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British Association of Sport Rehabilitators (BASRaT)

# Anti-bullying and anti-discrimination policy.

October 2023

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# Introduction

This BASRaT policy applies to all staff working for BASRaT and includes volunteers, temporary staff, project workers and link officers (referred to as staff going forwards). The policy also covers the behaviour of staff outside working hours which may impact upon work or working relationships.

BASRaT has a “zero tolerance” policy and will investigate vigorously any allegations of bullying or harassment, regardless of whether the matter has been raised formally or informally and regardless of any time that has passed. The basis of this policy is formed around good practice identified by ACAS, more details can be found [here](#). BASRaT is committed to looking into any complaint that is fair and sensitive to:

- The person who made the complaint
- Anyone who witnessed it
- Anyone accused of bullying or discrimination.

From [ACAS](#):

“By law (Equality Act 2010), discrimination is when someone is treated 'less favourably' than someone else because of these 'protected characteristics':

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Types of discrimination include direct and indirect discrimination, harassment and victimisation.

In some circumstances, harassment could also be a hate crime.

Although there is no legal definition of bullying, it covers various types of unwanted behaviour. Bullying behaviour can be harassment if it relates to a protected characteristic.”

## Key Principles

BASRaT will provide and sustain a safe working environment in which everyone is treated fairly and with respect. The over-arching principles of the BASRaT [Standards of Ethical Conduct and Behaviour](#) apply to all BASRaT staff; treating patients, colleagues, and anybody else with whom they work, with kindness, respect and compassion. Those working or dealing with BASRaT must not encounter harassment, intimidation or victimisation on the basis of gender, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, marital status,

religion or belief, age, trade union membership, disability, offending background or any other personal characteristic.

Everyone carries a personal responsibility for their own behaviour and for ensuring that their conduct is in accordance with the principles set out in this policy. In addition, each person has a responsibility to report any instance of bullying or harassment which they witness or which comes to their attention. Employees have a responsibility to act as role models, proactively addressing instances of bullying and harassment. Managers should also make themselves aware of their responsibility.

Harassment may be defined as any conduct which is:

- Unwanted by the recipient
- Is considered objectionable
- Causes humiliation, offence, distress or other detrimental effect.

Harassment may be an isolated occurrence or repetitive; it may occur against one or more individuals. Harassment may be, but is not limited to:

- Physical contact – ranging from touching to serious assault, gestures, intimidation, aggressive behaviour.
- Verbal – unwelcome remarks, suggestions and propositions, malicious gossip, jokes and banter, offensive language.
- Non-verbal – offensive literature or pictures, graffiti and computer imagery, isolation or non-co-operation and exclusion or isolation from social activities.

Bullying is unlikely to be a single or isolated instance. It is usually, but not exclusively repeated and persistent behaviour which is offensive, abusive, intimidating, malicious or insulting. Bullying includes but is not limited to:

- Conduct which is intimidating, physically abusive or threatening.
- Conduct that denigrates, ridicules or humiliates an individual, especially in front of colleagues.
- Humiliating an individual in front of colleagues.
- Picking on one person when there is a common problem.
- Shouting at an individual to get things done.
- Consistently undermining someone and their ability to do the job.
- Setting unrealistic targets or excessive workloads.
- “Cyber bullying” i.e. bullying via e-mail or social media.
- Setting an individual up to fail e.g. by giving inadequate instructions or unreasonable deadlines.

**Harassment and bullying may be summarised as any behaviour that is unwanted by the person to whom it is directed. It is the impact of the behaviour rather than the intent of the perpetrator that is the determinant as to whether harassment or bullying has occurred.**

Any BASRaT staff who wish to make a complaint of harassment or bullying is encouraged to first discuss matters informally with their line manager, provided that they feel able to do so. Should the issues not be resolved at this stage, or the employee feels unable to raise the issue informally, then a formal resolution should be sought. The contacts for raising a complaint either informally or formally are:

The Chief Executive – [chiefexec@basrat.org](mailto:chiefexec@basrat.org)

The Chair of the Executive Committee - [committeechair@basrat.org](mailto:committeechair@basrat.org)

If it is felt that a complaint needs to be made independently and external to the main BASRaT committee and management structure, this can be done via the [Ethics Committee](#).

## Responsibility of BASRaT Executive Officers

When a complaint of harassment or bullying is brought to the attention of a manager at any level, whether informally or formally, prompt action must be taken to investigate the matter. Corrective action must be taken where appropriate and this may require an investigation.

If it is considered that one of the parties concerned in a harassment or bullying case should be moved from their current role, then as a matter of principle, BASRaT will normally remove the alleged perpetrator rather than the complainant. However, the final decision on who should be moved should reflect the particular circumstances of the case and advice from senior management. It should be noted and explained to those concerned that the moving of either party is not an implication of guilt or culpability and no detriment to either party will be construed as a consequence.

All matters relating to the investigation of complaints of harassment or bullying will be treated in strict confidence. Any breach of confidentiality in this regard may render those responsible liable to disciplinary actions. However, it will be necessary that any alleged perpetrator is made aware of the allegations against them and the name(s) of those making the allegations together with the name(s) of any witnesses.

No employee will be victimised or suffer detriment for making a complaint of harassment or bullying and no manager shall threaten either explicitly or implicitly that an employee's complaint will be used as the basis for decisions affecting that employee. Such conduct will be treated as a very serious disciplinary offence. Similarly, managers are required to act on any complaint of harassment or bullying. Failure to do so will be regarded as misconduct which if proven, will result in disciplinary action.

All complaints of harassment or bullying whether raised formally or informally must be notified by the recipient of the complaint to the Executive Committee Chair and the Chief Executive; the Professional Standards Authority must also be notified at the annual Accredited Register renewal. This policy and procedure will be reviewed to meet any relevant legislative changes.

# Version Control

Version Number	Author	Date of Publication	Date of Review
v0.1	Stephen Aspinall	October 2023	As required.