

**Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo**  
**December 6, 2021**

**Special  
Olympics  
Maryland**



**Contents**

- Welcome
- [Program Staff Winter Holiday Vacation Schedule](#)
- [Current State-Wide COVID Risk Level Available on SOMD’s Coach Resource Page - NEW](#)
- [Basketball Competitions and Spectators- NEW](#)
- [Alpine Skiing & Snowshoeing – Vaccination Requirements for Multi-Area Events & Competitions- NEW](#)
- [Certification Status Reports - Where Can You Find Them \(In Addition To GMS\)? – NEW](#)
- [Finance Reminders- NEW](#)
- [2022 Social Clubs- NEW](#)
- [Ski Helmets, Snowshoes & other Winter Sports Equipment Available from EnjoyWinter at Discount](#)
- [November Area Director Webinar and Meeting-](#)
- [Finance Reminders](#)
- [Women in Sports Summit](#)
- [Calling all Vaccination Cards... Get ‘em in!](#)
- [Return to Activities Website](#)
- [ALPS Training Weekend- RESCHEDULED](#)
- [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](mailto:jabel@somd.org).

**(NEW) Program Staff Winter Holiday 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](mailto:jabel@somd.org)) and he’ll do his best help with what you need. Both charts have the same information...the 2<sup>nd</sup> chart is for those who prefer a visual.

| Staff Member    | Leave Begins    | Returns to HQ | Notes                                       |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---|
| Jeff Abel       | <i>No leave</i> |               | Will be available 12/24 and 12/31           |
| Brian Anderson  | 12/22           | 12/27         |   |
| Melissa Anger   | 12/15           | 1/4           | Will be at Navy WBB Clinic on 12/19         |
| Will Augustin   | 12/23           | 1/3           |   |
| Steve Bennett   | 12/20           | 1/4           |   |
| Sam Boyd        | 12/22           | 1/4           |   |
| Allie Christman |                 |               |   |
| Zach Cintron    | 12/21           | 1/4           |   |
| Mike Czarnowsky | 12/15           | 1/4           | Will have limited access to phone and email |
| Adam Hays       | 12/23           | 1/3           |   |
| Mackenzie Irvin | 12/14           | 12/20         | Will have access to email.                  |
| Brooke Jenkins  | 12/20           | 1/3           |   |
| Ryan Kelchner   | 12/13 & 12/23   | 12/20 & 1/3   |   |

|               |       |       |                                      |
|---------------|-------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| Melissa Kelly | 12/8  | 1/4   |                                      |
| Mike Myers    | 12/22 | 1/2   |                                      |
| Ben President | 12/23 | 12/27 |                                      |
| Dottie Rush   | 12/23 | 1/4   |                                      |
| Jason Schriml | 12/17 | 1/3   |                                      |
| Kayla Shields | 12/20 | 1/3   | Will have access to phone and email. |

[Text Wrapping Break]

| Staff Member | Mon12/13 | TUE 12/14 | WED12/15 | THU12/16 | FRI 12/17 | Mon 12/20 | TUE 12/21 | WED12/22 | THU12/23 | FRI 12/24 | MON 12/27 | TUE 12/28 | WED12/29 | THU12/30 | FRI 12/31 |
|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Jeff A.      | Green    | Green     | Green    | Green    | Green     | Green     | Green     | Green    | Green    | Green     | Green     | Green     | Green    | Green    | Green     |
| Brian A.     | Green    | Green     | Green    | Green    | Green     | Green     | Green     | Red      | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       |
| Melissa A.   | Green    | Green     | Red      | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       |
| Will A       | Green    | Green     | Green    | Green    | Green     | Green     | Green     | Green    | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       |
| Steve B.     | Green    | Green     | Green    | Green    | Green     | Green     | Green     | Red      | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       |
| Sam B.       | Green    | Green     | Green    | Green    | Green     | Green     | Green     | Red      | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       |
| Allie C.     | Green    | Green     | Green    | Green    | Green     | Green     | Green     | Red      | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       |
| Zach C.      | Green    | Green     | Green    | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       |
| Mike C.      | Green    | Green     | Red      | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       |
| Adam H       | Green    | Green     | Green    | Green    | Green     | Green     | Green     | Green    | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       |
| Mack I       | Green    | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       | Green     | Green     | Green    | Green    | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       |
| Brooke J     | Green    | Green     | Green    | Green    | Green     | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       |
| Ryan K.      | Red      | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       | Green     | Green     | Green    | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       |
| Melissa K.   | Red      | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       |
| Mike M.      | Green    | Green     | Green    | Green    | Green     | Green     | Green     | Red      | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       |
| Ben P        | Green    | Green     | Green    | Green    | Green     | Green     | Green     | Green    | Red      | Red       | Red       | Green     | Green    | Red      | Red       |
| Dottie       | Green    | Green     | Green    | Green    | Green     | Green     | Green     | Green    | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       |
| Jason S      | Green    | Green     | Green    | Green    | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       |
| Kayla        | Green    | Green     | Green    | Green    | Green     | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       | Red       | Red       | Red      | Red      | Red       |

