

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY POLICY

Note: The term ‘children’ describes any person under the age of 18. A Vulnerable Adult is someone over 18 who is unable to protect themselves from harm, abuse, or exploitation.

Parkour UK recognises that parents/carers and young people largely welcome opportunities to celebrate or publicise their involvement and achievements when taking part in parkour by photographing and filming their children, young people and vulnerable adults at events.

Photography and Videography Usage

Parkour UK will ensure that consent is gained from both the photographer and the subject for all photographs and video content used by us on social media, on our website and for use in any other promotional materials. When the subject is under the age of 18 or a vulnerable adult, written consent will be sought from a parent or carer. This consent will be stored online per our GDPR and data collection policy.

Electronic images, including video recordings of children, young adults and vulnerable adults, will be kept securely in a protected folder with restricted access. Images will NOT be stored on unencrypted portable equipment such as laptops, memory sticks or mobile phones.

Wherever possible Parkour UK will avoid using any personal equipment to take photos and recordings of children/vulnerable adults and use only cameras or devices belonging to the organisation. However, in exceptional circumstances, if images are taken on a personal device, these will be deleted as soon as they have been uploaded securely to the relevant folder.

When using professional photographers to work with children, young adults and vulnerable adults, Parkour UK will:

- Inform parents/carers and children that a photographer will be in attendance.
- Ensure parents/carers and children consent to both the taking and publication of films or photos.
- Check the photographer’s identity, DBS status, and the validity of their role, and confirm the purpose and use of the images to be taken.
- Issue the photographer with identification, which must be worn at all times.
- Provide the photographer with a clear brief about what is considered appropriate in terms of image content and behaviour.
- Clarify areas where all photography is prohibited (toilets, changing areas, first aid areas, and so on); for more on this, refer to our [Safe Use of Toilets and Changing Rooms Guidance](#).
- Inform the photographer about how to identify – and avoid taking images of – children without the required parental consent for photography.
- Will not allow unsupervised access to children or one-to-one photo sessions at events.

- Will not allow photo sessions away from the event – for instance, at a young person's home
- Will clarify issues about ownership of and access to all images, and for how long they'll be retained and/or used.

Photography and Videography in Gyms and at Events

Clubs/gyms may also promote their activities to encourage participation. Parkour UK does not advocate the banning of photography or the use of images and videos of children/vulnerable adults. However, we would like to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from the inappropriate use of their images in resources and media publications, on the internet and elsewhere.

What Are the Risks?

Children/Vulnerable Adults May Be Identified, Contacted, or Groomed.

Including a child, young person or vulnerable adult's personal information (full name, address) alongside their image can make them identifiable and, therefore, vulnerable to individuals looking to locate, contact or ['groom' children for abuse](#).

Even if personal details are kept confidential, other details identifying the sports organisation, school or club, or their favourite sportsperson or team can also be used to groom the child.

There's an increased risk of identification of, and contact with, a child:

- By someone in circumstances where there are legal restrictions – such as if the child is in local authority care or placed with an adoptive family.
- Where it's potentially dangerous to reveal the child's whereabouts to an estranged parent due to previous concerns about domestic violence.

Someone Might Make Inappropriate or Illegal Images of Children/Vulnerable Adults

Photo or video content may itself be inappropriate, or images may be used inappropriately or out of context:

- Some individuals deliberately target sports activities and set out to take inappropriate photos in ways that are potentially illegal and harmful, such as:
 - Images of children/vulnerable adults changing.
 - Photos taken in the toilets.
 - Using a camera at ground level to photograph up girls' skirts
- Images that appear ambiguous can be used inappropriately and out of context by others (for example, images from some angles of someone doing the splits).
- Images can easily be copied and edited, perhaps to create images of child abuse or vulnerable adult abuse.

- Images shared privately online can be re-shared, possibly entering the public domain on websites or social media.

Using Images of Young People for Publication, Promotion or Coaching

Clubs benefit from using images of participants to promote and celebrate activities, events and competitions. Some coaches also find it helpful to use photographs or videos as a tool to support an athlete's skills development.

