

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

June 4, 2021

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



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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.

I hope to see everyone at next weekend's Summer Games! Even if you don't have athletes competing, consider attending as a spectator or volunteer...details for volunteer registration are below!

(NEW) Summer Tennis Opportunities with JTCC

The JTCC in College Park, MD is hosting 2 free summer clinic series for SOMD Athletes and Partners. Each session will be a mix of stroke development and match play. On court instruction will be facilitated by certified USPTA and PTR Professionals from JTCC and SOMD.

All sessions will take place on Saturdays from 10am-12pm at the JTCC (5200 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740)

Session 1: 6/26, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31

Session 2: 8/7, 8/14, 8/21, 8/28, 9/4

Participants will be grouped by skill-level to maximize instruction and competition. Pre registration is REQUIRED and participants must commit to all dates in your session. SPACE IS LIMITED!

Register here- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021JTCC>

(NEW) Summer Games Volunteer Opportunities

We are excited for Summer Games to be BACK, welcoming athletes and volunteers from across the state! Volunteer opportunities making next weekend possible are still available. Visit www.somd.volunteerhub.com to sign up or email volunteers@somd.org for more information.

(NEW) Registration Request

We have a whole new roster of people working with Area Directors to send certifications to HQ. This is a very good thing! When you email the Registration Manager, please include your Area in your signature. This would be especially helpful when you email certifications to her or are following up on matters. Whether you're emailing her directly at drush@somd.org or emailing coaches@somd.org, if you can remember to include your Area, that would make our process here at HQ more efficient. Thank you for your kind attention to this request.

(NEW) Take a Shot: COVID Vaccine Informational Webinar

On Tuesday, June 8 at 6:00pm ET, Children's National Hospital, in partnership with Special Olympics DC, will be hosting a webinar to help decipher myth from fact and address questions that many people have about the vaccines. Led by Dr. P Jamil Madati and Jennifer Tran, PA-C, MPH, of Children's National Hospital. Attendees will be able to ask any questions they have about COVID-19 vaccinations, the pandemic, and its impact on the IDD community.

Follow this link to register: <https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJlodumtjkuH9JWpMbuMaNeg11atx9gKunu>

(UPDATED) SOMD is HIRING- AmeriCorps and IUS

Special Olympics Maryland is seeking qualified applicants for the following positions:

- AmeriCorps Young Athletes Coordinator
- AmeriCorps Unified Champion Schools Coordinator (2 positions)
- AmeriCorps Western MD Region Coordinator
- AmeriCorps Metro Programs Coordinator

For more information, please visit: <https://www.somd.org/connect/employment-opportunities/>

Return to Play Protocol Updates

On May Area Director call, we did an overview of 2 important updates to the Return to Play protocol.

- 1) Until further notice, all programs are approved to operate under **Phase 2** protocol.
- 2) We have introduced a Phase 2A

Details on both updates can be found on the attached slide deck.

Athlete Leadership Opportunity- Monthly Thank you video to sponsors and supporters

We are looking for suggestions or nominations from you for athletes who could be highlighted in an Athlete of the Month video format to sponsors and partners. This is open to all athletes who are interested and who you think would represent your program well. The athlete would have a short script or questions to answer of video. It would not have to read but could be memorized and recited. We can also do a Q&A format to elicit the answers. We would then highlight the athlete practicing a sport to enhance the video. The whole event would take 30-60 minutes to complete and record.

Email Jason Schriml at jschriml@somd.org or Adam Hays at ahays@somd.org with your suggestions. Please include contact information for the athlete.

The deadline for nominations is June 08th, 2021

(UPDATED) Summer Games – Updates and Reminders

Thank you to Area Directors who were able to join us for the May 19 Monthly AD Call where we reviewed the latest updates for Summer Games. Those unable to attend can either use the link/file sent by Jeff Abel on Thursday or go to the “under development” 2021 Summer Games page of the Coach Resource Pages:

<https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/summer-games/>

Now that we have athlete numbers and events, we are able to provide more plans and schedules. Please refer to that update deck for sport-specific schedules, tentative venue diagrams, etc. via the Summer Games Coach Resource Page and the sport-specific pages (all available from

A few key highlights:

Registration: Registration for Athletes, Unified Partners, and Coaches is closed and Areas are locked out of making any changes in GMS (though you can still view, run reports and run exports). Sports Directors, Mike and Dottie are following up on some linger items/issues, but registration for athletes/partners/coaches is closed.

