

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

August 7, 2020

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



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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) Virtual Torch Run

Our Virtual Torch Run Registration is OPEN! We are excited to roll out this collaborative fundraising opportunity with Local Programs and our Law Enforcement community!

Visit www.marylandtorchrn.com to register!

Remember, each local program is able to sign up 1 fundraising team and benefit from 70% of the net revenue raised by your team! Please work with your Area Director to start a team or register on their existing team.

(NEW) 2022 USA Games Updates

Quota – SOMD has received its initial quota for its delegation to the 2022 USA Games and is reviewing it prior to final acceptance and confirmation later this month. Once the quota has been finalized it will be shared with Area leaders.

Athlete Selection Criteria – Based on Area leader feedback at the July 18, we have asked the Sports Committee of the SOMD Board of Directors to review the selection criteria for athletes, particularly related to the degree of independence and self-sufficiency they possess (or the level of supervision they require in order to be considered for possible selection to Team Maryland). The Sports Committee began that discussion this week and is looking forward to sharing its findings to date at the November 2020 Area

Director meeting. (Note: The Sports Committee is looking for two additional members from Areas – see the article elsewhere in the Area Memo for the nomination process.)

One step in the process will be gathering input from athletes, coaches, families and other volunteers, particularly focused on folks who have attended a USA Games within the last 10 years or so. Look for notice of a series of web-based input sessions

Coach Certification Requirements – As a reminder, as has been stated for the past two years as a component of the SONA Coach Education and Development model, in order for a coach to be considered for possible selection to Team Maryland, they must have earned/maintained Advanced Coach certification status for their sport prior to selection (this applies to ALL coaches on Team Maryland – both Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches). In addition, in order for a TEAM to be considered for selection its coaches must have earned/maintained Advanced Coach Certification status prior to team selection. Any coaches or teams that do not meet this requirement will be eliminated from consideration prior to selection. (Selection of individual sport coaches is expected to take place in March/April 2021; selection of sport teams will take place in June 2021.)

One core requirement of Advanced Coach Certification is the successful completion of the Principles of Coaching (PoC) course (*which requires a minimum of two years Special Olympics coaching experience to enroll*). Coaches wishing to have themselves or their team considered for possible selection to Team Maryland should plan now to earn their Advanced Coach Certification status. The next PoC course is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, and has a capacity limit of 20 people, the capacity for all live and virtual PoC courses (see the article elsewhere in this Area Memo for details). We will add additional PoC sessions as interest is determined. Coaches should not wait until the last minute to complete this requirement.

Planning for Team Maryland – We’ve pulled together a very basic tentative timeline of major components of Team Maryland’s preparations for the 2022 USA Games (see table below). More details will be shared as they become available and finalized.

Month	Core Activity
August 2020	Quota confirmation
Aug – Dec 2020	Project Planning
Aug ‘20 – Mar ‘21	Selection criteria and process review and finalization (Staff, Sports Comm., ADs)
Nov 2020	Application Process launched for Team Maryland Management Team
Jan 2021	Team Maryland Management Team selected App. Process launched for Team Maryland Individ. Sport Coaches (& poss Addit Personnel)
Mar/Apr 2021	Team Maryland Individual Sport Coaches selected (& poss Addit Personnel)
April 2021	“Eligible for Advancement” list created/shared (except Summer Games sports)
Apr-May 2021	Areas vet eligible list for appropriateness for inclusion based on selection criteria
June 2021	Selection of nominees and alternates to Team Maryland

August 2021	Team Maryland Training Camp for nominees
Sept 2021	Determination of nominees who will advance to be full members of Team Maryland
June 2022	USA Games

(NEW) Bowling Pre-Season Webinar Postponed, Bowling SMT Developing Coach Resources

We are postponing our Bowling Pre-Season Webinar until further notice in order to evaluate the climate of indoor activities during the ever changing state of COVID-19. We want to make sure that you all have the latest and most up to date information to build out your plan for facilitating training, if your program choses to do so. Please be on the look-out in August/September for a new date for this webinar.

With that said, the SOMD Bowling Sports Management Team (SMT) is working feverishly to create recommendations of returning to Bowling training as a supplement to the Return to Activities plan and Virtual Training options for teams. We hope to provide you with a variety of options for this upcoming season to get your athletes back to activities.

If you have any questions about the upcoming Bowling season, please feel free to contact Zach Cintron (zcintron@somd.org).

(NEW) Social Clubs

We are planning for the September and October Social Clubs and wanted to reach out to you for ideas.

Is there a topic you want to learn more about? Do you want to host an evening on a Tuesday or Thursday? Let me know and we can book one of the evenings for you.

Maybe it's not you but you know someone who has an interesting hobby or knows a lot about a subject. are there any parents, siblings, etc. that would be interested in hosting one of these social club nights?

Send an email to Jason Schriml (jscrhiml@somd.org) if you have any ideas or leads

Looking forward to hearing from you

SOMD Cancels All State-Level Community Sports Championships Through 2020

On Saturday, July 18, we had a meeting of Area Directors. One key point of discussion was the planning of sport competition opportunities for the Fall 2020 season (thru 12/31/2020).

