

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

5/12/2024

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



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Welcome

Happy Mother's Day to all of the SOMD Moms, Aunts, Grandmothers, Sisters, Godmothers, and Mother-figures! Thank you for all you do to make these programs possible for our athletes!

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...

John Nolan and his team on a fantastic Charles County Spring Games! What a great event supported by the community!

The Harford County Management Team on an exciting Swim Qualifier last weekend

Please use the link below to submit your shout outs!

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

(NEW) Reminder- Area Director Monthly Call

Reminder that our May Area Director Monthly call is this Wednesday, **5/15/2024 at 6:30pm**

Please use this link to register and join:

<https://somd.zoom.us/j/83692152206?pwd=vaVyyX9145yEOEUkwaEx6RirkBvZiN.1>

(NEW) SOMD Sports Staff Changes

Thursday was Casey Collins' last day at Special Olympics Maryland. During his time as a Sport Director at SOMD, Casey most valued the interaction he had with athletes, coaches, and other stakeholders at SOMD events. We wish him the best as he pursues other opportunities.

As a search is already underway for a Sport Director position, we already have a pool of candidates that we are in the process of vetting and hope to find two new Sport Directors from this pool. If we are unsuccessful, we will repost the position.

In the interim, please direct questions related Athletics (Track & Field and Distance Running), Topgolf and Equestrian (locally popular sport) to Mike Czarnowsky (mczarnowsky@somd.org). Please direct questions for any other sports previously handled by Casey (Golf, Powerlifting, Snowshoeing, Floor Hockey (locally popular sport)) and anything else you may have been working on with Casey, to Steve Bennett (sbennett@somd.org).

(NEW) It's Torch Run Season

Starting in a few weeks, law enforcement agencies across the state will be hosting Torch Runs in support of our athletes. Attached to this Area Memo is the current Torch Run Schedule. Please share with your athletes and families so they can attend. Anyone have done in the past, anyone participating in the Torch Run must wear the 2024 Torch Run T-shirt, and can receive one by making a donation--- please contact Betsy Jiron at SOMD (BJiron@somd.org) to connect with your local agency for a shirt.

(NEW) Summer Games – Head of Delegation (HOD) Meetings/Webinars

Thank you to those Summer Games HODs who were able to join us for the first HOD webinar on May 8. The link to the recording and the slides from that session can be found on the Summer Games Coach Resource Page (CRP) at <https://www.somd.org/coach-resources/summer-games-coach-resources/>

There will be an **additional HOD webinar** on Monday, June 10 from 6:00-8:00pm. HODs (and Area Directors if they wish) can register for this session at: <https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrfuurgjosEta-N6dONT-cfO57Qc5DfbSc>.

There will also be an **“in person” HOD meeting** at Towson University on Thursday evening, June 20, 2024, from 6:00-8:00pm in the West Village Commons (the building where breakfast and dinner is typically served for Summer Games). The exact room is too be determined.

Lastly, we will be holding a special webinar for **Athletes and Families** on Thursday, June 13, from 6:00-7:30pm. Invites will be sent directly to all athletes and family members registered for Summer Games once the Competition registration deadline has passed (June 3) and we know who is actually slotted to be at Summer Games. That said, here is the registration link for that session which you can feel free to share with your known delegation members:

<https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvdeuugjsoE9Kziy5axqK00udbIC431wd2>

(NEW) Registration Deadlines for Remainder of 2024 In Sports Calendar

As a “heads up” the attached Sports Calendar has been updated with all of the registration deadlines for the remainder of this year (which are also listed below). Please share this calendar with coaches and other interested parties. It is also available on the main SOMD Coach Resource Page (CRP)

<https://www.somd.org/coach-resources/>

Event	Competition Date(s)	Trng Reg Deadline (in GMS)**	Last Date To Submit Missing Forms**	Competition Registration Deadline (in GMS)**
2024 Kayaking Time Trials	8/10/2024	7/05/2024	7/18/2024	8/1/2024
2024 Kayaking Finals	8/17/2024			
2024 Golf Championship (TENTATIVE)	9/22/2024 (tentative)	8/12/2024	8/22/2024	9/3/2024
2024 Fall Sports Festival	10/19/2024	8/29/2024	9/12/2024	10/7/2024

2024 Soccer State Tournament	10/27/2024	8/29/2024	9/12/2024	10/7/2024
2024 Bowling Regional Tournaments	11/10 or 17/24	9/27/2024	10/10/2024	10/24/2024
2024 Bowling State Championships	12/8/2024			11/20/2024

