

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

November 19, 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.

As we head into Thanksgiving week, we hope that you are able to enjoy the holiday with family and friends. Please know how grateful we are for each of you and the work that you do throughout the year to ensure Special Olympics Athletes get to participate in the sports they love!

(NEW) Program Staff Thanksgiving Vacation Schedule

As we typically share, below is the planned vacation for Program Staff Members. If you need to reach someone, please consult the charts below to find out if the person you're trying to reach is 'on' or 'off.' Generally, just get in touch with Jeff if you need anything (jabel@somd.org) and he'll do his best help with what you need. Both charts have the same information...the 2nd chart is for those who prefer a visual.

| Staff Member | Leave Begins | Returns to HQ | Notes |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|--|
| Jeff Abel | <i>No leave scheduled</i> | | <i>Will be available 11/26</i> |
| Brian Anderson | 11/25 | 11/29 | |
| Melissa Anger | 11/18 | 12/1 | |
| Will Augustin | 11/23 | 11/29 | |
| Steve Bennett | 11/19 | 11/30 | |
| Sam Boyd | 11/22 | 11/29 | |
| Zach Cintron | 11/23 | 11/30 | <i>Will be in NJ for some of this.</i> |
| Mike Czarnowsky | 11/17 | 11/30 | <i>Available in an emergency</i> |
| Adam Hays | 11/24 | 11/29 | |

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|--------------------|
| Mackenzie Irvin | 11/24 | 11/29 | Will be in Boston. |
| Brooke Jenkins | 11/22 | 11/29 | |
| Ryan Kelchner | 11/22 | 11/29 | |
| Melissa Kelly | 11/19 | 11/30 | |
| Mike Myers | 11/23 | 11/29 | |
| Ben President | 11/24 | 11/29 | |
| Dottie Rush | 11/23 | 11/30 | |
| Jason Schriml | 11/24 | 11/29 | |
| Kayla Shields | 11/22 | 11/29 | |

| Staff Member | Mon 11/22 | Tue 11/23 | Wed 11/24 | Thu 11/25 | Fri 11/26 | Mon 11/29 | Tue 11/30 | Wed 12/1 | Thu 12/2 | Fri 12/3 |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Jeff A. | Green | Green | Green | Grey | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Brian A. | Green | Green | Green | Grey | Grey | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Melissa A. | Red | Red | Red | Grey | Grey | Red | Red | Green | Green | Green |
| Will A. | Green | Red | Red | Grey | Grey | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Steve B. | Red | Red | Red | Grey | Grey | Red | Red | Green | Green | Green |
| Sam B. | Red | Red | Red | Grey | Grey | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Zach C. | Green | Red | Red | Grey | Grey | Red | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Mike C. | Red | Red | Red | Grey | Grey | Red | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Adam H. | Green | Green | Red | Grey | Grey | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Mack I. | Green | Green | Red | Grey | Grey | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Brooke J. | Red | Red | Red | Grey | Grey | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Ryan K. | Red | Red | Red | Grey | Grey | Red | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Melissa K. | Red | Red | Red | Grey | Grey | Red | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Mike M. | Green | Red | Red | Grey | Grey | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Ben P. | Green | Green | Red | Grey | Grey | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Dottie R. | Green | Red | Red | Grey | Grey | Red | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Jason S. | Green | Green | Red | Grey | Grey | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Kayla S. | Red | Red | Red | Grey | Grey | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |

(NEW) Ski Helmets, Snowshoes & other Winter Sports Equipment Available from EnjoyWinter at Discount

SOMD just received notice this morning from SONA that EnjoyWinter.com, a winter sports equipment provider, is offering significant discounts on two specific items and a 30% across the board discount on any other merchandise.

We are pleased to be able to offer Special Olympics Programs specials on our **Bliz Raid FIS Ski Helmet** for only \$104.95. (Use promo code SORAID).

We also have **Find the Time Snowshoes** for Special Olympics Team's for \$94.50 (Use promo code SO at checkout)

To participate please shop following the instructions on this link www.Enjoywinter.com/wso

Use the SO promo code at checkout for 30% off for any other merchandise including goggles and snowshoes. Contact Andy Gerlach for further information.

Andy Gerlach
andyg@enjoywinter.com
EnjoyWinter.com
60 N. Bryan Street
Madison, WI 53714
406-581-6450



The Blitz Raid FIS Ski Helmet normally sells for \$194.95 so that is a savings of \$90 (46%). SOMD has verified from the manufacturer's site that this specific helmet does meet the FIS RH2013 certification requirements for ski races in Special Olympics. *(Not all other helmets on the EnjoyWinter site meet that requirement. Purchasers should verify that any other helmet purchased meets that standard as non-compliant helmets will not be permitted to be used in those races requiring it – may mean an athlete partner cannot ski.)*

From SONA: "The offer is good as long as they have inventory. You will be able see inventory when you place the order. Orders are shipped within 48 hours of purchase."

