



Fort Collins Area Swim Team

World Class Character through Excellence in Swimming

Photography and Photographing Swimmers Policy

Why Have a Policy?

There has been much talk about whether it is safe to have images taken of children participating in sports. Whilst the great majorities of images are appropriate and are taken in good faith, it is a fact that images can be misused and children can be put at risk if common sense procedures are not observed. To set out such procedures, Fort Collins Area Swim Team (FAST) has established a Photography Policy.

A copy of the policy can be found on the FAST website under the heading, Team Info/Team Policies.

This communication provides a summary level explanation and guide.

Scope of the Policy

This Policy applies to all photographs taken and videos taken on any device that has the ability to film or photograph swimmers including mobile phones and video streaming.

The policy applies to both swimming competitions or meets and club sessions.

The terms “child” or “children” include anyone under the age of 18 years.

Swimmer’s families, taking photos of their children from the spectator area, are not subject to this policy.

Aims of the policy

The primary aim of the policy is the safeguarding of children. Secondly to help the sport of swimming and FAST avoid three potential areas of child abuse: -

1. The use, adaptation, or copying of images for child abuse, either on the Internet or in print.
2. The possible identification of a child when an image is accompanied by significant personal information, which can lead to the child being ‘groomed’.

3. The possible identification of a swimmer when an image is accompanied by significant personal information, which could put the swimmer at risk.

What does this mean in practice?

All photographers and photographs must observe generally accepted standards of decency in particular:

- 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 swimming costume.
- Poolside shots of children should normally be above the waist only in a swimming costume, though full-length tracksuit shots are approved.
- Photographs cannot be taken from designated 'No Photographing' areas, (refer to poolside notices) or of swimmers climbing out of the swimming pool.

Everyone is subject to following the USA Swimming Rule:

- Use of Audio or Visual Recording Devices, Including a Cell Phone, is not permitted behind the starting blocks, including any spectator area behind the starting blocks, in changing areas, rest rooms or locker rooms.

Published photographs may identify the swimmer by name and club but should not state the swimmers place of residence or school attended.

FAST and its affiliated clubs do not wish to stop parents photographing their children however, we do want to ensure that we are doing all we can to safeguard children's wellbeing in the current climate of concern.

Opt Out

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

To Opt out of this policy please follow the link and select the option to refuse consent.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1gvEckSyVCwtAHk5t6zqiO-I56mhY-Uz6aPwPIVMrZ3U/edit>

Notes:

Any Photographer asking to be on the deck during a FAST sanctioned swim meet shall fill out the form below. The Meet Director should check the actual ID against the information provided on the entry form and keep a file of submitted forms.

The intent is to promote accountability and to give Meet Directors and Referees a tool for managing concerns about photographers. FAST will provide a lanyard indicating that the photographer is registered. See form, below.

FAST Photographer Registration Form

This form must be completed by any photographer (video or still) who has been asked to take pictures at a Fort Collins Area Swim Team (FAST) meet.

Submit this form to the Meet Director Prior to the Meet.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Government ID (driver's license preferred) or USA Swimming Registration Card:

Type of ID _____ # _____

Taking photos of _____

On behalf of _____

Purpose _____

Professional photographers/videographers or press photographers will be allowed on deck at the discretion of the Meet Director and Meet Referee and must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. USA Swimming Rule: Use of Audio or Visual Recording Devices, Including a Cell Phone, is not permitted behind the starting blocks, including any spectator area behind the starting blocks, in changing areas, rest rooms or locker rooms.

2. THERE WILL BE NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY PERMITTED AT THE START OF EACH RACE.

3. Do not stand on the starting end of the pool, in the starter's box or on the bulkhead at any time. 4. Do not stand on the edge of the pool (leave approximately two feet for officials and coaches).

5. Leave the deck when not actively photographing.

6. Respond immediately to direction from the Meet Referee.

Signature _____ Today's

Date _____

Meet _____

Location _____ Date(s) of
meet _____