



PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO (VEO) POLICY

June 2025

1. BACKGROUND

- a. This policy has been developed in response to the marked increase in the use of video recording equipment (e.g., Veo cameras) to capture football matches for coaching purposes and the sharing of footage with friends and family and
- b. Misinformation in the sporting community of what is and is not permitted with regard to public photography, including that of minors who are registered participants of Nepean FA and its subsidiaries, NFC & NRG.
 - i. It is important to emphasise that this policy should be read in conjunction with the NFA and FNSW Social Media Policies, particularly in circumstances where video footage or images are shared on public platforms.
 - ii. The majority of individuals capturing videos or photographs of children at sporting events do so for legitimate and appropriate reasons, employing respectful methods. Examples include a parent recording their child's participation at a sports presentation, photographing them during a match, or a professional photographer taking images on behalf of a club.
 - iii. The use of recording devices, such as Veo cameras, for the purposes of documenting matches and training sessions is considered an acceptable practice within NFA guidelines.
 - iv. The following information and recommended strategies are provided for the consideration of NFA clubs, players, parents and supporters when capturing images of children and young people.
 - v. This policy is not intended to inhibit the legitimate and appropriate recording of sporting activities.

2. SCOPE

- a. This policy is applicable to all players, parents, supporters, spectators, club committees, staff, directors and affiliates of Nepean Football Association.
- b. It is applicable at all times and at all venues where NFA participants are playing at that fall under the jurisdiction of Nepean FA and their affiliate clubs.
- c. In the event that our registrants participate at venues outside of the NFA boundaries, they are expected to comply with the host policies without argument.

3. THE LAW

- a. In Australia, there are generally no legal restrictions on photographing individuals, including children, in public spaces, provided that the images are not:
 - I. Indecent (e.g., covert photographs such as 'up-skirting' or 'down-blousing' taken in change rooms or toilets);
 - II. Used for voyeuristic purposes or intended to observe and visually record a person's genital or anal region;
 - III. Protected by a court order (e.g., child custody matters or witness protection arrangements);
 - IV. Defamatory in nature;
 - V. Used for commercial purposes without consent (i.e., where a person's likeness is used to promote or endorse a product).
 - VI. Photographs of a child (including one's own child) may also breach criminal codes and censorship laws if they depict the child in a provocative or sexualised manner.
- b. Additional considerations apply depending on the location of the sporting event:
- c. Where an event is held on private property - including club-owned grounds, privately owned venues, school facilities, or council-owned facilities-the property owner or venue management has the right to restrict, prohibit, or require prior permission for photography. For example, some council-owned facilities expressly prohibit the use of mobile phones or cameras in change rooms and toilets.
- d. In such cases as described in point 3.c, the host club must declare at the time of submission of ground layout information and provide a written copy of any endorsed restrictions that apply to their venue before the start of competition.
 - I. In such cases, the association will review the restrictions to determine if the venue with restrictions considered, is fit for purpose with regard to our competitions.
 - II. Any restrictions at such venues will apply to both the host club and visitors and will be published on our website.
 - III. The restriction information will also be provided to all clubs prior to the start of each season.
- e. Where a sporting event takes place on private property not owned by the event organisers, it is best practice to establish a mutually agreed policy regarding photography. If an individual is found taking photographs in breach of the venue's restrictions or prohibitions, venue management is entitled to request that the individual cease. If they refuse, security or police may be called to remove the person from the premises.

4. AUDIO RECORDINGS ON VIDEO FOOTAGE

- a. It is acknowledged that in some instances when recording video footage, audio recordings are also captured as a by-product of the intention to capture and use video footage for training purposes.
- b. NFA acknowledges that while this cannot be controlled in the initial recording process, any club, team or individual who shares or publishes their match recording footage, must first disable the audio before sharing or broadcasting the video footage unless consent has been obtained from those whose audio has been recorded.
- c. Furthermore if consent is not given, a club or person cannot rely upon the audio in disciplinary proceedings conducted by their club and/or the NFA.
- d. NFA reserves the right to make exemptions to this rule if it is used in child protection cases.
- e. There are other opportunities where exemptions may apply under law. Before relying and/or publishing any audio recordings obtained without prior consent, clubs should see legal advice on the risks of doing so.

5. PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- a. To ensure the safety of all participants and spectators, the following requirements apply when using Veo cameras or any similar devices mounted on poles or tripods:
 - I. All equipment **must** be securely anchored or attached to a stable structure, or appropriately weighed down with sandbags or other suitable weights.
 - II. It is **mandatory** that the responsibility for securing the camera rests with the camera owner and operator at all times.
 - III. Clubs **must** remind coaches and managers who are most likely to operate these devices of their obligations to properly secure equipment.
 - IV. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in serious injury and could lead to disciplinary action.
 - V. Each host club is responsible for ensuring that any video equipment is set up safely and does not pose a physical threat to venue attendees and participants and does not cause a trip hazard to visitors and/or participants.
- b. When setting up equipment:
 - I. Cameras and tripods **must not** impede the view of spectators. All devices should be placed thoughtfully to minimise disruption to others' enjoyment of the game.

- c. Monitoring and Reporting:
 - I. Coaches, parents, and guardians are expected to actively monitor the use of photography and videography and report any suspicious activity or concerns immediately.
 - II. Each club **must** nominate a designated official to handle photography and videography concerns.
 - III. It is strongly recommended that this person is the Club's Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO), with their contact details clearly listed on the Club's official website.

6. Best Practice Guidelines:

- a. Avoid capturing close-up images of individual children; instead, focus on wide-angle shots that capture the game or event as a whole.
- b. Wherever practical, inform opposition coaches, parents, and guardians that photographs and video footage may be taken during matches and training.
- c. Educate all coaches, parents, and guardians that photography and videography are permitted provided they comply with all legal requirements.
- d. Avoid identifying children by both first name and surname in any published photographs or videos
- e. Clubs should implement a verification process to formally identify and approve any official Club Photographers present at events.
- f. Audio recordings must be removed from VEO, or similar training video recordings before they are published or shared. Failure to do so may result in penalties being imposed on the guilty party.

7. Resources:

- [Sport Integrity Australia Guide: Photography & Filming of Children in Sport \(PDF\)](#)
- [Sport Integrity Australia Resource Hub](#)
- [Football NSW Social Media Policy](#)
- [Football Australia Safeguarding Children Guidelines](#)
- [Photo and video sharing | eSafety Commissioner](#)
- [Guide to Safe Setup of Sports Cameras](#)
- SSFA Video Policy (with permission)

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