

**Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo**  
**November 20, 2020**

**Special  
 Olympics  
 Maryland**



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**Welcome**

**Happy Thanksgiving** to all of our Area Leaders, Athletes, Families, Coaches, and other key volunteers around the state. While this holiday will certainly be different for all of us, I hope that you can enjoy some time with family and friends (virtually, over the phone, or safely in-person)! Please know how thankful I am for the opportunity to work with all of you, and for your commitment to providing SOMD athletes a high-quality sport experience!

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](mailto:jabel@somd.org).

**(NEW) SOMD Staff Thanksgiving Vacation**

Over the next few days, some SOMD staff members will also be enjoying a thanksgiving vacation. Please use the grid below if you need to contact a staff member. Apologies in advance for any delay of response there may be. **Generally Jeff ([jabel@somd.org](mailto:jabel@somd.org); 410-206-0453) will be available the whole time**, so feel free to contact him for any needs/questions in which other program staff members are unavailable. Similarly, if it is a sports question, Mike Czarnowsky is willing to be available by phone.

Staff Member	Leave Begins On	Returns to HQ On	Notes
Jeff Abel	No leave scheduled		
Melissa Anger	11/23/2020	11/30/2020	
Steve Bennett	11/23/2020	12/02/2020	
Sam Boyd			
Emma Bush	No leave scheduled		

Zach Cintron	11/19/20	11/30/20	
Pat Cullinan	No leave scheduled		
Mike Czarnowsky	11/20/2020	12/01/2020	Available by phone if no other sports staff can be reached
Adam Hays	11/23/2020	11/30/2020	
Mackenzie Irvin	No leave scheduled		
Ryan Kelchner	11/23/2020	11/30/2020	
Melissa Kelly	11/23/2020	12/02/2020	
Tyler Martin	No leave scheduled		
Mike Myers	No leave scheduled		
Dottie Rush	11/23/2020	12/01/2020	
Jason Schriml	11/23/2020	11/30/2020	
Veronica Smaldone	11/25/2020	11/30/2020	
Ben Varga	11/23/20	11/30/20	

Staff Member	Mon 11/23	Tue 11/24	Wed 11/25	Thu 11/26	Fri 11/27	Mon 11/30	Tue 12/01	Wed 12/02
Jeff Abel	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green
Melissa Anger	Red	Red	Red	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Green
Steve Bennett	Red	Red	Red	Grey	Grey	Red	Red	Green
Sam Boyd	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Green
Emma Bush	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Green
Zach Cintron	Red	Red	Red	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Green
Pat Cullinan	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Green
Mike Czarnowsky	Red	Red	Red	Grey	Grey	Red	Green	Green
Adam Hays	Red	Red	Red	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Green
Mackenzie Irvin	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Green
Ryan Kelchner	Red	Red	Red	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Green
Melissa Kelly	Red	Red	Red	Grey	Grey	Red	Green	Green
Tyler Martin	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Green
Mike Myers	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Green
Dottie Rush	Red	Red	Red	Grey	Grey	Red	Green	Green
Jason Schriml	Red	Red	Red	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Green
Veronica Smaldone	Green	Green	Red	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Green
Ben Varga	Red	Red	Red	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Green

Red	Person on leave this day (i.e., not available)
Green	Person working on this date (i.e., available)
Grey	SOMD HQ offices closed on this date (i.e., not available)

**(NEW) SOMD Area Director Meeting**

I enjoyed our Area Directors Meeting on 11/14--- thanks for a great morning of conversation and feedback as we continue to navigate new program models for our athletes. The slide deck from the meeting is attached. As we discussed, we will use our bi-weekly covid call on 12/2 to continue our discussion on Virtual Engagement!

**(NEW) SOMD Town Hall Review**

Many thanks to our Area Leaders who helped spread the word for our first Virtual Town Hall for athletes, families, and program stakeholders! We were excited to have over 110 participants. Thanks, also, to our presenters Adam Hays and Jim Schmutz.

A slide deck from the town hall is attached, and you can watch a recording here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mOtNAs\\_mN6x7TRNQHG8MO1Sp9BrbfKZk/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mOtNAs_mN6x7TRNQHG8MO1Sp9BrbfKZk/view?usp=sharing)

Please feel free to distribute both throughout your program.

**(NEW) Sports Updates – Alpine, Snowshoeing, Basketball & Summer Games**

Thank you to everyone who was able to provide input as we made final determinations on the SOMD sports program for the first half of 2021. As reviewed during the recent Area Director Meeting we have made the following plans for the upcoming Jan-June 2021 timeframe:

**Winter Games Sports (Alpine Skiing, Snowshoeing)**

- Area programs are encouraged to offer virtual and in-person training in these sports to the best of their ability.
- SOMD, in conjunction with Sport Management Teams (SMTs) will develop and provide resources for dryland and virtual training.
- SOMD, with the SMTs and the Winter Games GMT, will provide at least two, possibly three, on-snow training opportunities including gate/race training, if conditions permit.
- SOMD will pilot the new Fitness Competition Model as an option for interested Areas.
- Due to requirements of SOMD's Return to Activity protocols, there will not be a Winter Games held in 2021.

