

Bullying/Cyber Bullying

The Lakeville Soccer Club (LSC) Board strives to provide a safe, positive learning climate for members of Lakeville Soccer. Therefore, it shall be the policy of LSC to maintain a learning environment in which cyber bullying in any form is not tolerated.

1. All forms of cyber bullying by LSC members and players are hereby prohibited. Anyone who engages in bullying or cyber bullying in violation of this Policy shall be subject to appropriate discipline.
2. Parents or players who have been bullied or cyber bullied shall promptly report such incidents to any LSC Board member or program manager.
3. Complaints of bullying or cyber bullying shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action shall be taken when a complaint is verified. Neither reprisals nor retaliation shall occur as a result of the submission of a complaint.
4. The LSC shall annually inform members that bullying or cyber bullying of players or members will not be tolerated.

Definitions:

Bullying shall mean unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct directed at a player or parent by another player or parent that has the effect of:

1. Physically, emotionally or mentally harming a player or parent;
2. Damaging, extorting or taking a player or member's personal property;
3. Placing a player or member in reasonable fear of physical, emotional or mental harm;
4. Placing a player or member in reasonable fear of damage to or loss of personal property; or
5. Creating an intimidating or hostile environment that substantially interferes with a player's or member's opportunities.

Cyber bullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another player or member by way of any technological tool, such as sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory email messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings (including blogs) which has the effect of:

1. Physically, emotionally or mentally harming a player or parent;
2. Placing a player or member in reasonable fear of physical, emotional or mental harm;
3. Placing a player or member in reasonable fear of damage to or loss of personal property; or
4. Creating an intimidating or hostile environment that substantially interferes with a player's educational opportunities.

The term "bullying" and "cyber bullying" shall not be interpreted to infringe upon a player's right to engage in legally protected speech or conduct.

Delegation of Responsibility:

Each board member or contractor shall be responsible to maintain a learning environment free of bullying and cyber bullying.

Each player and parent shall be responsible to respect the rights of his/her fellow athletes and parents and to ensure an atmosphere free from all forms of bullying and cyber bullying.

Players shall be encouraged to report bullying or cyber bullying complaints to the LSC Club Administrator.

Any program manager who receives a bullying or cyber bullying complaint shall gather information or seek administrative assistance to determine if bullying or cyber bullying has occurred. If the behavior is found to meet the definition of bullying or cyber bullying, the building principal must complete the appropriate written documentation (see bullying reporting form).

The building principal or his/her designee will inform the parents or guardians of the victim and also the parents or guardians of the accused.

Complaint Procedure:

A player or parent shall report a complaint of bullying or cyber bullying, orally or in writing, to the Club Administrator. If a parent initiates the complaint, the Club Administrator will follow-up with the player and parent present.

The Club Administrator will either gather the information or seek administrative assistance to determine if the alleged bullying or cyber bullying conduct occurred.

After the information has been gathered, the President shall be notified of the complaint. The Club Administrator will determine the need for further investigation or the appropriate intervention, which may result in administrative discipline to ensure that the conduct ceases. If the behavior is found to meet the definition of bullying or cyber bullying, the Club Administrator must complete the appropriate written documentation.

A violation of this Policy shall subject the offending player or parent to appropriate disciplinary action, consistent with LSC Code of Conduct, which may include suspension, expulsion or notification to the appropriate authorities.