

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

11/17/2023

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



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Welcome

If there are any members of your area's leadership who are not currently receiving the Area Memo, [please fill out this form](#)

Shout out a volunteer

This memo's shout outs go to...

Shout out to Valerie Swiger for your support at the Regional Bowling event in Gaithersburg on Sunday November 12, 2023! Especially grateful for your assistance with results entry. Couldn't have done it without you. Thank you!

From- Dottie Rush

Thank you, Coach Shaffer, Coach Bewick, and Coach Rau for coaching your athletes in the NIRSA Flag Football Tournament at University of Maryland! Thank you for providing great, additional opportunities to compete to your athletes!

Please use the link below to submit your shout outs!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LV88QG9>

(NEW) Lone Oak Farm Brewing Fire and Ice for the Polar Bear Plunge

Join our partners at Lone Oak Farm Brewing for Fire and Ice Polar Bear Plunge Kick Off Event on Saturday, November 18, 2023 from 2:00-5:00pm. Individuals who sign up for the Polar Bear Plunge at the event will get a free beer (must be 21+). And stick around for a FREE bonfire night at Lone Oak from 5:00-9:00pm--- bring a blanket and a chair and help welcome in Plunge Season!

A Jpg. Flyer is attached to this memo for those who want to share on social media. And Area Programs, remember to point people to your area plunge team to take advantage of the great collaborative fundraising opportunity!

(NEW) SOMD Staffing Updates

We've had a couple changes in SOMD staffing in the two weeks since the last edition of the Area Memo. Jessie Hayes (VP of Development) and Ryan Kelchner (Sport Director) have both departed this week. As Jim Schmutz recently wrote:

Ryan Kelchner got word on Tuesday that he was starting his new job Wednesday. It's fitting that Ryan was actively engaged in Tuesday's IUS flag football competition at Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center in Baltimore overseeing the Individual Skills competition. Ryan is the consummate team player and contributed greatly to providing our athletes with quality sports experiences during his time with us. It was awesome to see him grow in his role. I am very proud of Ryan and all that he accomplished and the impact that he had on thousands of athletes as a Special Olympics Maryland Team member. I wish Ryan all the best in his new role but I will miss Ryan.

Additionally, Wednesday is Jessie's last day, so one last shout out to Jessie for all her efforts on behalf of our athletes. Beyond her leadership in overseeing the Plunge planning and operations and her latest additional role in overseeing the small team responsible for partner relationships and sales, Jessie's time here can equally be measured by the relationships forged with athletes. I believe her success was enhanced significantly by engaging with athletes like Annu Singleton and Thomas Smith, among many others. Her passion for raising more money was authentic and fueled by the athletes. I am proud of what Jessie has accomplished here and know that she will thrive in her role as Chief Development Officer at the Ullman Foundation. I wish Jessie all the best and I will also miss her.

While we have had two departures this week, we have also have some new arrivals:

Horace Dickerson (First Day- 11/6/2023) has joined us as our Region Director, Metro Programs. In this role, Horace will report to Mike Myers and work collaboratively with Area Leaders and community partners to grow programs in Baltimore City and Prince George's County. Horace is a life-long athlete and lover of sports. Horace lived in a lot of different places, but spent his high school years living in Columbia, MD and attending Centennial High School and attended Hampton University in Virginia. Horace has previously worked with the NFL Players Association and in radio broadcasting, and has extensive experience growing and coaching community-based youth sports.

Tyler Harrell (First Day- 11/13/2023) has joined us in the newly created position of Manager, High School Unified Sports. In this role, Tyler will work directly with Zach Cintron and manage the administrative, logistical, and other types of support for High School Interscholastic Unified Sports (IUS). Tyler graduated from Towson University with a B.S. in Sport Management and a Minor in Business Administration. Tyler comes to this role with previous experience with IUS. Tyler's father is a special education teacher and serves as a coach for several IUS sports. At his father's suggestion, Tyler became a Unified Partner for IUS bocce during his high school years and loved the competition and the interaction with SOMD athletes. Prior to joining the SOMD team, Tyler's work with Volo Sports and USA Lacrosse provided experience with customer service and event management that will be valuable as he pursues this new opportunity.

Matt Dean (First Day- 11/20/2023) will be joining us on Monday as our Region Director, West. In this role, Matt will report to Mike Myers and work collaboratively with Area Leaders and community partners to grow programs in Carroll, Frederick, Washington, Allegany, and Garrett Counties. Some of you may recognize Matt as he has been serving as a photographer for some of our events and competitions--- most recently at our Cycling Venue this past October, and at our IUS Flag Football event. Matt has a background in sports and event marketing, as well as adapted sports programming, which will serve us all well as he works to grow programs in Western, MD!

