

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo
May 9, 2021- Happy Mother's Day

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



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Welcome & Happy Mother's Day!

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.

Happy Mother's Day to all of our Special Olympics Moms, Grandmothers, Aunts, Godmothers, and mother figures who support their families and our Special Olympics Maryland family! I hope everyone gets some time to enjoy Mother's Day with family.

(UPDATED) Summer Games – Updates and Reminders

Registration: Training registration for individuals wishing to attend Summer Games has closed and each Area who has potential Summer Games attendees has received an email specific to their Area for next steps. If an Area Director who is planning to have athletes at one of the Summer Games competitions this season did not receive an email with this information today (Friday, May 7), please contact Mike Czarnowsky (mczarnowsky@somd.org).

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://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcsd-qoqD8tHNVra1nEjvexJHY6qYDtMG7G
Softball	Tue 6/08 6:00-7:00 PM	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvOuvrzoqEtyVVCp0F-w6n6vi90fB169I
Swimming	Tue 6/08 6:30-7:30 PM	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUrcuqppjkrE9Wlj63VOy5tHINXetHXp4KI

Area Director Update: We will provide additional updates at the May 19 AD COVID Call at which time we should have sufficient information related to expected R2A Phases as well as competitor numbers to provide much more definitive plans (though still tentative given the changing nature of things this past year).

We are very happy that many Areas have been fortunate to be able to hold in-person training for some of their athletes in some sports. While Summer Games will look very different from how it has looks in previous years, SOMD is very excited that it will be able to offer Summer Games competition for those athletes. Thank you to all Areas, athletes, coaches, families and volunteers for your patience as we work to provide a safe competitive experience.

Here is the latest:

- **Current Sports Plans:** The table to the right provides the current **TENTATIVE** dates and locations for Summer Games competitions. All “Plan B” locations are Howard County Schools/Rec & Parks facilities. Plan A vs Plan B decisions will be made on a sport-by-sport basis based on Phases of the Return to Activity plan in the respective counties as well trends of COVID cases in those counties.
- Plans are expected to be determined for each sport in time to share at the May 19 Area Leader COVID call. (*Note that Athletics Plan A is Sunday and Plan B is Saturday.*)
- **Training Registration** – Reminder that all training registrations for Summer Games sports are due in GMS no later than Monday May 3, 2021. If an Area has a particular challenge meeting that date, the Area Director should contact Mike Czarnowsky (mczarnowsky@somid.org) to discuss possible options.
- **Forms & Certifications:** Are all due at HQ by May 3 and must be valid through June 13, 2021.
 - CDW Waivers for ALL delegation members (athletes, Unified Partners, Coaches, Volunteers) must be submitted by this date.
 - **Athletes:** Medicals and CDWs
 - **Coaches & Assistant Coaches:** Volunteer Background, Protective Behaviors, Concussion, CDW and Coach Sport Certification
 - **Volunteers & Unified Partners:** Volunteer Background, Protective Behaviors, CDW
- **Competition Registration:** Registration for individual events (including scores where appropriate), will be due on Monday, May 17.
- **Miscellaneous Additional Notes:**
 - **Awards:** We will be awarding “standard” awards for the competitions (the typical traditional and unified awards). Given the unique, non-traditional, and scaled-down nature of the 2022 SOMD Summer Games, we will not begin presenting the SOMD 50th Anniversary awards until we are

Sport	Plan A		Plan B	
	Date	Location	Date	Location
Athletics	Sunday June 13	TU – Unitas Stadium	Saturday June 12	Centennial HS
Bocce	Saturday June 12	TU – Burdick Field	Saturday June 12	Mt Hebron or Howard HS
Cheerleading	Saturday June 12	TU – Soccer Field (“old” bocce venue)	Saturday June 12	Mt Hebron or Howard HS
Softball	Friday June 11	Kiwanis-Wallis Park	Friday June 11	Kiwanis-Wallis Park
Swimming	Saturday June 12	TU – Burdick Pool	TBD	TBD

able to hold an event that is closer to typical pre-pandemic events (possibly by kayaking, golf or Fall Sports). We will then present those 50th awards for one year so that athletes at all state-level sports and events throughout a year will have an opportunity to earn these keepsakes.

