

TIPS FOR TAKING A GOOD TEAM PHOTO

During the forthcoming tournaments we would like to ask any parents with a half decent camera to take them along to the matches. The camera doesn't have to be a high spec professional camera. There are many point-and-shoot digital cameras which can deliver wonderful results – especially for something like a team photo.

What we need are a team shot of each squad combination for each tournament. The combinations will vary at every tournament and it would be good to have a record of all the different combinations. Each tournament will be different in both setting and weather. So I have written a couple of pointers which I hope will be helpful for the people not used to taking such photos. Good team photos will be of great use for us to use on the website and in the end of year reports. It is important not to get in the way of any of the players warm up drills or the coaches pep talks.

ONE: Setting up your camera. Set your camera to take the highest quality images that it is capable of. We are looking for an image file size of a minimum of 2-3 megapixels.

TWO: Arranging the team. Make sure that every member of the squad is there and no-one has wandered off. If they have won a medal or trophy get them to show it to the camera. Get them to cheer with one arm in the air and the other holding their trophy. If the squad is more than five players get them to make two rows. Put the tall ones at the front and get them to knell in front of the smaller ones. Get the goalie to stand in the centre of the back row. If the coach wants to be in the photo, get him to knell at one side of the group. Make sure they knell so that they don't tower over the players like a *Big Friendly Giant*. Make

sure the players are pressed tightly against each other. Any gaps between the players will be magnified in the final image. If there are a couple of footballs lying around place them in front of the players. If the photo is taken at the end of the game and the players have mud on their faces leave it on for the photo.

THREE: The Background. Try If you can choose the background try to avoid mess and clutter. Try and get the clearest background available. This will help the final image, as the viewer will be able to focus on the players rather than whatever is going on in the background.

FOUR: Make sure the subject is in focus. Don't take the picture until the camera is focused correctly. Once it is focused try and keep as still as possible while taking the picture.

FIVE: Check where the sun is. Make sure the sun is behind you and lighting the faces of the players. One or two of them may squint but this is preferable to everyone being dark with undistinguished features. If the players are cheering a with their arms moving then you won't notice the few who would be squinting.

Once you have the photo e-mail it to me as an attachment. anthony@landb.co.uk Tell me which team it is and what the Tournament is. If you have some software that reduces the size of the image to e-mail it. DO NOT use this feature as it makes the image un-usable. I need the best quality of image that you can send me. Whatever the size. If the images are too big to e-mail send me then on a CD or get them to me on a Memory Stick. I will return all CDs and Memory sticks.



Some team photo examples



Try and get the top of the hands and their feet on the picture and not cut them off.

Try and get everyone to wear the correct shirt



Big Friendly Giant alert!

If there are any tournament banners around use them in the photo.



In this photo the team is in two lines which is good, the tournament banner has been used as a background. It would have been improved by getting the *Big Friendly Giant* to kneel at the side and get the players to look at the camera. They must be looking at the camera.