

HVAC Photography Policy

There has been significant discussion regarding the safety and appropriateness of capturing images of children participating in athletic activities. While the vast majority of photos are taken in good faith, images can be misused. Observing common-sense guidelines and best practices helps ensure a safe environment for all participants.

- Publishing photographs or recordings of athletes under 18 years of age—whether on notice boards, in articles, or via video streams—requires parental consent. A Photography Waiver is integrated into the annual registration process.
- Parents and guardians reserve the right to withhold photo consent for their children. Exercising this right will not affect an athlete's eligibility to participate or compete. Consent must be verified prior to publishing or displaying media publicly.
- For open meets and larger competitions featuring official event photographers, host clubs must notify parents in advance via meet details and provide a clear process to opt out of photography.
- All imagery must strictly adhere to accepted standards of decency and focus positively on the athletic activity.
- Action shots should celebrate athletic performance and avoid compromising or inappropriate angles.
- Photos capturing wardrobe malfunctions or displaced swimwear must not be taken or retained.
- Photography directly behind starting blocks at race starts or capturing athletes exiting the pool is prohibited.
- Photography or video recording is strictly prohibited inside locker rooms, changing areas, and restrooms.

HVAC coaches and staff may only photograph or record athletes for official, club-related business purposes.