However, the use of photos and videos on websites and social media, and in posters, the press or other publications, can pose direct and indirect risks to children, young people and vulnerable adults if not managed correctly.

Organisations wishing to use or permit the use of images of children and vulnerable adults involved in their activities must, therefore, have a policy in place to safeguard them. Seek permission from parents/carers for any photography or videography of children under 18 and carers of vulnerable adults beforehand. For those over 18, ensure that you also seek permission, but they may give consent themselves.

Minimising the Risks

- Think carefully before using any images showing children, young people or vulnerable adults on your website, social media or other publications.
- Choose images that present the activity in a positive light and promote the best aspects of the sport and organisation.
- Don't supply full names of children or vulnerable adults along with the images unless:
 - It's considered necessary – such as for [elite young athletes](#)
 - It's in the child's/vulnerable adult's best interests
 - The child and parent/carer have consented
- Only use images of children/vulnerable adults in suitable dress or kit.
- Activities that present a higher risk for potential misuse than other activities should:
 - Focus on the activity rather than a particular child/vulnerable adult.
 - Avoid showing the full face and body of a child – instead, show from the waist or shoulders up.
 - Avoid images and camera angles that may be more prone to misinterpretation or misuse than others.
- Provide coaches who use images of athletes as part of their training with clear guidelines by which they are required to comply, including use of the images, consent and [retention, safe storage and confidentiality](#).

Using Official or Professional Photographers

You should establish and clarify many of these points as part of the commissioning or contracting process:

- Inform parents/carers and children that a photographer will be in attendance.
- Ensure parents/carers and children consent to both the taking and publication of films or photos.
- Check the photographer's identity, the validity of their role, and the purpose and use of the images to be taken.
- Issue the photographer with identification, which must be worn at all times.
- Provide the photographer with a clear brief about what is considered appropriate in terms of image content and behaviour.
- Clarify areas where all photography is prohibited (toilets, changing areas, first aid areas, and so on); for more on this, refer to our [Safe Use of Toilets and Changing Rooms Guidance](#).
- Inform the photographer about how to identify – and avoid taking images of – children [without the required parental consent](#) for photography.
- Don't allow unsupervised access to children or one-to-one photo sessions at events.
- Don't allow photo sessions away from the event – for instance, at a young person's home.
- Clarify issues about ownership of and access to all images and for how long they'll be retained and/or used.

Responding to Concerns

All staff, volunteers, children and parents/carers should be informed that if they have any concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography (in terms of the way, by whom, or where photography is being undertaken), these should be reported to the event club welfare officer, NGB or another official.

Ensure that your club, the event organiser, or lead child protection or safeguarding officer is informed. Concerns about professional photographers should also be reported to their employers.

If there are concerns or suspicions about potentially criminal behaviour, this should include referral to the police.

When to Seek Parental Permission

Close-Up Images

- Seek parental consent to take and use images of individual or smaller groups of participants in which their child would easily be recognisable.
- Let parents know how, where and in what context an image may be used – for example, on a public website, through social media or in a printed resource.
- Make parents aware of your policy on using children's images and of the way these represent the organisation or activity.

- Complete a parental/carer consent form for the use of images of children, young adults and vulnerable adults, possibly as part of the process for registering and consenting to participate in the activity or event.
- Ask for the child's/young adult's/vulnerable adult's permission to use their image, advising them of how the image will be used.

General Images at Events

At many events, organisers will wish to take wide-angle, more general images of the event, the site, and so on. Parkour UK recognises it is not always practicable to secure consent from every participant in order to take such images or to preclude such photography on the basis of the concerns of a small number of parents. In these circumstances, organisers should make clear to all participants and parents/carers that these kinds of images will be taken and for what purposes. If anyone advises they do not wish to be photographed, arrange for them to stand to one side during this time.

What to Do When Parental Consent Is Not Given

Clubs/gyms and event organisers have a responsibility to put in place arrangements to ensure that any official or professional photographers can identify (or be informed about) which children and vulnerable adults should not be subject to close-up photography. This should be done in consultation with parents/carers.