We have verified that orders of single pieces of equipment are granted the discount, so it is not necessary to assemble a "bluk order". All orders are to be placed by the Area or athlete/partner/family directly – no need for SOMD to get into the middle of things.

Note also that the Bliz Raid helmet has a different discount code (SORAID) than the one for all other purchases (SO).

Special Olympics Maryland Women in Sports Summit

Please see the attached flyer for information on the Women in Sports Summit hosted by Special Olympics Maryland on 12/11/2021.

Plunge 2022

The Plunge website is now live! Please register your area teams today and reach out to Jessie Hayes (jhayes@somd.org) to let us know you've signed up. As a reminder, all areas receive 70% (after expenses) of the money they raise for the Plunge. The best thing about this year? We have both virtual and in-person options, so you can recruit supporters to Plunge from any location.

Athlete and Non-Athlete Certification Reports (Beta) On Coach Resource Page

We are pleased to provide a new feature on the SOMD Coach Resource Page – searchable listings of Athlete and Non-Athlete certifications. These two rosters include all individuals listed in the current "Community Training Program Participant Registration" games in GMS (*whether or not they are currently listed as participating in training in the current year*).

The main Coach Resource Page (CRP) is available at: <https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/>

The names are grouped by Area and include medical and CDW expiration dates for athletes. For non-athletes it includes volunteer background check, protective behaviors, concussion certification and CDW expiration dates. Vaccination status is NOT posted in either report out of respect for individual privacy. GMS users can locate vaccination information within GMS.

As has been the case for several years, links to the necessary forms and certification courses are available on that same Coach Resource Page. Reports for Coach Sport Certification are available, as always in the Coach Education and Development section of the CRP.

(UPDATED) Bocce Courts – PVC Courts Available – REQUESTS DUE NOV 29

Just a friendly reminder that the deadline to submit requests for free PVC bocce courts is fast approaching on Monday, November 29 (the Monday after Thanksgiving). Decisions of who will be receiving courts will be made the next morning, so this is a FIRM DEADLINE.

As noted in previous Area Memos, SOMD is liquidating its inventory of 23 PVC bocce courts due to our recent acquisition of 22 inflatable bocce courts (like the ones used at the 2021 Summer Games). One objective we hope to accomplish with this distribution of PVC courts is to support and expand Unified Bocce programming and to encourage and support the transition of athletes and Unified partners from school-based program to community programs. Those Areas and school programs interested in possibly obtaining one or more of these courts should complete the basic form available at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BCCourtReq2021> no later than Monday, November 29.

- The PVC courts are free, but recipient must arrange their own pick-up/transport.
- Courts must be removed from SOMD HQ no later than Sunday, December 12, 2021.
- All sets are twelve 10' pipes and two 12' pipes (approximate lengths)
- There are also some additional "spare parts" of courts available if any program has a need.

(UPDATED) Calling all Vaccination Cards...Get 'em in!

We've received some questions regarding naming files for vaccination cards that have booster shots. The simple answer is "name them the same way" – use the date of the most recent shot in the name of the file (file naming included in original post below. We will be including the date of the most recent booster shot in GMS going forward.

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)

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/>

Community Sports Registration Deadlines Set Through Mid 2022

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 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bowling – Regionals | 11/7/2021 | 10/1/2021 | 10/29/2021 | 10/29/2021 |
| 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 |
| Basketball | TBD | 1/27/2022 | 2/4/2022 | 2/17/2022 |
| Summer Games | 6/17-19/2022 | 4/29/2022 | 5/9/2022 | 5/27/2022 |

(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 |
|---------------|------------------------|---|
| Bowling | Thu 8/05 | Recording: https://youtu.be/pMbsx9HIDrg |
| Alpine Skiing | Tue 11/30 7:00-8:30 | https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJclcuCvqT4pE90fZxxmS-P-t6O-jzQhOj8Q |
| Snow-shoeing | Mon 12/6 6:30-8:00 | https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqu2tqT8jH93y9YPIbCVqPAQtiBVre07M |
| Basketball | Thu 12/02 7:00-8:30 | https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpceuprTwvHNEbcDc9MQQjUDnxl1OX_s7 |

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

| Sport | Date/ Time | Registration / Recording Link |
|---------------------|------------------------|---|
| Bowling - Regionals | Thu 10/28 | Recording: https://youtu.be/n19rEZiDbgg |
| Bowling-Finals | Wed 12/01 6:00-7:00 | https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpd-6qrj8pGdULDqxBS9sd26VerCxG3XLu |
| Alpine Skiing | TBD | |
| Snow-shoeing | Wed 2/23 7:00-8:00 | https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpd-CgrDwvG92aHjDnDDeD1RxqKj8RXjX9 |
| Basketball | TBD | |

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@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 Program Team

- **Jeff Abel, Vice President. Local Program Development**

- jabel@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 121
- Any general question

- **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***
 - healthyathletes@somd.org
 - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs

- ***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