

ELITE YOUTH RUGBY

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY FOR YOUTH RUGBY



This is our **Anti-Bullying Policy for Youth Rugby**, based on best practices from local clubs like Amersham & Chiltern RFC and with guidance from the Rugby Football Union (RFU):

Policy Statement

This club is committed to providing a caring, friendly, and safe environment for all young players so they can participate in rugby in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable. If bullying does occur, all players and parents should be able to report it and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

Objectives

- 0 To prevent bullying in all forms.
- 0 To ensure all players, coaches, parents, and volunteers understand what bullying is and how to report it.
- 0 To create a culture of respect, inclusion, and support.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. It results in pain and distress to the victim. It can be:

- 0 **Physical:** hitting, kicking, theft
- 0 **Verbal:** name-calling, threats, racist or homophobic remarks
- 0 **Emotional:** excluding someone, spreading rumors, persistent criticism
- 0 **Cyber:** misuse of social media, messaging, or other digital platforms

Bullying in a Rugby Context

Bullying may occur in rugby through:

- 0 A player intimidating other young players on or off the pitch
- 0 A coach using aggressive or humiliating tactics
- 0 A parent pushing their child or others too hard
- 0 Spectators or officials making derogatory remarks

Responsibilities

Club Officials and Coaches:

- 0 Promote a culture of respect and inclusion
- 0 Be alert to signs of bullying and act promptly
- 0 Follow the club's safeguarding and reporting procedures

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Parents and Guardians:

- 0 Encourage respectful behaviour
- 0 Report concerns to the Club Safeguarding Officer
- 0 Support the club's anti-bullying stance

Players:

- 0 Treat others with respect
- 0 Speak out if they witness or experience bullying
- 0 Support teammates who may be victims

Reporting and Response

- 0 All incidents should be reported to the **Club Safeguarding Officer (Peter Hayes)**
- 0 Reports will be taken seriously and investigated confidentially
- 0 Actions may include mediation, warnings, suspension, or removal from the club
- 0 Support will be offered to both victims and perpetrators to promote learning and change

Policy Enforcement

Failure to comply with this policy may result in:

- 0 Temporary or permanent suspension from club activities
- 0 Withdrawal of club membership
- 0 Referral to external safeguarding authorities if necessary

Final Note

This policy is reviewed annually and is part of our broader safeguarding commitment.

We believe every young child has the right to enjoy rugby in a safe, respectful, and supportive environment.

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