Sport	Date	Location
Athletics	Sunday June 13	TU – Unitas Stadium
Bocce	Saturday June 12	TU – Burdick Field
Cheerleading	Saturday June 12	TU – Soccer Field (“old” bocce venue)
Softball	Friday June 11	Kiwanis-Wallis Park
Swimming	Saturday June 26	Great Mills Swimming Pool

Swimming: Swimming competition has been moved to Saturday, June 26, at Great Mills Swimming Pool in St. Mary’s County. Swimmers have been moved into a new “Summer Games – Part 2” games in GMS and have been removed from the “main” Summer Games.

Sport-Specific Family/Athlete Webinars: Given the significant changes unique to the 2021 Summer Games activities, we will be offering a webinar for each sport that is targeted at Families and Athletes so they can better understand what to expect in this very different Summer Games experience. All webinars will be *after* the respective Coach Pre-Competition webinar for the sport and will offer an opportunity to ask questions as time permits. Invitations will be sent directly to Summer Games registrants where we have valid emails in GMS (after competition registration closes). The sessions will also be recorded and available online.

Sport	Date/Time	Family/Athlete Pre-Summer Games Webinar - Registration Link
Athletics	Tue 6/08 8:00-9:00 PM	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEkd-yhqjMiHtey0sHdfRzMN5Yzie4nm3Bx
Bocce	Wed 6/09 8:00-9:00 PM	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJApc-usrzMiHNO_s-2WjRx-sndIQGxH3qIp
Cheer-leading	Tue 6/08 7:30-8:30 PM	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcsd-qoqD8tHNvra1nEjvexJHY6qYDtMG7G
Softball	Tue 6/08 6:00-7:00 PM	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvcOuvrzoqEtyVVCp0F-w6n6vi90fB169I
Swimming	Tue 6/22 6:30-7:30 PM	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUrcuqppjkrE9Wlj63VOy5tHINXetHXp4KI

Spectator/Family Seating: Anyone who is not a registered member of the delegation is considered a Family Member or Spectator. At each venue seating for Spectators/Family members will be physically separate from seating. During the each sports competition, Delegation members and Spectators/Family members must remain separate and cannot “intermingle”. Updated seating locations are being provided with the Coach Pre-Competition Webinars and the Family/Athlete Sport Specific webinars.

While we recognize this can be a challenging situation for all involved, in situations where individuals do not follow this requirement both the spectator/family member AND the athlete will need to leave the Summer Games.

Meals: Meals will not be provided to any delegation members, though water will be available. Attendees should bring their own refreshments but should be aware that no food or beverage is permitted on any of the turf fields at Towson University, other than water.

Awards: We've been able to make some adjustments to plans and will be operating the various Awards Area with something closer to a "typical" awards presentation. Details will be reviewed in each of the Coach and Family/Athlete webinars (as there are variations per sport), but essentially the athlete will receive their award presented on a tray which they may then place around their neck. Photo opportunities with Law Enforcement Officers (socially distanced) will also be available for those wishing to take advantage of that.

Venue Opening Ceremonies: There will not be a virtual Opening Ceremony for the Summer Games. Instead there will be brief venue Opening Activities at each venue. We will be looking for nominees for an athlete to recite the Special Olympics Oath and one to carry the torch. More info in an upcoming communication.

Finance Updates

UPDATE – As mentioned in the last Area Webinar and after receiving feedback from several Area Directors, the Investment section of the Monthly Finance Report will include more details. The goal is to provide more information for decision making. For example, being able to determine additions/withdrawals vs. market changes.

If you have any questions about this update, please reach out to Joanne.

