

Wimborne & District Table Tennis League

Anti-bullying Policy

Introduction:

The Wimborne Table Tennis League commits to its duty of care to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and adults at risk and is committed to ensuring good practice throughout the whole organisation.

Definition of Bullying:

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive, intimidating behaviour among young people that involves a real or perceived power inequality. The behaviour is often repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over a period of time.

Content:

Our anti-bullying policy sets out how we feel about bullying as a league, what we'll do to tackle it and how we'll support children and young people who experience or display bullying behaviour.

In order to achieve this, the league shall ensure the following:

- All forms of bullying will be acted upon;
- Everybody associated with the league has a responsibility to work together to stop bullying;
- It is important to recognise that bullying can include online as well as offline behaviour;

Types of Bullying Behaviour:

- Bullying behaviour will often include:
 - repeated physical pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching etc.
 - repeated name calling, spreading of rumours, persistent teasing and humiliation or the continual ignoring of others
 - systematic posting of derogatory or abusive comments, videos or images on social media
 - objectionable racial, homophobic, transphobic or sexist comments, taunts or gestures
 - repugnant sexual comments, suggestions or behaviour
 - repeated and unwanted physical contact

The League will:

- Recognise its duty of care and responsibility to safeguard all players from harm;
- Promote and implement this anti-bullying policy in addition to its safeguarding policy and associated codes of conduct;
- Ensure that bullying behaviour is not tolerated or condoned;
- Take action to investigate and respond to any reports of bullying from any adult and young people;
- Encourage and facilitate children and young people to play an active part in developing and adopting a code of conduct for behaviour;
- Ensure that coaches are given access to information, guidance and training on bullying.

Each participant, coach, volunteer or official will:

- Encourage individuals to speak out about any bullying behaviour;
- Respect every individual's need for, and right to play table tennis in an environment where safety, security, praise, recognition and opportunity for taking responsibility are available;
- Respect the feelings and views of others;
- Show appreciation of others by acknowledging individual qualities, contributions and progress;
- Report any incidents of bullying behaviour they see to the league's Welfare Officer – by doing nothing you are condoning the behaviour.

Supporting children

- The league will encourage each club to appoint a Welfare Officer who will listen to and support any children playing in their club;
- The league will let children know that its Welfare Officer will listen to and support them;
- The league will create an “open door” ethos where children feel confident to talk to an adult about bullying behaviour or any other issue that might affect them;
- Potential barriers to talking (including those associated with a child’s disability or impairment) will be acknowledged and addressed at the outset to enable children to speak out;
- The league will make sure children are aware of helpline numbers as detailed below;
- Anyone who reports an incident of bullying will be listened to carefully and reports will be taken seriously;
- Any reported experience of bullying behaviour will be investigated by the League’s Welfare Officer and will involve listening carefully to all those involved. Any incidents will be reported to the Safeguarding Team at Table Tennis England;
- Children experiencing bullying behaviour will be supported and helped to uphold their right to play table tennis in a safe environment;
- Those who display bullying behaviour will be supported and encouraged to develop better relationships.

Support to the parents/guardians

- Parents or guardians will be advised of the league’s bullying policy;
- Any experience of bullying behaviour will be discussed with the child’s parents or guardians;
- Parents will be consulted on action to be taken (for both victim and bully) and we’ll agree on these actions together;
- Information and advice on coping with bullying will be made available where appropriate;
- Support will be offered to parents, including information from other agencies or support lines.

Useful contacts

WDTTL Welfare Officer – Rod Fry 07973 577910/rod_fry28@hotmail.com

Table Tennis England’s Safeguarding Team 01908 208860 option 3.

NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000

Childline 0800 1111 / www.childline.org.uk

Anti-Bullying Alliance www.antibullyingalliance.org