

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

January 27, 2020



Contents

- Welcome
- [Welcome \(back\), Ben Varga!](#)- **NEW**
- [Plunge 2020](#)- **NEW**
- [Congratulations, Julian English!](#)- **NEW**
- [Risk Reminders](#)- **NEW**
- [Monthly Live CSOA Sessions Scheduled at SOMD HQ thru May](#) – **NEW**
- [March Area Leader Meeting](#)- **NEW**
- [Principles of Coaching Live Course](#) – March 7, 2020 & June 20, 2020
- [Coach Education and Development - Overview, Updates and GMS Webinars](#) – 3 More Offered - **UPDATED**
- [2020 Basketball Championships Confirmed for Mount St Mary's Univ & Gov Thomas Johnson HS](#) - **NEW**
- [GMS – Name Change For Training Registration “Games”](#)
- [Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Webinars](#)
- [Community Sports Registration Deadlines For Most of 2020](#) - **UPDATED**
- [Upcoming ALPS Trainings](#)- **NEW**
- [Sports Directors – Assigned Sports](#)
- [Questions?](#)

Welcome

Welcome to the SOMD Area Memo!

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.

(NEW) Welcome (back), Ben Varga

I am very happy to announce that Ben Varga has accepted the offer of Healthy Communities Program Manager with Special Olympics Maryland. Ben is a December 2019 Graduate of Towson University with a degree in Sports Management. Ben recently completed an internship with Special Olympics Maryland during the Fall 2019 Semester. Through his many interviews, Ben was able to draw on his previous experience with SOMD to clearly articulate how he would use Health and Fitness Programs to enhance sport experience for our athletes. Personally, I am very proud of Ben for taking his first professional steps with SOMD and know that he will be a great addition to our Local Programs team!

As a reminder, the Healthy Communities Program Manager will be funded, in full, by the Healthy Communities grant through SOI. The program works to reach more athletes and enhance sport and competition experiences through the integration of health and fitness programs.

I'll be bringing Ben to as many events, competitions, and meetings early in his time with us so that he can meet as many of our program leaders as possible, so please help me welcome Ben to the team!

(NEW) Plunge 2020

We are all coming off of a great Plunge Week! Though donations are still coming in and numbers are being finalized, we are excited by the growth and records achieved at this year's Plunge. While we will share a more in-depth report at our March Area Directors Meeting, we wanted to send a quick thank you to those Area Leaders who organized Plunge Teams, volunteered, tweeted, and supported this year's event!

(NEW) Congratulations, Julian English!

Congratulations to Julian English who was invited to participate in Special Olympics Virginia’s XPERIENCE Tennis Tournament in Charlottesville, VA. The Xperience brings together 32 of the best tennis players in Special Olympics from across the country. After going 3-0 in pool play, Julian earned top seed in Division 3A, beating opponents from North Carolina, Massachusetts, and New York. Julian ended the tournament with an exciting win in the 3-4 Playoff, earning him a Bronze Medal.



(NEW) Risk Reminders

Please remember that all contracts and requests for COIs must be sent to risk@somd.org for review by Rhonda and Jim’s signature. The email address, risk@somd.org, was set up to ensure that these important documents don’t get lost in our inboxes. *Also, a reminder that the only person authorized to sign any form of agreement on behalf of our organization is our CEO.*

(NEW) Monthly Live CSOA Sessions Scheduled at SOMD HQ thru May

SOMD is pleased to host four live sessions for Coaching Special Olympics Athletes, a requirement for all Coaches. All sessions will be held at SOMD Headquarters (3701 Commerce Drive, Suite 103, Baltimore MD 21227). We must have a minimum of 7 registrants for each class at least two business days in advance in order for it to be held.

- Saturday, February 15, 2020, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at SOMD HQ
- Sunday, March 15, 2020, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at SOMD HQ
- Sunday, April 5, 2020, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at SOMD HQ
- Saturday, May 16, 2020, 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at SOMD HQ

Please use the link below to register for any of these sessions
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CSOA2020Q1Q2>

As always, Areas are encouraged to host additional CSOA sessions using SOMD’s group of trained and certified instructors. All sessions must be approved by SIOMD HQ in advance. If interested, please send a message to coaches@somd.org.

