

# West Lothian Fencing Club

## Anti-bullying Policy

---

### Version History

Version Number	Date Updated	Created/ Updated by	Comments	Approved by Committee
V1	25/05/18	LA	For Committee approval	

Proposed by:

Name

Signature

Date

Seconded by:

Name

Signature

Date

**West Lothian Fencing Club believes that every child has the right to experience sport in a safe environment, free from abuse and bullying.**

Clubs play an important role in creating a positive ethos that challenges bullying. Clubs should understand the impact of bullying and to agree to standards of behaviour and tackle any unacceptable behaviour.

**West Lothian Fencing Club will:**

- recognise its duty of care and responsibility to safeguard all participants from harm
- promote and implement this anti-bullying policy in addition to our safeguarding policy and procedures
- seek to ensure that bullying behaviour is not accepted or condoned
- take action to investigate and respond to any alleged incidents of bullying
- ensure that coaches and the club welfare officer are given access to information, guidance and on bullying

**Each participant, coach, volunteer or official will:**

- respect every child's need for, and rights to, a play environment where safety, security, praise, recognition and opportunity for taking responsibility are available
- respect the feelings and views of others
- recognise that everyone is important and value that our differences make each of us special
- show appreciation of others by acknowledging individual qualities, contributions and progress
- be committed to the early identification of bullying, and take prompt and collective action to deal with it
- ensure safety by carefully explaining rules and practices and displaying these for all to see
- report incidents of bullying they see – by doing nothing you are condoning bullying

**Bullying**

- the club will address all forms of bullying
- everybody in the club/organisation has a responsibility to work together to stop bullying
- bullying can include online as well as offline behaviour
- bullying can include: -
  - *physical pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching.*
  - *name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing and emotional torment through ridicule, humiliation or the continual ignoring of individuals*
  - *posting of derogatory or abusive comments, videos or images on social network sites racial taunts, graffiti, gestures, sectarianism*
  - *sexual comments, suggestions or behaviour*
  - *unwanted physical contact*

Children with a disability, from ethnic minorities, young people who are gay or lesbian, or those with learning difficulties are more vulnerable to this form of abuse and are more likely to be targeted.

**Support for the child:**

- children should know who will listen to and support them
- the club will aim to have an open the door to children wishing to talk about bullying or any issues that affect them
- identify and address at the outset any potential barriers children may have to talking to adults for help (including those associated with a child's disability or impairment)
- children should have access to Helpline numbers

- we will listen and support anyone who reports an incident of bullying
- we will objectively investigate any reported incident of bullying and will listen to all those involved
- we will support bullied children and ensure their right to play in a safe environment
- we will support those who bully and encourage them to stop and if necessary use appropriate sanctions which do not make these individuals look or feel foolish in front of others

**Support to the parents/guardians:**

- we will advise parents/guardians on the club's anti-bullying policy and practice
- we will discuss any incident of bullying with the child's parent(s)/guardians
- we will consult and seek an agreement with parents on any action the club will take (for both victim and bully)
- we will provide information and advice on coping with bullying
- we will offer support to the parent(s) including information on other agencies or support lines.

**Useful contacts**

- ChildLine 0800 1111 / [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)
- Respectme: <http://www.respectme.org.uk>
- Kidscape [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)
- Anti-Bullying Alliance [www.antibullyingalliance.org](http://www.antibullyingalliance.org)