Parkour UK recommend that the following arrangements or similar are put into place to ensure that those concerned can be easily identified:

- Providing a recognisable badge, sticker or wristband.
- A system for the photographer to check with the club and/or manager to ensure it's clear which groups or individuals should not feature in images.

Secure Storage of Images

Images or video recordings of children, young adults and vulnerable adults must be kept securely:

- Hard copies of images should be kept in a locked drawer.
- Electronic images should be in a protected folder with restricted access.
- Images should not be stored on unencrypted portable equipment such as laptops, memory sticks or mobile phones.

Avoid using any personal equipment to take photos and recordings of children/vulnerable adults – use only cameras or devices belonging to your organisation.

Parkour UK recommends that when storing and using photographs to identify children and adults for official purposes – such as identity cards, you ensure you comply with the legal requirements for handling

personal information. For guidance on the Data Protection Act and other privacy regulations, visit the [Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\)](#) website.

Talented Young Athletes

As young athletes progress up the competitive ladder, their sporting success can lead to an increased public profile:

- Elite-level events are more likely to take place in a public arena.
- Event organisers and sports governing bodies will look to positively promote their sport.
- Elite young athletes who receive endorsements or sponsorship may welcome positive media coverage on a local, regional or national level.

In these cases, some aspects of our guidance around the use of images and publishing identifying information are neither practical nor desirable.

However, organisers retain their duty of care to these athletes and a responsibility to safeguard them. They must ensure that the athletes and their parents consent to images being taken and what information will be published alongside them. It is important that our other good-practice guidance regarding supervision and the nature and use of images is still applied.

In addition, athletes, their parents and media representatives need to be clear about appropriate arrangements and ground rules for interviews, and for filming and photo sessions. Sports organisations should help to manage these issues as part of their overall [support of elite athletes](#).

Photography by Parents and Spectators at Events

Parkour recognises that spectators, especially participants' family and friends, may want to take photos or videos during classes or events.

Clubs/gyms must have photography procedures in place to safeguard children and vulnerable adults and determine what stance to take on when photography by the public is allowed.

If a club is using a hired venue, such as a leisure centre or school they will need to factor in any additional facility or venue policies as required.

Although parental consent is not required for photography by the public, clubs/gyms and event organisers should make the photography policy clear to all participants and parents ahead of the event.

Minimising the Risks

Decide on a spectator photography policy for your club. This could include:

1. A Total Ban on Any Photography

With the widespread use of smartphones, tablets and other equipment that can take photos, there are challenges in seeking to impose an outright ban on photography by parents and spectators.

Advantages and Challenges

- Many operators of closed facilities (for example, some swimming pools) prohibit any unauthorised photography. Others may impose bans in specific areas within the facility. Clubs need to establish, comply with and promote any venue policies or procedures if hiring facilities, regardless of their own.
- A total ban may make policing the rules more straightforward – although the use of phones may remain an issue – and provide a clear message from organisers about their commitment to safeguarding. However, a ban can be difficult to enforce, given the number of devices with which images can be taken.
- A ban may be very unpopular with parents and other spectators who wish to record the efforts and achievements of their children or friends. A compromise is to let them have access to official photographs taken regularly.
- Clear communication to all parties is key to this approach, together with well-publicised systems for anyone to raise concerns about breaches of these rules.

2. Registration of Individuals Who Intend to Take Photos

Many event organisers require anyone wishing to take photographs to register. Communicating this to the public is essential, together with establishing a straightforward process for doing so is essential.

- Individuals will have to register before a class/event via a basic form and receive a sticker or equivalent to indicate they have undergone the process.
- Staff, volunteers, participants, parents, spectators and the public need to be both informed about this process and encouraged to report anyone apparently taking photos without the necessary registration.

Advantages and Challenges

- This system has the advantage of providing a clear message about the organisers' commitment to safeguarding, potentially deterring individuals with bad intent.
- It may provide identifying information about someone should concerns arise, depending on the thoroughness of any identity-checking included in the registration process. And when well-advertised, it effectively enlists many spectators in 'policing' the rules.
- However, registration itself clearly requires resources and time (including for spectators). Unless it's linked to some form of robust identity check, it won't provide a mechanism to identify individuals should concerns subsequently arise.
- It may provide someone with bad intent with apparent legitimacy for their actions in terms of having official permission to take photographs of participating children.

