Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo April 23, 2021



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Welcome

If there are any members of your Area's leadership who are not currently receiving the Area Memo, please send their names and email address to jabel@somd.org.

(NEW) <u>Summer Games – Updates and Reminders</u>

We are very happy that many Areas have been fortunate to be able to hold in-person training for some of their athletes in some sports. While

Summer Games will look very different from how it has looks in previous years, SOMD is very excited that it will be able to offer Summer Games competition for those athletes. Thank you to all Areas, athletes, coaches, families and volunteers for your patience as we work to provide a safe competitive experience.

Here is the latest:

 Current Sports Plans: The table to the right provides the current <u>TENTATIVE</u> dates and locations for Summer Games competitions. All "Plan B" locations are Howard County Schools/Rec & Parks facilities. Plan A vs Plan B decisions will be made on a

Sport	Pl	an A	Pl	an B
	Date	Location	Date	Location
Athletics	Sunday June 13	TU – Unitas Stadium	Saturday June 12	Centennial HS
Bocce	Saturday June 12	TU – Burdick Field	Saturday June 12	Mt Hebron or Howard HS
Cheerleading	Saturday June 12	TU – Soccer Field ("old" bocce venue)	Saturday June 12	Mt Hebron or Howard HS
Softball	Friday June 11	Kiwanis- Wallis Park	Friday June 11	Kiwanis- Wallis Park
Swimming	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

sport-by-sport basis based on Phases of the Return to Activity plan in the respective counties as well

trends of COVID cases in those counties. Plans are expected to be determined for each sport in time to share at the May 19 Area Leader COVID call. (Note that Athletics Plan A is Sunday and Plan B is Saturday.)

- **Training Registration** Reminder that all training registrations for Summer Games sports are due in GMS no later than Monday May 3, 2021. If an Area has a particular challenge meeting that date, the Area Director should contact Mike Czarnowsky (mczarnowsky@somd.org) to discuss possible options.
- Forms & Certifications: Are all due at HQ by May 3 and must be valid through June 13, 2021.
 - CDW Waivers for ALL delegation members (athletes, Unified Partners, Coaches, Volunteers) must be submitted by this date.
 - o Athletes: Medicals and CDWs
 - <u>Coaches & Assistant Coaches:</u> Volunteer Background, Protective Behaviors, Concussion, CDW and Coach Sport Certification
 - Volunteers & Unified Partners: Volunteer Background, Protective Behaviors, CDW
- **Competition Registration:** Registration for individual events (including scores where appropriate), will be due on Monday, May 17.

Miscellaneous Additional Notes:

- Opening Ceremony: A Virtual Opening Ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 10 (exact time TBD). Details are forthcoming.
 - As a component of the virtual parade we are encouraging those Areas who are holding "in person" training and competition opportunities to plan to record some video of their programs in action. More details to come, but make plans now.
- O Awards: We will be awarding "standard" awards for the competitions (the typical traditional and unified awards). Given the unique, non-traditional, and scaled-down nature of the 2022 SOMD Summer Games, we will not begin presenting the SOMD 50th Anniversary awards until we are able to hold an event that is closer to typical pre-pandemic events (possibly by kayaking, golf or Fall Sports). We will then present those 50th awards for one year so that athletes at all state-level sports and events throughout a year will have an opportunity to earn these keepsakes.
 - We are still working to determine what type of award presentation (if any) might be possible when we must maintain social distancing of 6 feet (and possible not allow indirect contact). Athletes and families should be prepared for awards to be handled very differently from typical years. (Note: Athletes WILL receive awards, it is how they are presented that is in question.)
- <u>Cheerleading:</u> Unlike in more traditional Summer Games years, given the pandemic and the shift
 of Cheerleading to Saturday, athletes entered in Cheerleading may only compete in Cheerleading
 and not in any additional sport.
- Spectators: It is quite possible that in some cases that spectator space may be very restricted or non-existent due to COVID-related restrictions and consistent with many other youth and amateur sports organizations. More information is forthcoming as key decisions are reached, but Areas, athletes and families should be prepared for such situations.

(NEW) <u>2022 USA Games – Team Maryland TENTATIVE Selection Timeline</u>

During the April 21 Area Leader Call we were very pleased to share updates on the selection process and timeline for Maryland's Delegation to the 2022 USA Summer Games. A basic timeline is provided in the table below.

