



Etiquette and Responsibilities of Members Photographing Models at SPC Sanctioned and Personal Shoots

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Because you are a member of this club, your behaviour reflects on the club as a whole. Therefore, it is expected that you act in accordance with the norms and expectations of photographers who honour the following rules governing the photographing of female models in particular, all models in general, including those under the age of 19 who must have a parent/guardian present to sign a model release. The following expectations apply not only to club shoots, but all shoots where your presence can reflect on the club and its members. This includes events where you or the club have been invited to shoot a charitable event, performance, civic/public event or private shoot. You should be aware that if/when the conduct of a SPC member is deemed not acceptable, the directors of the club have the authority to expel the member from the club (SPC Bylaws: 5, 7, 8). The following expectations exist to protect both you and the model and the club.

Shooting in a Group

When working in a group, stay and shoot with the group. If it's acceptable for both the group and the model, more than one person can shoot at the same time as long as they do not interfere with the primary shooter or use a flash that can affect the exposure of other shooters. Most models in this scenario will cast their gaze from person to person as they strike their poses. Some models prefer to take direction and pose for only one photographer at a time. Requests of this kind should be honoured.

Make it a point of asking members in the group how/where they would like to shoot and take turns assisting and shooting if you are using light modifiers like reflectors. Unsociable language or behaviour, including refusal to follow the requests of the coordinator or rules of the club will get you banned from model shoots permanently or even expelled from the club. No drugs or alcohol are ever allowed at shooting events. It is always wise to shoot with more people present than just the photographer and model as shooting one-on-one with a model in an isolated location can put you at great risk.

Paid and TFI (Time for Images) Shoots

When the club is doing a paid shoot, you are not required to provide the model with any images. However, it has always been the practice of the club to provide 2-3 images out of courtesy as it reflects the respect and admiration the club has for the models we employ. When shooting TFI, the model is working for images in return for their time. In this case, it is appropriate to provide the model with 3-5 of your best, edited images usually with two weeks of the shoot. In a group shoot, this should provide the model with 12-20 images – usually one or two for each outfit or location.

Getting to Know the Model

The coordinator will have some background information on the model the club is proposing for the shoot and they will subsequently share this with interested members. During the shoot, at appropriate down times, you might wish to get to know the model in a non-invasive way. Members can ask simple questions such as: Is

modeling your full time work? How did they get involved in modeling? What do they hope to accomplish in this field? Most conversations branch off naturally from those topics and you will likely get to know each other and develop a better relationship during the shoot. As you learn more about the person, their personality will begin to show more in the photographs. You will be more aware of what defines them as a person and they will feel more comfortable and open with you in sharing aspects of their life.

Never Touch Your Model

A model's personal space must never be invaded. Regardless of the instinct to fix a strap or move hair out of the model's face...don't. Always ask the model to remedy the situation. You can use statements such as 'your left strap is twisted;' 'you have an eyelash on your right cheek;' or 'the label on your shorts is showing.' If the model has trouble taking care of the problem, they may ask for your help, but you must never make the advance on your own. Even if you have been asked for your help in a prior instance, ask again for each recurring situation. Remember, touching a model is personal, and it creates the possibility for the interpretation that the photographer is overstepping boundaries.

A model can also be made to feel uncomfortable if you ask questions about their personal life. It goes without saying that you should never ogle, sneer, insult or intimidate the model in any way. With reference to the latter, never put a model in a position where they are requested to do something morally uncomfortable by coercing them with threats related to posts on photographer-only model evaluation sites. Your images will show if your model is emotionally uncomfortable as well as physically uncomfortable and could well put you in a difficult situation. If the model is uncomfortable, you need to stop what you are doing. Human decency dictates that no photo is worth putting someone through something that is physically or emotionally taxing.

Posing Models

Start by having the model do what is most comfortable and then ask them to move or make minor adjustments through suggestions like 'can you raise your right arm a bit' or 'can you bend the leg that's closer to me'. When statements are phrased as questions, the model will feel more comfortable in providing a positive or negative response. If you ask a model to change their hand position, tell them why; in this way you won't have to continue to correct something as the model will come to know your expectations. Asking the model to move in a certain way along with an explanation is a great way for both of you to make each other's actions flow more naturally. Sometimes, directing a model to pose the way you see it in your mind can be unsuccessful. In these cases, do the pose yourself and then get the model to imitate you.

Seek and Encourage Collaborative Ideas

If your model has an idea for a shot, give it a try. They will appreciate the fact that you are open to suggestions and it may be a pose that you would never have thought of yourself. This is especially true when working with experienced models wherein disregarding a suggestion carries the risk of missing out on a brilliant pose and image. Collaboration is a wonderful way to create good rapport while generating great ideas. It's why models love to work with photographers with whom they feel conversationally comfortable.

Praise Often

Praising is all about encouragement. Phrases like: 'that's a great expression' or 'it looks really nice with your hair that way' go a long way to enhancing the quality of images in a shoot. However, don't overdo it to the point where it becomes meaningless. And when you get those 'wow' shots, don't hesitate to show the model the fine work they are doing.