

# Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

## February 19, 2022

**Special  
Olympics  
Maryland**



### Contents

- Welcome
- [Winter Games Updates](#) - **NEW**
- [Basketball Updates](#) - **NEW**
- [Feedback on Future Summer Games Dates](#) – **NEW**
- [John’s Crazy Socks Scholarship](#)- **NEW**
- [Registration Reminders](#)
- [Polar Bear Plunge](#)
- [Finance Updates](#)
- [COVID Tracking Website](#)
- [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](mailto:jabel@somd.org).

### **(NEW)** Winter Games Updates

- *Alpine Events:* The Alpine GMT is determining whether it can over both the Novice Slalom and the Novice Giant Slalom at this year’s one-day Winter Games. Key factor is the ability to supplement the course setting team (which is smaller this year due to challenges with COVID, etc.) with several skilled skiers who can assist with course setting (this would involve skiing without poles while carrying bamboo and other equipment). If you know of anyone interested, please have them contact Sam Boyd ([sboyd@somd.org](mailto:sboyd@somd.org)), SOMD’s volunteer director. All individuals must have all Class A requirements completed and provide proof of being fully vaccinated.

### **(NEW)** Basketball Updates

- Qualifying for State Championships
  - Thank you to those Areas who have been able to schedule competitions
  - Challenges with facility access has severely limited number of opportunities
  - BB SMT planning to host a 5v5 competition either 3/5 or 3/6
  - THIS YEAR ONLY: SMT has adjusted minimum requirement to advance to state championship is competing in your designated required qualifier
  - Strongly encourage creating other competition opportunities
- State Championship (University of Maryland College Park)
  - Saturday, March 26: 5v5 Traditional and 5v5 Unified
    - Athletes, partners, coaches, volunteers may not compete in the state basketball tournament and participate in the Saturday Polar Bear Plunge
    - Should consider impact on team and teammates when making a decision
    - Encouraged to utilize the “virtual plunge” option if attending the basketball tournament
  - Sunday, March 27: 3v3, PDU, Individual Skills (in shifts)

- **ALL GAMES WILL BE IN THE XFINITY CENTER** (including use of main court)

**(NEW) Feedback On Future Summer Games Dates**

With an agreement in development with Towson University for Summer Games carrying through 2025, SOMD **might** have the opportunity to shift typical dates to the 3<sup>rd</sup> full weekend in June.

This opportunity (if it is possible) would, among other things:

- Allow additional time for training and competitions
- Gets further away from the last weeks of school (which can cause some challenges for folks in education)
- Gets away from High School graduation period (which impacts ability to set up for the games)

It would also mean that the Summer Games would frequently fall on Father's Day weekend and might impact some vacation plans for some families.

We have a survey that will be live on Sunday morning where your Area leadership can provide input into that decision. Please use the following link ([https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SG\\_Dates](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SG_Dates)) **which will be live on the morning of Feb 20 and open for Area Leaders**. All responses must be received by Sunday, February 27 to be considered in this decision. Thanks.

**(NEW) John's Crazy Socks Scholarship**

***Attention Special Olympics Maryland athletes. See this scholarship opportunity for a person on the Autism Spectrum to further their education. If you are interested apply at the link below.***

***Feel free to share.***

(FROM JOHN'S CRAZY SOCKS) <https://www.facebook.com/johnscrazysocks>

We are excited to announce our 4th annual Autism Can Do Scholarship! With Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism. A \$5,000 Grant for a Person on the Autism Spectrum to Further His or Her Education  
The winner of the 2022 Autism Can Do Scholarship will not only receive the \$5,000 grant but John's Crazy Socks will create the winning sock design and sell it in our online store! A portion of the proceeds of the sale of the 2022 scholarship will be used to fund the scholarship next year.

<https://johnscrazysocks.com/pages/autism-can-do-scholarship>

**Registration Reminders**

The friendly reminder is to please upload forms and certifications **to your Area folder on the K drive**. This includes concussion certifications, Protective Behaviors, and Coach Trainings. These can be saved in your Volunteers folder on the K drive. It also goes without saying that to receive these documents via email from the Areas presents an additional workload for the Registration Manager.

Thank you in advance for following this process. Thank you in advance for your understanding when the Registration Manager replies to your emailed certifications and forms sent either directly to her or to [coaches@somd.org](mailto:coaches@somd.org), asking that you please upload these to your Area's volunteer folder.

Thank you.

**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 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>
- Cool Schools Plunge: March 24<sup>th</sup>
- Police and Corporate Plunge: March 25<sup>th</sup>
- Maryland Plunge: March 26<sup>th</sup>

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](mailto:jhayes@somd.org) (646-573-6964)

### **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.

### **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](https://state-of-maryland.github.io/DailyCaseRatebyJurisdiction/index_fullscreen.html)

### **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://virtualso.md.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**

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Date/ Time</b>	<b>Registration / Recording Link</b>
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	Recording: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIPDiLvVZ4E">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIPDiLvVZ4E</a>
Basketball	Thu 12/02	Recording: <a href="https://youtu.be/rLe0Oo-WybQ">https://youtu.be/rLe0Oo-WybQ</a>
Athletics (T&F)	Tue 3/15 6:30-7:30	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtcO2orT8tGdLfRfC7n2iBepECuAmX3JAO">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtcO2orT8tGdLfRfC7n2iBepECuAmX3JAO</a>
Bocce	Thu 3/17 6:30-7:30	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pduuvrzMrGtMmpwlCQP3fyn_5vyll062h">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pduuvrzMrGtMmpwlCQP3fyn_5vyll062h</a>
Cheer-leading	TBA	
Softball	TBA	
Swimming	TBA	

#### **Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars**

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Date/ Time</b>	<b>Registration / Recording Link</b>
Alpine	Tue 2/22 6:30-8:00	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAuf-urrDgrGNx4VxFFJhnE5bFwRKmfg4K-">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAuf-urrDgrGNx4VxFFJhnE5bFwRKmfg4K-</a>
Snow-shoeing	Wed 2/23 7:00-8:00	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpd-CgrDwvG92aHjDnDDeD1RxqKj8RXjX9">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpd-CgrDwvG92aHjDnDDeD1RxqKj8RXjX9</a>
Basketball	Wed 3/23 7:00-8:00 (tentative)	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsceyhpz4uHdegMsR1zkwvDM65uySfArE">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsceyhpz4uHdegMsR1zkwvDM65uySfArE</a>
Athletics (T&F)	TBA	
Bocce	TBA	
Cheer-leading	TBA	
Softball	TBA	
Swimming	TBA	

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jabel@somd.org), 410-242-1515 ex. 121
- Any general question, COVID Protocol

- **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**
  - [kshields@somd.org](mailto:kshields@somd.org), 410-404-4115
  - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs
  
- **Sue Snyder, Unified Physical Education Consultant**
  - [ssnyder@somd.org](mailto:ssnyder@somd.org)
  - Unified Physical Education
  
- **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