MODEL PHOTOGRAPHY POLICIES

USA Swimming member clubs are required to establish a photography policy. The following is an example model policy which shall serve as the default for any club that fails to establish its own policy. Club photography policies should be reviewed with and agreed to by all athletes, parents, coaches, and other non-athlete members of the club. Once a policy is developed and approved by your club, the default plan will no longer apply. Each member club is responsible for the approval and implementation of its photography policy.

PURPOSE

To promote a safe and positive environment for all athletes, it is important to follow clear, proactive guidelines around capturing and using images of youth in sports settings. While most photography is appropriate and conducted with good intentions, establishing preventative safeguards helps minimize the risk of misuse and promotes responsible practices from the outset.

POLICIES

1. **Publication of Photographs of Minors**
   The publication of any image or video of a swimmer under the age of 18, along with any personally identifying information (such as their name), including posting on bulletin boards, articles, video recordings, social media platforms, or live-streamed content related to swimming activities, may only occur with prior consent from a parent or legal guardian, documented through the club's consent form.

2. **Right to Refuse Photography**
   Parents or guardians have the right to refuse consent for their children to be photographed or recorded on video. Exercising this right may not be used as a basis to limit or deny a child's participation in USA Swimming activities. Note that in some instances by simply entering a meet, you may be giving consent to photographs, videos or livestreaming of your athlete. Accordingly, any photo or video that may be shared publicly, whether taken by a club member or an official photographer, must have written parental consent prior to publication or display.

In the case where an official photographer is present, parents should be made aware. If photos are to be published anywhere, parents and legal guardians should be given the opportunity to withhold their consent. Their right to do so should be specifically drawn to their attention.

All photographs must observe generally accepted standards of decency, including but not limited to:

- Action shots should be a celebration of the sporting activity and not a sexualized image

in a sporting context.

- Action shots should not be taken or retained where the photograph reveals a torn or displaced swimsuit.
- Photographs should not be taken from directly behind swimming blocks when athletes are in the starting position, nor exhibit an athlete climbing out of the swimming pool.
- Photography and videography are strictly prohibited in locker rooms, bathrooms, and any other area where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Photography Consent Form

El Paso Borderland Swim Club may wish to take photographs (individual and in groups) of swimmers under the age of 18 that may include your child during their membership in the club. All photos will be taken and published in line with club policy. The club requires parental consent to take and use photographs.

Parents have a right to refuse agreement to their child being photographed.

As the parent/caregiver of _____I allow the following

Take photographs to use on the club's secure website

☐ Consent given ☐ Consent refused

Take photographs to use on the club's social media page

☐ Consent given ☐ Consent refused

Take photographs to include in newspaper articles

☐ Consent given ☐ Consent refused

Take photographs to use on club bulletin board

☐ Consent given ☐ Consent refused

Video for training purposes only

☐ Consent given ☐ Consent refused

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Please return this form to: _____

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Why does the club need a photography policy?

The policy helps ensure the safety and privacy of all athletes, particularly minors, by setting clear expectations for when and how photographs may be taken and used.

2. Do parents have to allow photography for their child to participate?

No. Parents and guardians have the right to refuse photography, and this refusal cannot be used to limit or deny a swimmer's participation in any USA Swimming activity.

3. When is parental consent required?

Parental or guardian consent is required in the annual agreement and review of the club's photography policy.

This does not include general swim meets where swimmers are captured in the background or when live streaming of a meet is occurring.

4. Can parents change or withdraw their consent later?

Yes. Best practice would allow for parents to update or withdraw consent at any time by contacting the club.

6. Are photographs allowed at meets?

Yes, parents should be informed if an official photographer will be present, and they should be given the opportunity to withhold consent for photos to be taken or for publication.

7. Is live streaming allowed at meets?

Yes, parents should be notified that live streaming is occurring. The team has the ability to enforce that upon entering a meet consent is implied to the live streaming. It is the parents' decision to continue participating in the meet.

8. Where are photographers not allowed to take pictures?

Photography is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, bathrooms, and any setting where privacy is expected. Please note exception in MAAPP for Media and Championship Celebrations in Locker Rooms.

9. In open water meets can photographs be taken when a swimmer is in the starting position?

Open water starts that do not start behind the blocks and where athletes are not in a vulnerable position, photographs can be taken.

10. Who can I contact with questions about photography or consent?

Parents may contact the designated club administrator listed in the policy or the individual identified on the consent form.

11. Can consent be provided in electronic form?

Clubs may choose to obtain consent either electronically or in writing.