Welcome, Horace, Tyler, and Matt!

FYI-Virtual Turkey Trot (SOI Event)- SOMD is NOT participating

Over the next few weeks, you may see Special Olympics International and/or other Special Olympics State Programs promoting a Virtual Turkey Trot for Special Olympics. This was presented to state programs as an optional peer to peer fundraising opportunity.




This is a key time for St. Mary’s Splash, Polar Bear Plunge, and Year-End Giving, and Deep Creek Dunk activity (and many other Area Program Fundraisers), so Special Olympics Maryland will **NOT** be participating in this. **To avoid causing confusion, we would ask that you and your programs not share/promote this virtual event.** Rather, we encourage you to set up your Area Program Teams for Splash, Plunge, and Dunk to benefit from these great collaborative fundraising opportunities!

If you need assistance setting up your team’s pages, email Jeff!

St. Mary’s Splash	12/2/2023	www.stmaryssplash.com
Polar Bear Plunge	2/1-3/2024	www.plungemd.com
Deep Creek Dunk	2/24/2024	https://support.somd.org/event/2024-deep-creek-dunk/e510388

Program Staff Thanksgiving Leave

As we come up on the Holiday Season, we like to communicate when program staff members will be off/unavailable. Below is the list of time off for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Should you need something while a staff member is away, Jeff will help as much as he can, so give him a call!

	Person on leave this day (i.e., not available)					
	Person working on this date (i.e., available)					
	SOMD HQ offices closed on this date (i.e., not available)					
Staff Member	11/20	11/21	11/22	11/23	11/24	11/27
Jeff Abel						
Melissa Anger						
Abi Bauman						
Steve Bennett						
Sam Boyd						
Zach Cintron						
Casey Collins						
Mike Czarnowsky						
Horace Dickerson						
Mackenzie Irvin						
Ryan Kelchner						
Melissa Kelly						
Elizabeth Kramer						
Julie Martin						
Kyler Mellott						
Mike Myers						
Jake Novick						
Dottie Rush						
Jason Schriml						
Kayla Shields						

(NEW) T2025 – 2025 World Winter Games in Torino – SOMD Slots Received

As we mentioned at various Area Leader Meetings, SOMD was expecting to get one, maybe two, slots for the SO USA Team for the 2025 World Winter Games in Torino, Italy during the country-wide draft this week. What a great surprise that we were able to secure 4 (four) slots!! Maryland will nominate the following:

Alpine

Male Intermediate Level Skier

Female Advanced Level Skier

Snowshoeing

2 Female Level Two Snowshoers (*races 100+ meters*)

Area leaders with athletes (selectees and initial alternates) drawn for these spots from our pre-vetted pool will be contacted shortly by Steve Bennett with details on the very quick turnaround on acceptance and the initial registration steps.

(NEW) Unified Intramurals at University of Maryland

Play Unified with University of Maryland Campus Recreation! Join University of Maryland students and Special Olympics Maryland athletes for a Unified Pickleball Event this fall. All games will take place at The Armory on University of Maryland's Campus on Friday December 1st from 3:00-5:00pm!

Use this [link](#) to register!"

Coaching Special Olympics Athletes (CSOA) – New Process For Accessing Online Course

CSOA is the core baseline course required for virtually all Special Olympics coaches. A coach is only required to complete this specific course one time, however coaches must renew their Coach Sport Certifications at least every three years through completion of other coach education and development options.

Human Kinetics, a premiere provider of coach education resources, is retiring this course from its online catalogue over the next 12 months and, as such, it no longer appears on its public website. However, SOMD has arranged to pre-purchase "licenses" for this online course that can be completed between now and October 31, 2024. ***Coaches needing to complete CSOA should send an email to coaches@somd.org to request a license and directions on completing the course.***

Additional Notes:

- This new arrangement means that *coaches no longer need to pre-pay for the course and then request a reimbursement from SOMD.*
- Coaches should expect that obtaining a license may take up to 2 business days from the time of request.
- Given the large but limited number of pre-paid licenses, and the inability for SOMD to obtain more from HK, licenses will be provided only to those prospective coaches who have not already completed CSOA and only one license will be issued per person.
- Special Olympics North America anticipates having a new online version of CSOA hosted on the SO Learn portal available at some point during the third quarter of 2024.
- We are undergoing a full review of the HK offerings of other online coach education and will be posting an updated list of accepted courses, as well as some additional online sport-specific offerings, by the end of November, 2023.

