



# Respect



## Statement of Intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our members so they can participate in football in a relaxed and secure atmosphere.

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all club members or parents should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a TELLING club. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the club welfare officer or any committee member.

## What is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding (emotionally and physically), sending hurtful text messages and tormenting, (e.g. hiding football boots/shin guards, threatening gestures)
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Individuals who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

This club has a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

## Objectives of this Policy

- All club members, coaches, officials and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is
- All club members, officials and coaching staff should know what the club policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported
- All players and parents should know what the club policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises
- As a club we take bullying seriously. Players and parents should be assured that they would be supported when bullying is reported
- Bullying will not be tolerated

## Signs and Indicators

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- says he or she is being bullied
  - is unwilling to go to club sessions
  - becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
  - feels ill before training sessions
  - comes home with clothes torn or training equipment damaged
  - has possessions go "missing"
  - asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay the bully)
  - has unexplained cuts or bruises
  - is frightened to say what's wrong
  - gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- In more extreme cases
- starts stammering
  - cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
  - becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
  - is bullying other children or siblings
  - stops eating
  - attempts or threatens suicide or runs away

These signs and behaviours may indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

