

## Activity 5

### The Perfect Environment for Bullying

<b>Equipment/Resource:</b>	Blank pages, Flipchart stand, Flipchart paper and Pens
<b>Group Size:</b>	Under 20
<b>Venue:</b>	Any
<b>Target audience:</b>	Older children 10+
<b>Time/duration:</b>	20/25 minutes
<b>You will need to:</b>	Have knowledge of the issue that could be possibly identified (see attached suggestions)

#### Aim:

Identifying what makes the perfect environment for a person to be bullied in. Explain you are not just looking for the physical environment but also the atmosphere or culture that needs to be around to allow a bully to operate.

#### Learning outcome:

By the end of this activity participants will be able to explore the specific club culture or environment/facility that enables bullying to occur and compare it to the culture they want for their club.

#### Activity

- Split into groups of 2/3 and idea-storm a list of what is needed to ensure a “perfect” environment for bullying. Allow 4/5 minutes
- Get the groups to give you feedback and record on a flip chart.
- For each of the issues identified by the young people discuss how these could be addressed and get them to reflect on how the issue could be addressed within the club e.g.
  - coaches always being visible,
  - prominent anti-bullying poster,
  - changing the light switch to be sensor rather than manual switch,
  - buddying system with establish players.
- End the discussion by getting the young people to identifying a few **specific** actions your club can take to ensure club members can help their peers.

## Main teaching points

Enable young people to see how easy it is for an environment to evolve that lets bullying continue unchecked and help them take responsibility for changing what they can.

### **Suggestions of issues that could be identified include (but are not exhaustive):**

- General lack of supervision (e.g. unsupervised toilets, sports halls)
- No space for 'quiet' activities
- Not enough equipment in gyms or the pitch for training, not enough balls etc
- Areas where adults never go
- Old style facilities with dark, secluded corners, (manual light switches)
- Coaches often not around – always with other coaches
- Coaches too busy talking to others to notice signs/indicators or incidents
- Coaches too busy to do anything practical about reported incidents
- Unsupervised rest time
- Having to join queues
- Whole groups queuing for equipment, meals, toilets etc
- Crowded locker rooms / changing facilities
- Long unsupervised periods between structured sessions/classes
- Coaches / staff arriving late
- Tucked away bike sheds
- Coaches / staff who point out, shout at, poke fun at or humiliate children in front of others
- Coaches / staff who use sarcasm continually
- Lack of support for children and young people with special needs
- Adults' intolerance of differences
- Adults not leading by example
- Allowing "hurtful" graffiti to remain
- Allowing a culture of "nobody likes a tell tale" to prevail thus preventing any chance of whistleblowing
- When reporting bullying is seen as "telling tales"
- 'Initiation' ceremonies for new club members
- No support, buddy or mentor for new members joining club
- No visible signs of anti-bullying policy and procedures
- No clear procedures of how to report incidents of bullying
- Coaches who just don't care and think it will go away!
- Coaches/leaders who are not confident enough to challenge difficult situations