- We are still working to determine what type of award presentation (if any) might be possible when we must maintain social distancing of 6 feet (and possible not allow indirect contact). Athletes and families should be prepared for awards to be handled very differently from typical years. *(Note: Athletes WILL receive awards, it is how they are presented that is in question.)*
- Cheerleading: Unlike in more traditional Summer Games years, given the pandemic and the shift of Cheerleading to Saturday, athletes entered in Cheerleading may only compete in Cheerleading and not in any additional sport.
- Spectators: It is quite possible that in some cases that spectator space may be very restricted or non-existent due to COVID-related restrictions and consistent with many other youth and amateur sports organizations. More information is forthcoming as key decisions are reached, but Areas, athletes and families should be prepared for such situations.

2022 USA Games – Team Maryland TENTATIVE Selection Timeline

During the April 21 Area Leader Call we were very pleased to share updates on the selection process and timeline for Maryland’s Delegation to the 2022 USA Summer Games. A basic timeline is provided in the table below.

We expect to have applications available for Management Team positions as well as coaches for individual sports. As has been a component of our Coach Education and Development System since its “relaunch” in 2018, in order for a coach to apply to be a coach for the Maryland Delegation to the USA games, they must have earned the Advanced Level Coach status before the selection date by completing the Principles of Coaching course. A complete roster of coaches who have earned Advanced Level Coach Certification is available on the SOMD Coach Resource Page ([Coach Resources - Special Olympics Maryland \(somb.org\)](http://somb.org)) in the “Coach Education and Development” section.

Date	Action	Responsible
May 12, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send out initial list of athletes who could be in nominee selection pool for Programs to review (including narrative, guidance, etc.) • <i>Note: Team levels have not yet been rec’d from SONA and that component may be delayed to some degree depending on when they are rec’d.</i> 	HQ
May 13 - June 15, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas consult with coaches, etc. on whether athletes / partners / teams should be kept within the nominee selection pool 	Area Directors / Area Leadership
June 16, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback due from Areas from initial list of potential nominees regarding eligibility/appropriateness for this type of event 	Area Directors / Area Leadership
June 25, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actual Draw of nominees and teams; Will pull longer list of alternates than typical given situation w/COVID <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Coaches must have attained Advanced Level Coach Certification for their sport by this date for their team to be considered for selection. (Basketball, Competitive Cheer, Flag Football, Soccer, Softball) • Coaches of individual sports must have attained Advanced Level Coach Certification for their sport by this date to be included in 	HQ

	selection for coaching spots (Athletics, Bocce, Bowling, Golf, Powerlifting, Swimming, Tennis)	
June 26 – July 6, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas consult with nominated athletes/partners and families on whether they will accept nominee status 	Area Directors / Area Leadership
July 7, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of nominees' interest and ability to accept positions submitted to HQ 	Area Directors / Area Leadership
July 7-16, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review confirmations and follow-ups as needed 	HQ
July 17, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement of Final roster of nominees to Areas 	HQ
Aug / Sept / Oct 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training Camp (<i>exact date TBD</i>) 	HQ
Oct 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved Nominees moved to Full Delegation Member Status 	HQ

(UPDATED) GMS & Network Users – Review and Update – Main Focus Reports & Exports – May 12 June 23

The date of this session has been shifted to “post Summer Games” based on input/requests from several GMS users (and only 2 registrants as of today).

