

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

March 4, 2022

**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.

(NEW) Jersey Mike's Supports Special Olympics

This March is Jersey Mike's 12th annual Month of Giving and they are partnering with Special Olympics programs nation-wide to support the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games. Here in Maryland there are 40 locations participating in this campaign. Throughout March customers can donate through Jersey Mike's mobile app and in-store contributions. The Month of Giving campaign will culminate with Jersey Mike's Day of Giving on Wednesday, March 30, when local Jersey Mike's restaurants will give 100% of the day's sales to support the 2022 USA Games in Orlando and all athletes attending. To be clear, every dollar spent passes through Jersey Mike's to support the Games and our athletes. Last year the national campaign raised \$15.4m and we need your help to help us exceed that this year.

Team Maryland athletes and Unified teammates **will benefit directly from the campaign as donations will be used to fund onsite costs while also helping underwrite the cost-per-delegate attending USA Games this year.**

Help us celebrate Jersey Mike's Month of Giving! Throughout the month, athletes, unified teammates, coaches, and area leaders will be able to participate in store visits! Additionally, we are encouraging you to visit Jersey Mike's stores around you (not just on March 30!), to enjoy a sub and take an SOMD Sub Selfie:

1. When you get your order, take a selfie with your sub
2. Head to Social Media to post tagging Special Olympics Maryland (**@SPolympicsMD**), Jersey Mike's (**@JerseyMikes**) and use **#SOMDSubSelfie**, **#JerseyMikesGives**, **#2022USAGames**, **#ShineAsOne**

We will be working with Team Maryland athletes and coaches along with Area Directors to coordinate store visits on March 30 as a way of showing our support. We will provide more details with focused outreach efforts to Area Directors, athletes, coaches, family members and volunteers who live near these locations to help us support those efforts. Attached please find the roster of stores.

(NEW) Spring Sports (AT, BC, CH, SB, SW) – Updates For Webinars and Coach Trainings

We're looking forward to the upcoming Spring Sports Season and Summer Games and are very optimistic that we will be able to conduct these in a manner very close to how things were done prior to the onset of the pandemic. Appropriate cautions and Return to Activity protocols will of course be followed, but assuming the "COVID numbers" remain low, we things things will be able to seem much more familiar.

We've updated the section of this Area Memo that lists [Coach Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Webinars](#) to include ALL such webinars for the Spring sports of Athletics (Track & Field), Bocce, Cheerleading, Softball, and Swimming. As you and your Area Leadership are formulating your plans for the upcoming season, be sure to have your coaches attend the pre-season webinar for the sports you plan to host.

Be certain to also check the Sports Calendar that is attached to the Area Memo. Many competitions for Spring sports have been added to the calendar as well as several coach training opportunities to both continue to develop the skills of your coaches as well as to certify (or extend the certification) of your coaches. As your Area program determines what competition opportunities it can host, please be sure to send the information to the appropriate Sport Director so it can be included.

As noted, at this point we are moving forward with plans to hold the 2022 SOMD Summer Games in much the same manner as Summer Games was held prior to the pandemic, including multi-day competitions in most sports and overnight housing for delegations.

Also, as a reminder, be sure that at or prior to the start of your training program your coaches, athletes, partners, volunteers and families know what has been shared with Area leaders over the past many months, notably:

- The 2022 SOMD Summer Games will be held June 17-19, a week later than has "typically" been the case.
- SOMD Return to Activity Protocol requires that anyone staying overnight in Special Olympics provided or arranged housing must provide documentation of being fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.
- The sports of Cheerleading, Softball and Swimming require ALL Athletes, Unified Partners, Coaches and delegation volunteers to be fully vaccinated in order to participate in any training or competition activities involving more than one Area program.
- The sports of Athletics (Track & Field) and Bocce do not require participants to be fully vaccinated.
- All participants in any Special Olympics program must have a completed and up-to-date Communicable Disease Waiver (CDW) prior to the start of participation (in addition to all other required forms and certifications)

Within the next week or so, a communication will be sent to all individuals who served as coaches for these Spring sports in 2019, 2020 or 2021 (and for whom we have a valid email in GMS). That communication will provide the above noted information and include the dates and links for the pre-season and per-competition webinars and registration information for coach trainings. The Area Director and Area Director Support email distribution lists will also receive that mailing.