(NEW) March Area Leader Meeting

The March Area Leader meeting and webinar is right around the corner! Please register using the links below!

| | |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">WEBINAR March 16, 2020 7:00pm-9:00pm</p> | <p>https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/v50vcumvrzws3Zwp2jGSfhJF_UEinqAYRQ</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">MEETING March 21, 2020 9:30am-5:00pm <i>(Exact end time will be communicated closer to the meeting)</i></p> | <p>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AD2020M1</p> |

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Principles of Coaching Live Course – March 7, 2020 & June 20, 2020

We are very pleased to be one of the first few SO USA programs to offer the updated “live” version of the Principles of Coaching course. This exceptional, highly participative full day course is designed for coaches with at least two years of experience and covers such topics as:

- Developing a Coaching Perspective
- Team Management & Training
- Athlete-Centered Coaching
- Fitness & Nutrition
- Safety and Risk Management

As noted in the new Coach Education & Development Model, completion of Principles of Coaching is a requirement for a coach to earn Advanced Coach status and will also renew, upgrade and extend all current coach sport certifications for three years from the date of course completion. As a reminder, *Advanced Coach status is a requirement in order for a coach to take a team or athletes to any competition above the state level* (including USA Games, World Games, and National Invitational Tournaments or their equivalents). Coaches must attend and participate in the entirety of the course to receive credit for course completion.

We currently have 2 sessions of this course scheduled in the first half of 2020 and will look to potentially add another session in the fall if interest warrants it. Our intent is to offer this live session at least twice per year going forward.

Saturday, March 7, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., SOMD HQ (Baltimore area)
Saturday, June 20, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., SOMD HQ (Baltimore area)

There is no registration fee for these sessions. Lunch and refreshments throughout the day will be provided and registration for each session will be limited to a maximum of 25 coaches.

(Note: Please do not register for a session if you are not certain you will attend – it may mean another coach who actually could attend will be unable to register).

To register for one of these sessions, please use the following link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/POC_2020_reg

(UPDATED) Coach Education and Development - Overview, Updates and GMS Webinars – Three More Offered

We’ve added some additional sessions for coaches and Area Leaders (and GMS users) to the previously announced sessions. The first such session on Jan 22 went very well. We hope folks find the additional sessions useful as well.

Also, updated Coach Sport Certification reports and Updated Coach Training Transcripts have been posted on the Coach Education and Development page (part of the Coaches Resource Page) and will be updated a minimum of once per month, occasionally more frequently.

Given the previously announced enforcement of the Coach Sport Certifications for individuals to be recognized as coaches and that all teams and groups of athletes must have a fully certified Head Coach to attend any SOMD competition (beginning with Summer Games 2020), we will be hosting two webinars to review the requirements (with a few updates) and to remind GMS users of how to access the records for their coaches in our database. This enforcement change to occur with the 2020 Summer Games has been

announced and discussed for at least 18 months so no one should be surprised, but we also know some folks tend to start to pay attention only when the consequences become real.

As always, these sessions will be recorded and the slides and a link to the recording will be provided following the session for those unable to attend, however coaches and leaders are encouraged to attend the “live” session so they can ask questions and get clarification for anything they may find confusing. A notice of these sessions (as well as the Principles of Coaching sessions noted above) will be sent to all individuals listed as coaches for 2019 (in “2019 Sports Training – Combined”) for whom we have valid email addresses.

Sessions for Coaches and Area Leaders

| <i>Date/Time</i> | <i>Registration Link</i> |
|--------------------------|---|
| Thu, Jan 30 8:00 p.m. | https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1443189680162151181 |
| Wed Feb 5 7:00 p.m. | https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5398607994348321549 |
| Thu Feb 6 7:00 p.m. | https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6950107961315008268 |

Sessions for GMS Users

| <i>Date/Time</i> | <i>Registration Link</i> |
|--------------------------|---|
| Thu, Jan 30 8:00 p.m. | https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/v5Ypc-mqpjliHklcUbX1VHhDjdYeNX7kTQ |
| Wed Feb 5 7:00 p.m. | https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/uZwrdeGhrz0s6PSzcerY79mU4poC_aOLig |

(NEW) 2020 Basketball Championships Confirmed for Mount St Mary’s Univ & Gov Thomas Johnson HS

We are very pleased to announce that the 2020 SOMD Basketball Championship will be held on March 28 & 29 at Mount Saint Mary’s University (Emmitsburg) and Governor Thomas Johnson HS in northern Frederick. The schedule will follow the same structure as in 2019:

- Saturday: 5v5 Traditional & 5v5 Unified Competition
- Sunday: 3v3 Traditional and PDU, 5v5 PDU and Individual Skills Competition

More details are being shared directly with basketball coaches and will be covered in the Pre-competition webinar on March 24 at 7:00 p.m.