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*)
 - 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

Monthly Area Director Calls

Our next monthly Area Director call will be held on Wednesday, May 19 at 6:30pm. Please use the link below to register:

<https://somid.zoom.us/j/96163867937?pwd=blpDYW5RbWhtMEY4WklQeEdhRDhhUT09>

(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 (17 seats remaining)

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 required course 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 *minimum of two years coaching experience* 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.*)

Principles of Coaching (PoC) - SOMD is pleased to host additional sessions of the Principles of Coaching course, a required course 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 *minimum of two years coaching experience* 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.*)

Sunday, July 11, 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 Virtual 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/ Time	Registration / Recording Link
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	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHdVc0qOqEE
Golf	Thu 6/17 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0pceygrD0jH9VvWx1bhbfn9ygKNG8GMJH
Cycling	Tue 7/20 6:30-8:00	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwlc--srDkvG920K713v4vP52RPxLw4wt3
Distance Running	Tue 7/27 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwof-ihqjspEtzwiFSYRWc00R5KaWgguEAu
Flag Football	Wed 7/21 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0lde2gqzsrEtTpJ4J-IO3jPN3RSCHuIDI7
Power-lifting	Thu 7/22 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlIf-igpz4qGtAtmQY5nDt0mcAVSpP0Mk7F
Soccer	Wed 8/04 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUvcOCprzguE9QNKpMx800pOhbNqexn-hVR
Tennis	Wed 7/28 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvd-qtrTwrGtSdp1LKn4DUTbPy_gjEvFrI
Bowling	Thu 8/05 6:30-8:00	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJArduChrDMuGNPpxuGZwMew16s0U5BoVujY

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

Sport	Date/ Time	Registration / Recording Link
Athletics	Thu 6/3	Recording: https://youtu.be/BPASU_vB4SY
Bocce	Mon 6/07 7:00 – 8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwufu-srjwoHtcVnLKqj8ohRZ8h8QEKNJqd
Cheer-leading	Wed 6/02	Recording: https://youtu.be/_CuwW18h5go
Softball	Tue 6/01	Recording: https://youtu.be/ShipN344tGc
Swimming	Thu 6/17 6:30-8:00	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMIceGgpiMpEtCrwrligQx-zJF5t2KzI4xK
Kayaking-Trials	Thu 7/29 6:00-7:00	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMpcemqT4sGt0nXEptNOgRbGX-jt9GxznZF
Kayaking-Finals	Tue 8/10 6:00-7:00	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUocOyqz0vHtEzMaQJY1SW2UsrEaplWOS

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**

- manger@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x122
 - Basketball
 - Cheerleading
 - Flag Football
 - Soccer
 - Softball
 - Tennis
 - Locally Popular Sports: Cross Country Skiing, Duckpin Bowling
- **Zach Cintron, Sports Director**
 - 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**
 - rkelchner@somd.org, 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**
 - jabel@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 121
 - Any general question
- **Melissa Kelly, Sr. Director, Unified Champion schools**
 - mkelly@somd.org, 410-979-5839
 - School engagement & partnerships
- **Mackenzie Irvin, Young Athletes Program Director**
 - mirvin@somd.org, 857-939-4867
 - Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming
- **Veronica Smaldone, Unified Champion Schools Coordinator (Western MD)**
 - vsmaldone@somd.org
 - Inclusive Youth Leadership & Whole School Engagement
- **Emma Bush, Unified Champion Schools Coordinator (Eastern Shore)**
 - ebush@somd.org
 - Inclusive Youth Leadership & Whole School Engagement
- **Sam Boyd, Volunteer Director**
 - sboyd@somd.org, 443-766-9245
 - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training

- **Kayla Shields, Healthy Communities Manager**
 - healthyathletes@somd.org
 - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs

- **Mike Myers, Baltimore Region Director**
 - mmyers@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Baltimore County and City

- **Tyler Martin, Western Region Coordinator**
 - tmartin@somd.org, 717-321-3642
 - Frederick, Washington, Allegany, Garrett Counties