We expect to have applications available for Management Team positions as well as coaches for individual sports. As has been a component of our Coach Education and Development System since its "relaunch" in 2018, in order for a coach to apply to be a coach for the Maryland Delegation to the USA games, they must have earned the Advanced Level Coach status before the selection date by completing the Principles of Coaching course. A complete roster of coaches who have earned Advanced Level Coach Certification is available on the SOMD Coach Resource Page (Coach Resources - Special Olympics Maryland (somd.org)) in the "Coach Education and Development" section.

Date	Action	Responsible
May 10, 2021	 Send out initial list of athletes who could be in nominee selection pool for Programs to review (including narrative, guidance, etc.) Note: Team levels have not yet been rec'd from SONA and that component may be delayed to some degree depending on when they are rec'd. 	HQ
May 11 - June 15, 2021	Areas consult with coaches, etc. on whether athletes / partners / teams should be kept within the nominee selection pool	Area Directors / Area Leadership
June 16, 2021	Feedback due from Areas from initial list of potential nominees regarding eligibility/appropriateness for this type of event	Area Directors / Area Leadership
June 25, 2021	 Actual Draw of nominees and teams; Will pull longer list of alternates than typical given situation w/COVID Notes: Head Coaches must have attained Advanced Level Coach Certification for their sport by this date for their team to be considered for selection. (Basketball, Competitive Cheer, Flag Football, Soccer, Softball) Coaches of individual sports must have attained Advanced Level Coach Certification for their sport by this date to be included in selection for coaching spots (Athletics, Bocce, Bowling, Golf, Powerlifting, Swimming, Tennis) 	HQ
June 26 – July 6, 2021	Areas consult with nominated athletes/partners and families on whether they will accept nominee status	Area Directors / Area Leadership
July 7, 2021	Confirmation of nominees' interest and ability to accept positions submitted to HQ	Area Directors / Area Leadership
July 7-16, 2021	Review confirmations and follow-ups as needed	HQ
July 17, 2021	Announcement of Final roster of nominees to Areas	HQ
Aug / Sept / Oct 2021	Training Camp (exact date TBD)	HQ
Oct 2021	Approved Nominees moved to Full Delegation Member Status	HQ

(NEW) GMS & Network Users – Review and Update – Main Focus Reports & Exports – May 12

As noted during the April 21 Area Leader Call, given many changes and updates to certifications and requirements (including the CDW) we will be holding a web session for GMS and Network users on Wednesday, May 12 from 6:30-8:00 PM (it may not last 90 minutes, but this allows for lots of Q&A if needed). While we will cover several topics, including any changes to the Area folder structure on the SOMD network, the *primary focus* will be running GMS reports and exports. The registration link is below. Please share with the appropriate people on your Area Leadership Team.

https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtduisrzoqHdOTjczYgbUTTonfJ9PzlegN

(NEW) <u>Welcome SOMD's Newest Advanced Level Coaches</u>

We're very excited to welcome several new individuals to the status of <u>Advanced Level Coach</u>. These individuals have recently completed the Principles of Coaching Course and passed the associated test to earn this new status. In addition to continuing to expand their knowledge and coaching skills, these individuals are eligible

for selection as a coach for competition above the state level (e.g., USA Games, NITs, etc.). Please join us in congratulating these individuals for their commitment to coaching our athletes.

Area	Coach	Advanced Level Coach Certification in:
Balto Co	Flanigan, Lynn	Sailing
Harford	Wilkins, Reggie	Softball
Montgomery	Packard, Darian	Cheerleading
Upper Shore	Gibbons, David	Basketball

A complete roster of coaches who have earned Advanced Level Coach Certification is available on the SOMD Coach Resource Page (Coach Resources - Special Olympics Maryland (somd.org)) in the "Coach Education and Development" section. The next Principles of Coaching Course will be offered virtually on Saturday, June 5, 2021, and information on requirements and registration is available elsewhere in this Area Memo.

MOVE with the MIDS!

On **Saturday, 4/24/2021 at 9:00AM**, the US Naval Academy and Special Olympics Maryland team up for MOVE with the Mids, a morning of Unified Fitness! Led by SOMD Athletes and Health Messengers, athletes will enjoy opening ceremonies and a 45 min work out with US Naval Academy Midshipmen. This event is appropriate for athletes of all abilities, and fitness levels.