Based on that discussion, *SOMD will not conduct any community-based state championship competitions between now and December 31, 2020.* This painful but necessary decision was not made lightly and is based on the current expected status of local training programs returning to activity and the non-viability of such competitions. The decision was made with near unanimous support from the Area Directors (one AD wanted to wait before deciding on bowling but was otherwise in support).

This decision does NOT mean that there will be no competitive opportunities for our athletes this Fall. SOMD HQ will be looking to co-host competitions in most sports during this time, coordinating with Area leaders and using this opportunity to expand the capacity to conduct local/regional competitions by Areas. Several expressed interest in co-hosting such competitions during Saturday's meeting. We will be working on developing those plans with Area leaders and coaches over the next several weeks. We do not anticipate any such competitions to be held until at least September and also not until we are in Phase 2 of the R2A protocol.

This decision does NOT affect school-based activities or the IUS Tennis state championship in November. We are watching decisions made by the various school systems and MPSSAA and will make a determination at some point in the future when appropriate (likely sometime in August).

Nominations Sought for Area Director & Coach for SOMD Sports Committee – Due Aug 17

SOMD's Board-level Sports Committee is seeking nominees to fill its current vacancy or an Area Director and a Coach. The Sports Committee oversees the community and school-based SOMD Sports program, decides on approval of sports rules changes that will be followed by SOMD, reviews the overall sports program every four years, and addresses additional sports matters. The committee meets a minimum of four times per year (with occasional additional meetings based on needs), typically on weekday evenings at SOMD HQ with an option to join virtually for those located at significant distances from HQ. There is typically work done between meeting either independently (reviewing provided info, etc.) or in small groups. The successful nominees will join the committee for a three-year renewable term (given multiple openings, the "initial" term may be 1 year or 2 years to stagger renewal dates).

Nominations will only be accepted from Area Directors (Area Directors may nominate themselves for the open Area Director spot) and can be done by completing the attached nomination form and sending it to Mike Czarnowsky, VP of Sports (mczarnowsky@somd.org) by Monday, August 17, 2020. Nominations will be reviewed by a sub-committee of the current Sports Committee with final selection by the overall current Sports Committee. Selected nominees will receive orientation and be immediately actively engaged with the current issues of the committee so they can join the Sports Committee prior to their November 3, 2020, meeting and be involved with the issues addressed at that meeting.

Note: The nomination form has a space for a "live signature" from the Area Director making the nomination. A live signature can be omitted if the nomination form is emailed from the Area Director's email address.

2022 Special Olympics World Winter Games Update

The Special Olympics World Winter Games are among the world's most prestigious sporting events and are focused on advancing a truly inclusive world for people with intellectual disabilities. The World Games also provide a prominent platform for the movement's work in health, education, and leadership for athletes.

Special Olympics Maryland currently has three (3) athletes that have been nominated to represent Special Olympics USA. These athletes hail from three (3) County Programs; Anne Arundel County, Carroll County and St. Mary's County. The athlete nominees, if selected for the official delegation, will participate in the sports of Alpine Skiing and Snowshoeing at the World Games.

Date:	January 22-28, 2022 (7 Days of Competition)
Location:	Kazan, Russia
Participants:	2000 Athletes and Unified® Partners
Nations:	108 Nations
Volunteers:	3000
Sports Offered (7):	Alpine Skiing, Cross-Country Skiing, Figure Skating, Floor Hockey, Snowboarding, Snowshoeing and Speed Skating

Nominees from SOMD: Larry Mills, St. Mary's County
Elaina Camacho, Anne Arundel County
Jenny Herrmann, Carroll County

Return to Activities Website

Please use the site below as a resource for your Athletes, Coaches, Volunteers, and Families! SOMD's Return to Activities Website is filled with resources to help our state successfully and safely get our athletes back on the field!

<https://virtualsomd.com/return-to-play/>

COVID-19 Area Directors Call

Our Bi-Weekly Call will take place this Wednesday, 8/9 at 6:30pm. Please use this link to join the meeting:
<https://somd.zoom.us/j/96328411657?pwd=TkE0SUUVhb1Y0ZTlXNkx6TWxhYUJNUT09>

(UPDATED) Coaches Training –CSOA and PoC Sessions

Coaching Special Olympics Athletes (CSOA) -- SOMD is pleased to offer in-person training sessions for Coaching Special Olympics Athletes, a requirement for all Coaches. *(Due to the conversational and interactive nature of this course, we must have a **minimum of 7 registrants at least 2 business days prior to the course in order for it to be held.**)*

Saturday, September 26, 2020, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. In-person Training session at SOMD HQ (limit of 20 participants) *(Note: We will make a determination no later than September 14, 2020, whether this session will be held as an "in-person" or "virtual" course.)*

Sunday, November 15, 2020, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. In-person Training session at SOMD HQ (limit of 20 participants) *(Note: We will make a determination no later than November 2, 2020, whether this session will be held as an "in-person" or "virtual" course.)*

To register for either of these sessions, [please click here](#).

