

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

September 24, 2021

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



Contents

- Welcome
- [Calling all Vaccination Cards... Get 'em in!](#)- **NEW**
- [Return to Activities Website](#)- **NEW**
- [Return to Activities Town Hall](#)- **NEW**
- [Athlete Leadership Research](#)
- [ALPS Training Weekend- RESCHEDULED](#)- **NEW**
- [Summer Games 2022 Date](#)
- [GMS and Form Submission Updates](#)
- [Upcoming Area Director Calls](#)- **UPDATED**
- [Super Plunge Registration is OPEN!](#)
- [Community Sports Registration Deadlines Set Through End of 2021](#)- **UPDATED**
- [Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Webinars](#) - **UPDATED**
- [Sports Directors – Assigned Sports](#)- **UPDATED**
- [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) *Calling all Vaccination Cards...Get 'em in!*

We are very fortunate that both our State Kayaking and Golf tournaments have been able to operate under low risk protocol as we have hit 80%+ vaccination rates from our participants (athletes, partners, coaches, volunteers, management teams and staff).

While we can certainly have a very meaningful and exciting event under the Orange protocol, hitting that 80% vax verified metric makes things dramatically more pleasant for everyone in attendance:

- No on-site screening (w/temp check) needed
- masks optional (rather than required)
- can actually "present" the awards (rather than picking them off a tray)
- lunch easier to manage
- may be able to add back in a brief opening ceremony which isn't permitted under "Orange"
- etc.

Please continue to have your area program participants submit their vaccination cards to you, and as they do, upload them into the K Drive. Please, **DO NOT wait** for a sports season/competition to come around to collect cards from participants. The sooner we have the information, the more accurate our data is---- and remember, an 80% vaccination rate also affects how you can hold practices!

K Drive Naming Convention: Vax_XX_Last Name_First Name_Year_Month_Day

-XX: Area Program 2 Letter Name

-Date: Date is the day of the last vaccination

As a reminder, please only submit cards for individuals who have full dosage (2 vaccines for Moderna or Pfizer; 1 vaccine for Johnson & Johnsons)

(NEW) Return to Activities 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://virtualsomid.com/return-to-play/>

(NEW) Town Hall Recording

Thanks to the 80+ Special Olympics Maryland stakeholders who joined our Return to Activities Town Hall on 9/14/2021 led by SOMD President & CEO, Jim Schmutz, and Athlete Leadership Council Chairperson, Adam Hays.

For those who were unable to join, the recording of that Town Hall meeting can be found here:

<https://virtualsomid.com/news/2021/09/return-to-activities-town-hall/>

Athlete Leadership Research

WE ARE LOOKING FOR 20 NEW ATHLETES THAT HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED IN ANY Athlete Leadership Program to date to participate in groundbreaking research in collaboration with a team from SOI and Villanova University. This research will evaluate the effectiveness of the new global Athlete Leadership curriculum -- ultimately helping the Special Olympics movement better prepare athlete leaders to take on meaningful roles.

Athlete participant responsibility -

- Take pre-training survey; register in SO Learn
- Participate in training utilizing the new global curriculum:
- Take Introduction to Athlete Leadership e-learning course
- Attend virtual training on Introduction to Athlete Leadership
- Take Understanding Leadership e-learning course
- Attend virtual training on Understanding Leadership
- Attend 2 virtual trainings on Athlete Representative (Part 1 and Part 2)
- Take post-training survey and (select group) attend focus group

Selection Criteria for Athlete Leader Study Participants

Must be:

1. 18 years or older
2. At least 6th-grade reading level
3. Willing to provide feedback periodically post-training (6 months, 1 year, etc.)

Please email Jason Schriml (jschriml@somid.org) if interested

(NEW) Athlete Training Weekend Reschedule

The classes scheduled for October 02nd and 03rd have been rescheduled. Please check the spreadsheet for more details and new times.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ITFVARmrp88rcSs_B3M1znMUMKDq-jFUOB6sHZtRcxg/edit?usp=sharing

Summer Games 2022 Date Update

Reminder that the **2022 Summer Games** dates have been agreed upon with Towson University. The Summer Games will occur on the dates of **June 17-19, 2022**.

This is a little later than a typical year. We have been working with Towson University to make this change due to the dates of the USA Games from June 5-12, 2022. Please make note of the change. *(This is reflected in the Sports Calendar.)*

GMS and Form Submission Updates

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Vaccination Reporting Webinar held on August 18 (following the Area Director call). Here are a few updates from that session:

- The slide deck and links to the recording are available on the “GMS Resources” section of the SOMD Coach Resource Page (https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/gms_resources/)
- The slide summarizing the naming conventions for various submissions (included in the slide deck from the session) is attached to this Area Memo as a handy reference tool. Please be sure to follow these naming standards.
- As mentioned during the session, we have secured some part-time assistance to help Dottie Rush as we have a heavier than typical number of medical/volunteer app submissions (even heavier than when we aren't having a world-wide pandemic) as well as the introduction of two new certifications for most participants (CDW and Vax Verification). Starting earlier this week a familiar face, Tammy Sunderland (our former Administrative Receptionist), began working part-time helping Dottie by checking/updating addresses and several other data points. Welcome Back Tammy!!
- You will notice some adjustments to the names that you have given to some medicals and volunteer applications uploaded to your Area's folder on the “K:\ drive”. Specifically, once Tammy has verified/updated the addresses and other data elements from a form she is adding a “_T” at the end of the file name. This lets Dottie know that she has handled her portion of that form. She is also adding a “_X” to the names of forms for which she was unable to locate a record in GMS.

