



BELFAST SWIFTS FC **Anti-Bullying Policy**

Bullying

At Belfast Swifts Fc bullying will NOT be accepted or condoned. Anyone found to be bullying others will be dealt with seriously.

Bullying can include:

- physical pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching etc
- name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing and emotional abuse
- torment through ridicule, humiliation and the continual ignoring of individuals
- Leaving girls out and forming 'cliques' within teams, we are an inclusive club and every child has an important part to play in their team.
- sectarian/racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- sexual comments and/or suggestions
- unwanted physical contact.

Children from ethnic minorities, disabled children, young people who are gay or lesbian, or those with learning difficulties or other additional needs such as Autism/ADHD etc. are more vulnerable to this form of abuse and may well be targeted.

Everybody has the responsibility to work together to stop bullying – the coach/volunteer, the parent/guardian, the child/young person, the official.

Support to the Child/Young Person

- Children/young people should contact the child protection designated officers from the club:

Maria Gourley – 07854427988

Donna Maxwell - 07833477294

Anyone who reports an incident of bullying will be listened to carefully and be supported, whether it's the child/young person being bullied or the child/young person



who is bullying

- Any reported incident of bullying will be investigated objectively and will involve listening carefully to all those involved
- Children/young people being bullied will be supported and assistance given to uphold their right to play and live in a safe environment which allows their healthy development
- Those who bully will be supported and encouraged to stop bullying
- Sanctions involving long periods of isolation, or which diminish and make individuals look or feel foolish in front of others, will be avoided

Support to the Parents/Guardians

- Parents/guardians should be advised on policies and procedures in relation to bullying
- Any incident of bullying will be discussed with the child/young person's parents/guardians
- Parental/guardian advice on action will be sought and agreements made as to what action should be taken
- Advice on coping with bullying should be given
- Support should be offered to parents/guardians including information on other agencies or support lines.

Useful Contacts

- Childline - 0800 1111
www.childline.org.uk
- NSPCC Helpline - 0808 800 5000
- www.there4me.com (an online service for young people)
- Kidscape - 020 7730 3300
www.kidscape.org.uk
- Parents Advice Centre - Parenting Education Project, Parenting Forum NI and The Men's Project - 0808 8010 722
www.parentsadvicecentre.org
- NI Anti-Bullying Forum -
www.niabf.org.uk

