

The Carolina Bears

Anti-Bullying Policy

Purpose

The Carolina Bears are committed to providing a safe, positive, and respectful environment where every athlete can learn, compete, and grow. Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated.

Definition

Bullying is repeated or intentional behavior that causes physical, emotional, social, or psychological harm to another person. Bullying may occur in person, electronically, or through social media.

Bullying includes, but is not limited to:

- Physical intimidation or aggression
- Verbal insults, teasing, or name-calling
- Threats or intimidation
- Social exclusion or spreading rumors
- Cyberbullying through text messages, social media, or other digital platforms
- Damage to another person's property

Expectations

All athletes, coaches, volunteers, parents, and spectators are expected to:

- Treat others with respect.
- Encourage teammates rather than ridicule them.
- Report bullying when it is observed.
- Help create a positive team culture built on sportsmanship and inclusion.

Reporting

Athletes and parents are encouraged to report bullying to a coach, Team Mom, Athletic Director, or Board Member as soon as possible.

Reports will be:

- Taken seriously.
- Investigated promptly.
- Handled as confidentially as possible.
- Addressed without retaliation against the person reporting.

Consequences

Depending on the severity and frequency of the behavior, consequences may include:

- Verbal warning
- Parent conference
- Written behavior improvement plan
- Suspension from practices or games
- Removal from team activities
- Dismissal from the organization for repeated or severe violations

Consequences may apply to athletes, coaches, volunteers, parents, or spectators whose conduct violates this policy.

Prevention

The Carolina Bears promotes a positive culture through:

- Character development
- Leadership education
- Respect for teammates, coaches, officials, and opponents
- Parent education and communication
- Recognition of positive sportsmanship

Commitment

The Carolina Bears believe every child deserves to participate in youth sports free from fear, intimidation, or harassment. We are committed to building champions on the field, in the classroom, and in life by fostering a culture of respect, accountability, and inclusion.