

SOUTHERN REGION WELFARE AND SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2023

This year has seen changes to Welfare structure in British Fencing. British Fencing now appoint Area Safeguarding Officers (ASO) and Deputy Area Safeguarding Officers (DASO) to each region. The ASO's role is to attend the Regional Committee meetings to inform, update and discuss safeguarding matters.

EVENT WELFARE

I was fortunate to be part of the Event Welfare team at the British Youth Championship in Sheffield. It was an opportunity to work with British Fencing staff and ASO's from other regions. British Fencing are now enrolling the support of ASO's as Event Welfare officers at BF events. I am looking forward to being part of the BF team again at the Cadet and Junior Championships in September.

COACHING AND WELFARE COURSES

SafeGuard is BF's new safeguarding training that went live at the end of June 2023. This will begin in England and Wales, and it is hoped that it will spread to the other Home Nations in due course. BF is introducing this scheme to develop a training programme that works best for the sport, provides flexibility, and upskills the workforce whilst avoiding duplication. Details of SafeGuard and courses can be found on the BF website. I would like to encourage members of the competition committee to complete the Event Welfare Course in September.

Lorna Cooke

Area Safeguarding Officer (Southern)