



# Plym Valley LHC

## Anti-Bullying Policy

### **Statement of Intent:**

At Plym Valley LHC we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our members so they can participate in hockey in a relaxed and secure atmosphere.

### **Bullying of any kind is unacceptable in our club**

If bullying does occur, all club members should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. Anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the club welfare office.

### **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. 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 focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber - All areas of internet ,such as email & internet chat room misuse Mobile threats by text messaging & calls Misuse of associated technology , i.e. camera & video facilities

**Our club has a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying**

### **Objectives of this Policy**

- All club members, coaches and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All club members, coaches and parents should know what the club policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- All club members and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

### **Procedures**

1. Report bullying incidents to the club welfare officer, member of the club committee or a club member you can trust
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be referred to the welfare officer
3. In serious cases involving children within the club parents should be informed and asked to come in to 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
7. If mediation fails and the bullying continues the club will initiate disciplinary proceedings according to the club constitution

## **Prevention**

1. The club has a written constitution, which sets out what is considered acceptable behaviour for all members, of which the antibullying policy is one part
2. All club members and parents sign to accept the constitution upon joining the club
3. The Club Welfare Officer will raise awareness about bullying and why it matters, and if issues of bullying arise in the club, will consider meeting with members to discuss the issue openly and constructively

This policy is based on guidance provided to schools by KIDSCAPE. KIDSCAPE is a voluntary organisation committed to help prevent child bullying. KIDSCAPE can be contacted on 0207 730 3300 or you can access their website via [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk).

You may also wish to access any of the following websites designed to give advice and guidance to parents and children who are faced with dealing with bullying:

### **HELP ORGANISATIONS:**

Children's Legal Centre 0845 345 4345

KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4) 0845 1 205 204

Parentline Plus 0808 800 2222

Youth Access 020 8772 9900

Bullying Online [www.bullying.co.uk](http://www.bullying.co.uk)

Visit the Kidscape website [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk) for further support, links and advice.