



Middlesbrough RUFC Images Policy

The RFU wishes to ensure that photography and video footage use within rugby is undertaken appropriately.

Parents should not be prevented from taking pictures or filming their children. These are normal family practices and help mark milestones in a child's life. The introduction of proportionate controls on the use of photographic equipment (cameras, videos, including mobile phones) is an element of general safeguarding good practice in a club.

Middlesbrough RUFC is keen to promote positive images of young people playing rugby and is not preventing the use of photographic or videoing equipment. Some people may use sporting events as an opportunity to take inappropriate photographs or film footage of young people. All clubs should be vigilant about the possibility of this. These individuals could attend the local Rugby club allowing people to presume they are related to a child involved. It is also possible that if a picture and name was placed in the local paper, on the Club Website or in a Club Publication the information could be used as a 'grooming' tool. Any concerns during Game or an event should be reported to a club official or event organizer.

There may be other reasons why individuals may not wish their child's photograph to be taken by someone they do not know personally, i.e. estranged parents looking to gain access to a child. For some young people – particularly "looked after" children there may be legal constraints on them being photographed and identified.

Middlesbrough RUFC has a policy relating to the use of cameras during matches, training sessions and other club occasions. The guiding principles are:

- Photographs / images are not to be taken at matches or training without the prior permission of the parents/carers of the young people. This permission can be given by proxy by the coach of each team only after parental consent for this has been granted. The coach must arrange this prior to attending matches.
- This permission will form part of the player registration form and will be renewed at the start of each season along with any medical information and up-to-date contact information.
- If no consent has been given for a young person on the player registration form, then it is to be made known to the relevant person of the other team (e.g. Coach / Team Manager) so that the appropriate person/s taking photos for the other team is aware and can avoid taking photos of that particular young person.



- The young people should be informed that a person will be taking photographs.
- The young people should be informed that if they have concerns, they can report these to the coach or team manager.
- Concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography should be reported to the Club Safeguarding Officer and recorded in the same manner as any other child protection concern.
- It is recommended that Rugby tournaments / festivals / events / competitions set up a camera registration book for parents to complete.
- As it is recommended that all Rugby Clubs as well as Tournament / Festival / Event organizers adhere to the appropriate guidelines relating to publishing of images as detailed below, Middlesbrough RUFC has adopted these principles:

Use of images of young people, (for example on Club websites, in the media, match reports or in a club programme or publications handbooks).

- Ask for parental permission to use their child's image and wherever possible show the image to the parents and young person in advance. This ensures that they are aware of the way the image will be used to represent Rugby Union and the Club
- Ask for the young person's permission to use their image. This ensures that they are aware of the way the image is to be used to represent Rugby Union and the Club
- If the player is named, avoid using their photograph.
- If a photograph is used, avoid naming the young person.
Photographs could be captioned - *another try for the Middlesbrough winger*
- *A Middlesbrough U13 player scores a good try.*
- Only use images of young people in appropriate kit (training or playing), to reduce the risk of inappropriate use, and to provide positive images of the young people
- Encourage the reporting of inappropriate use of images of young people. If you are concerned, report your concerns to the CB (Constituent Body – Yorkshire) Safeguarding Manager or Club Safeguarding Officer.



- Photographs must provide a positive image of the young people, the Club and the game. Images of errors, injuries and altercations could bring the Club into disrepute.
- Clubs are advised not to post images – either officially or unofficially - on social networking sites which young people can access and tag thereby revealing more personal information about themselves.

Using Video as a coaching aid:

There is no intention on the part of the RFU to prevent Club Coaches using video equipment as a legitimate coaching aid. However, Players and Parents/Carers should be aware that this is part of the Coaching program and material taken in connection with coaching must be stored securely and must be deleted /destroyed when a parent requests this, or when the material is no longer needed. The Parents/Carers and young people must have provided written consent for the use of photography and video analysis as described above.

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