



Coleraine F.C. Youths

- Stronger Together -

Anti-Bullying Policy

Coleraine Football Club (CFC) Youths are opposed to bullying behaviour in any setting. We will not tolerate bullying or any other hurtful behaviour. Any bullying occurring will be taken seriously and responded to with the implementation of appropriate action or sanction.

Bullying can include

- physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching or any use of violence
- verbal - name calling, persistent teasing, humiliation, tormenting, taunting etc.
- emotional - excluding, being unfriendly, sending hurtful text messages etc.
- sexual – sexually abusive comments etc.
- discrimination – racial, homophobic, sectarian, sexist, jokes about disabled people etc.

This list is not exhaustive.

CFC Youths acknowledges the hurt bullying causes. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect. As a club, we have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Staff and volunteers should raise awareness of the damage that bullying can cause to team mates and others.

Children and young people should be actively encouraged to report instances of bullying behaviour and be reassured that if they do they and/or the victim will be supported.

Children and young people should be made aware of those within the Club to whom they can report inappropriate behaviour to and trust that they will be taken seriously and supported when they do.

All involved in the Club (members, officials, coaching staff, players and parents) should know the Club policy on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.



Adults within the Club and parents should be aware of the signs of bullying including

- children or young people saying they are being bullied
- children or young people being unwilling to go to training sessions/games
- children or young people becoming anxious or lacking in confidence
- children or young people feeling ill before a training session
- children or young people returning home with clothes torn or equipment damaged
- children or young people having possessions go missing
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- is frightened to say what is wrong
- 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
- runs away

This list is not exhaustive.

Procedures

It is likely the bullying will in the first instance be reported to the child or young person's coach.

The incident/disclosure should then be reported to the Child Welfare Officer who will then inform the Junior Academy Director.

Parents should be informed and will be invited to attend a meeting to discuss the problem.

If necessary the police may be involved.

Bullying behaviour/threats must be investigated and the bullying behaviour stopped quickly.

An attempt will be made to help the bully/bullies change their behaviour.

If mediation fails and the bullying continues, the Club will have no alternative but to initiate disciplinary action or impose sanctions.