

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

July 22, 2022



Contents

- Welcome
- [Shout out a volunteer](#)- **UPDATED**
- [COVID Protocol Update- Vaccination Requirements](#)- **NEW**
- [Polar Bear Plunge 2023](#)- **NEW**
- [Get Over It with Howard County!](#) - **NEW**
- [It's a little hot for a sweatshirt, but just in case...](#) - **NEW**
- [SOMD Once Again Offers LIVE and IN-PERSON Sessions for Coaching Special Olympics Athletes \(CSOA\) and Principles of Coaching \(PoC\)](#)
- [Deadline Reminders for 2022 Community Fall Sports](#) - **UPDATED**
- [Athlete Leadership Weekend](#)
- [Finance Corner](#)
- [Lions Centennial Celebration](#)
- [SOMD AmeriCorps Positions](#)
- [Contract Reminders](#)
- [Return to Activities & Covid Protocol Website](#)
- [Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Webinars](#) - **UPDATED**
- [Sports Directors – Assigned Sports](#)
- [Questions?](#)

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) COVID-19 Protocol Update- Vaccination Requirements

After feedback from many stakeholders, we are making the following changes to our COVID-19 protocol **through the Bowling State Finals (12/4/2022)**:

- At this time, there will be no sport-specific vaccination requirements for fall sports and activities that previously required full vaccination for participation in events and competitions with multiple area programs (flag football team, soccer team, volleyball, powerlifting, bowling).
- At this time, there will be no requirement for full vaccination for overnight housing provided by SOMD, including the local program.
- At this time, a negative COVID test is no longer required to return to activities after a positive COVID test. Individuals must follow CDC recommendations for isolation and masking found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

Some notes about these changes:

- 1) As noted, **these changes are only in effect through the Bowling State Finals (12/4/2022)**. Protocol changes to future sports seasons, sports, and activities will be communicated at a later date.
- 2) We will continue to follow state/local/venue restrictions for all COVID-19 Protocol, so if there is a venue (for local or state activities) that requires proof of full vaccination for participants and/or spectators, we will follow their protocol.

- 3) As a reminder, local programs cannot require vaccinations in sports and activities in which SOMD does not require full vaccination for participation.
- 4) Protocol changes will also be communicated in tomorrow's Area Memo (sent by Jeff) and the upcoming Coach Memo (sent by Mike Czarnowsky)
- 5) As always, COVID-19 protocol is subject to change based on the current COVID-19 situation. Should we need to make further changes to protocol, those will be communicated directly.

We recognize that there are a variety of viewpoints around our protocol change, I want to reinforce how important it is that our Athletes, Unified Teammates, Coaches, Volunteers, and Families continue to make in the best interest of their own comfort and well-being. And while we are rolling back vaccination protocol for our fall sports season, we continue to encourage individuals to talk with their doctor about receiving COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters.

Many thanks to our COVID-19 Protocol Task Force- Justin Hunsinger, Adam Hays, Jeff Hagen, Bob Signor, Pam Greenwood, Mike Czarnowsky, and Rhonda Garrison for their continued efforts in providing an informed, thorough, and practical COVID-19. And as always, THANK YOU, Area Leaders, Coaches, and volunteers for providing feedback as well as safe and meaningful sport experiences for our athletes and Unified Teammates!

(UPDATED) Shout out a volunteer

This Area Memo's Shout outs go to...

Local Program Area Directors

Thank you, Area Directors, for spending your Saturday morning with us for our summer Area Director Meeting! As always, we had great conversations, and I always appreciate your feedback and leadership as we continue to grow our program throughout the state!

Jack Brosius

Thank you, Jack, for traveling to the SOMD office to lead a great Kayak Coaches training! We are lucky to have your knowledge and experience support our kayak athletes across the state!

Laurie Brewer

Thank you for organizing a fun fundraiser at Brewery Fire this past weekend for Carroll County! It was a great event, and happy to see that it was successful!

Henry Figueroa

Henry is a Young Athletes program Rockstar! In addition to being instrumental in our Young Athletes Program in HeadStart and Early HeadStart through CentroNia, Henry is also opening his center's doors to host one of the first Healthy Young Athletes screenings in the country!

Do you have a volunteer who has gone above and beyond to support our athletes and mission? Consider sending them an SOMD Shout Out! Recognize your program's coaches, area leaders, management team members, or other volunteers for outstanding contributions to your program! Shout outs will be compiled and added to the Area Memo to be sent out every 2 weeks.

Please use the link below to submit your shout outs!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LV88QG9>

(NEW) Polar Bear Plunge 2023

The Plunge [website](#) is now live! Create your area teams today, to start to fundraise. This year, areas across the state received \$91,050 from Plunge fundraising, so this is a great opportunity!

***EARLY-PLUNGER SPECIAL:** Pay \$75 to plunge before August 15th and secure your spot on the beach to support your area programs! Starting on August 16th, all Plungers will be required to pay or fundraise \$100 to receive their 27th Annual Plunge Sweatshirt! Don't forget – virtual plunging is an option still for 2023! Any questions? Reach out to Jessie: jhayes@somd.org.

