

Safeguarding, Disability and Inclusion Officer (SGO)  
Report for AGM 10.12.

After 40 years of practising safeguarding (SG) I took on this role in May of this year. I see this role as developing a uniformed approach to SG for all Regions, to keep Regional SGO/lead updated when required and to ensure awareness of diversity and inclusion within our sport. I would like to see All Regions with a SGO or lead. When I have spoken to some Regions, I have been asked what qualities/ attributes are needed for this post ( I will cover this at the end of this report)

In my work so far I have emailed Presidents/secretaries of all Regions with little response. It would seem that email addresses change but are not updated on websites as I had a number of emails bounce back to me. Out of 7 that were successfully sent I only had 3 replies. Most Regions would have had their AGMs by now so I would please ask that emails are updated. Better still, if you have a SGO or Lead please let me (dis@petanque-england.Uk) have their email addresses.

In June I gave a presentation to The Board on SG and what it involved. We also discussed how this could be rolled out to each Region. This is work in progress and I am determined this will be achieved before the summer Season commences. But this will not be successful if I don't have the support of Members - communication is essential.

SG is an enormous area to cover with varying legislations that are relevant. SG in sporting organisations is very prominent and there have been a number of official inquiries conducted with recommendations made. Grooming and sexual abuse to juniors and vulnerable adults are significant areas of concern in many sports with social media being used as a tool. Verbal abuse to these groups could be seen as hate crimes at the most or discrimination/bullying at the least. Depending on the issue other agencies may need to investigate - social services or police.

A great deal of my time has been taken up with complaints in which communication and zoom meetings are frequently taking place across a number of regions and police forces in England. I have also given advice on varying topics including diversity and inclusion. Again, more and more people with mild to severe (wheelchair) disability are enquiring about pétanque so Clubs and Regions need to consider ways in making their game and play areas accessible, not just for your clubs but also visiting clubs. Inclusion is important.

I am hoping in future to become involved in a study of sexual abuse in sport, but that's for the future. I would be grateful for any information (in confidence) from members in this respect. I also keep my knowledge base updated by

online courses, reading relevant reports and legislation. I work closely with PE Resolution Team, sharing information where necessary and in line with data protection.

Please be aware that Regions and Clubs should be able to resolve some issues themselves where by impartiality of the investigator is important

One major area I will be working on for All Regions is that of dealing with the seriousness of photography/streaming and social media. I will deal with these areas with the Regional SGO/Lead when I have their details as they then can roll out information to their clubs. Again it will be important to follow rules/procedures  
If these are not adhered to this can lead to serious consequences for Club and/or regions which the Online Safety Bill covers. SG also covers issues that all sporting organisations experience in bullying, sexual innuendos and media abuse to name a few Please don't think Pétanque escapes them.

I hope you will all appreciate the enormity of this task - it will mean a big culture change of which some members will not agree with but change we must if we are to keep up with future practices and professionalism in our sport no matter at what level members play.

#### QUALITIES/ATTRIBUTES of SGO

Listening skills

Ability to stay calm and focussed

Excellent people skills

Able to work under pressure

Sensitivity and understanding

Respect confidentiality

Lastly I would ask you all to read your Codes of Practice. If we all adhere to them I'm positive our Sport will experience fewer problems some of the SG codes of practice will be updated to include diversity, inclusion and LGBTQ+.

I hope the above is informative. Please do not hesitate to email me if you need to discuss any aspect of this report. Don't sit and fume!! I am here to help.

Sheila King

PE Safeguarding Officer