

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

January 7, 2022

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



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Welcome

Our first Area Memo of 2022! I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and could safely celebrate, relax, rest, and recharge. As we start the year, we understand that COVID numbers are tracking high, which presents challenges for programs with protocol, facility availability, and ability to get coaches and other volunteers. We will continue to provide our athletes and unified teammates as many in-person programs as possible. And don't forget to...THINK SPRING! Now is a great time to start recruiting coaches and volunteers for our spring sports season----- as we saw last year, our outdoor spring sports provided a great opportunity for even more participation! **Looking forward to working together to make 2022 a great year of sports for our athletes and partners!**

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) SOMD Staffing Update: Welcome, Alex Lateulere

Alex joined our staff on Tuesday, January 4th as SOMD's new Donor Relations Manager. In this role, Alex will work most directly with Sue Jacobs and Julie Oltmann to provide research and administrative assistance designed to support the financial goals and strategic growth of the organization.

Alex grew up in Southern Maryland, attending Lackey High School, where he first experienced SOMD High School Interscholastic Unified Sports programs as a Tennis athlete. Alex went on to study History and Political Science at UMBC, graduating Cum Laude with Bachelor of Arts degrees in both. He was also served as the President of the Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity at UMBC.

Prior to SOMD, Alex worked for Homes for America. It was during this time, seeing the actual impact and value of the work being done, that Alex determined he ultimately wanted to pursue working for a non-profit organization. Most recently, Alex was the Tennis Pro at the Elkridge Club.

Please join me in welcoming Alex to the team! He can be reached at alateulere@somd.org or by calling 410-242-1515, extension 103.

(NEW) Monthly Area Director Call

After taking December off for our monthly Area Director calls, we'll start up again on:

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Calendar invitations for all 2022 meetings were sent out earlier this week, but you can also use this link to register for the upcoming calls:

<https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvcO-urjstHtNtbBqLnO4cYLCViATPMSVZ>

(NEW) COVID Tracking Website

After challenges with the Brown University website following the Maryland Health Department data breach, we have decided to switch our tracking website. We will now be pulling data directly from the Maryland Health Department COVID Data Dashboard.

While their full dashboard is filled with great information on many metrics, you can access the statewide and county by county cases per 100,000 by visiting: https://state-of-maryland.github.io/DailyCaseRatebyJurisdiction/index_fullscreen.html

(NEW) Brave in the Attempt Talks: Speakers Wanted

Special Olympics Maryland is hosting the 6th Annual Brave in the Attempt Talks again in 2022 presented by the First Lady. The talks will take place on Wednesday, June 15th, 2022 at 7pm. It will be at Towson University. These are 5-7 minute TED-style talks around a theme. The theme in 2022 is "**More Alike Than Different.**" Yes, we did borrow this from the National Down Syndrome Society.

We are opening up the talks to 2 or 3 Special Olympics Maryland athletes. Please visit the website below for more information or reach out to me at jschriml@somd.org. If you are an athlete and interested you may fill out the application at the website. If you know someone who might be interested in participating please forward this to them.

<https://virtualsomd.com/2022-brave-in-the-attempt-talks/>

We are recruiting now because there are a series of monthly practices that each speaker must attend leading up to the event in order to ensure maximum success.

Thanks in advance for sharing.

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)

As a reminder, programs run by local school systems will follow the school system protocol.

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

Update: Processes are underway to update these as often as every week. All of the reports below were updated on Thursday, Jan 6 and are expected to be updated again on Friday, Jan 14. The most current information, of course, is always available to Areas within 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.

(Updated) 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.

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

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

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://virtualsomd.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>
Alpine	Tue 11/30	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbE_T-MM8pA
Snow-shoeing	Mon 12/6	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIPDiLvZ4E
Basketball	Thu 12/02	Recording: https://youtu.be/rLe00o-WybQ

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Date/ Time</i>	<i>Registration / Recording Link</i>
Alpine	TBD	

Snow-shoeing	Wed 2/23 7:00-8:00	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpd-CgrDwvG92aHjDnDDeD1RxqKj8RXjX9
Basketball	Wed 3/23 7:00-8:00 (tentative)	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsceyhpz4uHdegMsR1zkwvDM65uySFtArE

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	Softball
Cheerleading	Tennis
Flag Football	Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball, Cross Country Skiing
Soccer	

- **Ryan Kelchner, Sports Director**

- rkelchner@somd.org, 410-242-1515 x171

Athletics	Powerlifting
Bocce	Snowshoeing
Distance Running	Locally Popular Sports: Dance, Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey
Golf	

- **Ben President, Sports Director**

- 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, 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, 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 Programs Team

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

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

- **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**
 - kshields@somd.org, 410-404-4115
 - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs
- **Sue Snyder, Unified Physical Education Consultant**
 - ssnyder@somd.org
 - Unified Physical Education
- **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