

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

March 22, 2022

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



Contents

- Welcome
- [Staffing Reminder this week](#)- **NEW**
- [Volunteer Appreciation Week](#)- **NEW**
- [Summer Games Estimated Participation Survey](#) - **NEW**
- [Jersey Mike's support Special Olympics- WITH TOOLKIT!](#)- **UPDATED**
- [Spring Sports \(AT, BC, CH, SB, SW\) – Updates For Webinars and Coach Trainings](#)
- [COVID Tracking Website](#)
- [Return to Activities Website](#)
- [Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Webinars](#) - **UPDATED**
- [Sports Directors – Assigned Sports](#)
- [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) Staffing Reminer for this week

As our staff makes final preparations for the Basketball State Tournament and the Polar Bear Plunge, many of our staff members will be out of the office or away from their desks for extended periods of time. Many will have limited access to email and phone during this time, so please be patient as there may be a delay in response!

(NEW) Volunteer Appreciation Week

As we gear up for Volunteer Appreciation Week 2022, April 17th-23rd, we are looking to shed a spotlight on a few special volunteers. As we did last year, we would like to again choose **7 volunteers across all of our programs** who have gone above and beyond for our program to honor with a medal dedication video to be shared across social media and via email. We are looking to highlight coaches, games/sports/local management team members, LETR, clinical directors, school community members, etc. The video will essentially be an athlete explaining how they earned the medal, who they are dedicating it to, and a short blurb about that volunteer's service.

Send in your nominations to volunteers@somd.org! If you could please provide:

Volunteer Name

Volunteer Email Address

Years with the organization (if known)

Ways in which they have served

A brief explanation on why you think they should be honored

We will evaluate the nominations and choose seven from those sent in. Don't worry if your nomination is not chosen! We can always use these nominations to fuel other volunteer appreciation content. You may remember last year's interviews spawned videos, statistics, and even an article! I look forward to your help with this project and am excited to see your nominations!

(NEW) Summer Games Estimated Participation Survey

Thank you to all of the Area Leaders who were able to join us on Saturday for the Spring Area Leader meeting. One of the items mentioned was a Survey that was sent to Area Directors later that day collecting estimated participation numbers for the 2022 Summer Games. This information (even as estimates), is essential for SOMD to properly plan for this year's Summer Games at Towson University and Kiwanis Wallas Park (June 17-19, 2022). As noted in the email and during the meeting, we need a single survey submission per Area. Responses are need by 5:00 pm on Monday, March 28, 2022. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SG2022_Est_Counts

(UPDATED) Jersey Mike's Supports Special Olympics

This March is Jersey Mike's 12th annual Month of Giving and they are partnering with Special Olympics programs nation-wide to support the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games. Here in Maryland there are 40 locations participating in this campaign. Throughout March customers can donate through Jersey Mike's mobile app and in-store contributions. The Month of Giving campaign will culminate with Jersey Mike's Day of Giving on Wednesday, March 30, when local Jersey Mike's restaurants will give 100% of the day's sales to support the 2022 USA Games in Orlando and all athletes attending. To be clear, every dollar spent passes through Jersey Mike's to support the Games and our athletes. Last year the national campaign raised \$15.4m and we need your help to help us exceed that this year.

Team Maryland athletes and Unified teammates will benefit directly from the campaign as donations will be used to fund onsite costs while also helping underwrite the cost-per-delegate attending USA Games this year.

