

Field Team

HOT TOPICS CALL

February 10, 2022



February 10, 2022 - Program Updates:



Return to Activities



Go-To Resource: [SOPA Website](#)

- **COMING SOON:** We will be making updates to the current plan
- **Reporting Positive COVID Exposures:**
 - **Region 2 - The Wilds Region:** Kristen Lenig klenig@specialolympicspa.org
 - **Region 5 - GLVPR:** Jason Merola jmerola@specialolympicspa.org
 - **Region 7 - Capital Area Region:** Shannon Pechart spechart@specialolympicspa.org
 - **Philly** - Michelle Cordell mcordell@specialolympicspa.org
 - **Pittsburgh** - Jessie Merckle jmerckle@specialolympicspa.org
 - **Other Programs - report to your assigned Field Director**
 - Jim Binz jbinz@specialolympicspa.org
 - Gina Reid greid@specialolympicspa.org
- **COVID Questions:** Contact Chelsea Hammell chammell@specialolympicspa.org

February 10, 2022 - Program Updates:

We are continuing to operate under the current R2A plan:

- Masks must be worn at all times (indoors and outdoors) except when engaged in physical activity.
- Social distancing should be adhered to as much as possible during trainings (especially in indoor spaces).
- Participants attending overnight State Games (Summer Games) **must be vaccinated**

IMPORTANT: 80% vaccination rate

- Coaches should be collecting COVID vaccination cards and sharing with local program leaders.
- Screening and Tracking form will track vaccination %
- If in significant community transmission rate and under 80% vaccinated **MUST** operate under Significant guidelines, which include:
 - Less than 50 participants when indoors
 - Contact sports only running drills
 - Social distancing required at all times
 - Spectators not permitted
 - Travel not permitted outside of local program

February 10, 2022 - Program Updates:

SOPA STAFFING UPDATES:

Currently Posted:

- **Regional Development Director** - Greater Lehigh Valley Pocono Region
- **Programming Department Coordinator** (Background Checks/Clearances)
- **Philadelphia Unified Champion Schools Director** - NEW Position
- **PT Director of Human Resources** - NEW Position

Soon to be Posted:

- **Field Director/Associate Regional Executive Director** - NEW Position
- **PT Sport Director Region 7** - NEW Position

Vacant:

- **Database Coordinator** (Rita Schofield currently covering)
- **Manager of Volunteer Services** (Chelsea Hammell Currently covering)

February 10, 2022 - Program Updates:

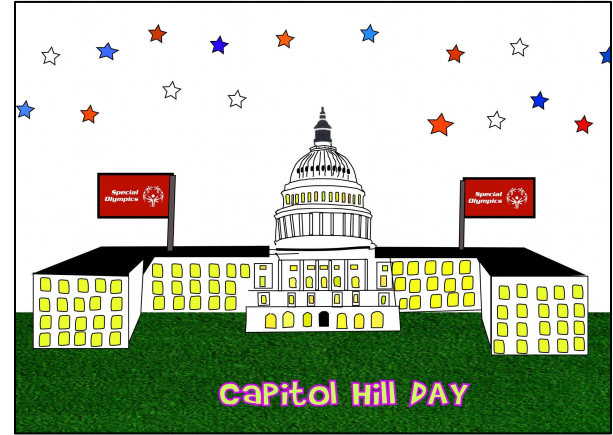
Capitol Hill Day!!

Representatives from Special Olympics Pennsylvania met with various members of Congress over the last two days to advocate for support of the important, life-changing work Special Olympics does in our state for health, education, and sports!!

The athletes proudly representing us at Capitol Hill Day were: Jennifer Bottomley, Aaron Keller, Brittany Thayer, Chassidy Addleman, Caitlin Baran & Tommy Kreutzer.

And our SOPA Staff were: Kerry Wevodau, Nicole Jones, Julie Benjamin, Pam Velasquez & Andrew Fee.

