

Chelford Cricket Club policy on Bullying

Written 17/01/2013

Statement of Intent

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 incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

We are a "telling" club. This means that anyone who knows bullying is happening is expected to tell the Club Welfare Officer or another official, who will then tell the Club Welfare Officer.

Definition of 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 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/or 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 the internet e.g. emails and internet chat rooms. Mobile treats by text message and/or calls. Misuse of associated technology e.g. camera and video facilities.

Responding to bullying

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

As a Cricket Club we have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying

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Objectives of this policy

- All officials, coaching and non-coaching staff, children and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is
- All officials, coaching and non-coaching staff should know what the club policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported
- All children 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. Children and parents should be assured they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

Signs and symptoms

A child may indicate, by signs of behaviour, that he/she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of signs and investigate if a child;

- Says 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 which are damaged or go missing
- Asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay the bully)
- Unexplained cuts or bruises
- Is frightened to say what is wrong
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above

In more extreme cases the child;

- 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 could indicate other problems, but bullying could be a possibility and should be investigated.

Procedures

- Report bullying incidents to the Club Welfare Officer
- In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be reported to the ECB Child Protection Team for advice via the County Welfare Officer.
- Parents should be informed and will be asked to come to a meeting to discuss the problem
- If necessary, and appropriate, police will be consulted.
- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
- An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.

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

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