

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

January 8, 2021

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



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Welcome

And we're off! Already a week into 2021!

Hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday season and a great start to 2021!

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) Area Director COVID Calls- 2021

Our Bi-Weekly Calls for Area Directors will resume this **Wednesday, 1/13/2021 at 6:30pm**. Please use the link below to join:

https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtdumtrz4uGNUKt3A_xkd3lnPX0wrz2fLr

(NEW) Best of Luck, Ben Varga

Healthy Communities Manager, Ben Varga, has decided to pursue an opportunity with a different organization. His last day with Special Olympics Maryland was 1/6/2021. Ben made great contributions this past year, leading efforts in our virtual health and fitness program, and we wish him well in his future!

For any questions related to Health and Fitness, please email healthyathletes@somd.org

(NEW) Virtual Plunge

With under a month left of the 2021 Virtual Plunge, please make sure you set up your local program fundraising teams. Don't miss this collaborative fundraising opportunity--- remember, local programs get 70% of the net revenue from their team! Visit www.plungemd.com for more info
Check out some Area Director Plunges:

- [Joyce Powell, Baltimore County](#)
- [Bob Baker and Family, Howard County](#)
- [Jeff Hagen, St. Mary's County \(2:05\)](#)

Year-End Finance Reminders

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

MinuteClinic Discounted Sports Physicals for Special Olympics Athletes

Thanks to a national partnership with MinuteClinic, Special Olympics athletes are eligible to receive a sports physical at a discounted rate of \$49.00. A Voucher is attached to this Area Memo, which must be present at the time of the physical. It is also important that the athlete bring the SOMD Medical with them to ensure the proper paperwork is completed.

To find the closest MinuteClinic and to make an appointment, visit www.minuteclinic.com

Please note, this is not an endorsement of MinuteClinic by Special Olympics Maryland, simply passing along a resource for athletes and their families.

January Virtual MOVEment Athlete Opportunities

See the attached schedule for January's Virtual MOVEment schedule!

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

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

(UPDATED) 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, January 23, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Virtual Session (limit of 20 participants)

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.*)

Saturday, February 13, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Virtual Session (limit of 20 participants)

To register for this session, [please click here](#).

Note: PoC session originally scheduled for January 16 has been cancelled due to insufficient registration.

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.)*

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
Alpine Skiing	Tue 11/24	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWBW-gH3UhU&feature=youtu.be
Snow-shoeing	Mon 11/30	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhLx5DW8mYo&feature=youtu.be
Basketball	Tue 12/01	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKBxUPrU-F0&feature=youtu.be

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

Due to the decision to cancel all Winter Games and the SOMD State Basketball Tournament, there is no need to conduct “pre-competition” webinars.

Note: As SOMD and Areas determine specifics for co-hosted competition opportunities in Winter 2021, webinars/web meetings will likely be scheduled prior to those competitions to review what to expect (given the newness of the application of the R2A protocols).

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
- **VACANT, Healthy Communities Manager**
 - healthyathletes@somd.org
 - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs
- **Pat Cullinan, Northern Chesapeake Region Director**
 - pcullinan@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Harford, Cecil, and Kent Counties
- **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