

## **Round Tower GAA Club Acceptable Use Photography and Recording Policy**

### **Introduction**

Round Tower GAA Club endorses the use of photographs and use of videoing of matches, training and coaching sessions, and team/club events to promote Gaelic Games in the community and further beyond.

This Acceptable Use Policy is designed to bring together safeguards to minimise the risk or threats that inappropriate use of photographs or the recording of images may pose, particularly for our juvenile Members.

These safeguards should still permit and facilitate:

- the recording of relevant and suitable material to promote and assist the club,
- the photographing and recording of the enjoyment gained by participating in our games,
- coaches to use the latest technology in the delivery of training skills
- enable the club to promote its activities in a safe and non threatening manner.

The above can be through a number of appropriate channels

- for use on club website or social media,
- through media,
- for display on printed material to promote club.

Our key concerns regarding the use of images and photographs of children/young people relate to:

- The possible identification of children when a photograph is accompanied by personal information and its inappropriate use thereafter.
- The inappropriate use, adaptation or copying of images for use in child pornography or for illegal or inappropriate website use.
- The taking of inappropriate photographs or recorded images of children.

Round Tower GAA Club will always strive to adopt a common sense approach when deciding on what may or may not be appropriate as we do not wish to prohibit the recording of games, coaching or celebrations at club level through the use of photography or by recording on video equipment.

This Acceptable Use Photography and Recording Policy aims to, at the outset, provide clarification for all concerned.

### **The Policy**

Membership of Round Tower GAA Club assumes permission from parents/guardians and juveniles for the consent of the taking and publication of images and recording of video to promote Round Tower GAA Club and Gaelic Games.

For juvenile's, such permission will be informed of on Membership application form.

All juveniles featured in images or recordings must be appropriately dressed.

The photography or recording should focus on the activity rather than a particular young person.

No personal details relating to the young person should be revealed as accompanying materials to the photograph or recorded image.

Clubs, coaches and volunteers should be permitted to use video equipment as a legitimate coaching aid and as a means of recording special occasions; however, care should be taken in the dissemination, storage and use of such material.

Parents and spectators taking photographs/recordings should seek permission in advance from the Club and should also be prepared to identify themselves if requested and state the purpose for their photography/filming. If Club personnel are unhappy about any matter relating to such photography the permission granted should be withdrawn immediately.

Group and team photographs may be taken but for juvenile teams. Within media and social media, a player will not be named in the position in which they may be standing or seated in the team photograph. This is a precautionary measure arising from possible misuse of photographs to exploit a juvenile. It may be deemed appropriate for a photograph to be featured in club.

It is recognised that on certain occasions individual young people may receive recognition and may be presented with an award. When this happens in the case of an under age player certain levels of sensitivity and indeed common sense are required and a balance should be drawn between the publication of a photograph of an individual, who may or may not be named, and the safety aspects of publication. Any such photography or recording of events that involves individual presentations should be discussed in advance of the event and agreement reached with all parties, including the club, parents and the young person themselves, as to what is and what is not permitted.

Any individual – parent, mentor, member, supporter or person from the wider public – who has concern in respect of the inappropriate picture taking, use of images or recording relating to the club should report to the Club's Child Protection Officer and failing that the Juvenile Chair or Club Chairman. They may also bring it to the attention of the relevant statutory authorities if deemed appropriate.

Photography and the recording of images in a public place or on club grounds does not generally require explicit or prior consent. However if an event e.g. a game or training session is taking place, involving under age players, in a public, private or local authority park, a person in charge/mentor, or club supporter is entitled to request a person to desist from taking photos if they feel that such action or photography may be inappropriate. A player, supporter or spectator may bring such incident/incidences to the attention of mentor and ask they address the matter appropriately as per above.

Round Tower GAA Club has little or no influence on what photographs may be taken and published in local or national newspapers. Should it be deemed images were taken or used inappropriately, Round Tower will address the matter with management within the relevant publication. Round Tower is also aware publications are guided by the Press Council of Ireland and the Office of the Press Ombudsman receives complaints from members of the public and seeks to resolve them by conciliation to the satisfaction of everyone involved.