Join us in spreading the word. Ask your member of Congress to take action today by visiting: <http://bit.ly/TakeActionForSO>



February 10, 2022 - Program Updates:

Regional Updates:

- **First successful Regional Plunge - Capital Area Regional Plunge!**
 - Great participation and engagement
 - Continued work to raise MORE money through Polar Pop and Rain Rallies
- **Next Plunge: Lehigh Valley Plunge: Saturday February 19th**
 - Greater Lehigh Valley Pocono Region
 - Click here for [MORE Info](#)
- **Gearing up for the Spring season**
 - Stay tuned for Spring Sport info sessions.
 - Sports Offered & Training Sites
 - Competition Options
 - COVID Guidelines
 - Regional Sport Director Coordinating.
- **Coming Soon:**
 - Website Finalization
 - Online Registration Rollout for Regions



February 10, 2022 - Program Updates:



Financial Education Opportunities:

- SOPA has partnered with the **PA Department of Banking** to provide all athletes ages 14+ with a fun and educational game called “**Fraud BINGO**”!
 - SOPA and the PA Department of Banking have agreed to host **four** Fraud BINGO games in 2022 with the first taking place on **Tuesday, March 15th from 7-8 PM**.
 - Registration can be completed right [here](#) and there is no limit to the number of participants.
- On Tuesday, May 10th, SOPA and Bank of America will be hosting the second of four “Better Money Habits” trainings, teaching athletes how to smartly spend and save their hard-earned money.
- More information to come next month!
- Please contact Jordan Schubert at jschubert@specialolympicspa.org with any questions.

February 10, 2022 - Program Updates:

Unique Athlete Opportunity:

- Special Olympics received a request from the Carnegie Mellon Tikkun Olam Makers (TOM) a global movement of communities that create affordable solutions for people living with disabilities to provide a challenge for their makers competition.
- We are looking to identify someone living with a disability that they can work with to design a product that will help them compete in a sport.
- Deadline for submission: Tuesday, February 15, 2022
- Please contact Andrew Fee at afee@specialolympicspa.org with any athlete suggestions or questions.

February 10, 2022 - Program Updates:

Competition & Training:

Indoor Winter Games

- **Saturday, March 5, 2022** (One day event)
 - Speed and Figure Skating
 - York Ice Arena: 941 Vander Ave, York, PA 17403
 - Tentative Schedule
 - 7:30 a.m. - Arrival
 - 8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Opening Ceremonies
 - 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Competition
 - Floor Hockey
 - Susquenita High School: 309 Schoolhouse Rd, Duncannon, PA 17020
 - Tentative Schedule
 - 7:30 a.m. - Arrival
 - 8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Opening Ceremonies
 - 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. - Competition
- Sheetz Lunches will be served



February 10, 2022 - Program Updates:

Competition & Training:

Delegations

- **80%** of the delegation (those listed on your Google registration) must be **fully vaccinated** in order to attend (if Community Transmission Rates are under 100).*
 - Coaches should be collecting COVID-19 vaccination cards for athletes, Unified Partners, coaches and delegation volunteers by **Thursday, February 24th**.
- **ALL** delegation members (those listed on your Google registration) must provide a negative COVID-19 test result taken on or after **Thursday, March 3rd**.
 - SOPA to mail Test kits to Program Leaders

*Community Transmission Rates (daily new cases per 100K, 7-day rolling average)

If Community Transmission Rates are 100 and above in your county, in the host county or as a state overall, we will require 100% COVID-19 Vaccinations for all participants. We will make a final decision on **Friday, February 25th**.

Spectators

- Spectators allowed, but will be assigned to spectator only areas.

February 10, 2022 - Program Updates:

Competition & Training:

Snow Sports

- Snowshoe event Saturday, March 5th at Mt. Pleasant High School with interested western programs.
- Alpine event at Hidden Valley with interested western programs.
- Alpine event with York County on Thursday, February 24th.
- Alpine event at Blue Mountain with Lehigh program.
- Any program interested in a Snow sports culminating event, contact Bruce Bach at bbach@specialolympicspa.org

February 10, 2022 - Program Updates:

Competition & Training:

Bowling - Info shared on Tuesday's weekly update

- **West**

- Region 1: Eastway Lanes, Erie
- Region 9: AMF Lanes Mt. Lebanon, Allegheny

- **Central**

- Region 2, 3, & 8: Northland Lanes, State College
- Region 7: ABC West, Harrisburg

- **East**

- Region 4 & 5 Jordan Lanes, Allentown
- Region 6 - Limerick Lanes, Limerick



February 10, 2022 - Program Updates:

Competition & Training:

USA Games

- Training Camp: March 12-13 in the Lehigh and Lancaster areas
 - Center Valley: Athletics, Equestrian, Gymnastics, Softball, and Powerlifting
 - Lancaster: Bocce, Bowling, Golf, Swimming, Volleyball, and Tennis
 - Team Sports: Flag Football, Soccer, and Basketball offsite
- Family & Friends Registration
 - Registration is live!
 - Family Webinar: **Tuesday, February 15th at 7:00pm**