GMS Training Registration for 2024 Now Open To Areas

As many Area programs are starting to register participants in their winter season training programs (Alpine Skiing, Snowshoeing, Basketball, etc.), we are pleased to let you know that the "2024 Community Training Program Participant Registration" games is now open. You should be using that "games" to register any athletes, coaches, unified teammates, volunteers, etc. for any of your training programs that will either continue into 2023 or will start in 2023. Any training that will be solely conducted in 2023 should continue to be added in the "2023 Community Training Program Participant Registration" games.

Area Program Sport & Activity Information Form

To more effectively capture the many programs and activities taking place in the community, we have put together a Training Program Information Form.

This form will help our state office stay more organized with up-to-date information on what programs are happening, where they're happening, and when they are happening.

Please submit 1 form for each sport/activity from your program using the link below:

<https://wkf.ms/3Kqg0Zp>

To avoid duplicate submissions, Coaches, Sport Volunteers, and Sport Coordinators, please work with your Area Leadership on submitting this form as they may have done so already.

We ask that this is submitted by the registration deadline during each sport season.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Abel (jabel@somd.org).

Area Program Fundraiser Info Form

As we discussed in our Area Director meeting and on Monday's call, we'd like to get a better idea of the many fundraisers taking place around the state in support of Special Olympics Maryland. This will also help us advertise your events while also consolidating state office requests for credit card machines, Classy Pages, and more.

[Moving forward, please fill out this form when you are planning a fundraiser.](#)

Donation Information Corner

1. **Area Donation Tracking Link:** please use this link to provide information to SOMD about any anticipated gifts that may come directly to the SOMD office or bank account:

[Area Donation Tracking Report](#)

2. **Private Donation Link for Honor/Memorial Donations and specific gifts from donors:** If you have an individual donor or sponsor that has reached out to you and wants to make a donation to support your program directly, or if you would like to include a link for memorial donations, you can provide this PRIVATE donation link, but please remember, **this link cannot be included on your local area website or sent out as an email blast**. Please encourage donors to fill out the "Direct My Gift to" dropdown in the form.

[Private Giving Link Request](#)

3. **Stock Giving Option:** please provide the information below to anyone who would like to make a gift of stock to your local area program. You can also notify SOMD that a gift is coming to support your program by adding this information to the [Area Donation Tracking Report](#).

To make a gift of stock, please share this information with your financial advisor:

Morgan Stanley LLC
DTC #0015

For the benefit of Special Olympics Maryland/633-117478

c/o: Morgan Stanley
650 S. Exeter Street, Suite 1100
Baltimore, MD 21202

4. **Matching Gifts:** Many companies generously offer to match their employees' charitable contributions. Some even provide matching funds to support employee volunteer hours. Most of these programs match contributions dollar for dollar, and some will even double or triple the amount of your gift!

[Click Here](#) to enter your employer's name to see if they participate in the matching gift program, and if they do, get a link to the matching donation page.

If you are aware of any matching gifts that may be coming in for your local area program, please notify SOMD that a gift is coming to support your program by adding this information to the [Area Donation Tracking Report](#)

(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 (slides from recorded sessions are available on the respective CRP)

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Bowling	Thu, 09/07	Recording: https://youtu.be/TfyGQhftCk
Alpine Skiing	Tue, 11/14	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swlErWY-qLA
Snowshoeing	Wed, 11/15	Recording: https://youtu.be/uLhrew2o8WU
Basketball	Thu, 11/16	Recording: https://youtu.be/JV4npXAvRu0

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars (slides from recorded sessions are available on the respective CRP)

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Bowling - Regionals	Thu, 11/02	Recording: https://youtu.be/DIK0YtzCS0
Bowling - Finals	Tue, 11/28 6:00-7:00pm	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsdeytrjspHtBoFx18GPTcbB5OPlyqTlCn
Alpine Skiing	Thu, 02/15 6:00-7:00pm	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdO2sqjMvHdH5izDtkgiUbII5Rf2_GTu5
Snowshoeing	Thu, 02/15 7:00-8:00pm	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAldu-orjsoEtXykkFdADw4oK5cDW65ox73
Basketball (5v5 Trad & Unif)	Wed, 03/27 6:00-7:00pm	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsdO2grTluHNyHb4aDiJQFTOVhOn6UbfR0
Basketball (ISC, all 3v3, 5v5PDU)	Wed, 03/27 7:00-8:00pm	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlscO2rpzljGtRkJd13X4zqneBx-ccYB0No

(UPDATED) Sports Department Contacts – Assigned Sports

Your Area Director and Area Leadership should always be your first point of contact. However, should you have questions regarding a specific sport, coach education, or competition, please work with the corresponding Sport Director.

