



Gold Coast Gymnastics  
Club

## **AQUIRING OF IMAGES OF CHILDREN POLICY**

Updated 28/02/08

This policy applies to all GCGC staff, members, visitors and guests.

In fitting with the club's Child Protection Policy, it has been shown to be necessary to implement a policy on acquiring images of children. This is due to the potential risks of child abuse posed directly and indirectly to children and young people through the use of photographs on sports websites and in publications. Evidence indicates that information posted on an internet site or published materials can be used to target children, to locate them, and then to condition or 'groom' them for abuse or exploitation. There is also evidence that some individuals will visit the sporting events to take photographs or video footage of young and/or disabled sports people for inappropriate use. Images can also be altered or adapted for inappropriate use. Due to these disturbing facts the following rules have been applied and your understanding and adherence to them is greatly appreciated.

### **1. Club Obligations:**

- 1.1 If acquiring an image of a child, permission needs to be obtained from the athlete's parent/guardian prior to taking the child's image. Ensure that all concerned are aware of the way in which the image is to be used.
- 1.2 All persons taking photographic/video images (including spectators, parents, coaches, professional photographers or members of the media) at an event must register prior to acquiring any images. Registration forms will be provided at each event and will require information such as name, address, license number, reason for taking photograph/video, and what the intended use of the images is.
- 1.3 Only Professional Photographers officially sanctioned by the GCGC will be used to take images at a GCGC event.
- 1.4 Only photos of appropriate images of the gymnast/child, relevant to the sport, will be permitted. The gymnast/child must be suitably clothed and in modest poses. It must be considered that gymnastics requires children to wear minimal clothing and to be in unusual body positions/poses, and that these images can be potentially misused.

- 1.5 Consent must be given by the child's parent/guardian before any personal information can be displayed with or without the inclusion of an image. Personal information would include such things as address, phone number, email address, attended school, hobbies, likes/dislikes etc.
- 1.6 Photos or video images will not be approved outside of the event venue or at the home of a child unless parent/guardian consent is obtained and that they agree to be present at the photo session.
- 1.7 During the year some video footage or still photography may be taken of the competitive gymnasts to be used for coaching or coaches education purposes. These images will not be used outside of the club or made accessible to the public without first obtaining permission from the child's parent/guardian.

## **2. Members Obligations**

2.1 Birthday parties – Only those registered to take photos will be allowed to photograph the party participants. The club will provide a scheduled photo opportunity during each party. Photos can only be taken during this allocated time.

2.2 Daily class times – Photography and videoing of children during class time is forbidden, if you wish to take photographs or video of your child in a class, you must first make **prior** arrangements with administration before the class and if possible, a photo opportunity will be arranged for your child after their class.

2.3 Events – All persons taking photographic/video images (including spectators, parents, coaches, professional photographers or members of the media) at an event must register prior to acquiring any images. Registration forms will be provided at each event and will require information such as name, address, license number, reason for taking photograph/video, and what the intended use of the images is. You will be provided with a tag stating your registration number and your name. You must be clearly visible at all times, if you do not have your registration number and name clearly displayed you will be asked to cease all photography or videoing activity. If you do not comply with this request you will be escorted from the building by club personnel.

If there are any concerns or complaints of inappropriate photographic behavior or content, please contact the club's Member Protection Information Officer (Nicole Brunker), or the club's General Manager (Phil Hanson) and the appropriate grievance procedures will be followed.