



Photo consent policy

At times Verwood Town Football Club (VTFC) may wish to take photos or videos of teams or individuals. We have adopted a “Photo consent policy” described in this document which adheres to The FA Guidelines to ensure these photographs are safe and respectful and used solely for the purposes for which they are intended, which is promotion and celebration of the activities of VTFC and for training purposes.

You will be asked to consent to this policy as a condition of registration with VTFC. VTFC encourages parents/carers to take pictures or video of their children playing football and training. Having a visual memento of our children playing and enjoying football is priceless and encouraged in the FA guidelines.

Risks

However, there are risks around the use of images of children. Our policies seek to mitigate these risks which have been identified in the FA Guidance as the following:

- The inappropriate use, adaptation or copying of images for use on child abuse websites on the internet (often incorrectly referred to as pornography sites)
- The identification of children when a photograph is accompanied by significant personal information that will assist a third party in identifying the child. This can lead, and has led, to children being ‘groomed’
- The identification and locating of children in inappropriate circumstances which include: (i) where a child has been removed from his/her family for their own safety; (ii) where restrictions on contact with one parent following a parental separation exist e.g. in domestic violence cases; (iii) in situations where a child may be a witness in criminal proceedings; or (iv) other safeguarding children concerns.

It's important to remember the majority of images taken are appropriate and taken in good faith. If we take the following simple measures we can help to ensure the safety of children in football.

Guidelines

VTFC follows FA Guidance on taking and using photographic images and video of children and have the following specific guidance for parents, carers, spectators and club officials:

1. Please do NOT identify a child or children by name when posting a photograph or video online or in the press, or publish any other personal details or information that will assist a third party in identifying the child.
2. The Club does NOT allow images to be recorded in changing rooms, showers or toilets – this includes the use of mobile phones that record images.
3. Coaches and Club Officials will from time to time photograph or video matches or training to post on our website or other media, e.g. Facebook, or to use as an aid to training. If at any point you have Safeguarding concerns about your child appearing in a photo (e.g. the child is subject to care proceedings), it is important to discuss this with your child's Coach or the club welfare officer who will ensure the club is made aware and appropriate and agreed action is taken.
4. Club Officials may take photos or video at away matches but this will have been discussed with the home team Coach or Officials PRIOR to the match. Other clubs may have different policies relating to photography and without prior permission, parent/carers should NOT take photos or video.
5. When taking photos or video, try and focus on the activity rather than the individual.
6. Ensure that all children featured in a photo or video are appropriately dressed with a minimum of shirt and shorts.
7. Club Officials should aim to take pictures which represent the broad range of youngsters participating safely in football.
8. Please ensure any photos or videos you take are stored securely.
9. If you are concerned about the inappropriate use of images please report this to the club welfare officer or any committee member.

If you have any questions about this policy outside of the concerns expressed in above, then please contact the club on youth_secretary@vtyfc.co.uk