GMS – Name Change For Training Registration “Games”

Based on feedback from users and others, we will be changing the name of where Area GMS users register Athletes, Unified Partners, Coaches and Volunteers as participating in their local training programs from “2020 – Sports Training Combined” to:

2020 Community Training Program Participant Registration

This will occur on Saturday, January 11, 2020, and will give that training registration function a more appropriate name. In addition to making more “sense” it will also provide a more meaningful header on reports that GMS users generate and share with coaches and other folks.

The name change is the only change being made. Everything else with the process (including deadlines) will remain the same as it has been for the past many years.

Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Webinars

The dates and time for Pre-Season and Pre-Competition 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 Skiing | Tue 11/26 | Recording: https://youtu.be/GFBtpPzv-tQ |
| Snowshoeing | Tue 11/21 | Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvEiWDdyOf8&t=5s |
| WG HOD #1 | Tue 01/07 | Recording: https://youtu.be/8KhBbe9pgS4 |
| Basketball | Wed 12/04 | Recording: https://youtu.be/3z4aQpfM1-k |

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

| Sport | Date/Time | Registration / Recording Link |
|------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Alpine Skiing | Mon 02/17 7:00 p.m. | https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1466357488678712845 |
| Snowshoeing | Thu 02/13 7:00 p.m. | https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/dcfe4428d9436dea4ac87b605f06faf5 |
| Winter Games HOD #2 | Thu 02/13 8:00 p.m. | https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8132893300584732172 |
| Basketball | Tue 03/24 7:00 p.m. | https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/285561165198905611 |

(UPDATED) *Community Sports Registration Deadlines For Most of 2020*

Registration Deadlines for community sports through most of 2020 have been set and are incorporated into the Sports Calendar included with this email. They are summarized below for your convenience as well.

| Event | Competition Date(s) | Training Registration Deadline (in GMS)** | Last Date To Submit Missing Forms** | Competition Registration Deadline (in GMS)** |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Winter Games | 2/23-25/2020 | 1/9/2020 | 1/20/2020 | 2/6/2020 |
| Basketball Tournament | 3/28 – 29/2020 (Tentative) | 1/23/2020 | 2/3/2020 | 2/13/2020 |
| 2020 Summer Games | 6/5-7/2020 | 4/23/2020 | 5/4/2020 | 5/18/2020 |
| Kayaking Time Trials (Required) | 08/08/2020 | 7/9/2020 | 7/16/2020 | 7/30/2020 |
| Kayaking Championships | 08/15/2020 | | | |
| 2020 Golf State Championship | 9/20/2020 (Tentative) | 8/13/2020 | 8/20/2020 | 9/3/2020 |
| 2020 Fall Sports Festival | 10/17/2020 (Tentative) | 8/27/2020 | 9/10/2020 | 10/1/2020 |
| 2020 State Soccer Championships | 10/25/2020 OR 11/1/2020 (Tentative) | 8/27/2020 | 9/10/2020 | 10/1/2020 |

(NEW) *Upcoming Athlete Leadership Trainings*

WHAT: Introduction to Athlete Leadership
WHERE: SOMD HQ, 3701 Commerce Drive, Suite 103, Baltimore (Halethorpe), MD 21227
WHEN: March 14th, 2020 2pm-5pm

Register: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Intro_March_14_2020

WHAT: *Introduction to Athlete Leadership and Understanding Leadership (2 Courses)*

WHERE: *Northeast Community Center, 4075 Gordon Stinnett Ave, Chesapeake Beach, MD*

WHEN: *April 4th, 2020 9am-noon Introduction to Athlete Leadership*
April 4th, 2020 1pm-4pm Understanding Leadership

WHY: *Special Olympics Inc. is retooling the requirements for the Athlete Leadership Program and we are following their lead.*

We need all existing leaders to come in and get recertified.

We are not going to do a full retraining but we will do a shorter version to meet the obligations of the new requirements.

WHO: *All **CURRENT** certified athletes and all **NEW** athletes interested **MUST** take this **NEW** training to move on to the next level in leadership.*

OTHER DETAILS: *Lunch will be provided*

You must attend both session to remain a certified Athlete Leader moving forward.

Other sessions exactly like this will be offered throughout Maryland in 2020 to update as many athletes as possible.

