

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

April 2, 2022

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



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Welcome

I know everyone has been waiting by their email for the Area Memo. Apologies that this is coming 1 day later than planned, but I figured sending important announcements on April Fool's Day may lead to some confusion!

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) Jersey Mike's THANK YOU

Many thanks to those who supported the Jersey Mike's Day of Giving on 3/30! As we visited stores across the state, it was great to see so many SOMD Athletes, Coaches, Unified Teammates, Area leaders and Volunteers eating, picking up, or just stopping by to thank the Jersey Mike's Staff for their support! Area Leaders: THANK YOU for mobilizing teams and athletes to be present in stores in your communities. Thanks for the many #SOMDSubSelfies that were posted and submitted!

We've gotten reports of 3 different stores running out of bread...which is a good thing!

As official totals are sent out to programs, we will be sure to communicate them!

(NEW) Summer Games – Earlybird HOD Web Meeting – April 21

Given the large number of changes for Summer Games and that it has been 3 years since we've held a "typical" Summer Games, we thought it would be helpful to hold an "Earlybird" web meeting for Heads of Delegation (HODs) to answer as many questions as possible as well as to get your thoughts/input on some issues. That session has been scheduled for Thursday evening, April 21, 2022 from 6:30-8:00pm (*may not last 90 minutes but please plan on it possibly going that long*). Those Areas planning to send a delegation to the 2022 Summer Games are strongly recommended to have their HOD join this session. To register, please use the following link:

<https://somd.zoom.us/j/88380840427?pwd=aTVNaWhQY0xBRXJhMmpGTHFvTTZxUT09>

(NEW) Track & Field – Volunteer Officials Training for Area Competitions and In-House Meets – April 25

It's been three years since most Area programs have hosted a track meet, either as part of their Spring Games, as a multi-Area meet, or as an in-house track meet. One of the greatest challenges most programs

have is making sure that their volunteer officials know both the rules of the specific event as well as how to properly and fairly officiate. To help you with this we have scheduled a session specifically for training your coaches and event volunteers how to officiate the most typical events held at Area athletics (track & field) competitions. This includes athletics officials who are somewhat new to officiating Special Olympics events.

If you are hosting any track & field competition this season, we strongly encourage you to have the following individuals attend this session so they are ready for your meets:

- Head coaches
- Head official or referees
- Starters
- Finish Line Coordinators
- Lead Official At A Field Event
- Others interested in becoming better officials

The session will be held virtually on Monday, April 25, 2022, from 6:30 – 9:00 pm and folks should register in advance as we will be distributing some materials a few days in advance of the session so we can get the most out of the limited time together. To register, please use the following link:

<https://somed.zoom.us/j/89079408327?pwd=Wm1MQnV0emQ0UzJnWlJNM2MvdTVsdz09>

Do you have a track meet prior to April 25 (e.g., Anne Arundel County, others)? If, please contact Mike Czarnowsky to make arrangements for working with your team prior to your event (mczarnowsky@somd.org).

(NEW) Summer Games - Coach SONA Sport Certification Requirement Clarification

We received some requests to clarify the requirements for Coach Sport Certification for Summer Games, based on some potentially confusing statements.

Head Coach for a Sport/Team: Must have the following certifications valid through June 19, 2022

- Volunteer Application/Screening
- Protective Behaviors
- Concussion Certification
- Communicable Disease Waiver (CDW)
- Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination
- SONA Sport Certification at the Head Coach level (or higher) in the sport which they will be coaching at Summer Games
 - *Note: At Summer Games, typically there is ONE Head Coach per Area for each sport/team. Anyone who has earned a SONA Sport Certification at the Head Coach level for their sport but is not the designated "Head Coach" for their Area will be designated at a "Coach" in that sport for the purposes of Summer Games.*

Assistant Coach for a Sport/Team: Must have the following certifications valid through June 19, 2022

- Volunteer Application/Screening
- Protective Behaviors
- Concussion Certification
- Communicable Disease Waiver (CDW)
- Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination
- SONA Sport Certification at the Assistant Coach level (or higher) – the Assistant Coach Sport Certification is not specific to a sport

Reminder that for any level of SONA Sport Certification, the individual must have completed the Coaching Special Olympics Athletes course (or, if they are only coaching Unified Sports they need to have completed the Coaching Unified Sports course).

Anyone an Area has registered for Summer Games as an Assistant Coach, Coach or Head Coach who has not met the requirements for that role will be changed to a Volunteer or Sport Volunteer by SOMD (*assuming they have met the requirements for that level role*).

