

Westport RFC Photography & Image Use Policy

1. Purpose

Westport RFC is committed to safeguarding the welfare and rights of all children and young people involved in club activities, in line with IRFU Safeguarding Policy and Children First guidance.

This policy outlines how photographs and images of players under 18 may be taken, used, and shared, ensuring that children are protected, respected, and that parental choice is upheld.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All players under the age of 18
- Parents and guardians
- Coaches, team managers, volunteers, and club officers
- Any person authorised by Westport RFC to take or publish images

It covers images used on:

- Official Westport RFC website
- Official Westport RFC social media platforms
- Club publications, newsletters, and promotional material

3. Guiding Principles (IRFU Alignment)

In line with IRFU Safeguarding guidance:

- Images must always be appropriate, respectful, and child-centred
- Children should never be portrayed in a way that is exploitative, suggestive, or open to misinterpretation
- The welfare of the child takes precedence over promotional or media interests

4. Consent

- Parental/guardian consent for photography and image use must be obtained annually as part of the player registration process.
- Consent applies only to official Westport RFC use.
- Consent can be withdrawn at any time (see Section 8).

5. Permitted Use of Images

Westport RFC may use group or team photographs taken in a rugby or club setting, including:

- Official team photos
- Match-day group images
- Training group photographs
- Presentation or award images

Conditions:

- Children must be appropriately dressed in rugby or club attire.
- Images will not include personal details such as full names, addresses, schools, or contact information.
- Images will only be published through official club channels managed by authorised club personnel.

Coaches may wish to take videos of games or training for the purpose of performance review or to aid age – grade players in development of a skill or technique.

Video of games may be shared with disciplinary panels where the integrity of the game has been called into question by a club, individual or a spectator

6. Exclusions – Individual & Identifiable Images

In accordance with IRFU safeguarding standards, individual or close-up photographs of a child will not be published online unless explicit, separate parental consent has been obtained.

No images will be used that:

- Focus unduly on a single child
- Could be considered intrusive or open to misuse
- Children will not be tagged in social media images.

Individual children will not be named in photo captions or posts (first names may be used in match reports where appropriate).

7. Photography at Matches & Club Events

Parents and spectators may take photographs or videos for personal, private use only.

Any sharing of images online must respect this policy and IRFU safeguarding guidance.

This policy will be shared with professional photographers who are in attendance of a game.

Westport RFC reserves the right to request the removal of any image that raises safeguarding or welfare concerns.

8. Parent / Guardian Opt-Out

Parents or guardians have the right to opt out of their child's image being used online by Westport RFC.

How to Opt Out

- Opt-out can be selected during registration or communicated in writing to the Club Child Welfare Officer (CWO) or Club Secretary.
- All opt-out requests will be acknowledged and recorded confidentially.

How Westport RFC manages Opt-Outs

- Coaches and team managers will be informed of players who have opted out.

Reasonable steps will be taken to:

- Exclude the child from photos intended for publication, or
- Position the child so they are not identifiable (e.g. back row, turned away, cropped).

Children who opt out will not be highlighted or treated differently.

Where exclusion is not practical, the photograph will not be published online.

9. Away Grounds

Where training/matches are played on another clubs' ground, Westport RFC will communicate our policy to host club but cannot be responsible for / be held liable for image use by other members of the public/ photographs / video taken on a public ground.

10.Storage & Security of Images

- Images will be stored securely by Westport RFC.
- Access will be restricted to authorised club officers.
- Images will be retained only as long as necessary and reviewed periodically.

11.Breach of Policy

Any breach of this policy will be treated seriously and may result in:

- Immediate removal of the image
- Action under club disciplinary procedures
- Referral to the Club Child Welfare Officer
- Further action in line with IRFU Safeguarding procedures

12.Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or in line with updates to IRFU Safeguarding Policy or national child protection legislation.