

Newtown Youth Football & Cheer Anti-Bullying & Social Media Policy - 2026

NYFC is committed to providing a physically and emotionally safe environment for all our participants so they can play football and cheer in a secure atmosphere. Bullying/teasing of any kind is unacceptable on or off the field. This includes behavior during team related activities (e.g. practices and games) as well as interactions outside these activities. It also includes mean-spirited comments through texts and posts on social media. All players will be held accountable for their actions on and off the field, and are responsible for reporting bullying to their coach.

What is teasing and bullying?

Teasing and bullying are deliberately hurtful behaviors, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. The three main types are physical (e.g. hitting, kicking, theft), verbal (e.g. name calling, intimidating, racist remarks) or indirect (e.g. spreading rumors, ignoring, excluding). Additionally, taunts or insults on social media are considered bullying.

NYFC Teasing/Bullying Procedures

This policy will be communicated to participants and parents at the beginning of each season. NYFC will take all reports and concerns seriously and attempt to stop the behavior. If teasing or bullying behavior occurs, it will be:

1. Investigated by a member of the team's coaching staff.
2. Addressed by the head coach with all players involved in the situation.
3. Communicated to the parent(s) by the head coach via email, with a CC to NYFC President.
4. NYFC board will meet with parent(s) of participant(s) involved in the bullying incident, and the board will determine disciplinary action.
 - *Disciplinary actions will vary depending on the severity of the bullying incident(s) but with approval of the NYFC Board, it can include removal from the league.*
5. Member(s) of the NYFC will address the affected team.

Social Media Policy

Athletes, parents and coaches are expected to follow the same rules for good behavior and respectful conduct online as they do offline. Athletes and coaches are representing NYFC at all times during the football season. They should use good judgement when posting comments and images online. They should be particularly mindful with images that include NYFC apparel or uniforms. Misuse of social media can result in disciplinary action.

Player: I accept responsibility for my words, actions, texts and social media posts including images. I acknowledge that all forms of bullying must be reported to my coach. I understand that if I bully or tease another participant during the football season, I will be removed from the Newtown Youth Football & Cheer program.

Player's Name (PRINT) _____

Player's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian: I have read the NYFC Bullying & Social Media Policy. I understand that my child may be subject to disciplinary actions by the coaches and the league if they are involved in bullying or the misuse of social media, including removal from the NYFC program.

Parent/Guardian Name (PRINT) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____