

LVYCC anti-bullying policy

The club will:

recognise its duty of care and responsibility to safeguard all participants from harm

promote and implement this anti-bullying policy in addition to our safeguarding policy and procedures

seek to ensure that bullying behaviour is not accepted or condoned

require all members of the club/organisation to be given information about, and sign up to, this policy

take action to investigate and respond to any alleged incidents of bullying

encourage and facilitate children and young people to play an active part in developing and adopting a code of conduct to address bullying

ensure that coaches are given access to information, guidance and/or training on bullying.

Each participant, coach, volunteer or official will:

respect every child's need for, and rights to, a play environment where safety, security, praise, recognition and opportunity for taking responsibility are available

respect the feelings and views of others

recognise that everyone is important and that our differences make each of us special and should be valued

show appreciation of others by acknowledging individual qualities, contributions and progress

be committed to the early identification of bullying, and prompt and collective action to deal with it

ensure safety by having rules and practices carefully explained and displayed for all to see

report incidents of bullying they see – by doing nothing you are condoning bullying.

Bullying

- all forms of bullying will be addressed
- everybody in the club/organisation has a responsibility to work together to stop bullying
- bullying can include online as well as offline behaviour

- bullying can include:
 - physical pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching etc
 - name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing and emotional torment through ridicule, humiliation or the continual ignoring of individuals
 - posting of derogatory or abusive comments, videos or images on social network sites
 - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures, sectarianism
 - sexual comments, suggestions or behaviour
 - unwanted physical contact
 - children with a disability, from ethnic minorities, young people who are gay or lesbian, or those with learning difficulties are more vulnerable to this form of abuse and are more likely to be targeted.

Support to the child

children should know who will listen to and support them

systems should be established to open the door to children wishing to talk about bullying or any other issue that affects them

potential barriers to talking (including those associated with a child's disability or impairment) need to be identified and addressed at the outset to enable children to approach adults for help

children should have access to Helpline numbers

anyone who reports an incident of bullying will be listened to carefully and be supported

any reported incident of bullying will be investigated objectively and will involve listening carefully to all those involved

children being bullied will be supported and assistance given to uphold their right to play and live in a safe environment which allows their healthy development

those who bully will be supported and encouraged to stop bullying

sanctions for those bullying others that involve long periods of isolation, or which diminish and make individuals look or feel foolish in front of others, will be avoided.

Support to the parents/guardians

parents/guardians should be advised on the club/organisation's bullying policy and practice

any incident of bullying will be discussed with the child's parent(s)/guardians

parents will be consulted on action to be taken (for both victim and bully) and agreements made as to what action should be taken

information and advice on coping with bullying will be made available

support should be offered to the parent(s) including information on other agencies or support lines.

Useful contacts

NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000

ChildLine 0800 500 / www.childline.org.uk

Kidscape www.kidscape.org.uk

Anti-Bullying Alliance www.antibullyingalliance.org