



VRWC PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY

4th August 2015



In Australia, the taking and publication of a person's photograph, without their consent or knowledge but within the limitations as summarized in document <http://www.4020.net/words/photorights.php>, is not an invasion of privacy, nor is it in contravention of case or statute law.

Privacy advocates may disapprove, but in Australia people-photography has always been, and for the moment remains, a perfectly legal thing to do.

However, just because "unauthorized" photography has not been generally prohibited, it does not mean it is a free-for-all. In NSW for instance, Anti-Voyeurism, Defamation and Obscenity laws still apply, as do common law doctrines of Nuisance, Trespass, or statutory prohibitions arising out of the Commonwealth Trade Practices Act. Similar provisions hold in other Australian States.

To assist VRWC parents, coaches and athletes, the following guidelines are in effect for all official VRWC events.

1. OFFICIAL CLUB PHOTOGRAPHER

The VRWC committee will designate an official photographer to be on duty each race day. The job of that person is to take photos of all the walkers (and sometimes the officials). A Committee member will then vet them and select the best for uploading to our VRWC photo gallery (<http://www.vrwc.org.au/coppermine>). These photos are also used as required for our weekly VRWC Heel & Toe Online Newsletter and are made available for public online viewing.

2. PHOTOGRAPHY AND WALKING TECHNIQUE

Our policy is to select photos that show walkers in the best possible light. We all know that everyone occasionally loses form and has lapses in technique – we focus on photos that show walkers walking well.

3. PHOTOGRAPHY OF CHILDREN NOT ONE'S OWN, OR OF 'RIVAL' COACHES' WALKERS

We allow parents to take photos or videos of their own children and we allow coaches to do the same with regard to their own athletes. But we actively discourage parents or coaches from taking photos or videos of other walkers, especially those competing against their children or squad members, unless prior permission has been given. Such activities can appear very threatening to the walkers concerned, and there have been cases with other clubs where this sort of situation has gotten out of control and led to quite ugly confrontations. We have avoided that sort of thing in the past and wish to continue to avoid it by adopting this common sense approach.

4. PHOTOGRAPHY BY UNKNOWN PERSONS

Finally, we react very quickly to any unknown persons attending our races and taking photos or videos of our walkers. We all know enough about the world to know that there are unsavoury people out there and we want to give our walkers a safe environment in which they can enjoy their walking.

As always, contact any of the VRWC Executive if you need to clarify any of the above points.