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 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) Current State-Wide COVID Risk Level Available on SOMD's Coach Resource Page**

As an aid to Area Leaders and coaches, we have added a section on the main SOMD Coach Resource Page (CRP) (<https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/>) and we have included links to the two-page "Return To Activities Protocol Quick Guide" as well as the latest copy of the full protocol.

The statewide status applies to ALL Area programs at all times **except** when an individual county/Area has a daily new case rate (7-day average) higher than 50 per 100,000, in which case that Area MUST operate in the "significant risk (orange)" category (and that risk category cannot be lowered based on verified vaccinations of 80% or higher for the given program, at least not until their rate drops below 50 per 100,000). Areas/counties which are currently above that 50 per 100,000 threshold are also noted on the CRP.

SOMD monitors the statewide status (as well as the status of any counties who may be close to the 50/100,00 threshold)

**(NEW) Basketball Competitions and Spectators**

Areas have asked how we anticipate handling spectators for basketball competitions. After careful review of options and input from multiple sources, SOMD has determined that, as of this time, fully vaccinated spectators WILL be permitted to attend competitions which are hosted and organized by SOMD HQ. Notably, this includes:

- Basketball State Championship
- Required Qualifier for each level of basketball

At each of those events, SOMD will contract with a security firm who will verify the vaccination status of each person entering the building where the competition is hosted and will only permit entry by those who are fully vaccinated. It should be noted it is *possible* that we may need to limit the number of spectators due to space availability in the venue (perhaps one spectator per competitor).

Spectators will NOT be permitted at any other qualifiers unless at least one of the following two conditions is met:

- The state-wide COVID Rate is below 10 daily new cases per 100,000 (7 day average). (*i.e., Maryland is in the "Low risk / green" status solely due to COVID incidence, not vax percentage*) **OR**
- The Area or group hosting the competition follows the same process as HQ hosted events and contracts with a security firm to screen spectators at the door and only permit those who present proof of being fully vaccinated. (*This is NOT a role for volunteers, it must be a contracted security firm providing this service.*)

We will be working through additional details and expect to have an updated discussion at the next monthly web meeting of Area leaders. Also remember that the if the local government or the facility has stricter restrictions than what Special Olympics has in place, then those must be followed (some sports venues are not allowing any spectators whatsoever).

**(NEW) Alpine Skiing & Snowshoeing – Vaccination Requirements for Multi-Area Events & Competitions**

Following up on the request from Area leaders to consider instituting a vaccination requirement for the two snow sports of Alpine Skiing and Snowshoeing, and after consulting with members of the Return to Activity Task Force, SOMD has determined that:

- Alpine and Snowshoeing will follow the same standard as Team Sports, namely that verification of full vaccination will be required for participation in any and all multi-Area events and competitions (including the two on-snow training days scheduled at Whitetail Resort).
  - Areas may decide to require full vaccination for Alpine and Snowshoeing participants in training at their own discretion.