Principles of Coaching (PoC) - SOMD is pleased to host additional sessions of the Principles of Coaching course, necessary for all coaches wishing to take teams/athletes or serve as a coach to any competition above the state level (including USA Games, World Games, NITs, NIRSA events, etc.). This free course is intended for coaches with a *minimum of two years coaching experience* and, along with appropriate sport-specific training, serves to certify a coach as an Advanced coach. *(Due to the conversational and interactive nature of this course, and the need to send "hard copy" course materials to participants in advance of the session, we must have a **minimum of 7 registrants at least 4 business days prior to a virtual PoC course in order for it to be held.**)*

Saturday, September 12, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at SOMD HQ (limit of 20 participants; 13 spots remaining) *(Note: We will make a determination no later than August 31, 2020, whether this session will be held as an "in-person" or "virtual" course.)*

To register for any of these sessions, [please click here](#).

Important Note On All Virtual Training Sessions: Given the interactive nature of these courses, if a course gets changed to a virtual training session, participants **MUST** be able to join the Zoom meeting with a webcam, speaker and microphone so we can see and hear everyone during the course. Please also check in advance of the session that Zoom works properly for your computer (with webcam, microphone and speaker) as we will have limited opportunity to provide tech assistance during the session itself. (Zoom’s online help has been fairly solid.)

SOMD Virtual MOVEment

If you haven’t done so already, join the SOMD Virtual MOVEment! This is an online community of athletes, staff, and volunteers sharing what they’re doing to stay active, stay healthy, and stay connected while we can’t have in-person programs!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2863037773816713>

NEW WEBSITE! : Don’t have facebook? No problem! Visit our new website www.virtualsomid.com for archived workouts, social clubs, and a calendar events. Don’t miss the virtual block party section!

Risk Reminders

Please remember that all contracts and requests for COIs must be sent to risk@somid.org for review by Rhonda and Jim’s signature. The email address, risk@somid.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.

(UPDATED) 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
Cycling	Thu 7/16	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIzhW6QSor0&feature=youtu.be
Distance Running	Tue 7/21	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYmt15dO2mA&feature=youtu.be
Flag Football	Thu 7/23	Recording: https://youtu.be/ifjxgZZN0b4
Golf	Tue 7/14	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gV0U7sv4utk&feature=youtu.be
Power-lifting	Wed 7/22	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQiUYKvLbAk&feature=youtu.be
Tennis	Mon 7/20	Recording link is forthcoming and will be posted on the SOMD Coach Resource Page: https://www.somid.org/coach/coach-resources/
Soccer	Tue 7/28	Recording: https://youtu.be/Fvcla3Axa8A
Bowling	TBD	This web session has been postponed pending additional information on indoor activities while operating under “Return to Activity” protocol

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

Due to the decision to cancel all community state-level championships through the end of 2020, there is no need to conduct the previously scheduled “pre-competition” webinars, so they have been cancelled.

Note: As SOMD and Areas determine specifics for co-hosted competition opportunities in Fall 2020, webinars/web meetings will likely be scheduled prior to those competitions to review what to expect (given the newness of the application of the R2A protocols).

Community Sports Registration Deadlines For Most of 2020

Given the cancellation of state-level community championships through the end of 2020, our “traditional” schedule structure for deadlines is not applicable. That said, all participants still **MUST** be registered and have their valid and up-to-date forms/certifications submitted to SOMD HQ in a timely manner.

Regardless of deadlines noted below, forms/certifications must be up-to-date at HQ prior to any competition.

Sport	When	What Is Due
Golf*	09/01/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Roster entered into GMS of all athletes, Unified® partners, coaches and volunteers participating in your program.
Cycling Distance Running Flag Football Powerlifting Soccer Tennis	10/01/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Every athlete must have a complete medical form <u>valid through October 31, 2020</u> on file at SOMD HQ*.Every coach/partner/volunteer must have a complete volunteer application and updated Protective Behaviors Certification valid thru <u>October 31, 2020</u> on file at SOMD HQ*.All Coaches & Sports Vols must have Special Olympics Concussion Certification.
Bowling*	11/01/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All Coaches: must have the sport-specific certification for their sport completed and submitted to SOMD HQ along with CSOA.

*Golf forms/certifications must be valid thru Sept 30, 2020

*Bowling forms/certifications must be valid thru Dec 31, 2020

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
- **Melissa Kelly, Sr. Director, Unified Champion schools**
 - mkelly@somd.org, 410-979-5839
 - School engagement & partnerships
- **Mackenzie Irvin, Young Athletes Program Director**
 - mirvin@somd.org, 857-939-4867
 - Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming
- **Sam Boyd, Volunteer Director**
 - sboyd@somd.org, 443-766-9245
 - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- **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
- **Tyler Martin, Western Region Coordinator**
 - tmartin@somd.org, 717-321-3642
 - Frederick, Washington, Allegany, Garrett Counties