

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

September 10, 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.

(New) You Can Do It!

We are very excited to share that our guests for the You Can Do It show on Monday, September 13th, 2021 7:30pm Eastern Time will be Noah and Rick Smith. You may know Rick as Noah's Dad.

Rick has been using blogging and social media to share the journey and milestones of his son Noah who has Down Syndrome.

You can learn more by going to Rick's Blog at <https://noahsdad.com/>

Join Special Olympics Maryland athletes Adam Hays and Terrel Limerick along with cohost Nicolette Stearns for the show by registering at <https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtduugqT4jHdOf-H2tmwllJT5DgB8xbMkS>

(NEW) Athlete Leadership Research

WE ARE LOOKING FOR 20 NEW ATHLETES THAT HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED IN ANY Athlete Leadership Program to date to participate in groundbreaking research in collaboration with a team from SOI and Villanova University. This research will evaluate the effectiveness of the new global Athlete Leadership curriculum -- ultimately helping the Special Olympics movement better prepare athlete leaders to take on meaningful roles.

Athlete participant responsibility -

- Take pre-training survey; register in SO Learn
- Participate in training utilizing the new global curriculum:
- Take Introduction to Athlete Leadership e-learning course
- Attend virtual training on Introduction to Athlete Leadership

- Take Understanding Leadership e-learning course
- Attend virtual training on Understanding Leadership
- Attend 2 virtual trainings on Athlete Representative (Part 1 and Part 2)
- Take post-training survey and (select group) attend focus group

Selection Criteria for Athlete Leader Study Participants

Must be:

1. 18 years or older
2. At least 6th-grade reading level
3. Willing to provide feedback periodically post-training (6 months, 1 year, etc.)

Please email Jason Schriml (jschriml@somd.org) if interested

Welcome to New SOMD HQ Personnel

Ben President, Sports Director

As Zach Cintron moves to the Sr. Director High School Unified Sports position, we are excited to announce a new Sports Director who will be joining our team: Ben President. Ben will officially be joining our team on August 30th. Ben has a great sports background as he graduated from Hampton University in Hampton, VA with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology, as well as a Masters of Arts in Sport Administration from Belmont University in Nashville, TN. He has served as a basketball coach and has overseen basketball camps over the past six years at various locations and most recently served as the Director of Athletics and Head of Fitness at Fernwood Cove in Harrison, ME.

We'll be sure to make the introductions to each of you through virtual outlets and in-person opportunities as the Fall Season approaches. Currently, Ben will assume the oversight of the following sports (as noted later within this memo):

- Bowling (10 pin)
- Cycling
- Kayaking
- Snowshoeing
- Swimming
- Locally Popular Sports: Figure Skating, Sailing, Short Track Speed Skating, Duckpin Bowling

Brian Anderson, AmeriCorps Metro Programs Coordinator

Brian joined our team on Monday, 8/16 and will lead efforts with Baltimore City Schools, specifically through the Adapted Physical Education sports program, and Baltimore City Recreation and Parks. Brian is an alumnus of our great partner school, Salisbury University, where he received his BA in Communications and International Relations, and his MA in Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution. Let's hope he doesn't need to use too many of the skills learned in his Master's program during his time with Special Olympics Maryland!

Brooke Jenkins, AmeriCorps Eastern Shore Coordinator

Brooke will be joining our team in the coming weeks through our partnership with the Salisbury University ShoreCorps AmeriCorps program. Brooke is finishing up her degree in Exercise Science at Salisbury University and will put that to good use working with our community programs of Kent County, Upper Shore and Lower Shore.

We are excited to welcome Ben, Brian, and Brooke to our team! Please give them a warm SOMD welcome when you see them at events, trainings, and competitions.

Summer Games 2022 Date Update

Reminder that the **2022 Summer Games** dates have been agreed upon with Towson University. The Summer Games will occur on the dates of **June 17-19, 2022**.

