



National Women's Martial Arts Federation

Policy on Photography and Videography at Special Training

Adopted May 2001

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The mission of the NWMAF is to promote the involvement of women and girls in the martial arts. Special Training, by virtue of its all-women environment, is one of our most effective means of accomplishing that mission. Because of its significance to the NWMAF and to individual members, photography and videography are common at many venues throughout this event. Photography and videography provide crucial archival records for the organization and important personal keepsakes for individual participants. While we recognize their importance, however, we also recognize the equal importance of respecting the privacy of women who do not wish to be photographed or videotaped. To balance these issues, the NWMAF Board has adopted the following guidelines for photography and videography at Special Training. In doing so, we acknowledge that we cannot directly control the actions of individuals who wish to take photographs or videos. We expect that all participants will take responsibility for their actions and will act in good faith to respect each others' wishes and boundaries.

1. A photography/videography waiver will be provided at registration and all participants will be required to sign it. A list of participants who do not wish to have their photographs published will be provided to the NWMAF Board and to the archivist. Although we cannot guarantee that they will not be photographed or videotaped, such materials will not be used in any official NWMAF publication unless the individual in question cannot be recognized.
2. Trainers will be encouraged to help make ST a comfortable environment for women who don't want to be photographed. Trainers may do this by designating part of their training space as a photo-free zone and inform women that they can stay in that part of the room if they don't want to be in pictures. Alternatively, they may ask women who don't want to be photographed or videotaped to identify themselves so others will know to respect their privacy. Other approaches may also be used at the trainers' discretion.
3. At orientation and in the camp book, participants will be reminded to be respectful and thoughtful about photography and video. This includes reminding participants to ask for permission before taking pictures or video as well as being proactive in letting people know that they do not wish to be photographed or videotaped.
4. Individuals should exercise good judgment and respect for the privacy of others when distributing photographs of ST.
5. The NWMAF will observe the following in its own use of photographs and videotapes:
 - a) When individual women can be recognized, we will use the photo waivers to determine whether or not those pictured have denied permission for publication in the newsletter. Women may or may not be identified by name, depending on the purpose of the photograph.
 - b) If we wish to publish a photo online, we will check the photo waivers first. If permission has been given, we will then contact the individual directly before posting the picture. The individual will not be identified by name.
6. These guidelines will be published in the camp book and any written materials provided to trainers. They will also be discussed at the trainer dinner and at orientation.