(NEW) Volunteer Appreciation Week

As we gear up for Volunteer Appreciation Week 2022, April 17th-23rd, we are looking to shed a spotlight on a few special volunteers. As we did last year, we would like to again choose **7 volunteers across all of our programs** who have gone above and beyond for our program to honor with a medal dedication video to be shared across social media and via email. We are looking to highlight coaches, games/sports/local management team members, LETR, clinical directors, school community members, etc. The video will essentially be an athlete explaining how they earned the medal, who they are dedicating it to, and a short blurb about that volunteer's service.

Send in your nominations to volunteers@somd.org! If you could please provide:

Volunteer Name

Volunteer Email Address

Years with the organization (if known)

Ways in which they have served

A brief explanation on why you think they should be honored

We will evaluate the nominations and choose seven from those sent in. Don't worry if your nomination is not chosen! We can always use these nominations to fuel other volunteer appreciation content. You may remember last year's interviews spawned videos, statistics, and even an article! I look forward to your help with this project and am excited to see your nominations!

COVID Tracking Website

After challenges with the Brown University website following the Maryland Health Department data breach, we have decided to switch our tracking website. We will now be pulling data directly from the Maryland Health Department COVID Data Dashboard.

While their full dashboard is filled with great information on many metrics, you can access the statewide and county by county cases per 100,000 by visiting: https://state-of-maryland.github.io/DailyCaseRatebyJurisdiction/index_fullscreen.html

Return to Activities Website

As we continue to engage athletes, partners, coaches, and volunteers in as many sports programs as we can, please remember to visit our Return to Activities Webpage linked below. This page will have necessary information and resources including the most up-to-date protocol.

<https://virtualso.md.com/return-to-play/>

(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

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Date/ Time</i>	<i>Registration / Recording Link</i>
Athletics (T&F)	Tue 3/15	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxjellyTuE4
Bocce	Thu 3/17	Recording: https://youtu.be/Ys-SemMJV9Q
Cheer-leading	Tue 3/22	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyGvVXJRBZk
Softball	Wed 3/16	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDGZiaAwVfU
Swimming	Mon 3/21	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4rvK6MHLmw

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Date/ Time</i>	<i>Registration / Recording Link</i>
Athletics (T&F)	Tue 6/14 6:30-8:00	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ocOuhrTwoGdKH2xVIW1Dp2E-9TZLZ9UNq
Bocce	Wed 6/15 6:30-8:00	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvfu-srjsqE9F1_HclHkqzwR1m6NkBpmHF
Cheer-leading	Wed 5/25 8:00-9:00	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtdeGoqTgiEtxHwKJDWt_JkuWFhiPRw6aV
Softball	Wed 5/25 7:00-8:00	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZllcu2tqj0uHnb9HHW-D-PMS4zqbOgUIIFr
Swimming	Wed 6/8 6:30-8:00	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpfuiorDgiHddPpoTGRpCb5bIEWQwKnNEW

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, Senior Sports Director**

- manger@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x122

Basketball	Softball
Cheerleading	Tennis
Flag Football	Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball, Cross Country Skiing
Soccer	

- **Ryan Kelchner, Sports Director**

- rkelchner@somd.org, 410-242-1515 x171

Athletics	Powerlifting
Bocce	Snowshoeing
Distance Running	Locally Popular Sports: Dance, Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey
Golf	

- **Ben President, Sports Director**

- bpresident@somd.org, 410.242.1515

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

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 Strength & Conditioning
 - IUS Indoor Bocce
 - IUS Tennis
 - IUS Outdoor Bocce

Questions?

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

- **Jeff Abel, Vice President. Local Program Development**
 - jabel@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 121
 - Any general question, COVID Protocol
- **Melissa Kelly, Senior Director, Unified Champion schools**
 - mkelly@somd.org, 410-979-5839
 - Unified Champion Schools, Youth Leadership, and School Engagement
- **Will Augustin, AmeriCorps Unified Champion Schools Coordinator**
 - waugustin@somd.org
 - Unified Champion Schools, Youth Leadership, and School Engagement
- **Mackenzie Irvin, Senior Director, Inclusive Health & Fitness**
 - mirvin@somd.org, 857-939-4867
 - Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming
- **Kayla Shields, Healthy Communities Manager**
 - kshields@somd.org, 410-404-4115
 - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs
- **Sue Snyder, Unified Physical Education Consultant**
 - ssnyder@somd.org
 - Unified Physical Education
- **Sam Boyd, Volunteer Director**
 - sboyd@somd.org, 443-766-9245
 - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- **Allie Christman, AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator**
 - achristman@somd.org
 - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- **Mike Myers, Baltimore Region Director**
 - mmyers@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Baltimore County and City
- **Brian Anderson, AmeriCorps Metro Programs Coordinator**
 - banderson@somd.org
 - Baltimore City

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