



# Anti-bullying Statement of Intent

In line with North Somerset FA, Long Ashton Junior Football Club is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our members so that they can participate in football in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is totally unacceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all members or parents should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

## We are a TELLING club!

This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell [the Club Welfare officer](#) or any Committee Member.

### 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, tormenting (e.g. hiding football boots/shin pads, threatening gestures).
- Physical – pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence.
- Racist – racial taunts, graffiti, gesture.
- 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.

### Why it is important to respond?

- Bullying hurts.
- No one deserves to be a victim of bullying.
- Everyone has the right to be treated with respect.
- Individuals who are bullying need to be made aware and learn different ways of behaving.
- The impact on a child or a young person can be devastating, and in some cases, affect all aspects of their life, in extreme cases it can lead to suicide threats and even attempts.

### Objectives of this policy

- The club has a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.
- All club members, coaches, officials, parents/carers 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 parent/carers 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/carers should be assured that they would be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

### **Signs and Indicators**

- Child says they are being bullied.
- Is unwilling to go to club sessions.
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence.
- Feels ill before training sessions.
- Comes home with torn clothes or training equipment damaged.
- Have possessions go missing.
- Asks for money or starts stealing (to pay bully).
- Has unexplained cuts and bruises.
- Is frightened to say what's wrong.
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above.
- In more extreme cases: starts stammering, cries themselves to sleep or has nightmares. Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable, is bullying other children or siblings. Stops eating, threatens or attempts suicide or runs away.

Code of Conduct for Parent/Spectators Parent/Spectators have a great influence on children's enjoyment and success in football. All children play football because they first and foremost love the game – it's fun.

It is important to remember that however good a child becomes at football within a club it is important to reinforce the message to parents/spectators that positive encouragement will contribute to:

- Children enjoying football
- A sense of personal achievement

- Self-esteem
- Improving the child's skills and techniques

A Parent/Spectators expectations and attitudes have a significant bearing on a child's attitude towards:

- Other players
- Officials
- Managers
- Spectators

We expect that all Parents/Spectators within the club are always positive and encouraging towards all of the children not just their own.

Encourage Parents/Spectators to:

- Applaud the opposition as well as your own team
- Avoid coaching the child during the game
- Not to shout and scream
- Respect the referee's decision
- Give attention to each of the children involved in football not just the most talented
- Give encouragement to everyone to participate in football, irrespective of sex, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or disability

Unseemly behaviour will not be tolerated. The Club and Team Managers are held responsible for the behaviour of the players and spectators before, during and after the game. The Club will be disciplined by the FA or League for any incidents that involve players or spectators and could face sanctions including dismissal from FA affiliate leagues. Guidelines for Parents/Spectators These guidelines are intended to ensure that all parents/spectators maintain high standards of behaviour whilst representing the Club:

- The decision of match officials must not be questioned
- Parents and spectators must not become involved in arguments with match officials, opposing players and supporters
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour
- It is especially important for parents and spectators to stay behind the Respect Barrier and not enter the field of play during a match
- All disputes regarding the behaviour of match officials or the opposing players and spectators will be the responsibility of the Team Manager who will follow the official procedures for the registration of a complaint
- We expect that all players and spectators will appreciate skill and effort from both teams, irrespective of the result

- Encourage the team from the touchline, but please keep quiet about any mistakes that are made.
- Remember that children are involved in football for their own enjoyment, not to meet your expectations
- Be supportive of the Manager and Coach
- Leave any coaching to the Manager – it is more effective and less confusing to the players
- Encourage players at half time to get a drink and report straight to the Manager for a team talk
- All players, parents and spectators should try to minimize any nuisance to residents in the vicinity of the matches (e.g. excessive noise, inconsiderate parking of cars, litter etc)
- Respecting rights, dignity and worth of each and every person and treat equally within the context of the sport, irrespective of sex, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or disability.

Thank you for your co-operation to keep the game of football safe and fun for all.

**Committee LAJFC**