

Publications on the Internet

Sport websites and publications provide excellent opportunities to broadcast achievements of individuals and teams to the world and to provide a showcase for disability sport. In some cases, however, displaying certain information about children, young people and adults could place them at risk. The following procedures must be followed to ensure SDS publications and information on the Internet do not place any athlete at risk.

- Publications or information on an internet site must never include personal information that could identify a person e.g. home address, e-mail address, telephone number. Any contact information must be directed to SDS or to the appropriate member branch.
- The only identifying information that may be used is the name of a person in a caption alongside a photograph. It is the responsibility of the branch to advise any prospective publisher if the persons' parents/guardians have withheld consent for such information to be included. SDS cannot be held liable for any wrongful use of a persons name in any publication outwith its direct control.
- The matter of consent should be ascertained by asking the parents/guardians to give, or withhold, written consent for such a caption to appear alongside any photograph that may be published. This will require each branch to approach the parent/guardian of every person participating in an event run under the auspices of the branch. The written instructions of the parents/guardians must be retained by the branch for so long as the person is connected with the branch.
- The content of photographs or videos must not depict a person in a provocative pose or in a state of partial undress. The reasonable criteria for judging the suitability of a photograph would be that the individual is engaged in normal sports related activity, wearing normal clothing for that sport. Athletes must never be portrayed in a demeaning or tasteless manner.
- Care must be taken in publishing photographs, film or videos of athletes who are considered particularly vulnerable, e.g. the subject of a child protection issue or a residence dispute between separated parents.

Important Note: Any concerns or enquiries about publications or Internet information should be reported to the SDS Lead Officer for the Protection of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults, via Scottish Disability Sport's Head Office.