We'll discuss more detailed plans for Summer Games during the March Area Director Webinar and Meeting and look forward to sharing those plans with you.

(NEW) Health Messenger Training

Health Messenger Training is back next month! Please share the below message and link with your athletes!

Do you have a passion for living a fit, healthy lifestyle? Do you want to become more knowledgeable about the importance of good physical and emotional health, communicating with family members/friends/healthcare professionals, and being a self-advocate for your own health? In order to create more effective public health programs, improve health systems, and engage communities to support the health of people with Intellectual Disabilities, people with ID must have leadership roles!

A Health Messenger is a Special Olympics athlete who has been trained to serve as a health and wellness leader, educator, advocate, and role model within their Special Olympics communities and the community at large. The Special Olympics Maryland's Health Messenger training program empowers Athletes to serve as leaders in Health and are trained to create healthy lifestyles for themselves and their community. We are only accepting a few new Health Messengers so please apply if you are interested!

Use this link to apply: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HealthMessengers2022>

Please reach out to Kayla Shields at kshields@somd.org if you have any questions!

(NEW) Athlete Trading Card Order

We will be putting another order in for Athlete Trading Cards in the middle of April.

If you would like us to print 100 cards for you please fill out the form below.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Jl-c1Uqa2kFftp28j_RspQGP6zVZmjKi20kvnVh7YNY/edit

You must answer **ALL** the questions. You must also upload at least two photos. These photos must be of the highest and clearest quality you can get.

There is no cost for these cards. You do not have to be an athlete leader but you must have been active in 2019. We are not counting the pandemic years.

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)

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, 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 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)

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

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

Sport	Date/ Time	Registration / Recording Link
Basketball	Thu 12/02	Recording: https://youtu.be/rLe0Oo-WybQ
Athletics (T&F)	Tue 3/15 6:30-7:30	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtcO2orT8tGdLrFfC7n2iBepECuAmX3JAO
Bocce	Thu 3/17 6:30-7:30	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pduuvrzMrGtMmpwCQP3fyn_5vylo62h
Cheer-leading	Tue 3/22 7:00-8:30	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkcOiurD8qGtICX0dJWvx3cYiF_AnIJMTV
Softball	Wed 3/16 7:00-8:30	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcoce6vqTgrHNzWagKF1xe8WAGAlcuiUyJY
Swimming	Mon 3/21 6:30-8:00	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlode2tpz0sHtyM-HM0UsQgi6agsGzRVCeV

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

Sport	Date/ Time	Registration / Recording Link
Basketball	Wed 3/23 7:00-8:00	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsceyhpz4uHdegMsR1zkwvDM65uySfArE
Athletics (T&F)	Tue 6/14 6:30-8:00	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ocOuhrTwoGdKH2xVlW1Dp2E-9TZLZ9UNq
Bocce	Wed 6/15 6:30-8:00	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvfU-srjsqE9F1_HclHkqzWR1m6NkBpmHF
Cheer-leading	Wed 5/25 8:00-9:00	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtdeGqTgiEtxHwKJDWt_JkuWFhiPRw6aV
Softball	Wed 5/25 7:00-8:00	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZllcu2tqj0uHNb9HHW-D-PMS4zqbOgUllFr
Swimming	Wed 6/8 6:30-8:00	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpfuioDgiHddPpoTGRpCb5bIEWQwKnNEW

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, Senior Sports Director**
 - manger@somid.org, 410.242.1515 x122
 - Basketball
 - Cheerleading
 - Flag Football
 - Soccer
 - Softball
 - Tennis
 - Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball, Cross Country Skiing
- **Ryan Kelchner, Sports Director**
 - rkelchner@somid.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@somid.org, 410.242.1515
 - Alpine Skiing
 - Bowling (10 pin)
 - Swimming
 - Locally Popular Sports: Figure Skating, Sailing,

Cycling
Kayaking

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