



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Statement of Intent

The Dixie SC is committed to providing players a fun, positive and secure environment in which to learn and enjoy the game of soccer. Not all joking, or horseplay is bullying, and this fact will always be taken into consideration, but when the intent is to cause distress, we will consider such behavior to be bullying and will not tolerate it at any practice, game, or other DSC sanctioned event. Anyone who knows that bullying is taking place is expected to report the incident to the appropriate Club Director. Players and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

Objectives of this Policy

- Bullying will not be tolerated.
- All players, coaches, managers, and parent/guardians of the DSC should understand what bullying is.
- All coaching staff are expected to adhere to the club policy on bullying.
- All players should know what the club policy is on bullying and what they should do if bullying occurs or is suspected.
- As a club, we take bullying seriously. Players and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is defined as conduct, gestures or comments which are insulting, intimidating, humiliating, hurtful, malicious, degrading or otherwise offensive to a player, group of players and/or teammates, and which create a hostile or intimidating environment, or which negatively affects a player's physical and/or emotional well-being. Bullying is any written, verbal, or physical act, or any electronic communication, whether it is a single incident or a series of incidents that results in intentional pain and distress to the victim.

Signs and Indicators

A child may indicate he or she is being bullied through various signs and symptoms. While some children are prone to report bullying to their parents, coaches or adults, others will not, due to fear, intimidation, or other factors. Coaches and parents should be aware of possible signs indicating that bullying may be taking place. These signs and behaviors could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Procedures for Parents, Coaches and Board Members

- Parents should report bullying incidents to the team coach or manager first, and then contact the appropriate DSC Board or Staff member in the event the situation is not being addressed to their level of need. If necessary and appropriate, police may be consulted.
- In all cases of reported bullying, parents of the player who was bullied shall be informed immediately and may be asked to meet with the respective team coaching staff and/or DSC Director/Staff to discuss the incident. In all cases, strict confidentiality shall be maintained. It is not our goal to make a public example of reported incidents.
- The bullying behavior or threats of bullying must be investigated, and the bullying stopped immediately. The parents of any player who is reported to be bullying will be contacted immediately by the respective team coaching staff or DSC Director/Staff and asked to meet to discuss the incident to help the bully or bullies change their behavior. Depending on the severity of the situation, the parents may be asked to meet with representatives of the DSC Board.

Consequences of Bullying

- In a first offense situation involving bullying, an attempt will be made to encourage the bully (bullies) to modify their behavior for their benefit, for the benefit of the person bullied and other team members. An attempt will be made by the coach, manager, or parent(s) to reconcile the situation between the players (age and level of maturity and/or severity of offense must be considered). Other consequences or disciplinary alternatives to stop the bullying may also be considered by the DSC Board once reported by the parent, coach, or manager.
- If the bullying persists, disciplinary action against a player may be taken by the team coach and/or DSC Board which may include, but is not limited to, immediate suspension from participation in practices or game(s) for a period. The DSC Board reserves the right to suspend or otherwise discipline any player for bullying in addition to any action taken by the coach. In severe cases, the DSC Board reserves the right to prohibit further participation in the soccer program by any player deemed to be involved in the bullying of other players.
- After the incident/incidents have been investigated and addressed, the situation will continue to be monitored by the respective team coach, team manager and players' parents to ensure repeated bullying does not occur.