This is a little later than a typical year. We have been working with Towson University to make this change due to the dates of the USA Games from June 5-12, 2022. Please make note of the change. *(This is reflected in the Sports Calendar.)*

GMS and Form Submission Updates

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Vaccination Reporting Webinar held on August 18 (following the Area Director call). Here are a few updates from that session:

- The slide deck and links to the recording are available on the “GMS Resources” section of the SOMD Coach Resource Page (https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/gms_resources/)
- The slide summarizing the naming conventions for various submissions (included in the slide deck from the session) is attached to this Area Memo as a handy reference tool. Please be sure to follow these naming standards.
- As mentioned during the session, we have secured some part-time assistance to help Dottie Rush as we have a heavier than typical number of medical/volunteer app submissions (even heavier than when we aren’t having a world-wide pandemic) as well as the introduction of two new certifications for most participants (CDW and Vax Verification). Starting earlier this week a familiar face, Tammy Sunderland (our former Administrative Receptionist), began working part-time helping Dottie by checking/updating addresses and several other data points. Welcome Back Tammy!!
- You will notice some adjustments to the names that you have given to some medicals and volunteer applications uploaded to your Area’s folder on the “K:\ drive”. Specifically, once Tammy has verified/updated the addresses and other data elements from a form she is adding a “_T” at the end of the file name. This lets Dottie know that she has handled her portion of that form. She is also adding a “_X” to the names of forms for which she was unable to locate a record in GMS.

(UPDATED) Finance Updates

REMINDER - Budget worksheets are now due. If you haven’t already submitted your worksheet to Darlene, please do so as soon as possible. Thanks.

IN-KIND – A question came up about in-kind contributions and reporting, so I thought I would share with everyone. SOMD tracks in-kind for two purposes. First, we can use in-kind as SOMD’s match, SOMD’s contribution towards grant funding. Many grants require that the recipient put skin in the game in the form of resources towards the grant funded program – called match or matching dollars. An example would be the Unified Champion Schools grant. For every dollar the grant provides, SOMD has to provide a matching dollar or in-kind equivalent. In kind helps meet that match requirement without using cash resources.

Secondly, for our external financial reporting, our in-kind gifts need to be reported as contributions on our financial statements. A contribution does not have to be in the form of cash. Certain in-kind gifts are subject to recording under GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles) and some must be reported on the Form 990. Failure to adhere to the standards can result in penalties.

From a management point of view, the organization needs to know what we would have had to pay for, in the form of goods or services, if we did not receive these in-kind contributions – the total cost of business if you will. For example, we wouldn't want to have to cancel one of our sports because we lost the use of a donated facility, and we didn't have the monetary resources to pay for an alternative space.

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

(UPDATED) Upcoming Area Director Calls

Please join us for our upcoming Area Director calls:

- 9/13- 6:30pm: ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL CALL:
<https://somd.zoom.us/j/85899935924?pwd=Q0pWOWtLUWczQVppQ1Y1RnE0b2FVUT09>
- 9/22- 6:30pm: AD Monthly Call: PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE FROM 9/15 (Yom Kippur)
<https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIsceggqDwjGdNOLt4bjukYmAKjUAVMM5h0>

Super Plunge Registration is OPEN!

The hot weather has me thinking of the beach...in January! We are looking forward to being back at Sandy Point State Park for the 2022 Polar Bear Plunge! Super Plunge Registration is open. Reminder that Local Programs can recruit Unified Super Plunge Teams! Made up of a Special Olympics Maryland athlete from their local program and a coach, volunteer, family member, program leader or other 'friend of the program,' each Unified Team must raise a combined \$15,000. Local Programs that recruit unified teams will receive 70% net revenue of their team's fundraising.

All Plunge related events will be pushed back 1 week from prior years due to additional week added to NFL schedule.

Super Plunge will begin morning of Friday 1/28 and run through Saturday morning 1/29.

Go to PlungeMD.com and click on the Super Plunge link to learn more. If someone is interested they can fill out the pre-registration on the site and their information will be sent to Sharon, who will provide them with a registration code or they can email Sharon directly. sporfetti@somd.org

Call for Clinical Directors

Special Olympics Maryland is looking for Clinical Directors to round out our team of medical professionals who lead Healthy Athletes clinics. Do you know of a medical professional in the following disciplines who would be interested in volunteering? Email Kayla Shields- kshields@somd.org

Opening Eyes	Optometry
Special Smiles	Dentistry
Fit Feet	Podiatry
Fun Fitness	Physical Therapy
Strong Minds	Social/Emotional Health
Health Promotion	Nursing, Nutrition, Dietetics
Healthy Hearing	Audiology
MedFest	Physicians, Nurses

Community Sports Registration Deadlines Set Through End of 2021

With a somewhat better picture of what the remainder of 2021 will likely look like, we have set the registration deadlines for community sports through the end of year and have been set and are incorporated into the Sports Calendar included with this email. They are summarized below for your convenience as well.

