



Anti-bullying Policy

Statement of Intent

Croquet England is committed to ensuring that a caring, friendly and safe environment is provided for all our members, associates, volunteers and visitors so they can participate in croquet in a relaxed, secure and welcoming atmosphere.

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable in croquet.

If bullying does occur, all members should have the confidence to report it and to know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

Scope

All players, members, associates, coaches, volunteers, children and their parents/guardians should have an understanding of what bullying is.

What is bullying?

Bullying can be experienced by anyone, irrespective of age. It is behaviour that is:

- Repeated.
- Intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally.
- Often aimed at certain groups, for example because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.
- Usually reflective of a real or perceived imbalance of power or status between the bully/bullies and the victim.

Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim. Bullying can be:

- Emotional - being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. threatening gestures).
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing.
- Destructive - damage to or interference with belongings.
- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, spitting.
- Racist - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures.
- Sexual – lewd behaviour, sexually abusive comments, ‘sexting’.
- Homophobic or transphobic - because of, or focussing on, the issue of sexuality or gender.
- Cyber -
 - Any issues relating to the internet, such as email & internet chat room misuse.
 - Mobile threats by text messaging or calls
 - Misuse of associated technology, e.g. camera and video facilities

When does banter become bullying?

Banter is the shared joking and teasing between friends, who are each on an equal footing and are each giving and taking a fair share of the teasing. Banter can become bullying when there is an imbalance, such as when a group of 'better' players is sniggering at someone less experienced, or when one person is receiving more of the teasing than anyone else. Once the person on the receiving end starts to feel hurt, upset, offended, nervous or intimidated, the line has been crossed between banter and bullying.

Raising a concern

Refer to the anti-bullying procedures.

References

Anti-bullying procedures
Croquet Online Policy
Codes of Conduct
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

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