3. No Overall Public Photography Ban

Many event organisers require anyone wishing to take photographs to register. Communicating this to the public is essential, together with establishing a straightforward process for doing so is essential.

- Some organisations have opted not to ban all photography. Instead, they proactively promote guidance about those specific areas where photography is not permitted under any circumstances (for example, toilets and changing areas).
- You should provide the public with key messages about the risks associated with online postings and encourage them to report any concerns about anyone's behaviour in this context.

Advantages and Challenges

- This approach has the advantage of not requiring any registration system (other than for official and professional photographers attending a class or event).
- It focuses more on the concerning aspects of photography being undertaken, rather than photography itself. It acknowledges that many spectators will wish to take photographs while also promoting safeguarding messages.
- This system relies on a high level of public awareness of what behaviours should raise concerns and of the clubs/event process for reporting and responding to reported concerns. It provides no process to secure the identity details of any spectators.

4. The Event Venue Is a Public Area, So No Ban Is Possible

In general, members of the public are entitled to take photos in public areas, whether or not this includes taking images of children involved in sports events or activities.

- Regardless of any policies or procedures governing photography by those involved in or watching sports events, organisers have no right to impose these rules on other members of the public accessing or using the same public spaces.
- However, if there are any indications or concerns that an individual may be taking images of children or young people that are inappropriate or illegal, this should immediately be reported to the club or event manager, who is responsible for contacting the police.
- This could include images of children taken in changing areas or toilets. Or images taken in ways or from angles that suggest inappropriate or abusive intent – for instance, when a camera or other device is operated at ground level while pointing up girls' skirts.
- Organisers should have in place and actively promote clear ways for anyone to report concerns they have about photography or any other aspect of children's well-being.

Whatever route you as a club decide to follow, clarify and promote the photography rules for your club to all staff, volunteers, spectators, parents and young participants.

- The rules should include information on areas where photography is banned, such as changing rooms.
- Warn parents and spectators that there can be negative consequences to sharing images linked to information about their own or other people's children on social media (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok,...) – and care should be taken about 'tagging'.
- Establish procedures to respond to and manage any concerns arising, including clear reporting structures and a system to contact police when necessary.

Responding to Concerns

All staff, volunteers, children, parents and carers should be informed that if they have any concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography (in terms of the way, by whom, or where photography is being undertaken), these should be reported to the club welfare office, safeguarding lead, NGB, event organiser or another official.

All clubs must have a safeguarding procedure in place to ensure that reported concerns are dealt with in the same way as any other child-protection issue. Ensure that your club, event organiser, lead child protection or safeguarding officer is informed.

If there are concerns or suspicions about potentially criminal behaviour, this should include referral to the police in line with your safeguarding concern reporting procedures.

Photography in Changing Rooms and Showers

Parkour UK recommend that the use of cameras and recording equipment in toilets, showers and changing areas be banned in line with our [Safe Use of Toilet and Changing Facilities Guidance](#).

Clubs/gyms and events should have clear policies and procedures in place imposing a ban on photography of any form in the above areas of the facility, regardless of rules that apply in other areas. Such bans cover participants, spectators including parents/carers, all staff and volunteers.

To ensure there is no ambiguity as to whether someone is using a mobile phone to take photos or film their environment or just using their phone for another purpose, Parkour UK recommend that the use of all mobiles and other equipment capable of taking images is banned from these areas altogether.

It's important that all users, staff and volunteers within the facility understand the club's stance on photography. Parkour UK recommend sharing your photography policy online and as part of your induction procedure, along with communicating it throughout your venue via clear signage and posters.

Responding to Concerns

Everyone should be made aware of what they should do if they have concerns about the behaviour of any other person in this context.

If anyone is suspected of taking images of children (or adults) in a state of undress, the facility manager or safeguarding lead and NGB should be informed immediately, and the police should be consulted.