Event/Sports	State Championship	Training Registration	Outstanding Forms	Competition Registration
Golf	9/26/2021	8/12/2021	8/30/2021	9/2/2021
Fall Sports Festival (CY, TN, PL, FF, LDR)	10/16/2021 (Tentative)	8/30/2021	9/8/2021	10/1/2021
Soccer	10/31/2021	8/30/2021	9/8/2021	10/1/2021
Bowling – Regionals	11/7/2021	9/23/2021	10/1/2021	10/18/2021
Bowling - Championships	12/5/2021			11/19/2021
Winter Games	2/27/22 -- 03/01/22	1/7/2022	1/14/2022	2/15/2022

(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
Golf	Thu 6/17	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51PEAzsAHXk
Cycling	Tue 7/20	Recording: https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/cycling/
Distance Running	Tue 7/27	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bk-79Obhnto
Flag Football	Wed 7/21	Recording: https://youtu.be/dnINFLJXG0Q
Power-lifting	Thu 7/22	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHI7JdFtess
Soccer	Wed 8/04	Recording: https://youtu.be/T9Vyg_DiGZU
Tennis	Wed 7/28	Recording: https://youtu.be/TN-b1XQslx0
Bowling	Thu 8/05	Recording: https://youtu.be/pMbsx9HIDrg

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

Sport	Date/ Time	Registration / Recording Link
Golf	Mon 9/20 6:00-8:00	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0pduCvqD8iGtCeGukRwrTLbq3aVKeCliep
Cycling	Mon 10/11 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctduyqpzouE9bwNwwSDTI_p208DvNFy94G
Distance Running	Wed 10/06 7:00-8:00	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkdeGgqjMiHnQbKlx2qlqWdock8LAMG5k
Flag Football	Tue 10/12 7:00-8:00	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlqd--orTloHNUiPBKq3N4SaymcH5jTC6uo

Power-lifting	Thu 10/07 7:00-8:00	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUvdOqgrTMrHdKbjzsH7fBqR5u36WL8kkGH
Soccer	Tue 10/26 7:00-8:00	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpfuGqgz8pE9FLV8sRXI xvWlxwx8F_A6ks
Tennis	Tue 10/12 8:00-9:00	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAocu6gqzgtHNaVuWEkOjDhI33RfqnxHre
Bowling - Regionals	Thu 10/28 7:00-8:00	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAud-GorzgsGdNOgPA_hKKK40Gvj-8jWn04
Bowling- Finals	Wed 12/01 7:00-8:00	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIrf-GggTwpHNY0w_6-xyJPcJe1O90xoXnR

(UPDATED) Sports Department Contacts – 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: Volleyball, Cross Country Skiing

- **Ryan Kelchner, Sports Director**

- rkelchner@somd.org, 410-242-1515 x171
 - Snowshoeing
 - Athletics
 - Bocce
 - Distance Running
 - Golf
 - Powerlifting
 - Locally Popular Sports: Dance, Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey

- **Ben President, Sports Director** (*beginning August 30, 2021*)

- bpresident@somd.org, 410.242.1515
 - Bowling (10 pin)
 - Cycling
 - Kayaking
 - Alpine Skiing
 - Swimming
 - Locally Popular Sports: Figure Skating, Sailing, Short Track Speed Skating, Duckpin Bowling

If you have questions regarding multi-sport events, or USA/World Games, please contact:

- **Steve Bennett, Senior Director, Competitions**

- sbennett@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x102
 - Summer Games
 - Winter Games
 - Fall Sports Festival
 - USA Games
 - World Games

If you have questions regarding High School Unified Sports (IUS) training and competition, please contact:

- **Zach Cintron, Senior Director, High School Unified Sports**

- zcintron@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x161
 - IUS Athletics (Track & Field)
 - IUS Indoor Bocce
 - IUS Outdoor Bocce
 - IUS Strength & Conditioning
 - IUS Tennis

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
 - Unified Champion Schools, Youth Leadership, and School Engagement

- **Mackenzie Irvin, Director, Young Athletes**
 - mirvin@somd.org, 857-939-4867
 - Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming

- **Brooke Jenkins, AmeriCorps Eastern Shore Coordinator**
 - bjenkins@somd.org
 - Kent County, Upper Shore, Lower Shore

- **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

- **Brian Anderson, Metro Programs Coordinator**
 - banderson@somd.org
 - Baltimore City