



Onny Junior Football Club.

Anti-Bullying Policy

Onny Junior Football Club [the Club]

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

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.

Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to the Club Welfare Officer or a member of the clubs committee or contact the County FA Welfare Officer.
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be referred to the County FA Welfare Officer for advice and possibly to The FA Case Management Team.
3. Parents should 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.
7. If mediation fails and the bullying is seen to continue the club will initiate disciplinary action under the club constitution.

Prevention

1. The club will have a written constitution, which includes what is acceptable and proper behaviour for all members of which the anti-bullying policy is one part.
2. All club members and parents will sign to accept the constitution upon joining the club.
3. The Club Welfare Officer will raise awareness about bullying and why it matters, and if issues of bullying arise in the club, will consider meeting with members to discuss the issue openly and constructively.

Special Note – [Cyber bullying] Any form of bullying using a mobile phone or the internet, chat rooms, social networking sites, instant messaging or email, the Club may become involved if members are bullied or are themselves cyber bullying if it involves players from the Club or directed to players from the Club with reference to the Club.

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

Recommended club action

1. If the club decides it is appropriate for them to deal with the situation they should follow the procedure outlined below:
2. Reconciliation by getting the parties together. It may be that a genuine apology solves the problem.
3. If this fails/not appropriate a small panel (made up from Chairman, Club Welfare Officer, Secretary, committee members) should meet with the parent and child alleging bullying to get details of the allegation. Minutes should be taken for clarity, which should be agreed by all as a true account.
4. The same 3 persons should meet with the alleged bully and parent/s and put the incident raised to them to answer and give their view of the allegation. Minutes should again be taken and agreed.
5. If bullying has in their view taken place the individual should be warned and put on notice of further action i.e. temporary or permanent suspension if the bullying continues. Consideration should be given as to whether a reconciliation meeting between parties is appropriate at this time.
6. In some cases the parent of the bully or bullied player can be asked to attend training sessions, if they are able to do so, and if appropriate. The club committee should monitor the situation for a given period to ensure the bullying is not being repeated.
7. All coaches involved with both individuals should be made aware of the concerns and outcome of the process i.e. the warning.

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