Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo May 24, 2021



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<u>Welcome</u>

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 <u>jabel@somd.org.</u>

(NEW) SOMD is HIRING- AmeriCorps and IUS

Special Olympics Maryland is seeking qualified applicants for the following positions:

- Senior Director, Interscholastic Unified Sports
- AmeriCorps Young Athletes Coordinator
- AmeriCorps Unified Champion Schools Coordinator (2 positions)
- AmeriCorps Western MD Region Coordinator
- AmeriCorps Metro Programs Coordinator

For more information, please visit: https://www.somd.org/connect/employment-opportunities/

(NEW) <u>Return to Play Protocol Updates</u>

On May Area Director call, we did an overview of 2 important updates to the Return to Play protocol.

- 1) Until further notice, all programs are approved to operate under **Phase 2** protocol.
- 2) We have introduced a Phase 2A

Details on both updates can be found on the attached slide deck.

(NEW) <u>Athlete Leadership Opportunity- Monthly Thank you video to sponsors and supporters</u>

We are looking for suggestions or nominations from you for athletes who could be highlighted in an Athlete of the Month video format to sponsors and partners. This is open to all athletes who are interested and who you think would represent your program well. The athlete would have a short script or questions to answer of video. It would not have to read but could be memorized and recited. We can also do a Q&A format to elicit the answers. We would then highlight the athlete practicing a sport to enhance the video. The whole event would take 30-60 minutes to complete and record.

Email Jason Schriml at <u>ischriml@somd.org</u> or Adam Hays at <u>ahays@somd.org</u> with your suggestions. Please include contact information for the athlete.

The deadline for nominations is June 08th, 2021

(NEW) <u>Summer Games – Updates and Reminders</u>

Thank you to Area Directors who were able to join us for the May 19 Monthly AD Call where we reviewed the latest updates for Summer Games. Those unable to attend can either use the link/file sent by Jeff Abel on Thursday or go to the "under development" 2021 Summer Games page of the Coach Resource Pages:

https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/summer-games/

Now that we have athlete numbers and events, we are able to provide more plans and schedules. Please refer to that update deck for sport-specific schedules, tentative venue diagrams, etc. via the Summer Games Coach Resource Page and the sport-specific pages (all available from

A few key highlights:

Registration: Registration for Athletes, Unified Partners, and Coaches is closed and Areas are locked out of making any changes in GMS (though you can still view, run reports and run exports). Sports Directors, Mike and Dottie are following up on some linger items/issues, but registration for athletes/partners/coaches is closed.

Sport	Date	Location
Athletics	Sunday	TU – Unitas
	June 13	Stadium
Bocce	Saturday	TU – Burdick Field
	June 12	
Cheerleading	Saturday	TU – Soccer Field
-	June 12	("old" bocce venue)
Softball	Friday	Kiwanis-Wallis Park
	June 11	
Swimming	Saturday	Great Mills
	June 26	Swimming Pool

Swimming: Swimming competition has been moved

to Saturday, June 26, at Great Mills Swimming Pool in St. Mary's County. Swimmers have been moved into a new "Summer Games – Part 2" games in GMS and have been removed from the "main" Summer Games.

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
Воссе	Wed 6/09 8:00-9:00 PM	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJApc-usrzMiHNO_s-2WjRx-sndlQGxH3qlp
Cheer- leading	Tue 6/08 7:30-8:30 PM	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcsd-qoqD8tHNVra1nEjvexJHY6qYDtMG7G
Softball	Tue 6/08 6:00-7:00 PM	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvcOuvrzoqEtyVVCp0F-w6n6vi90fB169I
Swimming	TBD	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUrcuqppjkrE9WIj63VOy5tHINXetHXp4KI

Spectator/Family Seating: Anyone who is not a registered member of the delegation is considered a Family Member or Spectator. At each venue seating for Spectators/Family members will be physically separate from

seating. During the each sports competition, Delegation members and Spectators/Family members must remain separate and cannot "intermingle". Please review the previously noted slide deck for diagrams on spectator/family member areas for each sports venue (*Note: Those locations for bocce are being moved due to recent info from Towson and we will share the new spectator/family member viewing location once available.*)

While we recognize this can be a challenging situation for all involved, in situations where individuals do not follow this requirement both the spectator/family member AND the athlete will need to leave the Summer Games.