When- Saturday 4/24/2021, 9:00am-10:00am
Registration- https://forms.gle/2uirRzRxmM9hqfpL9

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR ATHLETES!

Motor Activities Training Program (MATP)

Motor Activity Training Program (MATP) is specifically designed to accommodate people of all ages with severe or profound intellectual and developmental disabilities, including those with significant physical disabilities, who are unable to participate in sport competitions because of their skill or functional abilities. MATP can facilitate a sense of self-achievement and improve self-confidence through a fulfilling, adaptable sports program.

Through this sport and activity experience, MATP has proven to:

- Increase physical activity that leads to improvement in motor skills, physical fitness, and functional ability
- Assist in the development of a more positive self-image through skill acquisition
- Create opportunities to develop friendships with other participants, their families, and the larger community

Special Olympics Maryland aspires to partner with adult centers to implement MATP. <u>Please help identify</u> prospective centers by visiting the link below and providing contact details for

those in your Area/County.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CVG9KH3

See MATP in action

Click the links below to see examples of the program on an international stage:

- 2019 Special Olympics World Games (Abu Dhabi)
- 2011 Special Olympics World Games (Athens, Greece)

Communicable Disease Waiver

NEW Requirement for participation in in-person programs is a Communicable Disease Waiver. This waiver will take the place of the existing Acknowledgement of Risk. A copy of both the slide deck for the webinar held for Area Directors (3/8) and the Waiver are attached to this area memo.

Submitting CDW forms

- A process very similar to the process developed for AOR forms will be used for CDW waivers.
 - Areas will scan (PDF format please) and individually name each CDW using the naming convention below
 - CDW_XX_LastName_FirstName_YYYY_MM_DD
 - XX = Area's two-character code (e.g., AA for Anne Arundel, etc.)
 - YYYY_MM_DD = 3 years from date of participant's signature
 - Within each Area's folder on the K:\ drive is a folder which will be renamed to be "000__CDWs_and_Screen_Logs" into which the scanned form should be placed
 - (formerly "000__Acknow_of_risk_and_Screen_Logs)
 - o These changes will take place between Monday, March 8 and Wednesday, March 10

CDW GMS-related updates

- CDW forms will be tracked in GMS in a manner very similar to what was used for the AOR forms.
 - The certification currently used for AOR will be converted to track CDW certifications
 - After exporting the data to a file to be saved for future reference, all AOR certifications will be stripped from the GMS Database
 - The current "Acknow of Risk" certification will be renamed "CDW" certification
 - All SOMD created report/export templates will be adjusted to pull the CDW certification in the location of the former AOR certification
 - Lack of a valid CDW will cause a participant to be in their Area's "NOT REGISTERED" delegation (in training and competition games)
 - At some point in the future, it is expected that the CDW will be part of the medical/volunteer certification and will cease to be tracked separately.
 - These changes will take place between Monday, March 8 and Wednesday, March 10

Towson University Health Research Opportunity

A graduate student at Towson University College of Health Professions is conducting qualitative research on the experiences and perspectives of Special Olympics Athletes, as well as their understanding of audiology. The brief survey asks questions related to---- attending healthy athletes, understanding what an audiologist does, and positive or negative feelings about visiting doctors. Please distribute the link below to your athletes to participate:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QXJ933M

Area Director COVID Calls- 2021

Because of feedback received when we cancelled the last scheduled AD COVID Call, we are changing the format of our Area Director COVID Calls to MONTHLY rather than bi-weekly. In months where there is an Area Directors Webinar/Meeting, that will take the place of that month's COVID Call. Unless otherwise noted, these calls will take place at 6:30pm.

Link to Join: https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIsceqgqDwjGdNOLt4bjukYmAKjUAVMM5h0

Schedule for our calls:

- May 19, 2021
- June 16, 2021

- July 12, 2021 (JULY AD Webinar- 7:00pm)
- August 18, 2021
- September 5, 2021
- October 20, 2021
- November 8, 2021 (NOVEMBER AD Webinar- 7:00pm)
- December 15, 2021

Phase Movement Tracking Document

As was discussed on last week's AD Covid Call, protocol has been laid out for programs to progress (or regress) in phases!