- Alpine and Snowshoeing participants (athlete, partners, coaches, volunteers) who are not verified as being fully vaccinated may participate in activities which exclusively involve only individuals from their Area program, if this is permitted by their Area program.

This was included in the Alpine Skiing Coach Pre-Season webinar (and will be included in the one for Snowshoeing) and those slide decks and recordings can be referenced for additional information.

**(NEW) Certification Status Reports - Where Can You Find Them (In Addition To GMS)?**

“Certification Status Update” Reports are available on the main Coach Resource Page (CRP) (<https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/>)

- Searchable PDF for Athletes
  - Medical expiration
  - CDW expiration
- Searchable PDF for Non-Athletes
  - Volunteer Application/Screening expiration
  - Protective Behaviors (PB) expiration
  - Concussion Certification expiration
  - CDW expiration
- Downloadable Excel File for Athletes & Non-Athletes (includes all of above info)

“Coach Sport Certification” Reports are available on Coach Education & Development section of the CRP (<https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/coach-education/>)

- Searchable PDF of Coach Sport Certifications
- Searchable PDF of Coach Training “Transcripts”
- The above two reports only include coaches who have either
  - Completed a coach sport training course or education opportunity
  - Earned a Coach Sport Certification

Vaccination status is NOT included in these reports for purposes of confidentiality. Area leaders can provide vaccination information on a “need to know” basis in a less public manner.

All of these reports are updated roughly every two weeks and reflect what is processed in GMS as of the time the report is created.

**(NEW) Finance Info**

NEW SAGE INTACCT ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE – The transition to the new software is coming along really well. If you are experiencing any difficulties in entering invoices into the system, please reach out to Darlene or Joanne for assistance.

END OF YEAR – This is a reminder to continue to reach out to any vendors that have supplied the program with In Kind contributions during the calendar year. This is very important. In kind is used for organizational match for our grants and is reported in the annual audit.

GIFTS of STOCK – This is also the time of year where our supports and donors may be thinking about giving a gift of Stock. The market has been very good in 2021. A gift of stock is a quick and easy way to make a year end contribution. If you have a donor who needs the information on how to give a gift of stock, reach out to me or Sue Jacobs. We can help.

USA GAMES - As we continue to work together to fundraise for our Team Maryland Delegation participating in USA Games in June, 2022, here are some important reminders related to budgeting and revenue for the games.

The 2022 budget for Local Programs includes both revenue and expenses for USA Games at \$2,250 per competitor (athlete & Unified Teammate). As a reminder, the cost for all coaches and management team members is included in the cost per competitor (but all should be active in fundraising).

If a local program receives cash or check donations specifically for a Team Maryland team or delegate, that money should NOT be deposited into the local program account. Rather, those funds should be sent to the state office along with the name(s) of the individual(s) and sport(s) who should be credited for that donation.

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

### **(NEW) 2022 Social Clubs**

You asked for it and it is going to happen. Starting in 2022 we are going to offer Zoom Social Club on the third Thursday of each month. Eleven (11) in total-we are taking July off. This will be an athlete-run opportunity.

Jason is looking for athletes who want to present and run a social club one of the months.

If you do not want to present anything but have a great idea Jason could use ideas on what kind of social club to host.

ALSO NEEDED:

ZOOM HOSTS

CHAT ROOM MODERATORS

Email me at [jschriml@somd.org](mailto:jschriml@somd.org)

### **AVAILABLE DATES**

Jan 20, 2022, Feb 17, 2022, Mar 17, 2022, Apr 21, 2022, May 19, 2022, Jun 16, 2022, Aug 18, 2022, Sep 15, 2022, Oct 20, 2022, Nov 17, 2022, Dec 15, 2022

### **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 **SORAIID**).*

*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](http://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](mailto: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 purchahses (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](mailto: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.

