

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

July 1, 2021

**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.

This week's area memo is coming a day early as some of our staff members will be taking a long weekend to celebrate the 4th of July. I hope everyone has an enjoyable 4th of July celebration---- stay safe and stay cool! As a reminder, SOMD Offices will be closed on Monday 7/5/2021.

(NEW) July Area Director Webinar and Meeting

It's time to register for our July Area Director Webinar and Meeting! Please use the links below to register for our upcoming Area Director Webinar (July 12) and Meeting (July 17). As a reminder, both will be held over Zoom.

Area Director Webinar:

Monday, July 12, 2021- 7:00pm-9:00pm

<https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMsdeihqTwiGdBV7hPUablo4eYLJbVcsBwt>

Area Director Meeting:

Saturday, July 17, 2021- 9:00am-1:00pm

https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcof--vqzsjG9V8co1ID_D4qVQRluRcTmCc

(NEW) Athlete Leadership Training- Better Money Habits

WHAT: Better Money Habits from Bank of America. Presented by Special Olympics Maryland's own Joanne Engler, VP of Finance

WHEN: Saturday, July 10th, 2021 9:30 am-11 am

WHERE: ZOOM: <https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJElduGorjgiEtarmuhbUexp2k1yfAEtRsap>

TOPICS COVERED

Spending and Saving

- Understand the difference between what you "need" and what you "want"
- Set Savings goals
- How to be a better saver
- Two Key Reasons to save
- Make a spending plan
- Spending wisely

Sources of income

- understanding your paycheck
- where can you keep your money

How to Build a budget

Steps to saving money

Protecting your money and your identity

(NEW) GMS Reports & Exports Training (and General Refresher) – July 14

We will be holding the rescheduled web session for GMS users, focused on reports and exports, on Wednesday, July 14, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Participants can register using the following link:

<https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtduisrzogHdOTjczYgbUTTonfJ9PzlegN>. In addition to a general refresher on GMS as we move back into a “more typical” competition and training period, we will have ample opportunity for Q&A.

In preparation for this session, we will be sending an inquiry to Area GMS users asking which reports/exports we can either purge/delete or hide on the existing list – one definite challenge is finding the specific report/export template needed among the hundreds that are available.

(NEW) Zach Cintron To Be Promoted To Senior Director, High School Unified Sports

It is with great pleasure I announce that Zach Cintron will be changing roles in the near future as he accepts a promotion to the new position of Senior Director for High School Unified Sports, effective July 8, 2021.

In his new role, Zach will be leading the statewide High School Interscholastic Unified Sports component of SOMD’s Unified Champion Schools program, working with most of the local school systems in Maryland to provide sports-training and competition opportunities comparable to high school varsity sports. We are looking forward to Zach putting his exceptional leadership and management skills to work continuing the improvements in IUS development to date. In this role, Zach will continue to be a member of the SOMD Sports Department and will be reporting to Mike Czarnowsky, Vice President of Sports.

In the very near future we will be posting an employment opportunity to fill Zach’s former position as a Sport Director. Zach, of course will be assisting with that transition.

(NEW) 2022 Special Olympics USA Games – Selection Of Individual Sport Athletes

Area Directors have been sent the roster of athletes who potentially could be included in the selection pool for Individual sports at the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games (athletics/track & field, bocce, bowling, golf, powerlifting, swimming, tennis). Included in that packet were instructions for vetting those athletes at this stage, which included updated criteria based on input from Area Directors, coaches, etc. Areas have until July 15 at 3:00 p.m. EDT to provide feedback. That is a very firm deadline.

As noted in previous communications, we will be selecting both teams (previously vetted) and individual sports athletes during the Area Director meeting on July 17. More information on the specific process will be provided during the Area Director webinar on July 12.

(NEW) Coach Pre-Pre-Season Communique Launching

Next week (week of July 5, we will be sending out a new Coaches Communique to all registered coaches covering several topics (registration deadlines, coaches training, etc.) with a particular focus on the Summer (kayaking & golf) and upcoming Fall seasons. This will be sent to all coaches who have been active in the past 5 years and for whom we have a valid email address in GMS (there will be a fair amount of “general” content, thus sending it to all coaches). As is done in every pre-season coaches webinar, coaches will be directed to both their Area Leaders and the SOMD Coaches Resource Page (CRP) for more specific information. Our plan is to send a similar Coaches Communique before each season: mid-October for winter (basketball, alpine skiing, snowshoeing), mid-February for spring (athletics, bocce, cheerleading, softball, swimming).

Return to Play Protocol Updates

SOMD is now **operating in PHASE 3!** Please see the attached slide deck to learn about the exciting changes which get us back to a more typical environment at practices and competitions.

While this is exciting, we understand that our participants may have varying degrees of comfort with the loosening of restrictions. Some may continue to wear masks and some may prefer to avoid direct contact, but we will work to ensure that individuals can make their own decisions of health and safety without concern of judgement or questioning.

Summer Tennis Opportunities with JTCC

The JTCC in College Park, MD is hosting 2 free summer clinic series for SOMD Athletes and Partners. Each session will be a mix of stroke development and match play. On court instruction will be facilitated by certified USPTA and PTR Professionals from JTCC and SOMD.

All sessions will take place on Saturdays from 10am-12pm at the JTCC (5200 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740)

Session 1: FILLED AND STARTED

Session 2: 8/7, 8/14, 8/21, 8/28, 9/4

Participants will be grouped by skill-level to maximize instruction and competition. Pre registration is REQUIRED and participants must commit to all dates in your session. SPACE IS LIMITED!

