

Bacchus Marsh Soccer Club

Filming and Photography Policy



1. Purpose

This policy aims to safeguard the wellbeing and privacy of junior soccer players (under 18) by setting clear guidelines for Bacchus Marsh Soccer Club (BMSC) members and others who want to take photos or film children during games, training sessions, and events.

While most people taking photos and/or videos do so for appropriate reasons, there is the potential that people may look to inappropriately use images with the intent to harm and abuse children and young people. The introduction of smart phones means the taking and sharing of images is has become easier than ever. At times we take photos or videos and share them with others or through social media without considering the possible unintended outcome that could result.

This policy should be considered in conjunction with Bacchus Marsh Soccer Club (BMSC) Social Media Policy for when images are shared on public platforms.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Parents, guardians, and spectators
- Club officials and volunteers
- Coaches and referees
- Media representatives
- Any third party engaged by the club for promotional or training purposes

3. Guiding Principles

- Child safety and privacy are paramount.
- Footage must not be misused in any way that could cause harm or distress.
- Respect the privacy and wishes of others

4. General Guidance

4.1 In Public Spaces

The Law in Australia specifies that, generally speaking, there is no law restricting photography of people (including children) in public spaces as long as the images are not:

1. Indecent (such as 'up skirt' or 'down-blouse' photographs taken covertly in change rooms or toilets)
2. Being used for voyeurism or made for the purpose of observing and visually recording a person's genital or anal region
3. Protected by a court order (e.g., child custody or witness protection)
4. Defamatory
5. Being for commercial purposes (person's likeness is used to endorse or entice people to buy a product).

Photos of a child (including your own child) also contravene Criminal Codes and censorship laws if the child is photographed in a provocative or sexual manner.

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4.2 On Private Property

1. Where a sporting event is held on a club's private property, privately owned land, a school or council owned facilities, the owner of the private property or venue is able to restrict, ban or require permission of photography anywhere in their venue (e.g., some council owned facilities will not allow mobile phones or cameras in change rooms or toilets).
2. Where a sporting event is held on private property not owned by the organisers, it is good practice to determine a mutually agreed photographing policy. If a person is taking photographs inappropriately (e.g., breaching the restrictions or ban place for that private property or venue), then venue management can request the person to stop. If the person refuses, the police or security may be called to escort them off the property.

For clarity, all BMSC games are played on grounds that fall within category 1.

5. Consent Requirements

It is not illegal to take photographs or video in a public place, and whilst it is not required under law to obtain consent, it is a requirement for BMSC members to ask to ensure that the privacy and wishes of others is respected, as there are circumstances where filming/photographing a child can place them at risk.

From the Football Federation Australia Member Protection Framework – Safeguarding Policy, clause 5.4 *“Football Entities request that all Members, wherever possible, obtain permission from a Child’s parent/guardian before taking an image of a Child and ensure that the parent/guardian knows how the image will be used”*.

5.1 Mounted Filming Devices

The use of mounted filming devices such as Veo are becoming more common at junior sporting events for use by the coach to analyse the game and improve individual players and/or the team’s performance. For our teams to use a fixed mounted device, either personal or BMSC owned, during a game you must follow these steps:

- If you are playing at away fields, ask the committee on ground duty for permission to set up and where best to facilitate that. Depending on field layout, there may not be room on one side of a field etc.
 - The device must be secured with weights or tied down to minimise the potential for injury if it were to fall over and to ensure it isn’t a trip hazard.
 - These devices aren’t to obstruct spectators/teams/match officials view or access to the technical areas and sidelines.
 - It is to be set up at least 3 metres back from the field to ensure that it doesn’t impede any play.

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- Consent must be obtained from both teams. Speak with the coach and manager prior to setting up and they can ask the parents/guardians, noting:
 - If they say no, then the game cannot be filmed
 - They do not have to give a reason
 - Both teams need to be comfortable with this to be able to proceed
- The opposition may request a copy of the video so that they are also able to analyse the game.
 - This will be done club to club, via the committee not directly team to team.
 - Email bacchusmarshscorpions@hotmail.com.au to advise the game details for the footage to be forwarded on.
 - BMSC reserves the right not to share footage
- The video footage of junior games is not to be posted on social media
- Visiting teams to the Racecourse Reserve are to follow the same steps as BMSC teams.
- In the event of an on-field incident, BMSC has the right to request the video footage (personal devices) to be able to review and make available to Football Victoria if required for any investigation. For BMSC owned devices, this will be an automatic process, and teams need to be aware that the footage may be used in these circumstances.

5.2 Photographs/Filming on handheld devices

- Spectators may only film or photograph their own children, unless they have consent from the parents/guardians of other children captured.
- Team or player of the week photos that are provided to the club to post on the BMSC Facebook and Instagram pages must have had the parents give verbal permission.
- Club-approved photographers/videographers must:
 - Wear identifiable accreditation
 - Film in designated areas
 - Ensure footage focuses on the sport and not on individuals unnecessarily
- BMSC reserves the right to restrict or prohibit filming during certain matches or events
- Under no circumstances should images be shared with identifying information (e.g., full name, school, location).

6. Media Access

- Any media presence must be approved by the club in advance.
- Journalists and photographers must present credentials and follow child safety protocols.

7. Breaches of Policy

Any breaches of this policy will be treated seriously and may result in:

- Being asked to stop filming immediately
- Removal from the venue
- Escalation to the relevant authorities or child protection services

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8. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as required to ensure compliance with legislation, Football Victoria, and Football Australia policies.

9. References

[Sport Integrity Australia](#)

[Play by the Rules – Taking images or video of children at sporting events eSafety](#)

[Commissioner](#)

[Football Australia Member Protection Framework – Safeguarding Policy](#)

[Football Victoria Photography and Video Guidelines](#)