

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

March 9, 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.

(NEW) March Area Director Webinar and Meeting- March 15 and 20, 2021

It's time for our first Area Director Webinar and Meeting of 2021. Please use the links below to register. Our web-meeting on Saturday will be similar to past meetings---- we'll start at 9:00am and will finish around 1:00pm with breaks throughout.

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Webinar | 3/15/2021 7:00pm- 9:00pm | https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAsduuqzwwEtLv_80KD1jVPX0OYWZEjUJx |
| Meeting | 3/20/2021 9:00am- 1:00pm | https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMuduurgTlVEtCEeRcL5qn0TuPQB02FZKyP |

(NEW) Communicable Disease Waiver

NEW Requirement for participation in in-person programs is a Communicable Disease Waiver. This waiver will take the place of the existing Acknowledgement of Risk. A copy of both the slide deck for the webinar held for Area Directors (3/8) and the Waiver are attached to this area memo.

Submitting CDW forms

- A process very similar to the process developed for AOR forms will be used for CDW waivers.

- Areas will scan (*PDF format please*) and individually name each CDW using the naming convention below
 - CDW_XX_LastName_FirstName_YYYY_MM_DD
 - XX = Area's two-character code (e.g., AA for Anne Arundel, etc.)
 - YYYY_MM_DD = 3 years from date of participant's signature
- Within each Area's folder on the K:\ drive is a folder which will be renamed to be "000_CDWs_and_Screen_Logs" into which the scanned form should be placed
 - (*formerly "000_Acknow_of_risk_and_Screen_Logs*)
- These changes will take place between Monday, March 8 and Wednesday, March 10

CDW GMS-related updates

- CDW forms will be tracked in GMS in a manner very similar to what was used for the AOR forms.
 - The certification currently used for AOR will be converted to track CDW certifications
 - After exporting the data to a file to be saved for future reference, all AOR certifications will be stripped from the GMS Database
 - The current "Acknow of Risk" certification will be renamed "CDW" certification
 - All SOMD created report/export templates will be adjusted to pull the CDW certification in the location of the former AOR certification
 - Lack of a valid CDW will cause a participant to be in their Area's "NOT REGISTERED" delegation (in training and competition games)
 - At some point in the future, it is expected that the CDW will be part of the medical/volunteer certification and will cease to be tracked separately.
 - These changes will take place between Monday, March 8 and Wednesday, March 10

(NEW) Submitting Forms – Reminder of Naming Conventions

With the addition of the new CDW certification we thought it worth reminding folks of the naming conventions for the various PDFs of forms being submitted. In each case, please adhere to the format indicated and utilize PDFs. Also, in each example, "XX" indicates the Area's two-character code (e.g., AA for Anne Arundel)

- Medical Forms
 - MED_XX_LastName_First_Name_YYYY_MM_DD
 - Date is three years from the date of the physical exam
- Volunteer Applications
 - VOL_XX_LastName_First_Name_YYYY_MM_DD
 - Date is three years from the date of the volunteer signed form
 - For Minors, the date is the individual's 18th birthday
- CDW Forms
 - CDW_XX_LastName_First_Name_YYYY_MM_DD
 - Date is three years from the date of the individual/guardian signed form
 - For Minors, the date is the individual's 18th birthday
- Concussion Certifications
 - ONC_XX_LastName_First_Name_YYYY_MM_DD
 - Date is three years from the date of the individual completed the course
 - Note: it is also fully permissible to have the volunteer just forward the email of course completion from CDC or NFHS

(NEW) Volunteer Appreciation Week

As we gear up for Volunteer Appreciation Week 2021, [April 17th-25th](#), we are looking to shed a spotlight on a few special volunteers. We would like to choose **7 volunteers across all of our programs** who have gone above and beyond for our program to dedicate a special honor to on 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.

To nominate an individual, please fill out the following:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzTajMvzWNte8ozo_hTiyNygCyVehVBsRJ0eTu-GA743abXg/viewform?usp=sf_link

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 nomination 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!

Contact Sam Boyd (sboyd@somd.org) with questions

(NEW) Finance Info

Finance is proposing a change in how the investment activity is reported on the Area monthly reports. The proposed change will add information to the Investment section of the income statement report to provide more information about the activity that attributed to a change in value. Be on the look out from an invitation from Jeff to provide feedback on the proposed changes!

M&T bank provides SOMD with the ability to deposit checks from donors by using the M&T bank app on a cell phone. AD or finance directors can take a photo of the front and back of a check that they want to deposit and submit it directly to the Area bank account. If you are interested in this service, let Joanne know. Clover Gos are available to any Area program for processing credit card transactions. If you are planning on holding a fundraiser and would like to use on of the 30 machines that we have a headquarters, contact Maureen to sign one out.

In Kind donated goods and services need to be submitted to Maureen no later than March 22nd to be included in the 2020 audit. Please submit your in kind for the period Jan 2020-Dec 2020.

