



## Ballymena United Youth Academy **Anti-Bullying Policy**

At Ballymena United Youth Academy bullying will not be accepted or condoned. Any reports or allegations of bullying will be taken seriously, investigated and acted on appropriately. Attitudes and behaviour will be addressed with the individual(s) involved. Ultimately the Committee reserve the right to ask any individual engaging in bullying behaviour to leave the Club or exclude from training or games for a period of time. This applies equally to players, coaches or parents.

Everybody has the responsibility to work together to stop bullying – the coach/volunteer, the parent/guardian, the child/young person, the official.

Bullying can include:

- physical pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching etc;
- name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing and emotional torment through ridicule, humiliation and the continual ignoring of individuals;
- sectarian/racial taunts, graffiti, gestures;
- sexual comments and/or suggestions;
- unwanted physical contact.
- Ridicule of ethnicity, disability, political opinion or sexual orientation.

Any reported incident of bullying will be investigated objectively and will involve listening carefully to all those involved and providing support to all parties.

Any incident of bullying will be discussed with the child/young person's parents/guardians and support will be offered to parents/guardians including information on other agencies or support lines.

Concerns about bullying behaviour can be raised with the Head Coach of the relevant year group if appropriate or directly with the Club Protection Officer or Club Chairperson.



### **Number - Contact details**

If you have a concern about any child or an adult's behaviour towards a child in your community at any time you can contact the NSPCC Helpline (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) - 0800 800 5000 or [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

If you are hard of hearing, you can contact the NSPCC Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm by:

- textphone 0808 056 0566
- British Sign Language interpreters on videophone 020 8463 1148
- British Sign Language interpreters on IP videophone or webcam – [nspcc.signvideo.tv](http://nspcc.signvideo.tv)

ChildLine – 0800 1111

Reviewed May 2021