

Anti Bullying Policy

Statement of Intent

Southend United Football Club acknowledges and endorses the FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Southend United Football Club is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for everyone, so they can participate in football in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all club members, volunteers or parents/carers 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 Designated Safeguarding Officer. This club is committed to playing its part to teach players to treat each other with respect.

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 & physically) sending hurtful text messages, tormenting (e.g. hiding football boots/shin guards, threatening gestures).
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence.
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments.
- Discrimination racial taunts, graffiti, gestures, homophobic comments, jokes about disabled people, sexist comments.
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing.
- Cyberbullying This is when a person uses technology i.e. mobile phones or the internet (social networking sites, chat rooms, instant messenger, and tweets) to deliberately upset someone. Bullies often feel anonymous and distanced from the incident when it takes place online and 'bystanders' can easily become bullies themselves by forwarding the information on. There is a growing trend for bullying to occur online or via texts – bullies no longer rely on being physically near to the young person.
- Trolling This is the name given to posting deliberately offensive comments on people's social media pages aimed at causing upset and distress. This type of behaviour could result in legal action.

SUFC commits to ensure our website, websites and/or social networking pages are being used appropriately and any online bullying will be dealt with swiftly and appropriately in line with procedures detailed in this policy.

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Individuals who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. This club has a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Objectives of this policy:

- All club members, coaches, officials, volunteers and parents/carers should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All club members, officials, volunteers and coaching staff should know what the club policy is on bullying and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All players and parents/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.