



## **Child Safeguarding – Anti-Bullying Policy Statement of Intent**

The aim of this policy is to provide procedures and practical guidance for all Cricket East employees, agents, volunteers, and other professionals and or partners working alongside us to safeguard children (\*) (\*The word “children” should be taken to mean all persons under the age of 18yrs)

Introduction We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our Junior Players so that they can train and play in a relaxed and secure atmosphere.

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at Cricket East. If bullying does occur, all children should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a TELLING County Board. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff and officials.

### **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, tormenting (e.g. hiding kit, threatening gestures)
- Physical: pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist: racial taunts, graffiti, gestures Sexual: unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic: because of, or focusing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal: name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber: All areas of Internet, such as email and Internet chat room misuse. Mobile threats by text messaging and calls. Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera and video facilities.

### **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. Children who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. All County Cricket Boards and Cricket Clubs have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues off bullying affecting Junior Players.

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### Objectives of this policy

All officials, coaching and non-coaching staff should know what the Cricket East policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported. All children and parents should know what the Cricket East policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises. Cricket East takes bullying seriously.

Children and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported. Bullying will not be tolerated.

### Signs & Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- Says they are being bullied
- Changes their usual routine
- Is unwilling to go to the club
- Becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- Comes home with clothes torn or belongings damaged
- Has possessions which are damaged or “go missing”
- Asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully) • Has unexplained cuts or bruises
- Is frightened to say that’s wrong
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above In more extreme cases, the child:
- Starts stammering
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- Is bullying other children or siblings
- Stops eating
- Attempts or threatens suicide or runs away

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These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

### **Procedures**

1. Report bullying incidents to the County Welfare Officer (see details below)
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be reported to the ECB Child Protection Team for advice via the Country Welfare Officer
3. Parents should be informed and will be asked to come into a meeting to discuss the problem
4. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated, and the bullying stopped quickly
6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour In cases of adults reported to be bullying Junior Players (remember under the Child Act 2004, a child is a person under the age of 18 years), the ECB must always be informed and will advise on action to be taken.

### **Prevention**

Cricket East will use KIDSCAPE methods to help children prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- Writing a set of club rules
- Signing a behaviour contract
- Having discussions about bullying and why it matters

This policy has been developed from 'ECB Guidance on Kidscape sample Anti-bullying policy for cricket from the Club "Safe Hands" Crickets Policy for Safeguarding Children.

Kidscape can be contacted on 0207 730 3300 or you can access their website via [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk).

### **First Contact**

County welfare officer for Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire

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Danielle Kinton [danielle.kinton@cricketeast.co.uk](mailto:danielle.kinton@cricketeast.co.uk)

Phone Number: 07487 646674

### **Other Useful Contacts**

ECB Safeguarding Team Tel: 020 7432 1200 Email: [safeguarding@ecb.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@ecb.co.uk)

Local Authority Designated Officer (Huntingdonshire) Tel: 0345 045 5203 (Monday to Friday, 8am - 6pm). Out of hours: 01733 234724 Email: [ReferralCentre.Children@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:ReferralCentre.Children@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Local Authority Designated Officer (Central Bedfordshire) Tel: 0300 300 5026/0300 300 8142

Local Authority Designated Officer (Bedford Borough Council) Contact the Multi Agency Support Hub (MASH): • Office hours: 01234 718700 • Out of hours: 0300 300 8123 Local Authority Designated Officer (Luton) Tel: 01582 548 069 Email: [Paul.James@luton.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.James@luton.gcsx.gov.uk)

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