Meals: Meals will not be provided to any delegation members, though water will be available. Attendees should bring their own refreshments but should be aware that no food or beverage is permitted on any of the turf fields at Towson University, other than water.

Awards: Due to COVID requirements, awards will not be presented as they have been in the past. There will be an "awards pick-up" location for each sport venue where the athlete/partner can pick-up their award. In addition, photo locations will be available where athlete can have their picture taken with Law Enforcement personnel (or by themselves if they wish). We truly hope that this arrangement is for this one event and that we can back to a more typical awards presentation at upcoming competitions.

Venue Opening Ceremonies: There will not be a virtual Opening Ceremony for the Summer Games. Instead there will be brief venue Opening Activities at each venue. We will be looking for nominees for an athlete to recite the Special Olympics Oath and one to carry the torch. More info in an upcoming communication.

Delegation Volunteers: As we have permitted in the past (related to identifying chaperons from agencies, etc.), Areas may register additional volunteers in their delegations. These are individuals who your Area has determined are needed to manage you delegation onsite at the Summer Games. Since everything is "one day" and there is no cost associated with lunches, etc., there is no cost for these additional volunteers. There is no limit per se, other than being "reasonable" – e.g., I can see where you may need/want a 2 athlete to 1 supervisor ratio but I may be asking a question or two you request as many volunteers as you have athletes (not impossible, but I'll want a little additional info.

To request adding volunteers to your delegation, the following must <u>ALL be done no later than 5:00 p.m. on</u> <u>Friday, May 28:</u>

- 1. Each prospective volunteer to be added must:
 - a. Have an up-to-date *volunteer application/screening* at HQ (either already in GMS or properly placed on the K:\ drive) and valid thru June 14, 2021.
 - b. Have an up-to-date *Communicable Disease Waiver* at HQ (either already in GMS or properly placed on the K:\ drive) and valid thru June 14, 2021.
 - c. Have an up-to-date Protective Behaviors certification valid through June 14, 2021
 - d. Have a record for them created in GMS (while you cannot add them to GMS, you can create any new individuals in GMS)
- 2. The Area Director must send following info to Mike Czarnowsky (mczarnowsky@somd.org):
 - a. Name of volunteer(s) to be added
 - b. Name of Delegation
 - c. Name of sport(s) at which they be part of the delegation.
 - d. If a particularly large number of volunteers are requested to be added, please provide some brief explanation as to why
- 3. Any volunteers requested after 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 28 will NOT be added and will NOT be credentialed as Delegation Members. No exceptions.

4. Any volunteers requested who do not have all of the required certification in to HQ (either in GMS or on the k:\drive) by 5:00 p.m. on Friday May 28 will NOT be added. No exceptions.

(NEW) 2022 USA Games – Team Maryland UPDATED Selection Timeline

Due to a number of reasons, we will be making an adjustment to the selection timeline for Maryland's delegation to the 2022 USA Games, with the selection occurring on July 17, parallel with the Area Director Meeting. A simplified timeline grid is below

Date	Action	Responsible
<mark>May 28, 2021</mark>	 Send out initial list of athletes who could be in nominee selection pool for Programs to review (including narrative, guidance, etc.) 	HQ
May 28 - July 7, 2021	 Areas consult with coaches, etc. on whether athletes / partners / teams should be kept within the nominee selection pool 	Area Directors / Area Leadership
July 8, 2021	 Feedback due from Areas from initial list of potential nominees regarding eligibility/appropriateness for this type of event 	Area Directors / Area Leadership
July 17, 2021	 Actual Draw of nominees and teams; Will pull longer list of alternates than typical given situation w/COVID Notes: 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 selection for coaching spots (Athletics, Bocce, Bowling, Golf, Powerlifting, Swimming, Tennis) 	HQ

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.