The requirements for programs to move into Phase 2 include:

- 2 weeks in Phase 1
- 7 consecutive days at a 'yellow' or 'green' risk level defined by the Harvard multi-metric covid risk map.
- Site Assessment done by SOMD Staff member

Jeff will be tracking risk levels daily--- and you can keep track of your program by visiting: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1s4Y3v - yH6WBXcM1AsI7YR4_eJgxrwmlTLhTufGM_vU/edit?usp=sharing

Remember, coaches and Area Leaders should work together to determine when they feel comfortable moving into a less-restrictive phase. Additionally, programs MUST continue to operate in their current phase until they receive written approval to progress from Jeff.

Return to Activities Website

Please use the site below as a resource for your Athletes, Coaches, Volunteers, and Families! SOMD's Return to Activities Website is filled with resources to help our state successfully and safely get our athletes back on the field!

https://virtualsomd.com/return-to-play/

(UPDATED) Coaches Training – CSOA and PoC Sessions

Coaching Special Olympics Athletes (CSOA) -- SOMD is pleased to offer virtual training sessions for Coaching Special Olympics Athletes, a requirement for all Coaches. (*Due to the conversational and interactive nature of this course, we must have a minimum of 7 registrants at least 3 business days prior* to the course in order for it to be held.)

Saturday, July 10, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Virtual Session (limit 20 participants)

To register for this session, please click here.

Principles of Coaching (PoC) - SOMD is pleased to host additional sessions of the Principles of Coaching course, a <u>required course</u> for all coaches wishing to take teams/athletes or serve as a coach to any competition above the state level (including USA Games, World Games, NITs, NIRSA events, etc.). This free course is intended for coaches with a <u>minimum of two years coaching experience</u> and, along with appropriate sport-specific training, serves to certify a coach as an Advanced coach. (*Due to the conversational and interactive nature of this course, and the need to send "hard copy" course materials to participants in advance of the session, we must have a minimum of 7 registrants at least 5 business days prior to a virtual PoC course in order for it to be held.)*

Saturday, June 5, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Virtual Session (20 seats available)

To register for this session, please click here.

Important Note On All <u>Virtual</u> Training Sessions: Given the interactive nature of these courses, if a course gets changed to a virtual training session, participants **MUST** be able to join the Zoom meeting with a webcam, speaker and microphone so we can see and hear everyone during the course. Please also check in advance of the session that Zoom works properly for your computer (with webcam, microphone and speaker) as we will have limited opportunity to provide tech assistance during the session. (Zoom's online help has been good.)

(UPDATED) Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Webinars

The dates and time for Pre-Season webinars have been set for the upcoming seasons. Please share this info with your coaches and sports volunteers.

Pre-Season Coaches Webinars

Sport	Date/	Registration / Recording Link
	Time	
Athletics	Thu 3/11	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNFWJVp7siw
Bocce	Thu 3/04	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fUqpLrEfgw0
Cheer- leading	Wed 3/24	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYUbAIAq2UM
Softball	Thu 3/25	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkRJ2ZUoBEo
Swimming	Wed 3/03	Recording: https://youtu.be/BJH7_H210lo
Kayaking	Thu 4/29 6:30-8:00	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIpduuqqDMvH9dbAogPv3WJrW5mqe5uhR-x
Golf	Thu 6/17 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0pceygrD0jH9VVWx1bhbfKn9ygKNG8GMJH
Cycling	Tue 7/20 6:30-8:00	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwlcsrDkvG920K713v4vP52RPxLw4wlt3
Distance Running	Tue 7/27 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwof-ihqjspEtwziFSYRWc00R5KaWgpuEAu
Flag Football	Wed 7/21 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0lde2gqzsrEtTpJ4J-lO3jPN3RSCHuIDI7
Power- lifting	Thu 7/22 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJllf-igpz4qGtAtmQY5nDt0mcAVSpP0Mk7F
Soccer	Wed 8/04 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUvcOCprzguE9QNKpMx8O0pOhbNqexn-hVR
Tennis	Wed 7/28 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvd-qtrTwrGtSdp1LKn4DUTbPy_gjEvFrl
Bowling	Thu 8/05 6:30-8:00	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJArduChrDMuGNGPxuGZWmEw16s0U5BoVujY

