

# Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

## April 18, 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](mailto:jabel@somd.org).

### **(NEW)** Happy Volunteer Appreciation Week!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Today is the first day of Volunteer Appreciation Week, and we can’t start our Area Memo without thanking YOU for making programs possible. As our spring season continues to pick up and more and more athletes and Unified Teammates get on the field, pool, track, court, and mats, we are so appreciative of the work of YOU, our Area Leaders and Coaches in providing these high-quality experiences for our participants.

THANK YOU for all you do!

### **(NEW)** Monthly Area Director Call

Our Monthly Area Director Call will take place on Wednesday, 4/20, at 6:30pm. Please use the link below to register:

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

### **(NEW)** Contract Reminders

***Before you sign on the dotted line...DON’T (Please!)***

With so many events happening this spring, just another reminder that any contracts, agreements, or other documents that need signatures (including electronic signatures) must be sent to [risk@somd.org](mailto:risk@somd.org) for review and signature.

### **(NEW)** COVID Metrics and Protocol Level – Numbers Are Trending Towards “Moderate Risk”

As of the writing of this article for the Area Memo, Maryland’s key metric for determining under which “level of protocol” we operate (cases per 100K) has us operating in the “Low Risk” or “green” category. However, the numbers are trending upward and we may very soon be in the Moderate Risk (yellow) category or even

the Significant Risk (orange) category both have which some additional requirements in order to hold a training or practice session or a competition. Areas should know the percentage of participants in their program who have provided proof of being fully vaccinated since if they are at 80% or higher they may still be able to operate in the Low Risk category.

Area leaders and coaches are also very strongly encouraged to review the updated protocol (dated March 7, 2022) which was reviewed during earlier Area Director meetings as well as during each of the pre-season webinars. The updated protocol is available on SOMD's Return to Activity site (<https://virtualsomd.com/return-to-play/>) and there are links to that site on the Coach Resource Pages. Jeff Abel will be doing a brief refresher during the April 20 Area Director web meeting as well. If you have any questions, reach out to Jeff ([jabel@somd.org](mailto:jabel@somd.org)).

### **(NEW) Spring Sports and GMS – Requests for “Advancement”**

Want to avoid entering the same athletes in the same competitive events in multiple games and competitions? SOMD HQ can help you with using the “advancement process” in GMS, which will copy your entries from one “games” in GMS to another. This can be a tremendous time savings. There are a few things to keep in mind when requesting SOMD to assist with this:

- Send any requests to [mczarnowsky@somd.org](mailto:mczarnowsky@somd.org) allowing *at least two business days* to complete the process (*in addition to finding time within other work duties to accomplish this, it can only be done when no one else is in the GMS games involved*)
- We are not able to select specific events within a sport to include and some to exclude – we need to advance all events in a sport
- We are not able to select members of specific sub-programs – e.g., if you have two swimming programs we can't pick the entrants from only one of those programs
- You must go in and check/edit the registrations after the advancement is completed (*both because of the above note as well as because on occasion some things don't transfer properly*).
- Notes in the comments section of entries typically don't get copied over and will likely need to be re-entered manually (such as stroke adjustments in swimming, etc.)
- Do not already have the athletes entered in the events in games into which they will be advanced (the system won't copy the scores but will *completely ignore that event* – e.g., if you want us to advance track events don't already have them entered in those track events in the subsequent games).
  - The *person* can already be in the games into which the advancement will take place, they just cannot be entered into any of the *events*.
- In the request sent to [mczarnowsky@somd.org](mailto:mczarnowsky@somd.org) be sure to include the following:
  - The name of the person making the request
  - The GMS Games *from* which you want entries copied
  - The GMS Games *into* which you want the entries advanced
  - The delegation(s) to be involved
  - The sport to be copied
  - For each sport, which scores you want copied (entry scores or results)
  - For bocce we will always copy the entry scores (since there are no “results” scores)
  - For Athletics and Swimming, we can only advance results scores once they have been entered into GMS by the Area hosting the earlier games, otherwise the only choice is to advance the entry scores from the earlier games)
- If there are multiple people from your Area doing work within GMS be sure all know that this process has been requested and the requirements noted above (otherwise there can be confusion and someone may do something that will undermine the process).

We know that Areas which have used this service in the past have found it provides a significant time savings, particularly getting entries into Summer Games, but it will only work if you follow the requirements above.

### **Summer Games – Earlybird HOD Web Meeting – April 21**

Given the large number of changes for Summer Games and that it has been 3 years since we've held a "typical" Summer Games, we thought it would be helpful to hold an "Earlybird" web meeting for Heads of Delegation (HODs) to answer as many questions as possible as well as to get your thoughts/input on some issues. That session has been scheduled for Thursday evening, April 21, 2022 from 6:30-8:00pm (*may not last 90 minutes but please plan on it possibly going that long*). Those Areas planning to send a delegation to the 2022 Summer Games are strongly recommended to have their HOD join this session. To register, please use the following link:

<https://somed.zoom.us/j/88380840427?pwd=aTVNaWhQY0xBRXJhMmpGTHFvTTZXUT09>

### **(UPDATED) Track & Field – Volunteer Officials Training for Area Competitions and In-House Meets – April 25**

*Unfortunately, an incorrect registration link was sent with this article when originally posted on April 2. The link included here is correct. We apologize for any inconvenience.*

It's been three years since most Area programs have hosted a track meet, either as part of their Spring Games, as a multi-Area meet, or as an in-house track meet. One of the greatest challenges most programs have is making sure that their volunteer officials know both the rules of the specific event as well as how to properly and fairly officiate. To help you with this we have scheduled a session specifically for training your coaches and event volunteers how to officiate the most typical events held at Area athletics (track & field) competitions. This includes athletics officials who are somewhat new to officiating Special Olympics events.

