



Anti-Bullying Policy

STATEMENT OF INTENT

At Stand Cricket Club we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our children so that they can train and play in a relaxed and secure atmosphere.

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our Club. If bullying does occur, all children should be able to tell, and know that incidents will be dealt with properly and effectively. We are a “TELLING” Club. This means anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell a Club Official.

What is bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intent of hurting another person. Typically, bullying will result in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be a single act or a series of actions, but, in each case, the action is deemed to be intimidating by the recipient.

Bullying can take many forms, some of which are listed below:-

- Emotional – being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding kit, or making threatening gestures).
- Physical – pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence.
- Racist – racial taunts, graffiti, and gestures.

- Sexual – unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments.
- Homophobic – because of, or focusing on, the issue of sexuality.
- Verbal – name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, and teasing.
- Cyber – all areas of internet, such as email and internet chat rooms. Mobile threats by text messaging and/or calls. Misuse of associated technology e.g. camera, and video facilities.

Why Stand Cricket Club believes it important to respond to bullying

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

Stand Cricket Club aims to build a feeling of confidence in children and parents so that they know that all reports or suspicions of bullying will be investigated promptly and effectively. The person being bullied might not feel able to report incidents, so the Club's aim is to create a climate of trust where others feel comfortable to "tell".

As part of its role within the local community, the Club aims to help equip children with the skills, attitudes and values that will prepare them for adult life.

Objectives of this policy

- All officials, coaching and non-coaching staff, children, and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All Club officials, coaching and non-coaching staff should know what the Club's policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All children and parents should know what the Club's policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- At Stand Cricket Club we take bullying seriously. Children and parents should be assured that they will be taken seriously if bullying is reported.
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- Bullying will not be tolerated.
- Parents/carers/children should be aware of where they can view the Club's Anti Bullying policy.

Signs and symptoms of bullying

- A child may indicate by signs of behaviour that he/she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and should investigate if a child:-
 - says that they are being bullied
 - changes their usual routine
 - is unwilling to go to the Club.
 - becomes withdrawn, anxious, or lacking in confidence.
 - comes home with clothes torn or belongings damaged
 - has possessions that are damaged or "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, it is possible that a child may:-

- start stammering
- cry themselves to sleep at night and have nightmares

- become aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away

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

What you should do if you are worried about bullying

In the event of either a child or a parent being concerned about bullying or potential bullying, the following procedures should be followed:-

1. Report the bullying incident to the Club's Welfare Officer. The contact details for the Club's Welfare Officer can be found on the Clubmark Notice Board in the Clubhouse, and on the Club's website.
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be reported to the ECB Child Protection Team for advice via the County Welfare Officer.
3. The parents will be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
4. If necessary and appropriate, the police will be consulted.
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.

In cases of adults reported to be bullying cricketers under the age of 18, the ECB must always be informed and will advise on action to be taken.

Prevention/Anti-Bullying strategies

In order to avoid bullying, the Club aims to establish a positive approach to behaviour. This will include raising self-esteem, celebrating all achievements, and encouraging the feeling of belonging to the Club

We will use Kidscape methods for helping children prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:-

- Writing a set of Club Rules
- Signing a Behaviour Contract
- Having discussions about bullying and why it matters.