

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

January 24, 2022

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



Contents

- Welcome
- [Maryland ABLE Account Information Session – 2/17/2022](#)- **NEW**
- [Alpine Opportunity – Area-Led – Whitetail Resort – January 29](#) - **NEW**
- [Monthly Area Director Call](#)- **Updated**
- [Polar Bear Plunge](#)- **NEW**
- [Finance Updates](#)- **NEW**
- [Updating GMS with USA Games Medicals](#)- **NEW**
- [COVID Tracking Website](#)
- [Brave in the Attempt Talks- Speakers Wanted](#)
- [Current State-Wide COVID Risk Level Available on SOMD’s Coach Resource Page](#)
- [Certification Status Reports - Where Can You Find Them \(In Addition To GMS\)?](#)
- [Finance Reminders](#)- **UPDATED**
- [2022 Social Clubs](#)
- [Return to Activities Website](#)
- [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.

(NEW) Maryland ABLE Account Information Session- 2/17/2022

Special Olympics Maryland is excited to partner with Maryland ABLE to offer a MarylandABLE Account information sessions for Special Olympics Maryland athletes and families! Kelly Nelson from Maryland ABLE will share an overview of how **ABLE accounts** can help people with disabilities and their families to save and invest for the future without jeopardizing federal, state, and local benefits such as SSI and Medicaid. **Families will learn about tax-advantaged savings and investment options qualified disability-related expenses.** Join us to learn about the eligibility criteria, enrollment process, features of a Maryland ABLE account and the account management process. We invite current ABLE account holders to join us to learn about some exciting new updates to the program!

DATE: 2/17/2022

Time: 7:00PM

Registration Link: https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkce2gqT8oGtR5oi5OcpIIvmE0jv94Sf-L?xzm_rtaid=1TCeZmKWSuWXF38bAVhKA.1641929797209.155974cf14b429450a13451cda511669&xzm_rhtaid=611

(NEW) Alpine Opportunity – Area-Led – Whitetail Resort – January 29

As you know, a recent update in the Return to Activity protocol allows traveling outside of the state to SOMD/Area hosted activities.

We are very pleased to announce an opportunity for Alpine skiing programs to have an on-snow training session on Saturday, January 29 at Whitetail Resort. This is essentially a time when Alpine coaches can bring

their Alpine athletes and Unified partners to host an on-snow training session on a Saturday, yet do so with the reduced rates at Whitetail typically only available on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

This opportunity will not be operated in the same manner as the “typical” SOMD hosted on-snow days. *It is best to view this as your program going to Whitetail for your own training session, but getting the special rate on a Saturday.*

Pre-registration is REQUIRED. Complete the attached registration form and send it to Ben President, SOMD Sports Director for Alpine, **no later than Wednesday, January 26 at 5:00** (we need to submit the needed counts by the following morning). Submissions after that deadline may not be included in this opportunity. Only registered participants in your Alpine program with all required forms and certifications are eligible to participate.

- Lift ticket only: \$26 (69% discount)
- Lift plus rental: \$36 (74% discount)

This is unfortunately not an opportunity for snowshoeing athletes.

- Date: Saturday, January 29, 2022
- Arrival
 - We anticipate having the lift passes available by 8:30 am (lifts open at 9:00)
 - A ticket/pick-up location at Whitetail will be IDed no later than Thursday, January 27
 - The designated head coach for your program must pick-up the passes **before 10:00 am** (individual skiers will NOT pick up passes)
 - As always for events of this type, all costs for lifts/rentals will be charged back to Areas)
- This is essentially **your training program** that you are holding at Whitetail, with SOMD simply arranging for the reduced rate to be available on a Saturday. Since this is your training program:
 - Screening: If screening is required due to the current COVID risk level, individual programs will be responsible for performing that screening (including any temperature checks if needed), just as you are responsible at your typical training sessions.
 - There will NOT be any space within Whitetail’s facilities reserved for Special Olympics where programs can leave items, etc. Again, you are operating your own training program.
 - As with any training session, coaches should have copies of athlete medicals with them.
 - There will not be any race courses/gates set up for Special Olympics at this session.
 - We do not expect any Alpine GMT members to be at this session at this time (again, this is essentially your own program’s training day)
 - Lunch will NOT be provided/coordinated by SOMD. Do whatever you do when you hold your own ski trips (bring your own in a backpack, purchase onsite if protocol allows, etc..)
 - Please be sure to refer to the requirements for all skiers on Whitetail’s website.

