

Field Team

HOT TOPICS CALL

January 13, 2022



January 13, 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

January 13, 2022 - Program Updates:

IMPORTANT: Due to recent developments tied to community spread of the COVID-19 Omicron variant, and based on current transmission rates in our area, we shared some important updates with program leadership and COVID Coordinators last Friday.

Training: This guidance goes into effect **IMMEDIATELY**, but is not permanent. As rates begin to decline we will re-evaluate and adjust training protocols accordingly.

- If *county* transmission rate **or** rate of training site *location* is **100 or higher: 100% of participants MUST be vaccinated.**
- If *county* transmission rate **or** rate of training site *location* is **200 or higher:**
 - **No indoor training is permitted**
 - Outdoor training is permitted, but **100% of participants MUST be vaccinated AND group size must be 25 or less.**
- You will notice on the weekly transmission rate document that we have highlighted **YELLOW** FOR THE 100+ sites and **RED** for the 200+ sites

January 13, 2022 - Program Updates:

UPDATE TO GUIDANCE:

In order to “step down” out of your assigned level, you must maintain the next lower level for 2 weeks prior to changing training expectations to that level.

- If you are 200+ (**RED**) and move below 200, *you must be under 200 for 2 weeks prior to adjusting training.*
- If you are 100+ (**YELLOW**) and move below 100, you must be under 100 for 2 weeks prior to adjusting training

Local Program Events:

If you have upcoming events/invitationals, please make sure you reach out to review with your Field Director or Regional Sport Director. **Follow up with your Field Director or Regional Sport Director if you have questions.**

Definition of Vaccinated:

People are considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine

January 13, 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).
- Keep this in mind especially for bowling - athletes should not be sitting directly next to one another while waiting for their turn. It may require additional lanes to spread out more.
- Participants attending State Games (Indoor Winter 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

January 13, 2022 - Program Updates:

NEW Staffing Updates:

- **Development Database Manager:** Marcia Carnes mcarnes@specialolympicspa.org
- **Region 2 - The Wilds**
 - Sport Director - Kristen Lenig klenig@specialolympicspa.org
 - Development Director - Marie Costello mcostello@specialolympicspa.org
- **Region 7 - Capital Area Region**
 - Development Director - Kahley Stewart kstewart@specialolympicspa.org
- **Allegheny Sport Director:** Jessie Merckle jmerckle@specialolympicspa.org

Currently Posted:

- **Philadelphia Unified Champion Schools Director** - NEW Position
- **PT Director of Human Resources** - NEW Position

Soon to be Posted:

- Region 5 - Greater Lehigh Valley Pocono Region - Development Director
- 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

January 13, 2022 - Program Updates:

Regional Updates:

- Region 2 & Region 7 activated on January 1 and are officially named:
 - **Region 2: *The Wilds Region***
 - Executive Director: Pam Velasquez pvelasquez@specialolympicspa.org
 - Facebook: [Special Olympics Pennsylvania The Wilds Region](#)
 - **Region 7: *Capital Area Region***
 - Executive Director: Kerry Wevodau kwevodau@specialolympicspa.org
 - Facebook: [Special Olympics Pennsylvania The Capital Area Region](#)
- **Coming Soon:**
 - Website Finalization
 - Online Registration Rollout for Regions

January 13, 2022 - Program Updates:

Athlete Performance Training:

- Training will be available on the Online Portal
- Sample Coaches as well as Athlete Guides will be sent to Local Programs



January 13, 2022 - Program Updates:

Bank of America Better Money Habits Trainings:

- Bank of America offers a training called “Better Money Habits” to help people with intellectual disabilities learn how to smartly spend and save their money.
- SOPA and Bank of America have agreed to host 4 Better Money Habits sessions in 2022 with the first taking place on Tuesday, February 15th from 7-8 PM.
 - Registration can be completed [here](#) and is limited to 20 athletes.
- Please contact Jordan Schubert at jschubert@specialolympicspa.org with any questions.

