

Field Team

HOT TOPICS CALL

June 10, 2021



June 10, 2021 - Program Updates:



Return to Activities



Go To Resource: SOPA Website <https://specialolympicspa.org/covid-19-protocols>

- Updated regularly
- **NEW:** Updated guidance on in-person training effective June 1
 - All mitigation steps remain:
 - Site requests required
 - Waivers required for ALL participants
 - Masking, screening & tracking, social distancing required
 - No more levels of transmission
 - No limits on training based on county borders
 - Phase updates:
 - Phase B (10 participants) lasts minimally 2 weeks
 - Phase C (25 participants) eliminated
 - Phase D (up to 50 participants) can be entered after training 2 weeks in phase B

June 10, 2021 - Program Updates:

COVID-19 Vaccine Information:

Special Olympics encourages everyone who has access to the COVID-19 vaccine to get vaccinated.

Do you have volunteers, athletes or families with COVID-19 vaccine related questions? Is anyone experiencing any difficulties finding or getting a vaccine? Need special accommodations? We're here to help! Special Olympics Pennsylvania encourages anyone needing assistance to email sopa@specialolympicspa.org or call toll free 1-833-251-1130 for individualized support!

Please share this information with anyone associated with Special Olympics Pennsylvania who may find it useful. If we don't have the answers we'll find them for you!

- [Vaccine Education Center](#) on the SOPA website
- [Vaccine Education Toolkit for Local Programs](#) in an attempt to educate as many athletes as possible with your assistance.

June 10, 2021 - Program Updates:

Prepping for In-Person Activity:

- Survey Coaches: Who is returning?
 - Identify gaps
 - Recruit new volunteers
- Identify sports you can offer
- Secure training sites:
 - Find alternate locations if venues are not available
 - Insurance & contracts to John Brownson jbrownson@specialolympicspa.org
- Educate coaches on R2A protocols
 - Share information & expectations
 - Coach Meeting
- Educate families & athletes on R2A protocols
- Reminder: Meetings & Gatherings require [site request forms](#)!

June 10, 2021 - Program Updates:

Training Schools (Sport Certifications):

- Register or submit interest for a training school on your VSys portal under **Training Schools, Webinars and More**
- Soccer, Volleyball, Flag Football and Roller Skating will return to in-person training schools; Powerlifting will be virtual and in-person - if you need coaches certified in these sports please have them submit an interest form by **June 27th**
 - Submitted interest WILL determine locations of these training school offerings

Zoom/Virtual

- Saturday, August 7: LDR/W - 9 a.m. and Bocce - 1 p.m.
- MUST register in advance, register on your VSys portal

June 10, 2021 - Program Updates:

Non-Sport Certifications:

- Register on your VSys portal under **Training Schools, Webinars and More**

Coaching Special Olympics Athletes (Bronze level course, open to anyone)

- In-Person: Saturday, August 28th, 8:30 -11:30 a.m. at Penn Stater Conference Center (Leadership Conference weekend)
 - If attending Leadership, indicate you are attending this session on your registration form
- Zoom/Virtual: September 18 -19, morning sessions (exact times TBD)

Principles of Coaching (Silver level course, open to anyone)

- Zoom/Virtual: October 23-24, morning sessions (exact times TBD)

June 10, 2021 - Program Updates:

Expired Athlete Medicals

Group 3: Medical Expired July 2021-December 2021

- Information will be shared in May
- Same process as group 2
- If athletes want to travel (sectionals states) they **MUST** have updated medical.

Athlete Leadership:

Athlete Leadership University will be hosting a virtual **Healthy Lifestyles** session **September 10th-12th**.

