

Blackheath Fencing Club

Anti-Bullying Policy

Bullying is not easy to define, can take many forms and is usually repeated over a period of time.

The three main types of bullying are:

- Physical (eg 'hard hitting' pushing)
- Verbal (eg racist or homophobic remarks, threats, name calling) and
- Emotional (eg isolating an individual from activities).

They will all include:

- Deliberate hostility and aggression towards the victim
- A victim who is weaker than the bully or bullies
- An outcome which is always painful and distressing for the victim

Bullying behaviour may also include:

- Other forms of violence
- Deliberate 'hard hitting'
- Biased refereeing
- Sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing or theft
- Tormenting, ridiculing, humiliation
- Racial taunts, graffiti gestures
- Unwanted physical contact or abusive or offensive comment of a sexual nature

Emotional and verbal bullying is difficult to cope with or prove. It is of paramount importance that all clubs should adopt an anti bullying policy to which all its members, coaches, players staffing volunteers and parents subscribe to and accept.

Every club should be prepared to:

- Take the problem seriously
- Investigate any incidents
- Talk to the bullies and victims separately

Decide on appropriate action, such as:

- Obtain an apology from the bully(ies) to the victim
- Inform the parents of the bully(ies)
- Insist on the return of items 'borrowed' or stolen
- Insist bullies compensate the victim
- Hold club or class discussions about bullying
- Provide support for the coach of the victim

The Anti-Bullying Policy is an integral part the Club's Child Protection Policy and its guidelines and procedures.