

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

January 27, 2023

**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.

Shout out a volunteer

This memo's shout outs go to...

Pam Grosz

Pam has gone above and beyond to make sure sports are being offered to athletes in the Lower Shore Community Program. Whether it's coaching, finding facilities, or sending updated paperwork late at night during her only down time, Pam has worked very hard to make sure sports training opportunities are available. Thank you for all the work you've done and continue to do in the Lower Shore!

Ashley Gereli

Shout out to Ashley Gereli for getting her Teacher of the Year group fully involved in Cool Schools Plunge! She reached out looking for opportunities to get involved in the fundraising and volunteer efforts at Plunge, and is now bringing a group of public educators to Cool Schools Plunge on Thursday for the day. Great to have support from Harford County Public Schools!

Please use the link below to submit your shout outs!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LV88QG9>

(NEW) Plunge Season Out of Office Reminders

Starting 1/27 and continuing through 2/4, many SOMD Staff Members will be at Sandy Point State Park for Plunge Activities. Apologies in advance for any delay in response!

(NEW) Plunge Volunteers...Sign Up Here!

Last call for Plunge Volunteers! Do you, or someone you know what to volunteer during our many Polar Bear Plunge Activities? Join the many dedicated Plunge Volunteers helping to make our event a success! Visit:

<https://somd.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/plunge> to sign up for many opportunities!

(NEW) Spring Event Classy Needs?

Are you hosting an Inspiration Walk or other fundraiser this spring that needs online registration and/or peer to peer fundraising? Remember CLASSY is a great resource made available to our Area Programs at no cost. If you have a spring fundraising event and would like a classy page set up, please email Jeff (jabel@somd.org) so we can start talking about how to use the site!

(NEW) Finance Corner...with a Twist!

IN KIND – 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. Don't delay. In order to be ready for the auditors, please send your reports to Kim Wijnands kwijnands@somd.org by **FEB 13, 2023!**

As a way to learn how to find financial information on your Area DASHBOARD I bring you

Dashboard Trivia –

The first 2 Area programs who **respond to Joanne** with the correct answer win a gift card. YEAH!!!

And the Question is.....What is the 12/31/2022 balance of your Area's "1042 – Savings/Money Market – Area" account?

If you have any questions about this update, *other than the answer to the Trivia*, please reach out to Joanne.

JTCC Tennis Clinics are back!

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR ATHLETES!

Registration for JTCC's Special Olympics tennis program for the winter and spring sessions is OPEN! Located in College Park, MD, the tennis center's mission is "Tennis for Everybody" and is proud to partner with Special Olympics MD to offer year-round tennis clinics. The clinics focus on building a strong athletic foundation while learning tennis stroke and strategy fundamentals through an engaging game-based format. Additionally, JTCC has a low coach-to-player ratio to ensure athletes are getting individualized, level-based instruction that they need to take their game to the next level, whether they are beginner Level 1, high-performance Level 6, or anywhere in between!

The clinics are held on Sundays from 4-5:30pm at JTCC (5200 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740). Winter Session runs January 29-April 2 and the Spring Session runs April 16-June 11. You do not need to attend all clinics within a session to participate and benefit from the program! To register for the program, visit <https://jtcc.clubautomation.com/calendar/event-info?id=72463&style=0&isFrame=0> and contact Gabby Hesse at ghesse@jtcc.org with any questions.

Plunge and Dunk Reminder

Remember, there's still time to sign up your local program teams and recruit new teams! And we are committed to the 70/30 net revenue split with new teams recruited by local programs for any of the plunge properties!

Visit: www.plungemd.com and www.dunkmd.com to register!

(UPDATED) Winter Games 2023 – Information/Input Web Meetings

SOMD is very excited to have Winter Games return to Wisp Resort in Garrett County. Given the significant amount of change that this involves, we have scheduled several additional briefing and input sessions so we can work to get folks as much information as possible and provide an opportunity for suggestions far enough in advance of the Games that we may be able to implement them for 2023. Please see the list of sessions below and join us for the one(s) that match your role with Winter Games.

We are also very pleased that our relationship with Whitetail Resort continues and that we were able to hold a limited but valuable on-snow training date for Alpine skiers on January 7. We look forward to seeing skiers out on the snow again on February 11 and are hopeful that our snowshoers will be able to join them.

