

Safeguarding advisory notice

Sledging

The Club has been made aware of inappropriate comments (Sledging) being made between players of various age groups during play, sledging if used, especially by young players may develop into a form of bullying and must be discouraged at all levels.

The club (GP&RCC) operates a zero tolerance in relation to any form of bullying behaviour, Sledging can have an impact on metal health and wellbeing.

Everyone has a role to play to ensure that we are safe from abuse of any kind, please support our club by discouraging inappropriate Sledging both on and off the field of play.

Should you have any concerns and wish to talk, please contact the appropriate Team Manager or and Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO) Bill Middleton M: 07525 464 656.

The CSO is partly responsible for monitoring people who may experience bullying from other team members, coaches, staff and volunteers, or even from other parents and carers.

Emotional abuse in sport can be a common experience of young people **and that's not acceptable**. Bullying/Sledging behaviour can happen anywhere, bullying may happen during training, at events, in competitions and online. Inappropriate comments are at times dismissed as Banter; Sledging can result in emotional abuse rather than physical abuse.

Best known practice is for Parents/Guardians to monitor a young person’s social media account, the [Kidscape website](https://www.kidscape.org.uk/) offers helpful advice and information on the topic:

[How can I keep my child safe on WhatsApp? (kidscape.org.uk)](https://www.kidscape.org.uk/news-and-blogs/2022/february/how-can-i-keep-my-child-safe-on-whatsapp/)

**Types of bullying behaviour children might experience in sports clubs:**

* Sledging hurtful, offensive comments
* being deliberately embarrassed in front of others
* name-calling
* being shouted at in an aggressive way
* abuse from spectators
* physical abuse
* sexual harassment
* being forced to continue even if you are hurt or in pain.
* online bullying and abuse

Approved: Barry Seager (Chairman) Warren Radden (Secretary) Bill Middleton (CSO)