If you are hosting any track & field competition this season, we strongly encourage you to have the following individuals attend this session so they are ready for your meets:

- Head coaches
- Head official or referees
- Starters
- Finish Line Coordinators
- Lead Official at A Field Event
- Others interested in becoming better officials

The session will be held virtually on Monday, April 25, 2022, from 6:30 – 9:00 pm and folks should register in advance as we will be distributing some materials a few days in advance of the session so we can get the most out of the limited time together. To register, please use the following link:

<https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tcOCsrjMpGNMuUvT6VSz4FJSmT65e6NQ8>

Do you have a track meet prior to April 25 (e.g., Anne Arundel County, others)? If, please contact Mike Czarnowsky to make arrangements for working with your team prior to your event ([mczarnowsky@somed.org](mailto:mczarnowsky@somed.org)).

### **Summer Games - Coach SONA Sport Certification Requirement Clarification**

We received some requests to clarify the requirements for Coach Sport Certification for Summer Games, based on some potentially confusing statements.

**Head Coach** for a Sport/Team: Must have the following certifications valid through June 19, 2022

- Volunteer Application/Screening
- Protective Behaviors
- Concussion Certification
- Communicable Disease Waiver (CDW)
- Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination (in sports for which full vaccination is required)

- SONA Sport Certification at the Head Coach level (or higher) in the sport which they will be coaching at Summer Games
  - *Note: At Summer Games, typically there is ONE Head Coach per Area for each sport/team. Anyone who has earned a SONA Sport Certification at the Head Coach level for their sport but is not the designated “Head Coach” for their Area will be designated at a “Coach” in that sport for the purposes of Summer Games.*

**Assistant Coach** for a Sport/Team: Must have the following certifications valid through June 19, 2022

- Volunteer Application/Screening
- Protective Behaviors
- Concussion Certification
- Communicable Disease Waiver (CDW)
- Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination (in sports for which full vaccination is required)
- SONA Sport Certification at the Assistant Coach level (or higher) – the Assistant Coach Sport Certification is not specific to a sport

Reminder that for any level of SONA Sport Certification, the individual must have completed the Coaching Special Olympics Athletes course (or, if they are only coaching Unified Sports they need to have completed the Coaching Unified Sports course).

Anyone an Area has registered for Summer Games as an Assistant Coach, Coach or Head Coach who has not met the requirements for that role will be changed to a Volunteer or Sport Volunteer by SOMD (*assuming they have met the requirements for that level role*).

### **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/>

### **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>
Athletics (T&F)	Tue 3/15	Recording: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxjeLLyTuE4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxjeLLyTuE4</a>
Bocce	Thu 3/17	Recording: <a href="https://youtu.be/Ys-SemMJV9Q">https://youtu.be/Ys-SemMJV9Q</a>

Cheer-leading	Tue 3/22	Recording: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyGvVXJRBzk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyGvVXJRBzk</a>
Softball	Wed 3/16	Recording: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDGZiaAwVfU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDGZiaAwVfU</a>
Swimming	Mon 3/21	Recording: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4rvK6MHLmw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4rvK6MHLmw</a>

### Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Registration / Recording Link</i>
Athletics (T&F)	Tue 6/14 6:30-8:00	<a href="https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ocOuhrTwoGdKH2xVIW1Dp2E-9TZLZ9UNq">https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ocOuhrTwoGdKH2xVIW1Dp2E-9TZLZ9UNq</a>
Bocce	Wed 6/15 6:30-8:00	<a href="https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvfU-srjsqE9F1-HclHkqzW1m6NkBpmHF">https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvfU-srjsqE9F1-HclHkqzW1m6NkBpmHF</a>
Cheer-leading	Wed 5/25 8:00-9:00	<a href="https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtdeGoqTgiEtXhWkJDWt-JkuWFhiPRw6aV">https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtdeGoqTgiEtXhWkJDWt-JkuWFhiPRw6aV</a>
Softball	Wed 5/25 7:00-8:00	<a href="https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZllcu2tqi0uHNb9HHW-D-PMS4zqbOgUllFr">https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZllcu2tqi0uHNb9HHW-D-PMS4zqbOgUllFr</a>
Swimming	Wed 6/8 6:30-8:00	<a href="https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpfuioDgiHddPpoTGRpCb5bIEWQwKnNEW">https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpfuioDgiHddPpoTGRpCb5bIEWQwKnNEW</a>

### 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](mailto:manger@somid.org), 410.242.1515 x122
 

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

- **Ryan Kelchner, Sports Director**

- [rkelchner@somid.org](mailto:rkelchner@somid.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@somid.org](mailto:bpresident@somid.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@somid.org](mailto:sbennett@somid.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@somid.org](mailto:zcintron@somid.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](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