(UPDATED) Upcoming Area Director Calls

Please join us for our upcoming Area Director calls:

Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 6:30 PM

<https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlsceqqgDwjGdNOLt4bjukYmAKjUAVMM5h0>

Super Plunge Registration is OPEN!

The hot weather has me thinking of the beach...in January! We are looking forward to being back at Sandy Point State Park for the 2022 Polar Bear Plunge! Super Plunge Registration is open. Reminder that Local Programs can recruit Unified Super Plunge Teams! Made up of a Special Olympics Maryland athlete from their local program and a coach, volunteer, family member, program leader or other ‘friend of the program,’ each Unified Team must raise a combined \$15,000. Local Programs that recruit unified teams will receive 70% net revenue of their team's fundraising.

All Plunge related events will be pushed back 1 week from prior years due to additional week added to NFL schedule.

Super Plunge will begin morning of Friday 1/28 and run through Saturday morning 1/29.

Go to PlungeMD.com and click on the Super Plunge link to learn more. If someone is interested they can fill out the pre-registration on the site and their information will be sent to Sharon, who will provide them with a registration code or they can email Sharon directly. sperfetti@somd.org

(UPDATED) 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
Golf	9/26/2021	8/12/2021	8/30/2021	9/2/2021
Fall Sports Festival (CY, TN, PL, FF, LDR)	10/16/2021	8/30/2021	10/1/2021	10/1/2021
Soccer	10/31/2021	8/30/2021	10/1/2021	10/1/2021
Bowling – Regionals	11/7/2021	10/1/2021	10/8/2021	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
Golf	Thu 6/17	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51PEAzsAHXk
Cycling	Tue 7/20	Recording: https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/cycling/
Distance Running	Tue 7/27	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bk-79Obhnto
Flag Football	Wed 7/21	Recording: https://youtu.be/dnINFLJXG0Q
Power-lifting	Thu 7/22	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHI7JdFtess
Soccer	Wed 8/04	Recording: https://youtu.be/T9Vyg_DiGZU
Tennis	Wed 7/28	Recording: https://youtu.be/TN-b1XQslx0
Bowling	Thu 8/05	Recording: https://youtu.be/pMbsx9HIDrg

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

Sport	Date/ Time	Registration / Recording Link
Golf	Mon 9/20	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfTkotH8ZvU
Cycling	Mon 10/11 7:00-8:30	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctduyqpzouE9bwNwwSDTI_p208DvNFy94G
Distance Running	Wed 10/06 7:00-8:00	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkdeGgqjMiHNQbKlx2qlqgWdock8LAMG5k
Flag Football	Tue 10/12 7:00-8:00	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlqd--orTloHNUIPBKq3N4SaymcH5jTC6uo
Power-lifting	Thu 10/07 7:00-8:00	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUvdOqgrTMrHdKbjzsH7fBqR5u36WL8kkGH
Soccer	Tue 10/26 7:00-8:00	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpfuGqgz8pE9FLV8sRXlXvWlxwx8F_A6ks
Tennis	Tue 10/12 8:00-9:00	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAocu6gqzgtHNaVuWEkOjJDhI33RfqnXHre
Bowling - Regionals	Thu 10/28 7:00-8:00	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAud-GorzgsGdNOgPA_hKKK40Gvj-8jWn04
Bowling- Finals	Wed 12/01 7:00-8:00	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlrf-GgqTwpHNY0w_6-xyJPcJe1O90xoXnR

(UPDATED) Sports Department Contacts – 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@somed.org, 410.242.1515 x122

Basketball	Softball
Cheerleading	Tennis
Flag Football	Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball, Cross Country Skiing
Soccer	
- **Ryan Kelchner, Sports Director**
 - rkelchner@somed.org, 410-242-1515 x171

Snowshoeing	Golf
Athletics	Powerlifting
Bocce	Locally Popular Sports: Dance, Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey
Distance Running	
- **Ben President, Sports Director (beginning August 30, 2021)**
 - bpresident@somed.org, 410.242.1515

Bowling (10 pin)	Swimming
Cycling	Locally Popular Sports: Figure Skating, Sailing,
Kayaking	Short Track Speed Skating, Duckpin Bowling
Alpine Skiing	

If you have questions regarding multi-sport events, or USA/World Games, please contact:

- **Steve Bennett, Senior Director, Competitions**
 - sbennett@somed.org, 410.242.1515 x102

Summer Games	USA Games
Winter Games	World Games
Fall Sports Festival	

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 Strength & Conditioning
 - IUS Indoor Bocce
 - IUS Tennis
 - IUS Outdoor Bocce

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
 - Unified Champion Schools, Youth Leadership, and School Engagement
- **Mackenzie Irvin, Sr. Director, Inclusive Health & Fitness**
 - mirvin@somd.org, 857-939-4867
 - Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming
- **Kayla Shields, Healthy Communities Manager**
 - healthyathletes@somd.org
 - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs
- **Brooke Jenkins, AmeriCorps Eastern Shore Coordinator**
 - bjenkins@somd.org
 - Kent County, Upper Shore, Lower Shore
- **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
- **Brian Anderson, Metro Programs Coordinator**
 - banderson@somd.org
 - Baltimore City