On Thursday, Jan 27 at 7:00pm we’ll have a brief (30 min max) optional Q&A Web session for coaches bringing their programs on the 29th. This is optional but may be helpful if you haven’t taken a group on your own to Whitetail, Roundtop or Liberty this season.

<https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpcuqrqToiGdcfauGUkhqkBI1akEN8gmFz>

(NEW) Polar Bear Plunge

We’ve made the tough but safe decision to move this year’s Plunge to March. Since Maryland is now in a 30-day state of emergency and COVID cases continue to rise, we know that we need to act in the best interest of our Plunger’s health and the community at large. While this is certainly not what we hoped for, we know that it’s the best and, honestly, the only decision given the situation and our concern for everyone’s well-being.

Event dates will be as follows:

- Super Plunge – March 18th-19th
- Cool Schools Plunge: March 24th
- Police and Corporate Plunge: March 25th
- Maryland Plunge: March 26th

Don't forget – you can always Plunge Your Way and participate virtually anytime between now and the end of March. Reach out to Jessie with any questions: jhayes@somd.org (646-573-6964)

(Updated) Monthly Area Director Call

Our next Area Director monthly call will be held on:

Wednesday, February 16, 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) Finance Updates

NEW SAGE INTACCT ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE – A Tips & Tricks email was sent out this week with some reminders to help with entering invoices into the system. Please make sure to read through and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Going forward, the monthly Financial Reports will be posted on the Dashboard in the Sage software. I have a couple of Area Directors looking at a draft version of that Dashboard now. Once I get their feedback and make any adjustments, I should be able to push this out to everyone. Stay tuned...

END OF YEAR – Since my last communication, I have not received any in-kind contribution information from any program. Please set aside some time in the next couple of weeks to cumulate the in kind for your program for 2021 and send it to me as soon as possible. This is very important to our program. Without it, we would not be able to do as much programming as we do now.

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) Updating GMS with USA Games Medicals

The USA Games Athlete Medicals and supporting USA Games documents meet SOI's criteria for athlete participation in USA Games. While the medical exam portion of the USA Games Medical is completely acceptable to SOMD, we need two additional items to satisfy our participation criteria. These two additional items need to be properly completed by the athlete's guardian. These two items are:

1. The first page of the SOMD Athlete Medical
2. The Athlete Participation Waiver of the SOMD Athlete Medical

The first page of the SOMD Athlete Medical, shown below, provides essential information required for To repeat, the medical exam portion of the USA Games Medical is completely acceptable. When the Registration Manager receives SOMD's properly completed First Page and Waiver of SOMD's medical, they will be attached to the athlete's USA Games Medical, and the athlete's record will be updated in GMS.

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

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.

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.

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://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

Sport	Date/ Time	Registration / Recording Link
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=ZIPDiLvVZ4E
Basketball	Thu 12/02	Recording: https://youtu.be/rLe0Oo-WybQ

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

Sport	Date/ Time	Registration / Recording Link
Alpine	Tue 2/22 6:30-8:00	https://smd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAuf-urrDgrGNx4VxFFJhnE5bFwRKmfg4K-
Snow-shoeing	Wed 2/23 7:00-8:00	https://smd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpd-CgrDwvG92aHjDnDDeD1RxqKj8RXiX9
Basketball	Wed 3/23 (tentative) 7:00-8:00	https://smd.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@smd.org, 410.242.1515 x122

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

- **Ryan Kelchner, Sports Director**

- rkelchner@smd.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@smd.org, 410.242.1515

Alpine Skiing	Swimming
---------------	----------

Bowling (10 pin)
Cycling
Kayaking

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 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