

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo January 22 (25), 2021: The Late Edition

**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) Healthy Communities Manager Vacancy

Special Olympics Maryland is currently seeking applicants for the full-time Healthy Communities Manager. This position is responsible for overseeing our many Health and Fitness opportunities for athletes. Please visit the website below for more information:

<https://www.somd.org/indeed-jobs/3ce57cf198ca4f1a58f8/manager-healthy-communities/>

(UPDATED) Area Director COVID Calls- 2021

Our Bi-Weekly Calls for Area Directors will resume this **Wednesday, 1/27/2021 at 6:30pm**. Please use the link below to join:

https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtdumtrz4uGNUKt3A_xkd3lnPX0wrz2fLr

Virtual Plunge

Don't miss the 2021 Virtual Plunge, please make sure you set up your local program fundraising teams. Don't miss this collaborative fundraising opportunity--- remember, local programs get 70% of the net revenue from their team! Visit www.plungemd.com for more info

Check out some Area Director Plunges:

- [Joyce Powell, Baltimore County](#)
- [Bob Baker and Family, Howard County](#)
- [Jeff Hagen, St. Mary's County \(2:05\)](#)

(NEW) 2022 USA Games – Advanced-Level Coach Requirement for All Coaches and Teams

As noted during the rollout of the SONA Sport Education and Development model and in other forums, coaches must have earned and maintained Advanced-Level Coach Sport Certification in order to apply for any position for an event above the state level. In addition, in order for any team to be considered for possible selection for an event above the state level, its coach must have earned and maintained such certification.

So, as a friendly reminder, **if you have a team (*basketball, cheerleading, flag football, soccer, softball*) which**

your Area wishes to be considered for selection to Team Maryland for the 2022 USA Games, the Head Coach must have earned/maintained Advanced Coach Certification (and any additional coaches must earn/maintain as well).

Also, **any coach who wishes to be considered for one of the Head Coach or assistant coach positions for individual sports on Team Maryland (*athletics, bocce, bowling, powerlifting, golf, swimming, tennis*) must have earned/maintained Advanced Coach Certification in the sport for which they are applying.**

Advanced Sport Certification requires successful completion of the Principles of Coaching course, the next virtual session for which is scheduled on Saturday, February 13 (to register [please click here](#)). There is a maximum capacity of 20 for this course (first registered, first accepted). Additional courses may be added in March if needed.

A listing of individuals who have earned Advanced Coach Certification is available on the SOMD Coach Resource Page (www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/) in the Coach Education & Development section (along with the lists of all certifications and training courses completed).

(NEW) Competitive Fitness (CompFit) to launch for Community Programs in February

SOMD is excited to launch CompFit, its competitive fitness program that can be done 100% virtually. The general program was reviewed during the November Area Director meeting and provides both a training and a competition experience for athletes interested in fitness. Participants will each select three fitness events from a list of 15, will train in those events and then compete based on the degree of improvement they have in the event. SOMD will coordinate competition sessions and, while the Area will need to provide at least one coach for each program, SOMD will assist in recruiting additional volunteers for training programs (if desired) and competitions.

A review session will be held on Thursday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m. (register [here](#)). Areas interested in possibly holding such a program are encouraged attend.

Year-End Finance Reminders

REMINDER – we are reaching the end of the fiscal year. Please continue to be timely in forwarding any invoices that pertain to 2020 to Darlene for recording and payment. Also any donations. We want to make sure that our donors receive their Acknowledgement letters for their personal tax records.

Start reaching out to your partners about any In Kind donations received by your program during calendar year 2020. Finance needs backup documentation for the audit. The auditors know that our program delivery was very different this year, so any estimates from past years are not going to be accepted. If you need any help with this, reach out to Maureen.

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

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_eJgxrwmITLhTufGM_vU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1s4Y3v-yH6WBXcM1AsI7YR4_eJgxrwmITLhTufGM_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://virtualso.md.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, February 27, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Virtual Session (limit of 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 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.)*

Saturday, February 13, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Virtual Session (limit of 20 participants)

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.)*

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
Alpine Skiing	Tue 11/24	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWBW-gH3UhU&feature=youtu.be
Snow-shoeing	Mon 11/30	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhLx5DW8mYo&feature=youtu.be
Basketball	Tue 12/01	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKBxUPrU-F0&feature=youtu.be

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

Due to the decision to cancel all Winter Games and the SOMD State Basketball Tournament, there is no need to conduct “pre-competition” webinars.

Note: As SOMD and Areas determine specifics for co-hosted competition opportunities in Winter 2021, webinars/web meetings will likely be scheduled prior to those competitions to review what to expect (given the newness of the application of the R2A protocols).

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

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

- **Pat Cullinan, Northern Chesapeake Region Director**
 - pcullinan@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Harford, Cecil, and Kent Counties

- **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