



Briefing Note: Camera Devices – Policy update

This briefing note is an additional rule to, and forms part of, the [Filming and Photography Policy](#) currently in place. This policy states that the use of any equipment to take images in a changing area is banned. The rule in this policy update extends this ban further:

No device, in a state that can capture either still or video images, may be taken into a changing area or changing room.

Such devices include:

- Mobile phones
- Tablets
- Still cameras
- Video cameras
- Laptops
- Any other device that can capture an image

In practical terms this means that any device capable of taking images should be:

1. Switched off before entering the changing area and stowed away; the device may only be turned back on once the changing area has been left.
2. Left with a parent/carer where possible
3. Not visible or easily accessible in a changing area

Breaches to the rule

If this rule is breached, members are subject to the [Swim Ireland Complaints and Disciplinary Rules and Procedures](#).

Immediate sanctions can be imposed by the person in charge, usually the Coach in a training session or the Meet Director in a competition.

Non-immediate sanctions will be decided by a Complaints and Disciplinary Committee.

Suggested text for announcements during activities

Any device capable of taking photographs is not permitted in changing areas. If you have a such device with you, it must be switched off before entering the changing area and not be visible i.e. in your bag.

Anyone with a camera device switched on in a changing area may be disciplined.

Additional Information

We recognise the importance of communications and that members, especially young people, may have their camera devices, i.e. their phones, with them for safety reasons to ensure they can contact their parent/carer if needed.

However once a young person or an adult member has entered the facility for a Swim Ireland activity there is no necessity to have a device turned on. The device is not a necessary part of an aquatic training activity. Any images required to assist with the sport may only be taken by an appropriate person, appointed to do so. This will never be in a changing area.

We encourage our members and parents/carers to help enforce this ruling. Taking images of young people in a changing area has the potential to be distressing for the subject and, in turn the taker of the images may face criminal investigation. We ask that parents/carers make this clear to their children.

Swim Ireland safeguarding policies create a safe environment for our athletes and volunteers to participate in their sport. This additional rule adds protection in changing areas to ensure young people can feel secure when changing.

END

Head of Safeguarding, Ethics and Youth Development
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