



St. Mary's Football Club

Equality Policy

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The aim of this policy is to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and with respect and that St Mary's Football Club is equally accessible to them all.

St Mary's Football Club is responsible for setting standards and values to apply throughout the club at every level. Football belongs to and should be enjoyed by, anyone who wants to participate in it.

Our commitment is to confront and eliminate discrimination whether by reason of gender, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability and to encourage equal opportunities.

This policy is fully supported by the Club Officers who are responsible for the implementation of this policy.

St Mary's Football Club, in all its activities will not discriminate, or in any way treat anyone less favourably, on grounds of gender, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability. It means that St Mary's Football Club will ensure that it treats people fairly and with respect and that it will provide access and opportunities for all members of the community to take part in, and enjoy, its activities.

St Mary's Football Club will not tolerate harassment, bullying, abuse or victimisation of an individual, which for the purposes of this policy and the actions and sanctions applicable is regarded as discrimination. This includes sexual or racially based harassment or other discriminatory behaviour, whether physical or verbal. St Mary's Football Club will work to ensure that such behaviour is met with appropriate action in whatever context it occurs.

St Mary's Football Club is committed to taking positive action where inequalities exist, and to the development of a programme of ongoing training and awareness – raising events and activities in order to promote the eradication of discrimination and promote equality of football.

St Mary's Football Club is committed to a policy of equal treatment of all members and requires all members to abide and adhere to these policies and the requirements of the relevant equality legislation – Race Relations Act 1976 and Race Relations Act 2000 as amended, Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as well as any amendments to these acts and any new legislation.

St Mary's Football Club commits itself to the immediate investigation of any claims, when it is brought to its attention, of discrimination on the above grounds and where such is found to be the case, a requirement that the practice stop and sanctions imposed as appropriate.

Club Complaints Procedure

In the event that any member feels that he or she has suffered discrimination in any way or that the Club Policies, Rules or Codes of Conduct have been broken they should follow the procedures below.

1. They should report the matter to the Club Secretary or another member of the Committee.
 - a. Details of what, when, and where the occurrence took place;
 - b. Any witness statement and names;
 - c. Names of any others who have been treated in a similar way;
 - d. Details of any former complaints made about the incident, date, when and to whom made;
 - e. A preference for a solution to the incident.
2. The Club's Executive Committee will sit at any hearings that are requested.
3. The Club's Executive Committee will have the power to:
 - a. Warn as to future conduct;
 - b. Suspend from membership;
 - c. Remove from membership any person found to have broken the Club's Policies or Codes of Conduct.

If the complaint is with regard to the Club's Executive Committee the member has the right to report the discrimination to the relevant Football Association.