



# ANTI-BULLYING POLICY



## 1. Policy Statement

Infinity is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for all members. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable within our club. If bullying does occur, it will be dealt with promptly and effectively in accordance with this policy.

We believe that everyone has the right to be treated with respect and dignity. All members, coaches, volunteers, parents/carers, and visitors have a responsibility to ensure bullying is challenged and reported.

## 2. Purpose

- ∞ To prevent bullying behaviour within the club.
- ∞ To provide a clear procedure for responding to bullying incidents.
- ∞ To support individuals who have been bullied and work with those responsible to prevent recurrence.

## 3. What is Bullying?

Bullying is behaviour that hurts someone else – such as name-calling, hitting, pushing, spreading rumours, threatening or undermining someone. It is usually repeated over time and can happen face-to-face or online.

Types of bullying may include:

Physical: pushing, kicking, hitting, or use of violence

Verbal: name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing

Emotional: excluding, tormenting, threatening gestures

Cyber: offensive messages, social media abuse, online threats

Discriminatory: based on race, gender, disability, sexuality, religion or belief

## 4. Scope

This policy applies to:

- ∞ Gymnasts
- ∞ Coaches
- ∞ Helpers
- ∞ Volunteers
- ∞ Parents/Carers
- ∞ Visitors
- ∞ Administrators
- ∞ Any representatives of the club

## 5. Signs of Bullying

Staff, volunteers, and parents should be alert to the signs that a child or young person may be being bullied, such as:

- ∞ Reluctance to attend training
- ∞ Sudden drop in performance
- ∞ Unexplained injuries
- ∞ Anxiety or low mood
- ∞ Loss of confidence or self-esteem

## 6. Reporting Bullying

Anyone who is being bullied or witnesses bullying should report it as soon as possible.

Reports can be made to:

- ∞ Club Welfare Officer

*Beth Cash*

07818745473

[beth@infinity-gymnastics.co.uk](mailto:beth@infinity-gymnastics.co.uk)

[welfare@infinity-gymnastics.co.uk](mailto:welfare@infinity-gymnastics.co.uk)

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- ∞ A trusted coach or member of staff
- ∞ Parent/carer (who should then inform the welfare officer)

## 7. Responding to Bullying

All reports will be taken seriously and handled sensitively and confidentially.

Procedure:

1. Incident reported to the Club Welfare Officer
2. Welfare Officer will gather facts and speak with all parties involved
3. Action taken may include:

Mediation between parties

Formal warning

Suspension or expulsion from club (if appropriate)

4. Parents/carers may be informed (if a child is involved)
5. A record will be kept of all reported incidents

## 8. Prevention Measures

- ∞ Promote a positive, inclusive club culture
- ∞ Coaches and staff will model respectful behaviour
- ∞ Induction for new members will include reference to this policy
- ∞ Clear codes of conduct for all members (gymnasts, coaches, and parents)
- ∞ Regular safeguarding training for staff and volunteers

## 9. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or following a serious incident. Feedback from members and parents will be considered to improve policy effectiveness.

## 10. Linked Policies

- ∞ Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- ∞ Code of Conduct for Gymnasts
- ∞ Code of Conduct for Coaches/Volunteers
- ∞ Complaints Policy