As noted during the April 21 Area Leader Call, given many changes and updates to certifications and requirements (including the CDW) we will be holding a web session for GMS and Network users on **Wednesday, June 23 from 7:00-8:30 PM** (it may not last 90 minutes, but this allows for lots of Q&A if needed). While we will cover several topics, including any changes to the Area folder structure on the SOMD network, the primary focus will be running GMS reports and exports. The registration link is below. Please share with the appropriate people on your Area Leadership Team.

<https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtduisrzoqHdOTjczYgbUTTonfJ9PzlegN>

(NEW) 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.

(UPDATED) Welcome SOMD’s Newest Advanced Level Coaches

We’re very excited to welcome several new individuals to the status of Advanced Level Coach. These individuals have recently completed the Principles of Coaching Course and passed the associated test to earn this new status. In addition to continuing to expand their knowledge and coaching skills, these individuals are eligible for selection as a coach for competition above the state level (e.g., USA Games, NITs, etc.). Please join us in congratulating these individuals for their commitment to coaching our athletes.

Area	Coach	Advanced Level Coach Certification in:
Balto Co	Flanigan, Lynn	Sailing
Balto Co	Flanigan, Dan	Sailing
Carroll	Thomas, Michael	Basketball, Soccer, Swimming
Harford	Wilkins, Reggie	Softball
Montgomery	Packard, Darian	Cheerleading
Upper Shore	Gibbons, David	Basketball

A complete roster of coaches who have earned Advanced Level Coach Certification is available on the SOMD Coach Resource Page ([Coach Resources - Special Olympics Maryland \(somd.org\)](https://www.somd.org/coach-resources)) in the “Coach Education and

Development” section. The next Principles of Coaching Course will be offered virtually on Saturday, June 5, 2021, and information on requirements and registration is available elsewhere in this Area Memo.

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>

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.*)

Saturday, June 5, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Virtual Session (12 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://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0pceygrD0jH9VvWx1bhbfKn9ygKNG8GMJH
Cycling	Tue 7/20 6:30-8:00	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwlc--srDkvG920K713v4vP52RPxLw4wlt3
Distance Running	Tue 7/27 7:00-8:30	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwof-ihqjspEtwziFSYRWc00R5KaWgguEAu
Flag Football	Wed 7/21 7:00-8:30	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0lde2gqzsrEtTpJ4J-IO3jPN3RSCHulDI7

Power-lifting	Thu 7/22 7:00-8:30	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlf-igpz4qGtAtmQY5nDt0mcAVSpP0Mk7F
Soccer	Wed 8/04 7:00-8:30	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUvcOCprzguE9QNKpMx8O0pOhbNqexn-hVR
Tennis	Wed 7/28 7:00-8:30	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvd-qtrTwrGtSdp1LKk4DUTbPy_gjEvFrI
Bowling	Thu 8/05 6:30-8:00	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJArduChrDMuGNPpxuGZWmEw16s0U5BoVuiY

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

Sport	Date/ Time	Registration / Recording Link
Athletics	Wed 6/02 7:00-8:30	https://somid.zoom.us/j/92276710376?pwd=ZEZTTGNIYURIQkFLbGxGd2s5eGYrUT09
Bocce	Mon 6/07 7:00 – 8:30	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwufu-srjwoHtcVnLKqj8ohRZ8h8QEKNJqd
Cheer-leading	Thu 6/03 7:00-8:30	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpc-uqqz0qEt3AIN4wAa2IrhYkQdkFmcc-
Softball	Tue 6/01 7:00-8:30	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rd-CrrjojE9AnBn01IkuLAAs4FXT_Ojc7
Swimming	Thu 5/27 6:30-8:00	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlud-GgqzwrH9Ex1zdTVI8B6GkPAqpTlfgU
Kayaking-Trials	Thu 7/29 6:00-7:00	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMpcemqgT4sGt0nXEptNOgRbGX-it9GxznF
Kayaking-Finals	Tue 8/10 6:00-7:00	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUocOyqgz0vHtEzMqAQJY1SW2UstrEaplWOS

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@somid.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@somid.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@somid.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