January 13, 2022 - Program Updates:

Competition & Training:

USA Games

- Athletes selected for USA Games can be found on the SOPA Website
 - [USA Games webpage](#): Includes information about allocations, selection process, Team PA athletes and coaches
- Training Camp
 - Targeting March 12-13 in the greater Lehigh area. Confirmation soon.
- [Family & Friends Registration](#)
 - Registration is live!
 - Information will be sent to families in the **Team PA Family Contact List**

January 13, 2022 - Program Updates:

Competition & Training:

2023 Berlin World Games Sports Manager and Coach Application

- All applicants will need to be able to participate in:
 - U.S. Selection Camp – September TBD
 - 2023 Berlin World Games- June 17-24. (Plus an additional 3-4 days before the beginning of the event.)
 - On-going meetings
- U.S. Program CEO Approval and Head of Sport Approval
- Meet SO U.S.A. Coach requirements
- SONA is making some changes to the application, but if interested you can start to answer the questions and collect references.

We are still waiting on athlete slots.

January 13, 2022 - Program Updates:

Competition & Training:

Winter Games

- Email sent to the leaders of programs that indicated “Yes” on the LOI
- We will **not** hold Winter Games at 7 Springs Feb 6-8
- We have asked those programs to complete a [Winter Sports Survey](#)
- We will hold a Winter Sports Webinar Discussion next Thursday at 7pm. You can register for that webinar here: [Winter Sports Webinar Registration](#)

January 13, 2022 - Program Updates:

Competition & Training:

Indoor Winter Games

- Currently working with programs who sponsor Floor Hockey, Speed Skating and Figure Skating to gauge activity level and interest in events
- Will make decisions based on the local program feedback and COVID Transmission rates

January 13, 2022 - Program Updates:

Competition & Training:

Bowling

- **Goal:** to provide safe competition opportunities for as many athletes as possible
- **Our thinking:** In an effort to reach the most athletes, we will not hold a State Games event, but instead run Regional/Sectional events at a later date
- **Timing:** targeting late March/early April, but transmission rates will need to decrease to allow this to occur
- **Your feedback:** 2 quick questions via poll to get your feedback

January 13, 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

January 13, 2022 - Program Updates:

Competition & Training:

Winter Training Numbers

- 2022 Forms will be available on **Monday, February 7th** in the *All Things Training* email series.
- 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

January 13, 2022 - Program Updates:

Competition & Training:

Winter Sport Skill Trainings -

- Saturday, February 5
 - **Virtual Bowling** – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Non-Sport Trainings -

- **Coaching Special Olympics Athletes** – Saturday & Sunday, January 29 & 30th
 - 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 and towards Bronze level Certification.



January 13, 2022 - Program Updates:

Special Events:

Plunge/Pop Season: Three ways to participate as team/individual

www.plungepa.org

1. **Plunger/Too Chicken** - Register at one of the plunge site locations (Register by the event date)
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.

As of now, all remaining plunges WILL be in person at their respective locations - COVID measures will be in place at each location. To learn more about any sort of requirements, please reach out to Andrew Cader at acader@specialolympicspa.org

January 13, 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
- Weekend festivities will be announced as we get closer
- Sue Paterno's Endowment launch will now occur during that weekend as well

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 next couple weeks 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!**

January 13, 2022 - Program Updates:

Special Events:

Housekeeping:

1. The Eastern Plunge is no longer happening - this is now combined with the NEW Philly Plunge at Citizens Bank Park
2. The York Plunge is no longer happening - York plungers are encouraged to sign up for the Capital Area Plunge
3. The Polar Pop, part of the 2022 PA Polar Plunge Season, provides all programs an alternative to the in person plunges, whether you aren't located near a plunge or if you simply prefer doing something in the comfort of your home
4. Leprechaun Run - This event will not be happening in 2022; we will reassess the opportunity and the climate for it in 2023
5. COVID - We are actively monitoring the weekly numbers and the policies of the state, the county and venue of each location; all measures will be taken according to their guidance

Should you have any questions, please contact Andrew Cader (Director of Special Events & Corporate Stewardship) at acader@specialolympicspa.org.

QUESTIONS???



Next Call: Thursday, February 10th @ 7 PM

[REGISTER NOW](#)