

Welsh Fencing

Safeguarding Report 2020-2021

Compiled by Tania Craig, Director Welsh Fencing, National Safeguarding Lead

Much of the past year has been spent in either lockdown or with significantly restricted fencing opportunities. So whilst we have been mindful of safeguarding and its place in our organization there has been little happening.

There have only been two safeguarding concerns raised with me at a National level, which were able to be resolved by working alongside either British Fencing or the club themselves.

We have seen a move to DBS checks being done via Vibrant Nation, which seems to be going well. It is the responsibility of the club welfare officer to complete the application form with the applicant and then checking the DBS when it is returned. As a Board we would only need to see the DBS if you have any concerns in regard to any disclosure on the certificate.

I have attended a number of the Safeguarding National Governing Body meetings – it has been positive to see that the CPSU (NSPCC) and the Ann Craft Trust are working more closely together, so the care and welfare of adults comes into line with those of young people. Over the next few months there will be more information and support coming out from the Ann Craft Trust, which I will ensure goes on the website for all to access.

The on line Welfare courses have been well received and we have seen a number of Welsh clubs taking advantage of these. I will continue to publicize these through the website, as they come out from British Fencing. Can all clubs please ensure that coaches and welfare officers have their training up to date, and if you need support in finding training please email me.

I would like to set up a email forum group for Welfare Officers. Due to all the changes during the past 18 months I am no longer sure that I have the right names / email addresses for all officers. Could all clubs please ask their Welfare Officer to email me at tania.craig@fencing.cymru so I can collate into a list and then use this to share information / quick links and be able to share advice and ask questions of each other.

I am investigating an online recording system that will centralize the reporting of safeguarding concerns, so we have an ongoing record of them. This will help when officers resign / leave clubs and for us not to lose data which we may need at a later date. As soon as I have further detail I will email out to everyone.

Thank you to all officers for their diligence with safeguarding and welfare.