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

Sport	Date/	Registration / Recording Link	
	Time		
Athletics	Wed 6/02	https://somd.zoom.us/j/92276710376?pwd=ZEZTTGNIYURIQkFLbGxGd2s5eGYrUT09	
Atmetics	7:00-8:30	Interpretation in the second control of the	
Doses	Mon 6/07	https://samd.com.us/masting/register/thunfu.srivelite\/pl//sigehD79h9OF/Nlad	
Bocce	7:00 – 8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwufu-srjwoHtcVnLKqj8ohRZ8h8QEKNJqd	
Cheer-	Thu 6/03	https://somed.com/sometime/wegister/https://originalship/https://origina	
leading	7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpc-uqqz0qEt3AIN4wAa2IrhYkQdkFmcc-	
Softball	Tue 6/01	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rd-CrrjojE9AnBn01lkuLAAs4FXT_Ojc7	

	7:00-8:30	
Cusinomina	Thu 5/27	https://comd.goom.us/mosting/rogistor/tillud_Cagnus/IOFv1ndT\/IOPSCkDAgnTlfgl.l
Swimming	6:30-8:00	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlud-GgqzwrH9Ex1zdTVl8B6GkPAqpTlfgU
Kayaking-	Thu 7/29	
	. , .	https://samd.com.us/masting/ragistar/t1N/naamagT/sCt0nVFntNOgDhCV_it0CyntF
Trials	6:00-7:00	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMpcemqqT4sGt0nXEptNOgRbGX-jt9GxnzF
Trials Kayaking-	-	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMpcemqqT4sGt0nXEptNOgRbGX-jt9GxnzF https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUocOyqpz0vHtEzMqAQJY1SW2UsrEaplwOS

Sports Directors – Assigned Sports

If you have questions regarding a specific sport, coach education, or competition, please work with the corresponding Sport Director.

- Melissa Anger, Sports Director
 - o <u>manger@somd.org</u>, 410.242.1515 x122
 - Basketball
 - Cheerleading
 - Flag Football
 - Soccer
 - Softball
 - Tennis
 - Locally Popular Sports: Cross Country Skiing, Duckpin Bowling
- Zach Cintron, Sports Director
 - o zcintron@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x161
 - Bowling (10 pin)
 - Cycling
 - Kayaking
 - Snowshoeing
 - Swimming
 - Locally Popular Sports: Figure Skating, Sailing, Short Track Speed Skating, Volleyball
- Ryan Kelchner, Sports Director
 - o <u>rkelchner@somd.org</u>, 410-242-1515 x171
 - Alpine Skiing
 - Athletics
 - Bocce
 - Distance Running
 - Golf
 - Powerlifting
 - Locally Popular Sports: Dance, Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey

Questions?

If You Have Any Questions on Any Other Non-Sports-Related Issues, please contact a member of the Local Program Team

- Jeff Abel, Vice President. Local Program Development
 - o jabel@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 121
 - Any general question
- Melissa Kelly, Sr. Director, Unified Champion schools
 - o <u>mkelly@somd.org</u>, 410-979-5839
 - School engagement & partnerships
- Mackenzie Irvin, Young Athletes Program Director
 - o <u>mirvin@somd.org</u>, 857-939-4867

- o Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming
- Veronica Smaldone, Unified Champion Schools Coordinator (Western MD)
 - o vsmaldone@somd.org
 - o Inclusive Youth Leadership & Whole School Engagement
- Emma Bush, Unified Champion Schools Coordinator (Eastern Shore)
 - o ebush@somd.org
 - o Inclusive Youth Leadership & Whole School Engagement
- Sam Boyd, Volunteer Director
 - o <u>sboyd@somd.org</u>, 443-766-9245
 - o Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- Kayla Shields, Healthy Communities Manager
 - o healthyathletes@somd.org
 - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs
- Mike Myers, Baltimore Region Director
 - o <u>mmyers@somd.org</u>, 410-242-1515
 - o Baltimore County and City
- Tyler Martin, Western Region Coordinator
 - o <u>tmartin@somd.org</u>, 717-321-3642
 - o Frederick, Washington, Allegany, Garrett Counties