### **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://virtualsmd.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**

| <i>Sport</i> | <i>Date/Time</i>      | <i>Registration / Recording Link</i>  |
|--------------|-----------------------|---|
| Bowling      | Thu 8/05              | Recording: <a href="https://youtu.be/pMbsx9HIDrg">https://youtu.be/pMbsx9HIDrg</a>  |
| Alpine       | Tue 11/30             | Recording: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbE_T-MM8pA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbE_T-MM8pA</a>  |
| Snow-shoeing | Mon 12/6<br>6:30-8:00 | <a href="https://smd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqu2tqT8jH93y9YPIbCVqPAQtiBVre07M">https://smd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqu2tqT8jH93y9YPIbCVqPAQtiBVre07M</a> |
| Basketball   | Thu 12/02             | Recording: <a href="https://youtu.be/rLe0Oo-WybQ">https://youtu.be/rLe0Oo-WybQ</a>  |

**Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars**

| <i>Sport</i>        | <i>Date/Time</i>      | <i>Registration / Recording Link</i>  |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Bowling - Regionals | Thu 10/28             | Recording: <a href="https://youtu.be/n19rEZjDbgg">https://youtu.be/n19rEZjDbgg</a>  |
| Bowling-Finals      | Wed 12/01             | Recording:  |
| Alpine              | TBD                   |   |
| Snow-shoeing        | Wed 2/23<br>7:00-8:00 | <a href="https://smd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpd-CgrDwvG92aHjDnDDeD1RxqKj8RXjX9">https://smd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpd-CgrDwvG92aHjDnDDeD1RxqKj8RXjX9</a> |
| 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@smd.org](mailto:manger@smd.org), 410.242.1515 x122
  - Basketball
  - Cheerleading
  - Flag Football
  - Soccer
  - Softball
  - Tennis
  - Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball, Cross Country Skiing

• **Ryan Kelchner, Sports Director**

- [rkelchner@smd.org](mailto:rkelchner@smd.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](mailto:bpresident@somd.org), 410.242.1515
 

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Alpine Skiing    | Swimming   |
| Bowling (10 pin) | Locally Popular Sports: Figure Skating, Sailing, |
| Cycling          | Short Track Speed Skating, Duckpin Bowling       |
| Kayaking         |  |

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

- **Steve Bennett, Senior Director, Competitions**
  - [sbennett@somd.org](mailto:sbennett@somd.org), 410.242.1515 x102
 

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Summer Games         | USA Games   |
| Winter Games         | World Games |
| Fall Sports Festival |             |

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](mailto:zcintron@somd.org), 410.242.1515 x161
 

|                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| IUS Athletics (Track & Field) | IUS Strength & Conditioning |
| IUS Indoor Bocce              | IUS Tennis                  |
| IUS Outdoor Bocce             |                             |

### 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, Senior Director, Unified Champion schools**
  - [mkelly@somd.org](mailto:mkelly@somd.org), 410-979-5839
  - Unified Champion Schools, Youth Leadership, and School Engagement
- **Will Augustin, AmeriCorps Unified Champion Schools Coordinator**
  - [waugustin@somd.org](mailto:waugustin@somd.org)
  - Unified Champion Schools, Youth Leadership, and School Engagement
- **Mackenzie Irvin, Senior Director, Inclusive Health & Fitness**
  - [mirvin@somd.org](mailto:mirvin@somd.org), 857-939-4867
  - Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming
- **Kayla Shields, Healthy Communities Manager**
  - [healthyathletes@somd.org](mailto:healthyathletes@somd.org)
  - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs
- **Sam Boyd, Volunteer Director**
  - [sboyd@somd.org](mailto:sboyd@somd.org), 443-766-9245
  - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- **Allie Christman, AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator**
  - [achristman@somd.org](mailto:achristman@somd.org)
  - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- **Mike Myers, Baltimore Region Director**



- [mmyers@somd.org](mailto:mmyers@somd.org), 410-242-1515
- Baltimore County and City
  
- ***Brian Anderson, AmeriCorps Metro Programs Coordinator***
  - [banderson@somd.org](mailto:banderson@somd.org)
  - Baltimore City
  
- ***Brooke Jenkins, AmeriCorps Eastern Shore Coordinator***
  - [bjenkins@somd.org](mailto:bjenkins@somd.org)
  - Kent County, Upper Shore, Lower Shore