

## **VARSITY GYMNASTICS & AAK INC ACQUIRING IMAGES OF CHILDREN POLICY**

This policy applies to all VGC, KGC, AAK Inc staff, members, visitors and guests.

In fitting with the clubs child protection policy, it has 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 websites and publications.

Evidence indicates that information posted on the internet site of published materials can be used to target children, to locate them, and then to condition or 'groom' them for use or exploitation.

There is also evidence that some individuals will visit sporting events to take photographs or video footage of young and or disabled people for inappropriate use. Images can be altered or adapted for inappropriate use. Due to the disturbing facts the following rules have been applied and your understanding and adherence to them is greatly appreciated:

1. If acquiring an image of a child at the gymnastics venue or at an event, permission needs to be obtained from the athlete's parent/guardian in writing, and on a club photo request form provided by Varsity Gymnastics Club or the hosting gymnastics club/venue prior to taking the child's image (this includes the legal parent and or guardian).
2. Ensure that all concerned are aware of the way in which the image is to be used.
3. 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 an image.
4. Registration forms will be available at each event or at the Varsity Gymnastics counter and will require information such as name, address, license number, reason for taking the photograph/image/video and what the intended use of the image is.
5. Only professional photographers officially sanctioned by VGC & KGC & AAK Inc will be used to take images for sale to the gymnast and their families at any of the clubs events.
6. Only appropriate images of the gymnast/child, relevant to the sport will be permitted.
7. The gymnast/child must be suitably clothed and in modest poses.
8. It must be considered that gymnastics required children to wear minimal clothing and unusual body positions in keeping with gymnastics practice however these images can be potentially misused.
9. 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 may include such things as name, hobbies likes and dislikes.
10. During the lesson throughout the year some video footage or still photography may be taken of the gymnast/child to be used for coaching or coaches education purposes. These images will

not be used outside the club or made accessible to the public without first obtaining written permission from the child's parent/guardian.

11. From time to time Varsity Gymnastics & Kindy Gymnastics & AAK Inc may request permission from the parent/guardian to utilize photo or video images for promotional purposes such as newspaper article, television and the Varsity Gymnastics website etc, however parent/guardian must give full written approval and where possible Varsity Gymnastics will supply the image to the parent prior to going to press to ensure that the image is appropriate. However it is understood that where a professional photographer / journalist will be utilized to portray the family friendly image of our club and programs photos may not be available for viewing prior to press. However written approval and parent's involvement in the photo shoot will be requested where necessary.
12. If there are any concerns or complaints of inappropriate photographic behavior or content, please contact the clubs Management (Simone or Rodney Nairn) and the appropriate grievance procedures will be followed.
13. Any person, spectator found taking images of children/gymnasts at Varsity Gymnastics venue without prior approval as stipulated in this policy will risk having their images removed by management, and asked to leave the venue immediately; and or
14. Where management feels necessary police will be called to the gymnastics venue/event immediately.