(NEW) Get Over It with Howard County

Is your program looking for a great collaborative fundraiser this fall? Join SOMD-Howard County's Over the Edge on September 17, 2022 in Columbia, MD! Local Programs can sponsor a rappeler or a team; and receive 70% net revenue of their team's fundraising!

Is your program ready to go Over the Edge? Email Jeff (jabel@somd.org) to connect with the Howard County Program!

(NEW) It's a little hot for a sweatshirt, but just in case...

Looking for some merch to sell at a local fundraiser? We've got you covered! SOMD has plenty of 2022 Polar Bear Plunge sweatshirts that are free to local programs if you would like to sell at a local event, competition, or fundraiser! You must be able to pick up the sweatshirts from our office (3701 Commerce Drive, Suite 103, Baltimore, MD 21227). Once you take them, they're yours...no givebacks!

Sweatshirts will be available until 9/1/2022--- any left-over will be put to good use in our communities through a local clothing donation program!

Sweatshirts are available first come-first serve basis, so email Jeff (jabel@somd.org), if you would like to pick up a box or 5!

SOMD Once Again Offers LIVE and IN-PERSON Sessions for Coaching Special Olympics Athletes (CSOA) and Principles of Coaching (PoC)

SOMD is VERY pleased to once again offer [live and in-person](#) sessions of both Coaching Special Olympics Athletes (aka CSOA) and Principles of Coaching (PoC). These will be the first in-person sessions for these courses in over two years. While we have offered "Zoom-based" sessions of these courses (as well as offering online self-paced versions as well), these are truly designed to be conducted "live and in person" and are tremendously engaging and highly participative in that format.

Coaching Special Olympics Athletes (CSOA) is the baseline course required for ALL coaches (must successfully complete the course once) and covers basic coaching knowledge and aspects of Special Olympics. We will be offering two live sessions of this course at this time (attend only one):

Principles of Coaching (PoC) is a full day course is designed for coaches with at least two years of experience and covers such "higher-level" coaching topics as Developing a Coaching Perspective; Team Management & Training; Athlete-Centered Coaching; Fitness & Nutrition; Safety and Risk Management.

All sessions are free of charge and will be held at SOMD Headquarters (3701 Commerce Drive, Suite 103, Baltimore MD 21227). Course participants will receive a course workbook and other materials during the session. Due to space constraints, there is a cap of 25 participants for each session. *(Note: Due to the highly interactive nature of these courses, we must have a minimum of 7 registrants for each class at least two business days in advance in order for it to be held.)*

Course dates:

- CSOA Course #1: Saturday, August 6, 2022, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
- PoC Course: Saturday, September 10, 2022, 9:00 – 5:00 (lunch provided)
- CSOA Course #2: Sunday, September 11, 2022, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

To register: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CoachTrng2022Q3>

(UPDATED) Deadline Reminders for 2022 Community Fall Sports

Registration Deadlines for community sports through the remainder of 2022 have been set and are incorporated into the Sports Calendar included with this email. They are summarized below for your convenience as well.

Event	Competition Date(s)	Training Registration Deadline (in GMS)**	Last Date To Submit Missing Forms**	Competition Registration Deadline (in GMS)**
Kayaking Time Trials (Required)	8/13/2022	7/14/2022	8/02/2022	8/02/2022
Kayaking Championships	8/20/2022		(adjusted)	
Golf Championship	9/25/2022	8/19/2022	8/26/2022	9/16/2022
Fall Sports Festival (cycling, distance running, flag football, powerlifting, tennis)	10/22/2022	9/7/2022	9/16/2022	10/03/2022
Soccer Championships	10/30/2022	9/7/2022	9/16/2022	10/03/2022
Bowling (Regionals)	11/13/2022	9/30/2022	10/10/2022	10/24/2022
Bowling (Championships)	12/4/2022			11/23/2022

Athlete Leadership Weekend

The Athlete Leadership program is hosting a training weekend from August 13th-14th, 2022.

Most classes will be offered in person AND over Zoom.

You can choose how you will attend.

In-Person

Join us at the SOMD HQ, 3701 Commerce Drive, Suite 103, Baltimore, MD 21227 for every course except Improv Training

To sign up to attend in person please go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ALPS_Aug_2022

ZOOM

Saturday, August 13th, 2022

9 am-1 pm **Introduction to Athlete Leadership and Understanding Leadership**

Learn about what positions and opportunities you can have in Athlete Leadership.