February 10, 2022 - Program Updates:

Competition & Training:

2021-2022 Spring/Summer Sports Pre-Season Coaches Meetings

- [Registrations links](#) can be found on the SOPA website
 - Sports & Games, Sports Offered, then select your sport

Sport(s)	Date	Time
Athletics	February 22	7:00 pm
Swimming	February 23	7:00 pm
Basketball & Softball	March 1	7:00 pm
Gymnastics, Tennis, Equestrian & Golf	March 2	7:00 pm

February 10, 2022 - Program Updates:

Competition & Training:

Winter Training Numbers

- Excel Forms were sent to Managers in the weekly Managers email and the Training Directors in the BiWeekly All thing Training Email.
- Due Date: **Monday, March 21st** by midnight.
- Submit forms to
 - GLVPR - jmerola@specialolympicspa.org
 - The Wilds - klenig@specialolympicspa.org
 - Capital Area - spechart@specialolympicspa.org
 - All other Local Programs/regions - sportstraining@specialolympicspa.org

February 10, 2022 - Program Updates:

Competition & Training:

Non-Sport Trainings -

- **Principles of Coaching** - March 19th & 20th
- **Coaching Special Olympics Athletes** –June 25th & 26th
 - Both Sessions are:
 - Saturday: 8:00 am to 10:30 am
 - Sunday: 8:00 am to 11:00 am
 - This is a 2 day, non-sport specific training course.
 - This course counts as Continuing Education for all sports currently certified in
 - CSOA - Bronze level Certification and CE Credits for teachers
 - P of C - Silver level Certification



February 10, 2022 - Program Updates:

Competition & Training:

Sport Specific Training

- We are planning for in-person training schools!
- We need to know where each sport is needed.
- Please have your volunteers go to their Vsys Portal and follow these steps to tell me what they need?
- <https://vsys.specialolympicspa.org/>
 - Sign in
 - On the blue banner click on - Training Schools Webinars and More
 - Then - Sport Skills Training Interest (Level 1)
 - Ensure your information is complete
 - Click on a sport in each season or click N/A if not interested.
- Requests are due ASAP!

February 10, 2022 - Program Updates:

Special Events:

Take advantage of the many fundraising events this winter/spring; bring 75% revenue back to your program! Go to www.plungepa.org to learn more about all of these options.

1. **Plunge: 3** remaining plunges **between now and March 5!**
 - a. Lehigh, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia Day Two
 - b. *Please note that cool schools that missed the Cool Schools Plunge in Philly are welcome to sign up for Philadelphia Plunge Day 2!*
2. **Polar Pop** - Register at one of the site locations OR if your program is not near one of the plunge sites, you can choose the general VIRTUAL POLAR POP option to sign up to pop (Register by March 31, 2022)
3. **Rain Rally** - Like last year's April Showers, is designed to provide cool schools, universities and others a way to fundraise on site (Register by April 30, 2022)

[To assure that your program receives its revenue share \(75% net\)](#), please be sure to note your local program when registering both team and individuals joining that team.

February 10, 2022 - Program Updates:



Special Events:

The **2022 Paterno Family Beaver Stadium Run** will return to State College on Sunday, April 24, 2022. You can learn more at www.stadiumrun.org.

- Registration is live - access through the website; early registration ends on February 15
- There is a VIRTUAL OPTION for those not in the State College area

Options: You can choose to run the 5k or the 2-miler; and the **virtual RUN/WALK options are available as well**. We will provide the RUNSIGNUP app information in the for those running virtually - more info on the virtual competitions will be announced in the next few weeks

Revenue Share: Again, when registering, please note if you are supporting a specific local program to assure that program receives its 75% revenue share

These are easy ways to bring back money to your region and your program, so **PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT!**

February 10, 2022 - Program Updates:

Special Events:

FUTURE state event fundraising opportunities for the programs: *Rev. Share Opportunities*

In 2022, the **UNCathlon** will be available statewide as a fundraising opportunity

- In **Pittsburgh**, the Uncathlon will return to Peters Township High School (Likely early October)
- This year, we are looking to further engage our athletes with corporate partners through our local programs, schools and colleges for a more unified experience; ***more details coming this spring***
- For the first time, we will bring an in-person UNCathlon to the **Philadelphia** Region this fall (Location/Date TBD)

For more info on fundraising opportunities, please contact Andrew Cader at

acader@specialolympicspa.org

QUESTIONS???



Next Call: Thursday, March 10th @ 7 PM

[REGISTER NOW](#)