CROSBY STUART JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Anti-Bullying Policy

For players, parents, carers, coaches and volunteers · England Football Accredited

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Crosby Stuart is committed to giving every player a caring, friendly and safe place to play. **Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club.** If bullying does happen, everyone should be able to tell someone and know that it will be dealt with quickly and fairly.

What is bullying?

Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour, usually repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for the person being bullied to defend themselves. It can take many forms:

- **Physical** – hitting, kicking, pushing, or taking or damaging belongings and kit.
- **Verbal** – name-calling, insults, sarcasm, threats or spreading rumours.
- **Emotional** – leaving someone out, humiliating, tormenting or ganging up on them.
- **Discriminatory** – racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic or disability-related comments or behaviour.
- **Online (cyberbullying)** – through group chats, social media, messages, games, or sharing photos or videos without permission.

Signs to look out for

A child may not tell anyone they are being bullied. Coaches and parents should look out for a child who:

- Suddenly doesn't want to come to training or matches, or stops coming.
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious or loses confidence.
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises, or damaged or missing kit.
- Is often left out by team-mates, or is always picked last.
- Seems upset after using their phone, or after a group chat.

Our responsibilities

- Everyone at the club – players, parents, coaches and volunteers – has a part to play in stopping bullying.
- Coaches and team managers set a positive, respectful culture in their team and step in straight away if they see bullying.
- Every report is listened to, taken seriously and acted on.
- Team group chats are run by adults and follow the club's Social Media Policy.
- Everyone agrees to follow the club's Code of Conduct when they join.

What happens when bullying is reported

1. Report it to the team manager, coach or a Club Welfare Officer.
2. The Club Welfare Officer is told and keeps a confidential record.
3. The concern is looked into. The child being bullied is listened to and supported, and the other children involved are spoken to.
4. In more serious cases, the parents or carers of everyone involved are told and may be asked to meet the club.
5. The child who has bullied is expected to apologise genuinely. Other action may follow under the Code of Conduct, such as a warning, missing a match, suspension or, in the most serious cases, leaving the club.
6. We help the child who has bullied to understand and change their behaviour.
7. The team manager and Club Welfare Officer keep an eye on things afterwards to make sure the bullying has stopped.

> If the bullying involves an adult, or raises a wider safeguarding concern, it will be dealt with under our **Safeguarding Children Policy** and may be reported to Liverpool FA. If a crime may have been committed – such as assault, threats, hate crime or sharing intimate images – the police will be told.

Advice for players

- **Tell someone you trust** – a parent, your coach or a Club Welfare Officer. You won't get into trouble for telling.
- Don't hit back or reply to nasty messages.
- Keep screenshots of anything said online.
- If you see someone else being bullied, tell an adult. Staying quiet lets bullying carry on.
- You can talk to Childline at any time, free and in confidence, on **0800 1111** or at childline.org.uk.

Advice for parents and carers

- If your child tells you they are being bullied, stay calm, listen and reassure them they were right to tell you.
- Contact the team manager or a Club Welfare Officer. Please don't approach the other child or their family yourself.
- If you are told that your child has been bullying others, please work with us to help them put things right.

Who to contact

Club Welfare Officers
Von Parker Sheridan (Girls) · **Joe Buckley** (Boys)
welfare@crosbystuart.co.uk

Club Secretary
Jan Meadows
secretary@crosbystuart.co.uk

Liverpool FA Safeguarding
Safeguarding@LiverpoolFA.com · 0151 523 4488

The FA Safeguarding Team
Safeguarding@TheFA.com · 0800 169 1863

If a child is in immediate danger, call 999. NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000 · Childline 0800 1111

APPROVED BY	POSITION	DATE
Ben McDonald	**Chair, Crosby Stuart JFC**	**18 November 2026**