

MWFA Photography/Video (VEO) policy



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FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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Background

This policy has been put together following the sharp increase in the use of cameras (E.g. VEO cameras) to video football matches for the purposes of coaching and also sharing video footage with friends and family.

It must be noted that this Policy should be considered in conjunction with the MWFA Social Media Policy, for when video and images are shared on public platforms.

The MWFA Social Media Policy can be found here: <https://www.mwfa.com.au/resources/>

Most people taking videos or photos of children at sporting events are doing so for acceptable reasons and are using appropriate methods, for example, a parent videoing their child at a sports presentation or photographing their child on the field during play or a professional photographer taking photos for a club.

All match and training recording materials such as Veo cameras are recognised as acceptable use of videography.

The following information and suggested strategies have been provided for MWFA clubs and players/ parents to consider when acquiring images of children and young people. It is not intended to restrict people taking photos or videoing games for legitimate reasons.

The Law

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.

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 MWFA games are played on council owned land, or occasionally schools, which is accessible to the public. That is, Point 1 above applies.

Precautionary measures / Safety considerations

When using VEO, or cameras that are placed on poles, the camera/pole **MUST** be appropriately anchored/tied to a fence, structure or weighed down using appropriate sandbags or weights. **THIS IS MANDATORY AND IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PERSON WHO OWNS AND OPERATES THE CAMERA.** The MWFA suggests Clubs reiterate this point to their coaches and managers, as they are most likely to be the people using the cameras. Failure to do this could result in an injury to someone if the camera falls or is struck by a ball.

When using VEO, or cameras, placed on poles/tripods, please consider the impact these cameras can have on the view of people trying to enjoy the game. These should be erected without impeding the view of any spectators at the game.

Coaches, parents, and guardians are encouraged to monitor and report any suspicious activity or concerns regarding photography or videography.

MWFA clubs are encouraged to have a designated club official who is to be contacted regarding any concerns. It is best practice that this person is the Club's Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) and the details of this person are easily accessible on the Club's official website.

Avoid taking close-up shots of individuals, stick to wide shots that capture the event rather than focusing on specific individuals.

Consider informing opposition coaches, parents, and guardians that photos and videos may be taken of the children during training or a match.

Educate coaches, parents, and guardians that photos and videos are allowed to be taken of the children during training or a match, provided they are being done within the parameters of the law.

Implement a process to verify the identity of official Club Photographers who may be present.