**Basketball**

- Area programs are encouraged to offer virtual and in-person training in basketball to the best of their ability (either indoor or outdoor, if conditions permit).
- SOMD, in conjunction with the Basketball Sport Management Team (SMT) will develop and provide resources for virtual training, as well as new "higher level" individual and team skills events to provide challenging training and competition opportunities for all basketball players, even though actual basketball games will not be able to be played.
- SOMD, with the SMT and Area co-hosts, will provide multiple competition opportunities as interest and conditions permit.
- Due to requirements of SOMD's Return to Activity protocols, there will not be a state basketball tournament held in 2021.

**Summer Games Sports (Athletics, Bocce, Cheerleading, Softball, Swimming)**

- Area programs are encouraged to offer virtual and in-person training in these sports to the best of their ability.
- SOMD, in conjunction with Sport Management Teams (SMTs), will develop and provide resources for virtual training, as well as determine what adaptations may be necessary to conduct each sport while still under COVID protocols.

- SOMD, with the SMT and Area co-hosts, will provide multiple competition opportunities as interest and conditions permit.
- At this point *SOMD plans to host a one-day Summer Games* (protocols preclude overnight stays). Models for what this could look like will be explored in 2020Q4 and 2021Q1 with Area leaders, SMTs, etc. The practicality of this, based on the evolving situation with COVID, will be reviewed in Q1 and Q2 and may become more restrictive for one or more sports.

**(NEW) SOMD Coach of the Year Nominations**

The Maryland Coach of the Year Selection Committee is seeking your input in identifying our best coaches and selecting the Maryland nominee for the **2020 Special Olympics North America Coach of the Year**. This award is given annually to an outstanding Special Olympics coach who has made a significant impact and demonstrated exceptional commitment to both the Special Olympics Program, his/her athletes and the Movement. He or she also has high expectations for his/her athletes and himself/herself to reach their maximum potential.

Please utilize the attached nomination form and send it to [coaches@somd.org](mailto:coaches@somd.org) no later than Sunday, December 6, 2020.

NOTES:

- Only **one community-program nominee** may be submitted per North American Accredited Program. A Maryland selection committee will be assembled, selecting one nominee to put forth for consideration by North America.
- All coaches for whom we receive a *complete nomination package* will be recognized by SOMD.
- The criteria for the nominee, as indicated by SONA, are as follows:
  - 1) Be an active, certified Special Olympics coach with at least 3 years of coaching experience.
  - 2) Has gone above and beyond to keep their athletes engaged in sports during COVID restrictions.
  - 3) Provides other opportunities for athlete(s) with the purpose of improving their health, fitness, well-being and integration with the community.
  - 4) Exhibits good sportsmanship qualities and is a role model to his/her athletes.
  - 5) Has made a **significant impact** to his or her athletes, the Program and the Movement.

**(NEW) Changes For On-Snow Training at Whitetail, Liberty, and Roundtop**

If your Area is planning to participate in any of the on-snow training opportunities organized by SOMD at Whitetail Resort, or are planning to schedule on snow trainings on your own at Whitetail Resort, Liberty Mountain Resort, or Roundtop Mountain Resort, please be certain to review the attached one-pager summarizing the many changes that are being implemented at these facilities during the upcoming season due to the COVID situation. These changes are in addition to the required SO protocols (e.g., screening of all SO participants is still required).

Some key changes include but are not limited to:

- All purchases of lift tickets, equipment rentals and meals **MUST** be made in advance through reservations via the sales office and are limited based upon availability. This includes individuals that have season passes.
- Individuals that do not make advance reservations will not be able to use the resort.
- Indoor space cannot be held or “reserved” as has typically been the case
- Non-skiers (family members) will not be able to wait on-site in the lodge while athletes, partners and coaches ski (we are exploring possible options for where they can wait other than their vehicles, but have not yet found an alternative)

Just as with other SOMD in-person activities, this is an evolving situation and changes are likely to occur based on conditions, etc. We will review these changes and discuss implications during the Alpine Skiing and Snowshoeing pre-season webinars, so it is essential that any Area planning for on-snow participation attend these sessions (dates, times, and registration links are included in the pre-season webinar section towards the end of this Area Memo and have been sent directly to coaches).

**(NEW) December Social Clubs**

'Tis the Season for Holiday-themed athlete social clubs! See the attached schedule and join the fun!

**(NEW) Finance Updates**

UPDATE - Budget 2021 will be presented at the Finance committee meeting on Nov 17<sup>th</sup>. If there are any questions about the budgets, I will reach out to the Area Director.

UPDATE – Now that the banking services have migrated to M&T, please remember to destroy any old deposit slips from Bank of America. All revenues and expenses should now flow through M&T bank. During the recent Area webinar the question of making deposits through a cell phone app was asked. I will be following up with the bank on the procedures and will push those instructions out once available.