- Healthy Lifestyles is the training of an athlete to become a Health and Fitness Coordinator, which is an athlete committed to promoting healthier lifestyles for athletes, unified partners, coaches and families
- More information on the session can be found [here](#).
- All athletes will receive [this email](#) with more details on Friday, June 11th
- Questions? Contact Jordan Schubert at jschubert@specialolympicspa.org

June 10, 2021 - Program Updates:

2021 Leadership Conference: Save the Date – August 28-29, 2021

Annual Awards Reminder: 2021 Annual Awards & Hall of Fame Nominations

Special Olympics Pennsylvania will be awarding the following awards at the 2021 Leadership Banquet. Please taking time to fill out nomination to show volunteers and athletes how valued they are to Special Olympics Pennsylvania & their local programs.

2021 – Annual Award Forms & Requirements

- 2021 - [Volunteer of the Year](#) - Nomination close - June 25, 2021
- 2021 - [Male/Female Athlete of the Year](#) – Nominations close – June 25, 2021
- 2021 - [Program of the Year](#) - Nomination close – June 25, 2021
- 2021 - [Coach of the Year](#) - Nomination close – June 25, 2021
- 2021 - [Hall of Fame Forms & Requirements](#) – Nominations close – June 25, 2021

Registration information will be shared **NEXT** week.

If you have any questions contact – Carolyn Kushner, ckushner@specialolympicspa.org

June 10, 2021 - Program Updates:

Volunteer - Years of Service Pins:

Our volunteers are an integral part of our community, and we want to be able to recognize all of you for your many years of dedicated service to your program and Special Olympics Pennsylvania. We are collecting the information for our annual "Years of Service" Pins this summer. Please review your profile, so we have the correct "First Year in SOPA" information. **We are looking for all profiles to updated by September 2021.**

Log into your profile: <https://vsys.specialolympicspa.org/>

- Review "**My Information**" tab
- Click "**Update profile**"
- Fill in or correct "**First year in SOPA**" box

Questions: Contact Carolyn Kushner: ckushner@specialolympicspa.org

June 10, 2021 - Program Updates:

T.E.A.M. Tuesdays

On our next TEAM Tuesdays on **June 29th, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.** (please note the date change, which was made to accommodate Virtual Summer Games).

Please use the link below to register for the June presentation, as well as all of the other T.E.A.M. Tuesdays webinars.

Registration Link for the 2021 T.E.A.M. Tuesdays Webinar Series:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jZHhsC8TSl-s4R96D-03ng

June 10, 2021 - Program Updates:

Competition & Training

USA Games 2022

- Summer Sport Athlete drawing for USA Games will be held on Sunday, June 27th at 2:00pm during our Virtual Summer Games Closing Ceremonies.
- Summer Sport selections will be drawn from the [2018 & 19 Summer Games Results](#)
- Summer Sports include:
 - Athletics
 - Basketball
 - Equestrian
 - Golf
 - Gymnastics
 - Softball
 - Swimming
 - Tennis
- Questions: Email Mike Ermer mermer@specialolympicspa.org

June 10, 2021 - Program Updates:

Competition & Training (Continued)

Summer Bowling Qualifier:

- Summer Bowling Qualifier Interest Form: **Deadline to submit is: Thursday, June 10th by 11:59 pm TODAY!!**
 - [West Interest Form](#)
 - [Central Interest Form](#)
 - [East Interest Form](#)
- This is an **INTEREST ONLY** request. Selecting **YES** does not commit your athletes or Unified Partners to the Summer Bowling Qualifier.
- Each Local Program tab contains the list of athletes and Unified Partners that were listed on the 2020 VSys bowling sectional roster that **have not** already qualified for the 2022 USA Games.
- Only athletes and Unified Partners that are interested and appropriate to attend the 2022 USA Games should be selected to compete in the Summer Bowling Qualifier.