Winter Sports – Helmets, Snowshoes, Gloves, Goggle and Jackets At Great Prices – Act by 3/15/21

Special Olympics North America has shared with us a resource for winter sports gear – Endurance Enterprises, Inc. out of Madison, WI. The attached info piece describes available items such as:

Snowshoe Sets (MSRP \$130) available for \$85

Racing Helmet RH2013 Compliant (MSRP \$200) available for \$110

Winter Sport Coats (MSRP \$280) available for \$100 (\$120 w/your logo)

Each Area interested in purchasing gear should do so as collective order for their Area (not individual athlete orders) and should place their order by March 15 in order to receive their gear for Fall 2021 delivery. Direct orders to:

Andrew Gerlach

EnjoyWinter EnjoySummer.com

Endurance Enterprises, Inc.
#60 N. Bryan Street, Madison WI 53714
406-585-2660
andyg@enjoywinter.com

Towson University Health Research Opportunity

A graduate student at Towson University College of Health Professions is conducting qualitative research on the experiences and perspectives of Special Olympics Athletes, as well as their understanding of audiology. The brief survey asks questions related to---- attending healthy athletes, understanding what an audiologist does, and positive or negative feelings about visiting doctors. Please distribute the link below to your athletes to participate:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QXJ933M>

Virtual Unified Champion Schools Youth Leadership Summit

On March 6, 2021, the Unified Champion Schools team at Special Olympics Maryland will be hosting our first Youth Leadership Summit for high schools. All high schools from across Maryland are encouraged to form teams of up to 4 students (of all abilities!) to participate. Participants will take part in activities to help them foster more interactive and inclusive school communities through Unified Sports, Youth Leadership, and Whole School Engagement!

Topics will include: Group dynamics and development, Public Speaking, Advocacy, Team Building, Meeting Facilitation...and More!

Schools interested in attending should email ucs@somd.org for registration!

Note: Pre-registration is required. This event is only open to participants in Maryland High Schools.

(UPDATED) Area Director COVID Calls- 2021

Because of feedback received when we cancelled the last scheduled AD COVID Call, we are changing the format of our Area Director COVID Calls to **MONTHLY** rather than bi-weekly. In months where there is an Area Directors Webinar/Meeting, that will take the place of that month's COVID Call.

Our next meeting will be on March 15, the Area Director Webinar!

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://virtualso.md.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.*)

Sunday, April 11, 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.*)

Sunday, March 21, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Virtual Session (limit of 20 participants; 15 slots 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.)*

Welcome SOMD's Newest Advanced Level Coaches

We're very excited to welcome several new individuals to the status of Advanced Level Coach. These individuals have recently completed the Principles of Coaching Course and passed the associated test to earn this new status. In addition to continuing to expand their knowledge and coaching skills, these individuals are eligible for selection as a coach for competition above the state level (e.g., USA Games, NITs, etc.). Please join us in congratulating these individuals for their commitment to coaching our athletes.

| Area | Coach | Advanced Level Coach in: |
|--------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Anne Arundel | Jank, Al | Alpine, Kayaking, Snowshoeing |
| | Schieman, Katy | Basketball, Bowling, Snowshoeing, Soccer, Swimming |
| | Simione, Linda | Alpine, Kayaking |

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Baltimore City | Signor, Bob | Basketball, Bocce, Flag Football, Kayaking, Soccer |
| Baltimore County | McCauley, Anna | Cheerleading |
| | Vinson, Terry | Basketball, Softball |
| Calvert | Houston-Ludlam, Ginger | Cheerleading |
| Harford | Schmidt, Nancy | Basketball, Flag Football, Softball |
| Howard | Bourdon, Jim | Basketball, Golf |
| Montgomery | Aguirre, Mery | Cheerleading |
| | Cooper, Ellen | Cross Country Skiing |
| | Golden, Emily | Soccer |
| | Han, Patricia | Bowling |
| | Hannon, Tim | Basketball, Soccer |
| | Hellmuth, Chuck | Basketball, Bocce, Golf |
| | Larson, Jay | Basketball, Softball |
| Seiden, Richard | Basketball | |
| St. Mary's | Mewhinney, Scott | Basketball, Soccer, Swimming |

The next Principles of Coaching Course will be offered virtually on Sunday, March 21, 2021 and information on requirements and registration is available elsewhere in this Area Memo.

(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 | Tue 12/01 | Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKBxUPrU-F0&feature=youtu.be |
| Athletics | Thu 3/11 6:30-8:00 | https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYqfuyuuqTkqGta6LcCjSHQ9MbICS552OyIS |
| Bocce | Thu 3/04 | Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fUqpLrEfgw0 |
| Cheer-leading | Wed 3/24 7:30-9:00 | https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEscOmqaTopEtTqCpL_GgGEE2PxvuPmTGUW |
| Softball | Thu 3/25 7:00–8:30 | https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrdOuvrTMOHNdE7_TaezKFq36WXMevqbfp |
| Swimming | Wed 3/03 | Recording: https://youtu.be/BJH7_H210lo |
| Kayaking | Thu 4/29 6:30-8:00 | https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlpduuqqDMvH9dbAogPv3WJrW5mqe5uhR-x |
| Cycling | Tue 7/20 6:30-8:00 | https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwlc--srDkvG920K713v4vP52RPxLw4wlt3 |
| Bowling | Thu 8/05 6:30-8:00 | https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJArduChrDMuGNGPxuGZWmEw16s0U5BoVuYi |

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

Note: As SOMD and Areas determine specifics for co-hosted competition opportunities in Spring 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)**
 - vsaldone@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