



Use of Photographic and Mobile Equipment

Hockey has adopted a policy in relation to the use of images of young people on their websites and in other publications as part of its commitment to providing a safe environment to young people. Hockey will take all necessary steps to ensure that young people are protected from the inappropriate use of their images in resource and media publications, on the internet and elsewhere. There have been concerns about the risks posed directly and indirectly to children and young people through the use of photographs on sports websites and other publications. Where possible we will try to use models or illustrations when promoting an activity and avoid the use of the first name and surname of individuals in a photograph. This reduces the risk of inappropriate, unsolicited attention from people within and outside the sport. This is not to avoid parents/guardians taking photographs of their children but to ensure that best practice is put in place wherever and whenever photographs and recorded images are taken and stored.

General Guidelines for use of photography

- Ask for parental permission to use the hockey participant's image and consult with the parents about its usage. This ensures that they are aware of the way the image is to be used to represent the sport. A parental permission form is one way of achieving this.
- If the young person is named, avoid using their photograph.
- If a photograph is used, avoid naming the young person
- Only use images of young people in suitable dress to reduce the risk of inappropriate use. The content of the photograph should focus on the hockey not on a particular child
- Create recognised procedures for reporting the use of inappropriate images to reduce the risks to young hockey participants. Follow the child protection procedures, ensuring either the senior officer, Children's Officer/Designated Person or, if necessary, the social services and/or police are informed.

Amateur photographers/film/video operators wishing to record an event or practice session should seek accreditation with the senior officer and/or event organiser of session. Club / branch/ association should display the following information prior to the start of an event to inform spectators of the policy:

"In line with the recommendation of the IHA's Code of Conduct, the promoters of this event request that any person wishing to engage in any video, zoom or close range photography should register their details with the club secretary or event organisers before carrying out any photography. The club/Branch/IHA (whatever is appropriate) and event organisers reserve the right to decline entry to any person unable to meet or abide by the organisers conditions. Children and young people should only be photographed or filmed with their permission and the permission of their parents/guardian".

Ensure that these guidelines are communicated to the event organisers and that they have a clear understanding of the reasoning behind it.

When commissioning professional photographers or inviting the press to an activity or event we will ensure they are clear about our expectations of them in relation to child protection.

Professional photographers/film/video operators wishing to record an event or practice session should seek accreditation with the chairperson or event organiser by producing their professional identification for the details to be recorded. Ensure that you:

- Provide a clear brief about what is considered appropriate in terms of content and behaviour
- Issue the photographer with identification which must be worn at all times
- Keep a record of accreditations
- Inform young people and parents that a photographer will be in attendance at an event and ensure they consent to both the taking and publication of films or photographs
- Do not allow unsupervised access to young people or one to one photo sessions at events
- Do not approve/allow photo sessions outside the events or at a player's home

Videoing as a coaching aid: Video equipment can be used as a legitimate coaching aid. However, permission should first be obtained from the young person and the young person's parent/carer.

Anyone concerned about any photography taking place at events or training sessions can contact the senior officer (named event director or club/Branch/IHA Children's Officer) and ask them to deal with the matter.

Mobile phones

Mobile phones provide children with security and enable parents to keep in touch and make sure that they are safe. However, this technology also allows for direct personal contact with young people, in some cases used to cross the boundaries of what is appropriate and cause harm to young people. Responsible and secure use of mobile phones by adults and young people needs to be encouraged in Hockey.

As a young person remember:

- If you receive an offensive photo, email or message, do not reply, save it, make a note of times and dates and tell a parent or Children's Officer/Designated Person within the organisation/club
- Be careful about who you give your phone number to and don't respond to unfamiliar numbers
- Change your phone number in cases of bullying or harassment
- Don't use the phone in certain locations; inappropriate use of your camera phone may cause upset or offence to another person, e.g. in changing rooms
- Treat your phone as you would any other valuable item so that you guard against theft

As a Leader remember:

- Use group texts for communication among players and teams and inform parents of this at the start of the season
- It is not appropriate to have constant communication for individual players
- Don't use the phone in certain locations; inappropriate use of your camera phone may cause upset or offence to another person, e.g. in changing rooms

For further information see www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/code_of_ethics