



21 November 2005

Photography at Basketball

Basketball Victoria recognises that there are many legitimate reasons why still and video photography at sports is very common and does not wish to unnecessarily restrict or curb that photography.

It is perfectly normal and acceptable for parents to want to film their children's sports to keep as a memento of their growing up. This is becoming increasingly so with the technology being widely owned.

It is also becoming increasingly popular for coaches to video their teams' games to assist them in training. Less common, but also becoming more so, is for the purposes of scouting another team that will be playing the videoing team shortly. Videos can also assist in referee training.

Having a video record of a game is also useful if there is a reportable incident during the game. The video can be used in evidence. At more senior levels, the competition organisers have made it compulsory for games to be taped for precisely this reason. In addition, the knowledge that a game is being taped may act as a deterrent to bad behaviour because players will know they may be captured on tape, even if a referee does not see the misdeed. So there is a safety angle to the issue as well.

On the other hand, photographs and videos can also be used for nefarious purposes. Basketball Victoria is concerned to ensure that it and its Affiliated associations take reasonable steps to ascertain that photographic depiction of basketball activities is being used for legitimate and harmless purposes.

This means that competition organisers have to be ever vigilant in protecting participants, particularly children.

Accordingly, the following advice is offered to assist in making decisions on whether or not photography or videoing should be allowed:

Associations and leagues should usually allow parents and close relatives to take photographs and video tape games or training provided the parent or relative is known to the association. As a courtesy, the coach or manager of the opposition team should also be notified of the intention to photograph or video the game.

Coaches who wish to video their own team's games or training for training purposes should also normally be allowed to do so. Again, the opposition should be informed. Parents of the coach's own team should be advised by the coach if it is intended to regularly video games or training and the reason for it.

Referee coaches wishing to video games for training or evaluation purposes should advise the teams of their intentions prior to the game.

Some coaches desire to scout teams that they will be playing in the future and a convenient way of doing this is to video the game. If this is to occur then both teams should be advised in advance. However, this should usually be allowed.

Should any person take objection to the photographing or videoing, they should be asked the reason why they object. It should be explained to them that normal policy in these circumstances is that the photography or videoing should be allowed. However, if the person objecting has a legitimate and strong reason why the objection is made, then a bar should be placed on the photography or videoing. A strong reason may be that the child concerned is the subject of contested custody proceedings or has been the subject of violence or threats and publication of a video or photograph may compromise the safety of the child.

Associations should exercise common sense in this matter, bearing in mind the above advice.

Gerry Glennen

Governance & Operations Manager/Solicitor