REGISTER HERE: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Calvert_April_4th

WHAT: *Introduction to Athlete Leadership and Understanding Leadership (2 Courses in 4 parts)*

WHERE: *On line via ZOOM Meetings. We will take each section of the class over the computer. Links in the WHEN Section below.*

WHEN: *April 15th, 2020 6:30pm-8pm*
Introduction to Athlete Leadership Part 1/2 <https://somed.zoom.us/j/311053034>

WHY: *Special Olympics Inc. is retooling the requirements for the Athlete Leadership Program and we are following their lead. We need all existing leaders and any athletes wishing to become leaders to log on and take these courses We are not going to do a full retraining but we will do a shorter version to meet the obligations of the new request. We hope by offering these course on line it will help those athletes and families who live a little further away from our office.*

WHO: *All **CURRENT** certified athletes and all **NEW** athletes interested **MUST** take this **NEW** training to move on to the next level in leadership.*

OTHER DETAILS: *You must attend all four sessions in order to take additional classes moving forward.*

WHAT: *Athlete Leadership Training-Eastern Shore*

WHERE: *Chesapeake Culinary Center, 512, Franklin Street, Denton, Maryland 21629*

WHEN: *April 18th, 2020*
Beginner Global Messenger 9am-2pm (room for 15)
Basics of a Smart Phone 2:30pm-5pm (room for 15)

WHAT ELSE:

-Lunch provided for Beginner Global Messengers
-refreshments and snacks for all

-Bring a sheet of paper answering the following questions

Name, Hometown, Sports, Year you began Special Olympics, Other important things.

-Photos may be taken of you for a future trading card. Come dressed nice for the photo.

To register go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/April_18_Eastern_Shore

WHAT: Introduction to Athlete Leadership

WHERE: On line via ZOOM Meetings. We will take each section of the class over the computer. Links in the WHEN Section below.

WHEN: April 22nd, 2020 6:30pm-8pm

Introduction to Athlete Leadership Part 2/2 <https://somed.zoom.us/j/926259131>

WHY: Special Olympics Inc. is retooling the requirements for the Athlete Leadership Program and we are following their lead.

We need all existing leaders and any athletes wishing to become leaders to log on and take these courses

We are not going to do a full retraining but we will do a shorter version to meet the obligations of the new requirements. We hope by offering these course on line it will help those athletes and families who live a little further away from our office.

WHO:

All **CURRENT** certified athletes and all **NEW** athletes interested **MUST** take this NEW training to move on to the next level in leadership.

OTHER DETAILS: You must attend all four sessions in order to take additional classes moving forward.

WHAT: Understanding Leadership

WHERE: On line via ZOOM Meetings. We will take each section of the class over the computer. Links in the WHEN Section below.

WHEN: May 20th, 2020 6:30pm-8pm

Understanding Leadership Part 1/2 <https://somed.zoom.us/j/620680651>

WHY: Special Olympics Inc. is retooling the requirements for the Athlete Leadership Program and we are following their lead.

We need all existing leaders and any athletes wishing to become leaders to log on and take these courses

We are not going to do a full retraining but we will do a shorter version to meet the obligations of the new requirements. We hope by offering these course on line it will help those athletes and families who live a little further away from our office.

WHO:

All **CURRENT** certified athletes and all **NEW** athletes interested **MUST** take this NEW training to move on to the next level in leadership.

OTHER DETAILS: You must attend all four sessions in order to take additional classes moving forward.

WHAT: Understanding Leadership

WHERE: On line via ZOOM Meetings. We will take each section of the class over the computer. Links in the WHEN Section below.

WHEN: May 27th, 2020 6:30pm-8pm
Understanding Leadership Part 2/2 <https://somid.zoom.us/j/724553345>

WHY: Special Olympics Inc. is retooling the requirements for the Athlete Leadership Program and we are following their lead.

We need all existing leaders and any athletes wishing to become leaders to log on and take these courses We are not going to do a full retraining but we will do a shorter version to meet the obligations of the new requirements. We hope by offering these course on line it will help those athletes and families who live a little further away from our office.

WHO:

All **CURRENT** certified athletes and all **NEW** athletes interested **MUST** take this NEW training to move on to the next level in leadership.

OTHER DETAILS: You must attend all four sessions in order to take additional classes moving forward.

