

## **OVERTON YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB – PHOTOGRAPHING & FILMING CHILDREN POLICY**

Overton Youth Football Club (OYFC) uses the FA guidance on photographing & filming children for the basis of this policy.

Parents, children, and football clubs generally look forward to celebrating and or publicising footballing successes by photographing children at matches and events. Documenting a child's involvement and progress through the season both by film and photos is widely accepted as contributing to the enjoyment of the game. It's also recognised some coaches find it helpful to use photographs or film as a coaching tool to support a player's development.

However, both the FA and OYFC recognise that the use of photos and films on website, social media, posters and articles within the press or other publications can pose a direct and indirect risk to children if not managed appropriately.

Everyone wishing to film or take photos in football has a responsibility to familiarise themselves with and adhere to the following guidance.

### **Potential Risks**

OYFC is aware there are 2 main areas for potential risk:

- Inappropriate taking and/or use of photographs or filming of children
- The identification of, contact with, or grooming of a child.

Everyone wishing to film or take photos in football has a responsibility to familiarise themselves with and adhere to the following guidance.

### **Inappropriate taking and/or use of photographs or filming of children**

Photographs /film must never be taken in areas where children are changing or using toilet facilities. It is also important to be aware that photos and film footage that may appear ambiguous can be used inappropriately and out of context by others and/or easily be copied and edited, perhaps to create child-abuse images or film footage or shared privately online and re-shared.

Care needs to be taken by individuals with both taking and sharing of photographs.

### **The identification of, contact with, or grooming of a child.**

When a child's image is accompanied by significant personal information e.g., full name, address - it makes them more easily identifiable to third parties. This can lead, and has led, to children being located, contacted and/or 'groomed'. Even if personal details are kept confidential, details identifying the school or club, or their favourite sportsperson or team, can potentially be used to groom the child.

There's an increased risk of identification of, and contact with a child:

- By someone in circumstances where there are legal restrictions – such as if the child is in local-authority care or placed with an adoptive family.
- Where restrictions on contact with one parent following a parental separation exist e.g., in domestic violence cases.

- In situations where a child may be a witness in criminal proceedings.

From time to time, OYFC may have children who are within these categories and therefore parents, carers and spectators must take care in taking and sharing of photographs and follow any specific advice provided by their team coach.

### **Parent/Carer Consent**

Through its registration system, OYFC will obtain and retain parental consent in relation to the taking and sharing of images by the club.

Parent/carers can remove or adjust this consent at any point in time and can do so by advising the Club Secretary who will ensure the Team Manager is advised.

The Club Secretary and or Club Welfare Officer will identify those children subject to care orders who must not be photographed. Managers will be made aware of these children.

### **Parent / Carer Commitment**

Parent/Carers and spectators are expected to comply with the measures as described below. An innocuous posting on social media may impact other children and it is requested that all are mindful and respectful towards others regarding images that are shared.

At times other Parents/Carers or team members may not be comfortable that their child's images are shared and therefore other Parents/ Carers may be asked to refrain from taking and/or posting any images or film.

### **Common sense considerations to ensure everyone's safety**

It's important to remember that the majority of photographs and film are appropriate and taken in good faith. Anyone wishing to film or take photos in football has a responsibility to familiarise themselves with and adhere to the following measures to help ensure the safety of children in football.

- Seek to focus any photography or filming on your own child rather than specifically on the children of other parents/carers.
- Communicate with the club at the earliest opportunity if you wish to change your consent in relation to images, particularly those that the club could put in the public domain e.g., on the club website, Facebook page or in a newspaper article.
- Ensure that OYFC is made aware if your child becomes subject to any legal restrictions so that we can ensure their image is not placed in the public domain.
- Ensure where you are taking photographs, that all those featured are appropriately dressed (a minimum of vest or shirt and shorts);
- Take care if putting images or films on social media and particularly do not tag children. Ensure other children are not identifiable. It is advisable that Parents/Carers ensure other team Parents/Carers are comfortable with images being shared.
- If anyone has any concerns about images taken during football, please raise these with the Club Welfare Officer so these can be addressed appropriately.

### **Overton Youth FC Commitment**

As a Club, OYFC commits to:

- Not publishing photographs with the full names of the individuals featured unless we have written consent to do so and have informed parents/ carers as to how the photo will be used;

- Not using player profiles with pictures and detailed personal information online;
- Using images for the purpose for which they were originally agreed;
- Not allowing photos or film footage to be recorded in changing rooms, showers, or toilet facilities;
- Ensuring that we do not include any advertising relating to alcohol or gambling in photographs or film footage of children.

### **Location of where photographing and filming is undertaken**

OYFC facilities are classed as public ground and whilst it is not an offence to take appropriate photographs or undertake filming, we may ask individuals to refrain where we have concerns or where parent consents are not in place or if the child is subjected to a protection order.

If there are concerns relating to child protection, OYFC reserves the right to make the necessary authorisations aware, including the Police. This action will only be taken where we believe the someone may be acting unlawfully of putting a child at risk

### **Filming as a coaching aid**

The FA advises that coaches are permitted to use filming as a legitimate coaching aid. Where doing so, the coach will make parents/carers and players aware that this will be part of the coaching programme. Care should be taken when storing and sharing the film clips.

These images will be treated in line with our Data Protection Policy.

### **Photographing and Filming at Events**

At events, for example tournaments, presentation celebrations etc attended or hosted by OYFC, organisers including OYFC may wish to take wide-angle, more general images of the event, the site, of opening and closing ceremonies, and so on.

It's usually not reasonable, practical, or proportionate to secure consent for every participating child to take such images, or to preclude such photography on the basis of the concerns of a small number of parents.

In these circumstances, in the situation of events hosted by OYFC, the Club will endeavour to make clear to all participants and parents that images will be taken and for what purposes.

### **Commissioning official photographers**

If OYFC commission's professional photographers or invites the media to cover a football activity, we will provide the photographer with a briefing document and make clear our expectations of them and advise parents/carers in advance of their attendance.

### **Responding to concerns**

Any concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography or filming of children should be reported to OYFC Club Welfare Officer.

Uptodate contact details of both the Club Welfare Officer and Club Secretary can be locate don our website [www.overtonyouthfc.co.uk](http://www.overtonyouthfc.co.uk)

Date 12 December 2022

Approved at OYFC Committee Meeting by all.