Information and Input Sessions

These optional sessions will provide the latest information on what the Winter Games Management Team has planned related to Winter Games. Much of this information will NOT be complete or final, but will provide an idea of what to expect as well as offer the opportunity for coaches and Heads of Delegations to provide thoughts and suggestions at a time when there is a possibility of implementing the suggestions for this year's games.

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
COACHES - Alpine	Thu, Jan 19	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzM2jmvX7XY
COACHES - Snowshoeing	Thu, Jan 19	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7qy8Uh5L_I
Heads of Delegation	Thu, Jan 26	Recording: https://youtu.be/OA7Y0xEinv4

Pre-Competition COACHES Webinars

These sessions are the "traditional" pre-season webinars for Coaches which will review the specifics of the sport competitions for Alpine and Snowshoeing as well as some basic information related to Winter Games.

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Alpine	Mon, Feb 20 6:00-7:00 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUIdOCupzqkEtXvnzt8Zfah8pirrZiAZ4dx
Snowshoeing	Thu, Feb 23 6:30-7:30 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMoceuopjIjGdLh-WXsRFkRGpN6EH-sd37I

Other Information / Briefing Sessions

These sessions will be briefings for HODs and Athletes/Families for general aspects of Winter Games. This is an opportunity to learn the latest about Winter Games prior to your arrival.

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Heads of Delegations (HODs ONLY)	Thu, Feb 16 6:00-7:00 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qfu2vqzkrH9W4m3C4fJtlzEYbH64nnIIA
Athletes and Families	Tue, Feb 21 6:00-7:00 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMocO-srzsvGtFYnBAnfZ7d3hhgEOPAJthL

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	Wed, Nov 30	Recording: www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEDme1liaeg
Snowshoeing	Wed, Nov 16	Recording: www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhOK0vbwKxE
Basketball	Tue, Dec 6	Recording: www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZSK6DkTYQI

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Alpine	Mon, Feb 20 6:00-7:00pm	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUldOCupzkgEtXvnzt8Zfah8pirrZiAZ4dx
Snowshoeing	Thu, Feb 23 6:30-7:30pm	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMoceuopjljGdLh-WXsRFkRGpN6EH-sd37l
Basketball	Wed, Mar 15 6:00-7:00pm	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvdeCurT0uGt3BEiBXVP8qGTmqr--X8usF

Sports Department Contacts – Assigned Sports

Your Area Director and Area Leadership should always be your first point of contact. However, should you have questions regarding a specific sport, coach education, or competition, please work with the corresponding Sport Director.

- **Melissa Anger, Senior Sports Director**

- manger@somed.org, 410.242.1515 x122

Basketball	Soccer
Cheerleading	Softball
Flag Football	Tennis

*Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball,
Cross Country Skiing*

- **Ryan Kelchner, Sports Director**

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

Athletics	Golf
Bocce	Powerlifting
Distance Running	Snowshoeing

*Locally Popular Sports: Dance,
Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey*

- **Elizabeth Kramer, Sports Director**

- ekramer@somed.org, 410.242.1515 x127

Alpine Skiing	Kayaking
Bowling (10 pin)	Swimming
Cycling	

*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@somed.org, 410.242.1515 x102

Summer Games	Fall Sports Festival	USA Games
Winter 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@somed.org, 410.242.1515 x161

IUS Athletics (T&F)	IUS Outdoor Bocce	IUS Tennis
IUS Indoor Bocce	IUS Strength & Conditioning	

Overall Sports Leadership (any sports/competition questions that aren't related to a specific sport)

- **Mike Czarnowsky, Vice President, Sports**

- mczarnowsky@somed.org, 410.241.6280

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
- **Megan Larson, Coordinator, Unified Champion Schools**
 - mlarson@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, Director, Inclusive Health and Fitness**
 - kshields@somd.org, 410-404-4115
 - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs, Unified Physical Education
- **Abi Bauman, Young Athletes Program Coordinator**
 - abauman@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Community Young Athletes 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
- **Lindsey Maritzel, Volunteer Coordinator**
 - LMaritzel@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- **Mike Myers, Baltimore Region Director**
 - mmyers@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Baltimore County and City
- **Allie Boyd, City Schools Coordinator**
 - aboyd@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Baltimore City Schools APE Sports Program
- **Kyler Mellott, Region Director- East**
 - kmellott@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Harford, Cecil, Kent, Upper Shore, Lower Shore
- **Lily Bean, Region Director- West**
 - lbean@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Carroll, Frederick, Washington Allegany, Garrett