WHAT: Athlete Leadership-Improvisation and Theatre Training Course SUMMER 2020

The Athlete Leadership Program is excited to announce that we are adding a new course this fall "This interactive class will help support communication and confidence through creativity. Participants will learn valuable speech, language, and social skills that will assist them not only within Special Olympics MD, but across all aspects of their lives. Oh, and we'll laugh. A lot."

Improv and theater skills and practices have been shown to improve a variety of skills such as receptive and expressive language, pragmatics, fluency of speech, socialization, syntax and grammar, semantics, cognition, and the list goes on! Making this the perfect course for both beginner and advanced athlete leaders. Not previous training in athlete leadership is needed.

Target and ideally improve participants speech, language, and social skills, and help build confidence in communication.

WHEN: *

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|------------|-------------|
| Wednesday | June 10 th | 7pm-8:30pm | |
| Wednesday | June 17 th | 7pm-8:30pm | |
| Wednesday | June 24 th | 7pm-8:30pm | |
| Wednesday | July 01 st | 7pm-8:30pm | |
| Wednesday | July 08 th | 7pm-8:30pm | |
| Wednesday | July 15 th | 7pm-8:30pm | Rehearsal |
| Friday | July 17 th | 6pm-9pm | Performance |

**You must attend 4 of the 5 courses to be eligible for the final performance*

WHERE: Special Olympics Maryland HQ, 3701 Commerce Drive, Suite 103, Baltimore (Halethorpe), MD 21227

INSTRUCTOR: Emma Shipley, MS, CF-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist

HOW MANY: **This is a Unified Leadership opportunity.** Open to up to 24 athletes. Unified partners, siblings, family members, etc. are welcome to attend with a SOMD athlete. Limit one per athlete. This is not required but is an option.

To sign up please fill out the Survey Monkey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SUMMER_2020_IMPROV

Email Jason Schriml if you have any questions about this course at jschriml@somd.org

WHERE: SOMD HQ, 3701 Commerce Drive, Suite 103, Baltimore, MD 21227

WHEN: Saturday August 02nd, 2020 9am-3pm

WHO: Athletes who wish to learn how to write, read and present a short 1 minute speech about themselves

-Lunch and refreshments will be provided

-Bring a sheet of paper answering the following questions

Name, Home town, Sports, Year you began Special Olympics, Other important things.

-Photos will be taken of you for a future trading card. Come dressed nice for the photo.

REGISTER: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BeginnerGM_Aug_02_2020

If you have any questions or your attendance status changes please email me so I will be aware.

Not showing up without notice makes us purchase more supplies and food than needed for the course. Money that could be used elsewhere for training, competition and athlete leadership opportunities.

Sports Directors – Assigned Sports

If you have questions regarding a specific sport, coach education, or competition, please work with the corresponding Sport Director.

- **Melissa Anger, Sports Director**
 - manger@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x122
 - Basketball
 - Cheerleading
 - Flag Football
 - Soccer
 - Softball
 - Tennis
 - Locally Popular Sports: Cross Country Skiing, Duckpin Bowling
- **Zach Cintron, Sports Director**
 - zcintron@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x161
 - Bowling (10 pin)
 - Cycling

- Kayaking
 - Snowshoeing
 - Swimming
 - Locally Popular Sports: Figure Skating, Sailing, Short Track Speed Skating, Volleyball
- **Ryan Kelchner Sports Director**
 - rkelchner@somd.org, 410-242-1515 x171
 - Alpine Skiing
 - Athletics
 - Bocce
 - Distance Running
 - Golf
 - Powerlifting
 - Locally Popular Sports: Dance, Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey

Questions?

If You Have Any Questions on Any Other Non-Sports-Related Issues, please contact a member of the Local Program Team

- **Jeff Abel, Vice President. Local Program Development**
 - jabel@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 121
 - Any general question
- **Claire Huston, Development Services Manager**
 - chuston@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 145
 - All Local Program Fundraising
- **Ben Varga, Healthy Communities Manager**
 - bvarga@somd.org
 - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs
- **Pat Cullinan, Northern Chesapeake Region Director**
 - pcullinan@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Harford, Cecil, and Kent Counties
- **Mike Myers, Baltimore Region Director**
 - mmyers@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Baltimore County and City
- **Ron Freeman, Baltimore City Coordinator**
 - rfreeman@somd.org, 410.598.1027
 - Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore City Rec and Parks
- **Tyler Martin, Western Region Coordinator**
 - tmartin@somd.org, 717-321-3642
 - Frederick, Washington, Allegany, Garrett Counties