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.
 - o 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://somd.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 <u>required course</u> 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 <u>required course</u> 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 (11 seats available)

To register for this session, please click here.

Important Note On All <u>Virtual</u> 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.

Sport	Date/	Registration / Recording Link
	Time	
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: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHdVc0gOgEE</u>
Golf	Thu 6/17 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0pceygrD0jH9VVWx1bhbfKn9ygKNG8GMJH
Cycling	Tue 7/20 6:30-8:00	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwlcsrDkvG920K713v4vP52RPxLw4wlt3
Distance Running	Tue 7/27 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwof-ihqjspEtwziFSYRWc00R5KaWgpuEAu
Flag Football	Wed 7/21 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0lde2gqzsrEtTpJ4J-IO3jPN3RSCHuIDI7
Power- lifting	Thu 7/22 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJllf-igpz4qGtAtmQY5nDt0mcAVSpP0Mk7F
Soccer	Wed 8/04 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUvcOCprzguE9QNKpMx8O0pOhbNqexn-hVR
Tennis	Wed 7/28 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvd-qtrTwrGtSdp1LKn4DUTbPy_gjEvFrl
Bowling	Thu 8/05 6:30-8:00	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJArduChrDMuGNGPxuGZWmEw16s0U5BoVujY

Pre-Season Coaches Webinars

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

Sport	Date/ Time	Registration / Recording Link
Athletics	<mark>Thu 6/3</mark> 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/j/92276710376?pwd=ZEZTTGNIYURIQkFLbGxGd2s5eGYrUT09
Bocce	Mon 6/07 7:00 – 8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwufu-srjwoHtcVnLKqj8ohRZ8h8QEKNJqd

Cheer- leading	Thu 6/03 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpc-uqqz0qEt3AIN4wAa2IrhYkQdkFmcc-
Softball	Tue 6/01 7:00-8:30	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rd-CrrjojE9AnBn01IkuLAAs4FXT_Ojc7
Swimming	TBD	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIud-GgqzwrH9Ex1zdTVI8B6GkPAqpTlfgU
Kayaking-	Thu 7/29	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMpcemqqT4sGt0nXEptNOgRbGX-jt9GxnzF
Trials	6:00-7:00	
Kayaking-	Tue 8/10	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUocOyqpz0vHtEzMqAQJY1SW2UsrEapIwOS
Finals	6:00-7:00	

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
 - o <u>manger@somd.org</u>, 410.242.1515 x122
 - Basketball
 - Cheerleading
 - Flag Football
 - Soccer
 - Softball
 - Tennis
 - Locally Popular Sports: Cross Country Skiing, Duckpin Bowling

• Zach Cintron, Sports Director

- o <u>zcintron@somd.org</u>, 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

- o <u>rkelchner@somd.org</u>, 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
 - o jabel@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 121
 - Any general question
- Melissa Kelly, Sr. Director, Unified Champion schools
 - o <u>mkelly@somd.org</u>, 410-979-5839
 - o School engagement & partnerships

Mackenzie Irvin, Young Athletes Program Director

- o <u>mirvin@somd.org</u>, 857-939-4867
- Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming
- Veronica Smaldone, Unified Champion Schools Coordinator (Western MD)
 - o <u>vsmaldone@somd.org</u>
 - o Inclusive Youth Leadership & Whole School Engagement
- Emma Bush, Unified Champion Schools Coordinator (Eastern Shore)
 - o <u>ebush@somd.org</u>
 - o Inclusive Youth Leadership & Whole School Engagement
- Sam Boyd, Volunteer Director
 - o <u>sboyd@somd.org</u>, 443-766-9245
 - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- Kayla Shields, Healthy Communities Manager
 - o <u>healthyathletes@somd.org</u>
 - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs

• Mike Myers, Baltimore Region Director

- o mmyers@somd.org, 410-242-1515
- o Baltimore County and City

• Tyler Martin, Western Region Coordinator

- o <u>tmartin@somd.org</u>, 717-321-3642
- Frederick, Washington, Allegany, Garrett Counties