June 10, 2021 - Program Updates:

Competition & Training (Continued)

Summer Bowling Qualifiers (In-Person)

- West - Saturday, August 21 - Erie, PA
- Central - Saturday, August 21 - Harrisburg, PA
- East - Sunday, August 22 - Allentown, PA

Important Dates

- Registration Info Shared - July 16th
- Google Registration Link Shared to Local Programs- July 27th
 - No VSys Roster is due, we will pre populate registration form according to your Summer Bowling Qualifier Interest Form
- Registration Due - August 5th
 - 9 game scratch average
- Scratch/Score Update - August 16th

If you have any questions, reach out to Bruce Bach at bbach@specialolympicspa.org

June 10, 2021 - Program Updates:

Virtual Summer Games:

- **Opening Ceremonies & Virtual Block Party** – Sunday, June 13th from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- **SOPA Tonight (Talk Show)** - June 14-18, 7 p.m. each night
- **Fitness Heptathlon Awards** - Saturday, June 19th at 2 p.m.
- **Be a Healthy Athlete** - June 21-27, register for appointments throughout the day
- **Closing Ceremonies, including USA Games drawing** - Sunday, June 27th 2 p.m.
- **Victory Dance** - Sunday, June 27th 7 p.m.
- Visit our [Virtual Summer Games webpage](#) for more information.



**2021 VIRTUAL
SUMMER GAMES**

*Special
Olympics*
Pennsylvania



Presented by:

SHEETZ



TARRE APREALA



AIDEN MARPLE



JACKI ABEL



JACK FOUNDS



TIM GODBOUT

sopa
tonight!

june 14-18



**2021 VIRTUAL
SUMMER GAMES**



June 10, 2021 - Program Updates:

Healthy Athletes:

Special Olympics Pennsylvania needs your help in promoting a virtual opportunity that will allow our athletes to get ready for the sports season!

We are hosting a weeklong **Healthy Athletes virtual event**, presented by [Geisinger](#), from **Monday, June 21st to Sunday, June 27th**. It's an opportunity for athletes to meet with volunteer healthcare professionals and students to answer health questions, receive health education tips, and learn about resources in their local community.

There are six total disciplines available for virtual encounters (various time slots):

Opening Eyes (vision)	Health Promotion (better health and well-being)
Special Smiles (dentistry)	Healthy Hearing (audiology)
FUNfitness (physical therapy)	Strong Minds (emotional health)

June 10, 2021 - Program Updates:

Healthy Athletes:

When athletes are signing up for virtual encounters, they should keep record of their signup dates and times to ensure that they do not occur at the same time.

Athletes that participate in the Healthy Athletes virtual event will automatically be entered into different raffles to win prizes.



Be A Healthy Athlete Incentives
PRESENTED BY:
Geisinger

Check out the tiered Be a Healthy Athlete incentives below! Complete the specified number of Healthy Athletes visits during the virtual event (June 21st to 27th) and be automatically entered into a raffle for the chance to win one of the prizes in that tier.

TIER 1: COMPLETE 3 DISCIPLINES



Sheetz Gift Card (3)



Cooling Towel & SPF Hat



Yoga Mat



Binoculars



Water Bottle Infuser



Wawa Gift Card

TIER 2: COMPLETE 4 -5 DISCIPLINES



Nutribullet Blender



Foot Locker Gift Card



Wireless Earbuds



Sony Noise Cancelling Wireless Headphones



Under Armour Sport Sunglasses



Under Armour Gym Bag



Amazon Echo Dot



Personal Air Fryer

TIER 3: COMPLETE 6 DISCIPLINES



Nintendo Ring Fit Adventure (3)



Nintendo Switch Console with Joy Cons (3)



Scan the QR Code to the left to go to Sign Up Genius and Register for your Healthy Athlete Visits!



June 10, 2021 - Program Updates:

Healthy Athletes:

To promote the weeklong Healthy Athletes virtual event, Special Olympics Pennsylvania asks that you post the below blurb and picture attachment to your Local Program Facebook page at least twice before the upcoming event starting on Monday, June 21st.

Blurb:

BE A HEALTHY ATHLETE!

Get ready for the sports season by meeting with volunteer healthcare professionals in an online event, June 21-27!

- Receive health education tips
- Have your health questions answered
- Learn about resources in your local community

To sign up today, visit: www.signupgenius.com/go/sopaha



QUESTIONS???



Next Call: Thursday, July 8th @ 7 PM

[REGISTER NOW](#)