



MATRI

Gymnastics Academy

ANTI - BULLYING

POLICY

Matrix Gymnastics Academy is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our members. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our club. We believe it is important that all of our member's coaches and volunteers show respect and understand for the welfare of others at all times. We encourage an open door policy and therefore ANYONE who knows that bullying is taking place is expected to tell a coach, volunteer and/or Club Welfare Officer.

What is Bullying?

Bullying can be:

- Emotional: being unfriendly, excluding or tormenting.
- Verbal: name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours or teasing.
- Physical: any use of violence.
- Racist: racial taunts, graffiti or gestures.
- Sexual: unwanted physical contact or abusive/inappropriate comments.
- Cyber: all areas of internet, such as email and chat room misuse. Mobile threats by text messaging and calls.

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Nobody deserves to be a victim of bullying; everybody has the right to be treated with respect. As a club we take bullying seriously.

Objectives of this Policy:

- All officials, coaching and non-coaching staff, volunteers, children and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All officials, coaching and non-coaching staff and volunteers should know what the club policy is on bullying and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All children and parents should know what the club policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

Procedures:

- 1) Report bullying incidents to the Club Welfare Officer(s). Coaches and welfare officers will monitor for any re-occurring incidents.
- 2) Where the alleged bully is a child (children), parents should be informed and will be asked to come to a meeting to discuss the problem to come up with an action plan.
- 3) An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour through discussion about bullying.
- 4) Bullies may be asked to sign a behaviour contract.
- 5) If bullying continues the bully will be asked to leave the Club