REMINDER – we are reaching the end of the fiscal year. Please continue to be timely in forwarding any invoices that pertain to 2020 to Darlene for recording and payment. Also any donations. We want to make sure that our donors receive their Acknowledgement letters for their personal tax records.

Start reaching out to your partners about any In Kind donations received by your program during calendar year 2020. Finance needs backup documentation for the audit. The auditors know that our program delivery was very different this year, so any estimates from past years are not going to be accepted. If you need any help with this, reach out to Maureen.

If you have any questions about this update, please reach out to Joanne.

**Phase Movement Tracking Document**

As was discussed on last week's AD Covid Call, protocol has been laid out for programs to progress (or regress) in phases!

The requirements for programs to move into Phase 2 include:

- 2 weeks in Phase 1
- 7 consecutive days at a 'yellow' or 'green' risk level defined by the Harvard multi-metric covid risk map.
- Site Assessment done by SOMD Staff member

Jeff will be tracking risk levels daily--- and you can keep track of your program by visiting:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1s4Y3v\\_-yH6WBXcM1AsI7YR4\\_eJqxrwmITLhTufGM\\_vU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1s4Y3v_-yH6WBXcM1AsI7YR4_eJqxrwmITLhTufGM_vU/edit?usp=sharing)

Remember, coaches and Area Leaders should work together to determine when they feel comfortable moving into a less-restrictive phase. Additionally, programs MUST continue to operate in their current phase until they receive written approval to progress from Jeff.

**Return to Activities Website**

Please use the site below as a resource for your Athletes, Coaches, Volunteers, and Families! SOMD's Return to Activities Website is filled with resources to help our state successfully and safely get our athletes back on the field!

<https://virtualso.md.com/return-to-play/>

**(UPDATED) COVID-19 Area Directors Call**

Our next bi-weekly COVID call will take place on Tuesday, 12/2/2020 at 6:30pm. Please use the link below to register.

[https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtdumtrz4uGNUKt3A\\_xkd3InPX0wrz2fLr](https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtdumtrz4uGNUKt3A_xkd3InPX0wrz2fLr)

**(UPDATED) Coaches Training –CSOA and PoC Sessions**

**Coaching Special Olympics Athletes (CSOA)** -- SOMD is pleased to offer in-person 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, January 23, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. In-person Training session at SOMD HQ (limit of 20 participants) (*Note: We will make a determination no later than November 2, 2020, whether this session will be held as an "in-person" or "virtual" course.*)

To register for either of these sessions, [please click here](#).

**Principles of Coaching (PoC)** - SOMD is pleased to host additional sessions of the Principles of Coaching course, necessary 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, December 5, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Virtual Training session (limit of 20 participants)  
To register for these 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 itself. (Zoom's online help has been fairly solid.)*

**(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 –**

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Registration / Recording Link</b>
Alpine Skiing	Tue 11/24 7:00-8:30 pm	<a href="https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlodOuqqzMtHdyvySVxYwHFDS9O0BXokYjl">https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlodOuqqzMtHdyvySVxYwHFDS9O0BXokYjl</a>



- 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](mailto: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](mailto:jabel@somd.org), 410-242-1515 ex. 121
  - Any general question
- **Melissa Kelly, Sr. Director, Unified Champion schools**
  - [mkelly@somd.org](mailto:mkelly@somd.org), 410-979-5839
  - School engagement & partnerships
- **Mackenzie Irvin, Young Athletes Program Director**
  - [mirvin@somd.org](mailto:mirvin@somd.org), 857-939-4867
  - Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming
- **Veronica Smaldone, Unified Champion Schools Coordinator (Western MD)**
  - [vsmaldone@somd.org](mailto:vsmaldone@somd.org)
  - Inclusive Youth Leadership & Whole School Engagement
- **Emma Bush, Unified Champion Schools Coordinator (Eastern Shore)**
  - [ebush@somd.org](mailto:ebush@somd.org)
  - Inclusive Youth Leadership & Whole School Engagement
- **Sam Boyd, Volunteer Director**
  - [sboyd@somd.org](mailto:sboyd@somd.org), 443-766-9245
  - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- **Ben Varga, Healthy Communities Manager**
  - [bvarga@somd.org](mailto:bvarga@somd.org)
  - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs
- **Pat Cullinan, Northern Chesapeake Region Director**
  - [pcullinan@somd.org](mailto:pcullinan@somd.org), 410-242-1515
  - Harford, Cecil, and Kent Counties



- **Mike Myers, Baltimore Region Director**
  - [mmyers@somd.org](mailto:mmyers@somd.org), 410-242-1515
  - Baltimore County and City
  
- **Tyler Martin, Western Region Coordinator**
  - [tmartin@somd.org](mailto:tmartin@somd.org), 717-321-3642
  - Frederick, Washington, Allegany, Garrett Counties