

## **MID HILLS NETBALL ASSOCIATION (MHNA) – PHOTOGRAPHY AND RECORDING POLICY.**

(To apply to both Winter and Summer competition including all daytime and night time matches, associated training and practice sessions and Association and Club events).

The Mid Hills Netball Association takes its direction from Netball SA and the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) in regards to child protection and the production and use of images of children, as well as the general protection of all members.

### **OVERVIEW.**

- Most persons taking photographs at sporting events are doing so for acceptable reasons, and are using appropriate methods, for example, a parent videoing their child at a presentation or photographing their child on the field of play, or a photographer taking photos for the benefit of a Club.
- The small size of many cameras and the advent of mobile phone cameras, make it easier for photography/recordings to occur and do make it harder to monitor.
- Digital photo publication and software now allow photos to be altered, printed and distributed from home, and transmitted to a vast audience by posting on the internet or by 'on sending' to mobile phone users.
- This greater ease of taking and modifying images has raised concerns about the potential risk of child abuse posed directly and indirectly to children and members through the inappropriate use of photographs featured on sports and social media websites.
- The MHNA does not wish to restrict, or make difficult the taking of photographs for appropriate use as this can be a valuable tool for Coaching and Club promotion, as well as for personal family reasons, but does understand that appropriate guidelines should be outlined to cover the tasking and distribution of photographs and videos.

### **THE LAW IN AUSTRALIA.**

Generally speaking there is no law restricting photography of people (including children) in public places, as long as the images are not:

- indecent (such as 'up the skirt' or "down the blouse' photographs).
- being used for voyeurism or made for the purpose of visually recording a person's genital or anal region.
- images of a person protected by a court order (e.g. child custody or witness protection).
- defamatory.
- being for commercial purposes (e.g. a person's likeness is being used to endorse a product or entice people to buy a product).
- photographs of a child (including your own) also contravene Criminal Codes and censorship laws if the child is photographed in a provocative or sexual manner.
- Where a sporting event is held on a club's or association's private or leased property, the controlling body is able to restrict, ban or require permission for photography anywhere in their venue.
- If a person is taking photographs inappropriately, then venue management can request the person to stop. If the person refuses, the person can be asked to leave the venue and Police may be called deal with the matter.

Cont. over

## **STRATEGIES – AQUIRING IMAGES.**

- Clearly outline what is considered appropriate behaviour in taking images and what is considered appropriate image content. e.g.
  - Do not allow photographers (professional photographers, spectators, fans, coaches or members of the public) unsupervised access to children.
  - Ensure coaches and team support members notify athletes and parent(s) if the coach wants to video the athlete as a tool to analyse and improve performance.
  - Parents/Spectators should obtain prior permission from both Home and Away team Officials, explaining their reasons, for taking photographs of players on the court.
  - Photographs of players on the court should be taken from the sidelines. Close up photography under the goal posts should be avoided.
  - If at any stage a photographer is asked to cease taking photos, they should do so immediately, and seek advice from a member of the MHNA Board of Management.
  - Any person who has a valid reason for not appearing in photographs, should notify their Club, so that the Association is aware of the request at the earliest opportunity.

## **STRATEGIES – DISPLAYING IMAGES.**

- Consider using models or illustrations for promotional or advertising purposes.
- Obtain permission from the subject, or in the case of a minor, from the parent(s) before displaying or publishing any image. Some Clubs may obtain a blanket permission during registration, but individuals should always retain the right to not appear in photographs.
- Avoid displaying personal information along with the image, particularly contact details, addresses, interests, hobbies etc.
- Only use images relevant to the sport or activity.
- Reduce the ability for direct copying of photographs from a website by disabling the 'right mouse click' function.



Dated March 2017