<https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckc--hqzlvH9TBeOEEEnSIOE51qJ02LjAUg>

Sunday, August 14th, 2022

9 am-10:30 am **Athlete Spokesperson-Global Messenger (Sharing Your Story)**

<https://somd.zoom.us/j/86912604807?pwd=Y0FQampFMGZPTetZVVFuUlhZeFBTdz09>

11am-12 pm **Athlete Spokesperson-Global Messenger (Writing a Speech)**

<https://somd.zoom.us/j/85346861459?pwd=eHJzWW9iL3EwYUY2bVp5cUk4d1JUUT09>

12:30pm-1:30 pm **Athlete Spokesperson-Global Messenger (Delivering a Speech)**

<https://somed.zoom.us/j/81530492453?pwd=MmhGQnhTVXRDUFBhbng2TEMxM2Z4UT09>

2pm-3:30 pm **Athlete Spokesperson-Global Messenger (Media Training)**

<https://somed.zoom.us/j/83034694945?pwd=VGVYRVNSTE1lc2w5MWxyanRMcjFhdz09>

Finance Corner

BUDGET 2023 – The schedule for completing the 2023 budget has been set. This schedule will be shared during the AD Webinar but will also be send out via email. In order to make sure that the budget packet is ready for the Board in December, please keep to the schedule.

The Budget memo email will be coming out on or about July 29th. The Finance Team was not able to find a suitable budgeting software that worked with Sage Intacct in time for the 2023 budget season. Therefore, just like last year, each Area will receive a budget worksheet in Excel to complete. Remember to start in the column for the 2023 Proposed budget and spread that value under the month that the revenue or expense is expected. Column L should equal Column Y for every row.

The worksheets are currently under construction, but each worksheet will include the Actual expenses for FY2020 & FY2021, Actuals thru June for FY2022, and the Budget for FY2022. Area Directors will build the 2023 budget in the colored cells. The values shown in January thru December represent the budget spread for FY2022. These are there as a guide. If there is a value from FY2022 that is not relevant for 2023, don't keep it in the worksheet.

Remember that all cells need a value, even if it is a \$0 – no blanks. And please don't forget about In- Kind.

Budget worksheets are due back to Darlene on or before September 12th. If you need any assistance, please reach out to Darlene.

CORP. CREDIT CARDS – just a quick reminder, as we have some new card holders. Please remember to complete your credit card transaction coding and receipting in the SunTrust portal by the 3rd business day after the close of the month. Coded transactions need to be approved by the 6th business day. Thank you for continuing to support this process.

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

Lions Centennial Celebration

On Saturday, 8/13/2022, The Lions Club will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary with a Unified Bocce Picnic at Towson University. Special Olympics athletes from Maryland, Delaware, and DC are invited for an afternoon of fun competition with the Lions and Leos! Please use the link below to register:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TWM7G6R>

SOMD AmeriCorps Positions

Do you know of a recent high school or college grad looking for a great first step in a career? Or a grad student needing a position while they continue their education? **THINK AMERICORPS with SOMD!** Special Olympics Maryland will be welcoming new AmeriCorps members to our team this summer for a 1-year position (August 15, 2022-August 14, 2023--- per grant requirements) in positions including:

- Volunteer Coordinator
- Unified Champion Schools Coordinator
- Metro Programs Coordinator
- Young Athletes Program Coordinator
- Eastern Shore Program Coordinator

AmeriCorps members get a monthly stipend plus a Segal Education Award (at the end of service) that can be used for student loans, tuition, books, or other expenses related to continuing education. AmeriCorps members are also eligible for interest free loan deferment for their term of service.

Position descriptions will be posted soon! But initial questions about AmeriCorps can be sent to Jeff (jabel@somd.org)

Contract Reminders

Before you sign on the dotted line...DON'T (Please!)

With so many events happening this spring, just another reminder that any contracts, agreements, or other documents that need signatures (including electronic signatures) must be sent to risk@somd.org for review and signature.

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 and COVID Protocol 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://virtualsomd.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

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Kayaking	Tue, May 31	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sb6a005rWU
Golf	Tue, July 19	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNWUfHyVRKg
Cycling	Tue, July 26 7:00-8:00 pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvcuyoqDktHdRodi511s5BUvrGiuTc7uud
Flag Football	Wed, July 27 7:00-8:00 pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYuf-moqzosGdWt95Lh12kDqj0VrYdrVvZK
LDR	Mon, July 25 6:30-7:30 pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtfu-opzoiHNwZ8wQ4XnD9hO2jEKyRs0LN
Power-lifting	Mon, July 25 7:30-8:30 pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAoce6srDMvE9GVV7Mxlk6lW1wZnm8ajOuK
Tennis	Wed, July 27 6:00-7:30 pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApCuGprDirEtXdUFzK6kStb17vi2KHtpCO
Soccer	Wed, Aug 3 6:00-7:00 pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAuf-isrzwpg9IE2X5SxlyMmtt_vARGlaod
Bowling	Thu, Aug 11 6:30-7:30 pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcodeiuqzwiH9bu-1Kmlsjvc9aPehT-aZon

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 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
- **Mackenzie Irvin, Senior Director, Inclusive Health & Fitness**
 - mirvin@somd.org, 857-939-4867
 - Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming
- **Kayla Shields, Director, Inclusive Health and Fitness**
 - kshields@somd.org, 410-404-4115
 - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs, Unified Physical Education
- **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
- **Mike Myers, Baltimore Region Director**
 - mmyers@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Baltimore County and City
- **Kyler Mellott, Region Director- East**
 - kmellott@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Harford, Cecil, Kent, Upper Shore, Lower Shore