

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

4/05/2024

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



Contents

- Welcome
- Shout out a volunteer- **UPDATED**
- SOMD HQ Staffing Change - **NEW**
- Volunteer Appreciation Week 2024- Nominate a Volunteer
- Play Unified with Colleges this spring!
- Mock Traffic Stops with Pathfinders for Autism
- Spring into Tennis with JTCC
- Lions Spring Festival
- Unified Trivia Night at SOMD- Get your teams together
- Spring Competition Calendar Getting Set - **UPDATED**
- Area Program Sport & Activity Information Form
- Area Program Fundraising Info Form
- Donation Information Corner
- Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Webinars - **UPDATED**
- Sports Department Contacts – Assigned Sports - **UPDATED**
- Questions?

Welcome & What happened to the Hyperlinks?

Where did the hyperlinks in the articles list go?

Recently Special Olympics Maryland conducted a data migration to M365 which affected how our hyperlinked bookmarks in the Area Memo function. Those of you who tried to click links in the last memo received error messages that you didn't have access to view them.

So while we work with tech to figure out the best solution, we hope you don't mind the extra scrolling!

All other links in the Area Memo- those that go to websites- seem to be working fine, but as always, if you encounter any challenges, please let Jeff know (jabel@somd.org)

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...

SOMD basketball coaches and coordinators- Thank you for providing an exciting season of training and competition for our Athletes and Unified Teammates! We're looking forward to seeing your teams and skills athletes in action this weekend at University of Maryland!

Jeff Hagen at his team in St. Mary's County for hosting a great Spring Games this past Thursday!

Bob, Peggy, and Stephanie Baker who joined our monthly All Staff Meeting yesterday to provide our staff an important overview on Prader Willi Syndrome! All found it very informative and beneficial--- it was great to spend the morning together!

Please use the link below to submit your shout outs!

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

Volunteer Appreciation Week 2024- Shout out a Volunteer!

We are excited to celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Week in a little over a month! As part of National Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 21-27, 2024), SOMD will be highlighting some volunteers and their work on social media. If you have a program volunteer that you'd like to nominate as one of our highlighted volunteers, use the link below!

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

If you have any questions, contact Sam Boyd at Volunteers@somd.org

(NEW) SOMD HQ Staffing Changes

We are sad to share the news that Elizabeth Kramer's last day as a Sports Director will be April 19th. Elizabeth has accepted a position with the Kennedy Krieger Institute. During her time at SOMD Elizabeth successfully rose to many challenges – most notably with cycling and swimming. She added new bowling venues and had a great relationship with the athletes and Sport Management Teams she worked with. We will miss her can-do attitude and her hard work on behalf of our athletes.

We wish Elizabeth all the best in her new role! If you are at the Loyola Swimming event on April 13, please be sure to wish Elizabeth a fond farewell.

Julie Martin's last day as our FT Manager, Unified Champion Schools is today, April 5th. Julie has accepted a position with Howard County as the Assistant Director of the Elkridge 50+ Senior Center. Julie has done great work during her time with SOMD, and are excited to say that Julie will continue supporting our Unified Champion Schools team through July as the **Unified Champion Schools Consultant!** In this role, Julie will continue her work reporting on our Year 16 Unified Champion Schools Grant and writing the Year 17 Unified Champion Schools Grant.

Reminder- MinuteClinic & Women's Health Services Voucher

As programs prepare for spring sports seasons, it's a good time for a reminder about the national partnership with MinuteClinic!

Special Olympics North America has renewed the partnership with MinuteClinic, and, will once again be offering discounted sports physicals at a discounted rate. The attached voucher must be presented at the time of the physical AND athletes and families should bring the Special Olympics Maryland registration packet with them to ensure the correct paperwork is completed and can be submitted to their area program.

New

Also attached to this email is a voucher for discounted Women's Health Services through Minute Clinic for Special Olympics athletes.

Reminder: Athletes are not required to use MinuteClinic, but those who do not have a primary care physician may find this discount helpful.

Play Unified with Colleges this spring!

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR ATHLETES & FAMILIES

We are excited to offer Unified Intramurals at 3 college campuses this spring! In this fun and competitive program, Special Olympics Maryland athletes team up with college students for intramurals on campus. Each program meets once per week for 1 hour.

