazine or newspaper has the potential to be used to target children and exploit them. Certain individuals may also visit sporting events to take photographs or video footage of young sports people for inappropriate adaption and use. The end result is that, in spite of the best intentions of the sporting organisation, children's images can end up being misused.

This policy aims to reduce the risk of AFA members images being used for inappropriate purposes and to provide procedure that will ensure AFA events and other activities protect the health, safety and welfare of children.

### STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

AFA is committed to providing the highest levels of membership service. This includes protecting members privacy, promoting positive behaviours and attitudes and protecting the health and safety and well-being of our members.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to participants, spectators, officials, coaches, administrators and staff at all AFA events and activities including competitions, education events, meetings, seminars or any other activity organised by Australian Futsal.

### THE LAW

Each state within Australia may host varying policy, however in Queensland, under section 210(1)(f) of the Queensland Criminal Code, it is an offence if a person without legitimate reason takes any indecent photograph or records, by means of any device an indecent visual image of a child under 16 years of age. The Code does not apply to photos which do not represent an indecent image, which means photos taken of sporting events or of children and young people participating in normal social activities are not illegal.

It is not illegal in most instances for parents to take photographs of or video their child participating in sporting events which, by their nature, involve more than just their child e.g. Futsal matches. Many people assume parental consent must be obtained when photographing children, yet in general, children are not afforded unique legislative protection when it comes to photographs, consent, privacy, defamation etc. A signed release is required for photographs being used in a commercial, but not for non-commercial images.

When you enter a private property, it is on the understanding that you consent to any requirement the property owner may impose upon you. Therefore, if the owner of the sporting ground prohibits photography or video, these guidelines must be abided by. This also applies if a sporting club has a Risk Management Strategy in place that prohibits photography or video.

It is against the law to publish information which could identify children or young people in the context of intervention by the Department of Child Safety. For this reason, parents at sporting event should aim to take photographs of their children only, and avoid focus on other children. It is also inadvisable, although not illegal, to name and otherwise identify children on-line, where images can be downloaded and used for unintended purposes. It is strongly recommended not to publish any photos or videos of a child's sporting event on-line.

If a person is taking photographs inappropriately (breaching the restrictions or ban in place for that private property or venue), then venue management can request the person to stop. If the person refuses, police or security may be called to escort them off the property (without threatening violence, detention or confiscation of the camera or film).

## **ACQUIRING IMAGES**

AFA advise all competitors and coaches that their photograph may be taken during an event and be used in AFA publications and on the AFA website. This notice will be printed on all competition by-laws.

If an individual does not want their photograph taken at a AFA event, they should indicate this, in writing prior to the event.

Only AFA authorised photographers are permitted to take photographs on the competition floor at event.

AFA permit parents and spectators to take photographs from the spectator area provided all shots are appropriate. Parents should only take images of their own children, unless they have the express approval of the parents of other children.

Parents who suspect that other spectators are taking images of their child, or taking photos of another child that is not their child, may report the incident to the Competition Manager.

## **CONCLUSION**

This information is the most current available although the Australian Law Reform Commission are currently reviewing Australia's privacy laws and are calling for submissions on issues such as this one. Should you require further information on the matter please contact Australian Futsal Association