



## **STYSA Anti-Bullying Position Statement**

STYSA expects that all members of the soccer community will treat each other in a civil manner and with respect for differences. To reinforce that expectation, STYSA does not condone any form of bullying at STYSA-sanctioned activities. This commitment is a part of our efforts to provide a supportive and fun environment for players, coaches, parents, and referees. The intent is to prevent and eliminate all forms of bullying and other harmful and disruptive behavior that can impede the well-being of our members.

Any player or parent of a player who believes that the player or another player has experienced bullying or that a player has engaged in bullying is encouraged to immediately report the incident to their coach, club, Member Association and/or STYSA. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is prohibited.

### **Definition of Bullying:**

According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and the Stop Bullying program, “Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.”

Bullying may occur in many forms and not limited to the examples below.

- **Verbal** bullying includes teasing, name-calling, taunting, or threatening to cause harm.
- **Physical** bullying includes hitting, kicking, pinching, spitting, tripping, pushing, taking or breaking someone’s things, or making mean or rude hand gestures.
- **Social or Relational** bullying happens when someone is left out on purpose, someone tells kids to not be friends with someone, a child spreads rumors about another kid, or a child intentionally embarrasses another child in public.
- **Cyber** bullying includes the use of electronic communication tools such as social media sites, text messages, chat and websites, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature.
- **Hazing** takes these same activities of harassment, abuse or humiliation and uses them as a way of initiating a person into a group or a team.

### **Difference between Conflict vs. Bullying:**

Conflict is a mutually competitive or opposing action or engagement, including a disagreement, an argument or a fight which is a normal part of human development. Bullying is one-sided, where one or more individuals are victims of another person(s) aggression, which is intended to physically or emotionally hurt the victim(s).