All of these programs are play only--- there is no practice and no coaches. Athletes do not have to train and compete in the sport during the typical Special Olympics Maryland season to play Unified Intramurals. **Register Here:** <https://wkf.ms/4aJQbic>

Mount St. Mary's University	Soccer	Mondays- 6:30-7:30pm 3/25, 4/8, 4/15, 4/22, 4/29 *Note there is NO GAME on 4/1 because of Easter Break*
Towson University	Bocce	Wednesdays- 7:00-8:00pm 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8
University of Maryland	Bocce	Thursdays 7:00-8:00pm 4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2

If you have questions, please contact: UCS@somd.org

Register Here: <https://wkf.ms/4aJQbic>

Mock Traffic Stops with Pathfinders for Autism

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR ATHLETES & FAMILIES

The SOMD Athlete Leadership Department encourages you to attend any of 3 Mock Traffic Stops opportunities about with Pathfinders for Autism. We have personally attended this program and it is excellent. Getting pulled over can be overwhelming and stressful. This training helps deal with some of those feelings and simulate a traffic stop. It is good for DRIVERS and PASSENGERS with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Click on the link to learn more and register [▶ https://bit.ly/49DkhT8](https://bit.ly/49DkhT8)

- Apr 18 – Woodlawn (Baltimore)
- May 1 – Laurel (Prince George's County)
- May 14 – Frederick (Frederick County)

Spring into Tennis with JTCC!

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR ATHLETES & FAMILIES

Don't wait until fall tennis season to get back on the court! JTCC in College Park continues their free Special Olympics Maryland tennis program this spring.

Dates: 4/7, 21, 28, 5/5, 19, 6/2, 9: No Class on May 12 (Mother's Day) or May 26 (Memorial Day Weekend)

See the attached flyer for info

Registration:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-Z97mhKha3ADd9w7rxUwsodyunMueaxvACdRnRpG8E5Mhgg/viewform>

Lions Club Spring Festival

While we know Saturday, April 6, 2024 will be a busy day for many of our athletes and families, SOMD athletes and their families were extended invitations to the Lions Club Spring Festival. See details below:

What: Lions of Delaware, Maryland, & Washington DC first annual Spring Festival

Date: April 5, 2024

Site: Waldorf Jaycees, 3090 Crain Hwy, Waldorf, MD 20601

Time: 12:00 – 3:00

Event description from the Lions: We will be having free food and drinks, Vision and Hearing screenings, water painting, fun and games, and so much more!!!

Here is the [Link](#) to the Facebook event:

Unified Trivia Night at SOMD- Get your teams together!

WHEN: Friday, April 12th, 2024. 6:30pm-8pm

We are looking for 7 Unified teams made up of 6 players each. A minimum of 50% of the team must be athletes. Let us know if you want to attend or form your team, and let Abby (aknight@somd.org) or Jason (jschriml@somd.org) know.

Don't have a team yet? We will put you on a team with others who are coming that evening.

(UPDATED) Spring Competition Calendar Getting Set

Areas are working diligently to prepare for their Spring sports seasons, including scheduling competitions. To assist in that planning, we're sharing the events with known dates that **have typically been open to multiple Area programs**. These are also included in the attached sports calendar.

Loyola Swim Qualifier	Baltimore, MD	Loyola University	4/13/2024	Swimming
AA Spring Games Day 1	Annapolis, MD	Pasadena YMCA	4/20/2024	Swimming
AA Spring Games Day 2	Annapolis, MD	US Naval Academy	4/28/2024	Athletics (T&F), Bocce
PG Swim Meet	Laurel, MD	Fairland Aquatic Center	4/28/2023	Swimming
CH Spring Games	Indian Head, MD	Lackey High School	5/4/2024	Athletics (T&F), Bocce, Swimming
HA Swimming Qualifier	Joppa, MD	Magnolia Middle School	5/4/2024	Swimming
AL Spring Games	Frostburg, MD	Mountain Ridge HS Frostburg State (SW)	5/11/2024	Athletics (T&F), Bocce, Swimming
BA Athletics (T&F) All Comers Meet	Owings Mills, MD	McDonogh School	5/11/2024	Athletics (T&F)
MO Swim Meet	Bethesda, MD	Stone Ridge School	5/11/2024	Swimming
CR Athletics (T&F) and Bocce All Comers	Westminster, MD	Westminster High School	5/18/2024	Athletics (T&F), Bocce
Softball Required Qualifier	Ellicott City, MD	Kiwanis Wallas Park	5/19/2024	Softball
MO Spring Games	Bethesda, MD	Landon School	5/19/2024	Athletics (T&F), Bocce
HO Track Meet	Columbia, MD	Wilde Lake High School	6/1/2024	Athletics (T&F)
HO Swim Meet	Columbia, MD	Steven's Forest Pool	6/2/2024	Swimming

