



Use of Reasonable Force Policy

Overview

All Star Soccer Academy acknowledges that in rare and exceptional circumstances, members of staff may need to use reasonable physical force when working with players. This policy sets out the circumstances in which this may be appropriate, the standards that must be met, and the procedures that must be followed.

The use of any physical force must never include an element of punishment. Any deliberate physical contact intended to punish, cause pain, injury or humiliation constitutes corporal punishment and is strictly prohibited under all circumstances.

When Reasonable Force May Be Used

Staff may use the minimum force necessary to prevent a player from:

- Committing a criminal offence or behaving in a way that would constitute a criminal offence
- Injuring themselves or others
- Causing damage to property

Reasonable force may also be appropriate in the following circumstances:

- A player fighting another where physical separation is necessary
- A player attacking a member of coaching or support staff
- Acts of vandalism, rough play or misuse of objects in a way that could cause personal injury or damage to property
- A disruptive player refusing to leave the pitch or training session when required
- A situation where a player's actions have immediate and serious health and safety implications

This list is intended as a guide and is not exhaustive.

Definition of Reasonable Force

Force can only be considered reasonable if:

- The circumstances of the specific incident genuinely warrant its use — force is unlawful where circumstances do not justify it
- The degree of force used is proportionate to the incident and the behaviour or consequences it is intended to prevent
- The minimum force necessary is used to achieve the required result

Appropriate Physical Contact



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All Star Soccer Academy recognises that some physical contact with players may be necessary in appropriate circumstances — for example, to demonstrate a technique, administer first aid, or comfort a player who is distressed. Staff should be mindful that some players find physical contact unwelcome and should always consider the situation carefully. Well-intentioned physical contact can be misconstrued and staff must avoid placing themselves in a position of risk.

Forms of Physical Intervention

Where physical intervention is necessary, it may involve:

- Placing yourself between players
- Blocking a player's path
- Holding, gently pulling or pushing
- Leading a player by the arm
- Shepherding a player away by placing a hand in the centre of the back

Staff must never:

- Hold a player around the neck or collar
- Slap, punch or kick a player
- Twist or force limbs against a joint
- Trip a player
- Hold or pull a player by the hair or ear

Complaints & Legal Considerations

Any form of physical intervention may result in a complaint or legal action by a player or parent. Staff must always act with care, using reasonable and proportionate force only in extreme circumstances. In any legal proceedings, a court would assess whether the force used was reasonable in the specific circumstances, taking into account witness accounts and all available evidence. Adherence to this policy will provide staff with a significant degree of protection in such circumstances.

Reporting

Any incident involving the use of reasonable force by a member of staff towards a player must be reported in writing to the **Tour Manager (Craig Bowker)** immediately. Craig will then, where appropriate, contact the parent or guardian of the player concerned. A written record of all such incidents will be maintained and held on file.