Register here- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021JTCC>

Registration Request

We have a whole new roster of people working with Area Directors to send certifications to HQ. This is a very good thing! When you email the Registration Manager, please include your Area in your signature. This would be especially helpful when you email certifications to her or are following up on matters. Whether you're emailing her directly at drush@somd.org or emailing coaches@somd.org, if you can remember to include your Area, that would make our process here at HQ more efficient. Thank you for your kind attention to this request.

(UPDATED) SOMD is HIRING- AmeriCorps and Sport Director

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

- AmeriCorps Young Athletes Coordinator
- AmeriCorps Unified Champion Schools Coordinator (2 positions)
- AmeriCorps Western MD Region Coordinator
- AmeriCorps Metro Programs Coordinator

Also in the very near future we will have a posting to fill our “soon to be vacant” Sport Director position (vacant due to promotion of Zach Cintron noted earlier in the memo). If you know anyone who would be interested and appropriate for this position, please let them know one will be posted.

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

(UPDATED) Summer Games – Updates and Reminders

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for either of our two 2021 Summer Games weekends. It was incredible to see our athletes competing for the first time in 15 months. Thank you for your support and for doing everything you could to have our athletes back and training under such challenging circumstances. We are certainly looking forward to having our athletes training and competing under more “typical” circumstances in coming months. Results for the Summer Games competitions are available on the Coach Resource Page (<https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/summer-games/>).

As always we have a brief evaluation survey for Summer Games participants and attendees. We review every response and while we may not be able to act on every written suggestion, the Games Management Team and SOMD Staff does review and consider all input received. If you were at the 2021 Summer Games and haven’t yet responded to the evaluation, please take a couple minutes and do so (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021SGEval>).

(NEW) Coaches Training – Principles of Coaching Available as Free On-Demand Online Course

We are very pleased to announce that coaches can now complete the Principles of Coaching course online on their own schedule via the version of the course available through CoachTube. The course is free and combines both videos and activities that coaches engage in on their own and can be completed in one or more sittings. Coaches who complete the course and pass the course test are provided with a certificate that they can send to coaches@somd.org for course credit and to earn their Advanced Coaching Level status. Specific instructions will be available shortly on the Coach Education & Development section of the SOMD Coach Coach Resource Page (<https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/coach-education/>).

(UPDATED) Coaches Training – CSOA and PoC Virtual 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. This minimum requirement has been met for the session. below)*

Saturday, July 10, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Virtual Session (13 seats currently 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. There must be at least 4 four additional registrants by Monday morning, July 5, in order for this session to be conducted.)

Sunday, July 11, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Virtual Session (17 seats currently remaining)

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.)

Community Sports Registration Deadlines Set Through End of 2021

With a somewhat better picture of what the remainder of 2021 will likely look like, we have set the registration deadlines for community sports through the end of year and have been set and are incorporated into the Sports Calendar included with this email. They are summarized below for your convenience as well.

Event/Sports	State Championship	Training Registration	Outstanding Forms	Competition Registration
Kayaking	8/14/2021	7/7/2021	7/14/2021	7/27/2021
Golf	9/26/2021	8/12/2021	8/19/2021	9/2/2021
Fall Sports Festival (CY, TN, PL, FF, LDR)	10/16/2021 (Tentative)	8/30/2021	9/8/2021	10/1/2021
Soccer	10/31/2021	8/30/2021	9/8/2021	10/1/2021
Bowling – Regionals	11/7/2021	9/23/2021	10/1/2021	10/18/2021
Bowling - Championships	12/5/2021			11/19/2021
Winter Games	2/27/22 -- 03/01/22	1/7/2022	1/14/2022	2/15/2022

(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	Thu 4/29	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHdVc0gOgEE
Golf	Thu 6/17	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51PEAzsAHXk
Cycling	Tue 7/20 6:30-8:00	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwlc--srDkvG920K713v4vP52RPxLw4wlt3
Distance Running	Tue 7/27 7:00-8:30	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwof-ihqjzpEtwziFSYRWc00R5KaWgpuEAu
Flag Football	Wed 7/21 7:00-8:30	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0lde2gqzsrEtTpJ4J-IO3jPN3RSCHuIDi7

Power-lifting	Thu 7/22 7:00-8:30	https://somed.zoom.us/join/igpz4qGtAtmQY5nDt0mcAVSpPOMk7F
Soccer	Wed 8/04 7:00-8:30	https://somed.zoom.us/join/UvcOCprzguE9QNKpMx8O0pOhbNgexn-hVR
Tennis	Wed 7/28 7:00-8:30	https://somed.zoom.us/join/cvd-qtrTwrGtSdp1LKn4DUTbPy_gjEvFrI
Bowling	Thu 8/05 6:30-8:00	https://somed.zoom.us/join/ArduChrDMuGNPpxuGZWmEw16s0U5BoVujY

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Date/ Time</i>	<i>Registration / Recording Link</i>
Kayaking-Trials	Thu 7/29 6:00-7:00	https://somed.zoom.us/join/MpcemqgT4sGt0nXEptNOgRbGX-jt9Gxnf
Kayaking-Finals	Tue 8/10 6:00-7:00	https://somed.zoom.us/join/UocOyqz0vHtEzmqAQJY1SW2UshrEaplWOS

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

- **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