• **Melissa Anger, Senior Sports Director**

- manger@somid.org, 410.242.1515 x122

Basketball	Soccer
Cheerleading	Softball
Flag Football	Tennis

*Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball,
Cross Country Skiing, Pickleball*

• **Casey Collins, Sports Director**

- ccollins@somid.org, 410.242.1515 x171

Athletics	Golf
Bocce	Powerlifting
Distance Running	Snowshoeing

*Locally Popular Sports: Dance,
Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey*

- **Elizabeth Kramer, Sports Director**
 - ekramer@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x127

Alpine Skiing	Kayaking	<i>Locally Popular Sports: Figure Skating, Sailing, Short Track Speed Skating, Duckpin Bowling</i>
Bowling (10 pin)	Swimming	
Cycling		

If you have questions regarding multi-sport events, or USA/World Games, please contact:

- **Steve Bennett, Senior Director, Competitions**
 - sbennett@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x102

Summer Games	Fall Sports Festival	USA Games
Winter Games		World Games

If you have questions regarding High School Unified® Sports (IUS) training and competition, please contact:

- **Zach Cintron, Senior Director, High School Unified® Sports**
 - zcintron@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x161

IUS Athletics (T&F)	IUS Indoor Bocce	IUS Tennis
IUS Outdoor Bocce	IUS Strength & Conditioning	IUS Flag Football

If you have questions regarding training/competition registration certifications or the processing of forms, please contact:

- **Dottie Rush, Registration Manager**
 - drush@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x111

Overall Sports Leadership (any sports/competition questions that aren't related to a specific sport)

- **Mike Czarnowsky, Vice President, Sports**
 - mczarnowsky@somd.org, 410.241.6280

Questions?

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

- **Jeff Abel, Vice President, Local Programs**
 - jabel@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 121
 - Any general question
- **Melissa Kelly, Senior Director, Unified® Champion schools**
 - mkelly@somd.org, 410-979-5839
 - Unified® Champion Schools, Youth Leadership, and School Engagement, Middle School Sports
- **Julie Martin, Manager, Unified Champion Schools**
 - jmartin@somd.org
 - Unified Champion Schools Grant, Youth Leadership and Whole School Engagement
- **Jake Novick, Manager, Unified Recreation**
 - jnovick@somd.org, 774-276-5861
 - College Unified Champion Schools Programs, Unified Intramurals, Community Unified Rec Options
- **Mackenzie Irvin, Senior Director, Inclusive Health & Fitness**
 - mirvin@somd.org, 857-939-4867
 - Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming
- **Kayla Shields, Director, Inclusive Health and Fitness**
 - kshields@somd.org, 410-404-4115
 - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs, Unified® Physical Education
- **Abi Bauman, Manager, Young Athletes Program**
 - abauman@somd.org, 802-881-4623
 - Young Athletes Program in school, community, and home

- **Sue Snyder, Unified® Physical Education Consultant**
 - ssnyder@somd.org
 - Unified® Physical Education
- **Sam Boyd, Volunteer Director**
 - sboyd@somd.org, 443-766-9245
 - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- **Mike Myers, Sr. Director, Area Programs**
 - mmyers@somd.org, 443-799-5335
 - All Area Programs- Primary POC for BA, HO, MO, AA, SM, CH, CL
- **Horace Dickerson, Region Director- Metro Programs**
 - hdickerson@somd.org
 - Baltimore City, Prince George's County
- **Allie Boyd, City Schools Coordinator**
 - aboyd@somd.org, 223-848-1210
 - Baltimore City Schools APE Sports Program
- **Kyler Mellott, Region Director- East**
 - kmellott@somd.org, 814-470-9474
 - Harford, Cecil, Kent, Upper Shore, Lower Shore
- **Matt Dean, Region Director- West (Starting 11/20/2023)**
 - mdean@somd.org, 240-329-1801
 - Carroll, Frederick, Washington Allegany, Garrett