Contact info is included on the sports calendar. Please note that each of these events has a maximum capacity and cannot accommodate an unlimited number of competitors (except for the Softball Required Qualifier). In addition, some may already have other Area programs signed up for the event, so be sure to reach out to the designated contact (found on sports calendar) if you are interested in having your athletes attend.

If your Area is hosting a competition that is open to other programs, please complete and submit the sanction form (available on the CRP) and we will include it in the next Area Memo.

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 Coach 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)

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Registration / Recording Link</i>
Basketball	Thu, 11/16	Recording: https://youtu.be/JV4npXAvRu0
Athletics (T&F)	Tue, 3/26	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-Sr8Yf6Rfg
Bocce	Mon, 3/25	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKiO5ssqpw8
Cheerleading	Wed, 3/20	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXWxcnK3ulA
Softball	Wed, 3/20	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZtc15UZofQ
Swimming	Tue, 3/19	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=euixUvfBvVc

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

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Registration / Recording Link</i>
Basketball (5v5 Trad & Unif)	Wed, 03/27 6:00-7:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsdO2grTluHNyHb4aDiJQFTOVhOn6UbfR0
Basketball (ISC, all 3v3, 5v5PDU)	Wed, 03/27 7:00-8:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlscO2rpzljGtRkjd13X4zqneBx-ccYB0No
Athletics (T&F)	Tue, 6/4 6:00-7:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/j/84616489303?pwd=je5aGNpNzuH5TFwgOLcRCmtb8R81pS.1
Bocce	Wed, 6/5 6:00-7:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/j/88104320430?pwd=omzcSayMbkwuqfKKcdg4CLZiukAdAb.1
Cheerleading	Tue, 6/11 7:30-8:30p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlodOivrijvGtyOPMoGuQ8yUBZX54YVGZi7
Softball	Tue, 6/11 6:00-7:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYocQurz8sHdxJupj2u0IJOh6eDnKEcf43
Swimming	Thu, 6/6 6:00-7:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsd-2rrDsuGdS_FdBmcglkLi0R9Y6kGF8y

(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@somd.org, 410.979.5112
 - Basketball
 - Cheerleading
 - Flag Football
 - Softball
 - Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball
- **Casey Collins, Sports Director**
 - ccollins@somd.org, 240.994.2631
 - Athletics
 - Distance Running
 - Golf
 - Powerlifting
 - Snowshoeing
 - Locally Popular Sports: Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey
- **Elizabeth Kramer, Sports Director**
 - ekramer@somd.org, 443.716.8384
 - Alpine Skiing
 - Cycling
 - Kayaking
 - Swimming
 - Locally Popular Sports: Cross Country Skiing, DanceSport, Figure Skating, Sailing

- **Jake Novick, Sports Director**
 - jnovick@somd.org, 774.276.5861

Bocce	Soccer	<i>Locally Popular Sports: Duckpin Bowling, Pickleball, Short Track Speed Skating,</i>
Bowling (10 pin)	Tennis	

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

- **Steve Bennett, Senior Director, Competitions**
 - sbennett@somd.org, 304.991.1421

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, 973.862.0414

IUS Athletics (T&F)	IUS Indoor Bocce	IUS Tennis
IUS Outdoor Bocce	IUS Strength & Conditioning	IUS Flag Football
- **Tyler Harrell, Manager, High School Unified® Sports**
 - tharrell@somd.org, 410.251.0331

IUS High School program logistics and coordination with Districts and Local School Systems

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 Consultant**
 - jmartin@somd.org
 - Unified Champion Schools Grant, Youth Leadership and Whole School Engagement
- **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 Deal, Region Director- West**
 - mdeal@somd.org, 240-329-1801
 - Carroll, Frederick, Washington Allegany, Garrett