Help us celebrate Jersey Mike's Month of Giving! Throughout the month, athletes, unified teammates, coaches, and area leaders will be able to participate in store visits! Additionally, we are encouraging you to visit Jersey Mike's stores around you (not just on March 30!), to enjoy a sub and take an SOMD Sub Selfie:

1. When you get your order, take a selfie with your sub
2. Head to Social Media to post tagging Special Olympics Maryland (@SPOlympicsMD), Jersey Mike's (@JerseyMikes) and use #SOMDSubSelfie, #JerseyMikesGives, #2022USAGames, #ShineAsOne

Use this Jersey Mike's Toolkit to help your efforts in promoting the Day of Giving:

<https://virtualso.md.com/news/2022/03/jersey-mikes-area-toolkit/>

We will be working with Team Maryland athletes and coaches along with Area Directors to coordinate store visits on March 30 as a way of showing our support. We will provide more details with focused outreach efforts to Area Directors, athletes, coaches, family members and volunteers who live near these locations to help us support those efforts. Attached please find the roster of stores.

Spring Sports (AT, BC, CH, SB, SW) – Updates For Webinars and Coach Trainings

We're looking forward to the upcoming Spring Sports Season and Summer Games and are very optimistic that we will be able to conduct these in a manner very close to how things were done prior to the onset of the pandemic. Appropriate cautions and Return to Activity protocols will of course be followed, but assuming the "COVID numbers" remain low, we things things will be able to seem much more familiar.

We've updated the section of this Area Memo that lists [Coach Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Webinars](#) to include ALL such webinars for the Spring sports of Athletics (Track & Field), Bocce, Cheerleading, Softball, and Swimming. As you and your Area Leadership are formulating your plans for the upcoming season, be sure to have your coaches attend the pre-season webinar for the sports you plan to host.

Be certain to also check the Sports Calendar that is attached to the Area Memo. Many competitions for Spring sports have been added to the calendar as well as several coach training opportunities to both continue to develop the skills of your coaches as well as to certify (or extend the certification) of your coaches. As your Area program determines what competition opportunities it can host, please be sure to send the information to the appropriate Sport Director so it can be included.

As noted, at this point we are moving forward with plans to hold the 2022 SOMD Summer Games in much the same manner as Summer Games was held prior to the pandemic, including multi-day competitions in most sports and overnight housing for delegations.

Also, as a reminder, be sure that at or prior to the start of your training program your coaches, athletes, partners, volunteers and families know what has been shared with Area leaders over the past many months, notably:

- The 2022 SOMD Summer Games will be held June 17-19, a week later than has “typically” been the case.
- SOMD Return to Activity Protocol requires that anyone staying overnight in Special Olympics provided or arranged housing must provide documentation of being fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.
- The sports of Cheerleading, Softball and Swimming require ALL Athletes, Unified Partners, Coaches and delegation volunteers to be fully vaccinated in order to participate in any training or competition activities involving more than one Area program.
- The sports of Athletics (Track & Field) and Bocce do not require participants to be fully vaccinated.
- All participants in any Special Olympics program must have a completed and up-to-date Communicable Disease Waiver (CDW) prior to the start of participation (in addition to all other required forms and certifications)

Within the next week or so, a communication will be sent to all individuals who served as coaches for these Spring sports in 2019, 2020 or 2021 (and for whom we have a valid email in GMS). That communication will provide the above noted information and include the dates and links for the pre-season and per-competition webinars and registration information for coach trainings. The Area Director and Area Director Support email distribution lists will also receive that mailing.

We'll discuss more detailed plans for Summer Games during the March Area Director Webinar and Meeting and look forward to sharing those plans with you.

COVID Tracking Website

After challenges with the Brown University website following the Maryland Health Department data breach, we have decided to switch our tracking website. We will now be pulling data directly from the Maryland Health Department COVID Data Dashboard.

