



Anti bullying policy and guidance

Verwood Town Football Club (VTFC) is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for playing football.

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our club. It is expected that if anyone sees or knows that bullying is happening they will tell the welfare officer or a committee member.

What is bullying? Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online.

Possible indicators of bullying

- Someone says they are being bullied
- Reluctance to go to club sessions
- Becoming anxious, withdrawn or lacking confidence
- Coming home with clothes torn or equipment damaged
- Possessions 'going missing'
- Asking for money or starting to steal money
- Unexplained cuts or bruises
- Frightened to say what's wrong
- Gives improbable excuses

What to do if you think someone is being bullied? Any concerns about bullying should be reported to the club welfare officer, a member of the club committee, or to the Dorset County FA welfare officer. If VTFC have serious concerns about the bullying, they will make a referral to the Dorset County FA welfare officer. If it can be dealt with at a club level, a mediation meeting will be offered with relevant committee members (child welfare officer and at least one other). Where possible, the club will support those bullying to change their behaviour. If this is not possible, or the bullying continues, the club will initiate action under the disciplinary policy. This could lead to suspension or expulsion from the club.

Reporting concerns

Anyone can report any child welfare issues observed to any member of the committee, but are highly recommended to contact our Welfare Officer on – welfare@vtyfc.co.uk or by phone on 07758246452.

Dorset County FA safeguarding@dorsetfa.com 01202 688270

Call The NSPCC 24-hour helpline on 0808 800 5000 – or if it is an emergency because a child or children are at immediate risk, then call the police or children's social care in your area (Dorset Children's Advice and Duty Service 01305 228866) or The FA via safeguarding@thefa.com