While their full dashboard is filled with great information on many metrics, you can access the statewide and county by county cases per 100,000 by visiting: https://state-of-maryland.github.io/DailyCaseRatebyJurisdiction/index_fullscreen.html

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://virtualsomd.com/return-to-play/>

(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 |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---|
| Basketball | Thu 12/02 | Recording: https://youtu.be/rLe0Oo-WybQ |
| Athletics (T&F) | Tue 3/15 | Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxjellyTuE4 |
| Bocce | Thu 3/17 | Recording: https://youtu.be/Ys-SemMJV9Q |
| Cheer-leading | Tue 3/22 7:00-8:30 | https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkcOiuRd8qGtICX0dJWvx3cYiF_AnIJMTV |
| Softball | Wed 3/16 | Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDGZiaAwVfU |
| Swimming | Mon 3/21 6:30-8:00 | https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlode2tpz0sHtyM-HM0UsQgi6agsGzRVCEv |

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

| Sport | Date/ Time | Registration / Recording Link |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---|
| Basketball | Wed 3/23 7:00-8:00 | https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsceyhpz4uHdegMsR1zkwvDM65uySfArE |
| Athletics (T&F) | Tue 6/14 6:30-8:00 | https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ocOuhrTwoGdKH2xVlW1Dp2E-9TZLZ9UNq |
| Bocce | Wed 6/15 6:30-8:00 | https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvfu-srjsqE9F1_HclHkqzWR1m6NkBpmHF |
| Cheer-leading | Wed 5/25 8:00-9:00 | https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtdeGqTgiEtxHwKJDWt_JkuWFhiPRw6aV |
| Softball | Wed 5/25 7:00-8:00 | https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZllcu2tqj0uHNb9HHW-D-PMS4zqbOgUllFr |
| Swimming | Wed 6/8 6:30-8:00 | https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpfuiorDgiHddPpoTGRpCb5bIEWQwKnNEW |

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, Senior Sports Director**
 - manger@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x122
 - Basketball
 - Cheerleading
 - Flag Football
 - Soccer
 - Softball
 - Tennis
 - Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball, Cross Country Skiing
- **Ryan Kelchner, Sports Director**
 - rkelchner@somd.org, 410-242-1515 x171
 - Athletics
 - Bocce
 - Distance Running
 - Golf
 - Powerlifting
 - Snowshoeing
 - Locally Popular Sports: Dance, Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey
- **Ben President, Sports Director**
 - bpresident@somd.org, 410.242.1515
 - Alpine Skiing
 - Bowling (10 pin)
 - Cycling
 - Kayaking
 - Swimming
 - Locally Popular Sports: Figure Skating, Sailing, Short Track Speed Skating, Duckpin Bowling

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

- **Steve Bennett, Senior Director, Competitions**
 - sbennett@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x102
 - Summer Games
 - Winter Games
 - Fall Sports Festival
 - USA Games
 - World Games

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

Questions?

If You Have Any Questions on Any Other Non-Sports-Related Issues, please contact a member of the Local Programs Team

- **Jeff Abel, Vice President. Local Program Development**
 - jabel@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 121
 - Any general question, COVID Protocol
- **Melissa Kelly, Senior Director, Unified Champion schools**
 - mkelly@somd.org, 410-979-5839
 - Unified Champion Schools, Youth Leadership, and School Engagement
- **Will Augustin, AmeriCorps Unified Champion Schools Coordinator**
 - waugustin@somd.org
 - Unified Champion Schools, Youth Leadership, and School Engagement
- **Mackenzie Irvin, Senior Director, Inclusive Health & Fitness**
 - mirvin@somd.org, 857-939-4867
 - Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming
- **Kayla Shields, Healthy Communities Manager**
 - kshields@somd.org, 410-404-4115
 - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs
- **Sue Snyder, Unified Physical Education Consultant**
 - ssnyder@somd.org
 - Unified Physical Education
- **Sam Boyd, Volunteer Director**
 - sboyd@somd.org, 443-766-9245
 - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- **Allie Christman, AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator**
 - achristman@somd.org
 - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- **Mike Myers, Baltimore Region Director**
 - mmyers@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Baltimore County and City

- **Brian Anderson, AmeriCorps Metro Programs Coordinator**
 - banderson@somd.org
 - Baltimore City

- **Brooke Jenkins, AmeriCorps Eastern Shore Coordinator**
 - bjenkins@somd.org
 - Kent County, Upper Shore, Lower Shore