(UPDATED) GMS Reminders – Requests for Advancing, Spring Competition Assistance, Filters

A few reminders as we are all in “heavy use” time for GMS:

- **Requests for Advancing** – We are happy to reduce Area data entry by advancing the results (or even the entries) made in one games to the next one, event to Summer Games, but there are several stipulations to make this work
 - Advancement definition: This is basically copying the entries from one competition into a subsequent competition, entering everyone into the same events and copying the results scores in as the new entry scores (or can copy the previous entry scores in as the new entry scores, such as for bocce or for a situation where results haven’t yet been entered)
 - The request needs to be made at least 72 hours prior to the latest the advancement can take place – while it’s generally a pretty quick process, it can only be done when no one else is in the games in GMS. Also, while supporting our Area programs is very important, we typically will not be dropping everything to handle an advancement request that someone wants done right away (it’s usually quicker to do several at once). Send requests to mczarnowsky@somd.org and Mike will get them handed off to the best person for that request.
 - The Area GMS person is responsible for checking the entries in the new competition after the advancement is done. This is to handle any errors that might occur, handle anyone who was scratched in the original games or for whom no score was recorded in the original games. This is your responsibility and you need to allow time to double check things before the deadline for entry for the new competition.
 - Competitors CANNOT already be entered into the competitive event into which you want the advanced. The person can be registered for that next games and in Swimming training” for that games, but cannot be in the competitive event into which you want them advanced (e.g., can’t already be entered into the 50M Backstroke) – GMS ignores entries in the advancement process when the person is already in that competitive event.
 - Areas Hosting competitions need to get the results entered quickly following the event. If the results aren’t entered, we can’t advance them.
- **Games Filters** – If you can’t find a particular games on the list of games in GMS, be sure to check whether or not you have any “games filters” turned on. This is under the games groups and you need to be sure you either have everything unchecked OR that you have the groups that contain the games you are looking for checked off (typically you will want “Training” as well as the “Community” games for the current and previous year checked, at a minimum). Filters can be very helpful in limiting the list of games (currently at 353), but can cause confusion if you don’t know how they work.

Topgolf – Open for Areas To Utilize

A friendly reminder to reference both the notes/slides from the April 17 Area Director meeting and the email regarding Topgolf (sent April 16). The three facilities in Maryland (Baltimore, Germantown, Oxon Hill) are available to your golf programs to bring groups of athletes and Unified partners to their facilities, however there are several requirements, detailed in those communications. Any questions can be directed to sbennett@somd.org).

CDW and Medicals/Volunteer Applications

Be sure to review the Slides/notes/recording from the April 17 Area Directors meeting for information regarding the CDW now being part of the SOMD Athlete Medical form and the Volunteer Application. It is included as an additional page in each form and requires a signature on that page (unfortunately we were not granted permission from SOI to include a statement in the existing releases to handle this). All medical and volunteer forms available to download from SOMD's website and Coach Resource Page have the new format (w/CDW).

Any medicals or volunteer form that we receive that either doesn't have a CDW or the person doesn't have a new CDW submitted (not one from 3 years ago) will not be processed and Dottie Rush will send a message to the appropriate Area personnel to let them know we need the CDW (they can't participate w/o the CDW anyway, so it's no delay in them starting to participate).

We have changed the expiration dates for all active participants who have a valid CDW to match the expiration date of either the person's medical or volunteer application.

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) Finance Corner

A great big **THANK YOU** to everyone for jumping on the In-kind for 2023! We are ready for the auditors! **Invoices & Credit Cards** – Please make sure that the Memo/Description that you are providing tells the story of what was purchased. No need for proper grammar, tell it like it is. “25 Basketballs”, “Uniforms for Bowling”, “Facilities for Pickleball July & Aug 23”. It is important to be brief and clear so someone outside of the transaction understands what was purchased. For Credit cards, **please include the vendor** “Amazon – 100 Flag football Flags”; “Jersey Mikes – 347 lunches for Spring Games”.

Alert to suspicious charges – If Truist sees suspicious charges on your credit card – a spending pattern that doesn't match your habits, or charges to unusual websites, or charges on your card that happen one right after the other – the fraud department will temporarily suspend the card to stop the activity.

The fraud department will call you on the phone number that was used to sign you up for a card. When Truist calls, the phone number, that comes up on your caller ID, may not be familiar to you. I am in the process of getting a secondary phone number on everyone's account so that Truist will also call me. If you have changed your phone number since you signed up, please let me know.

Direct Deposit – HQ is moving in the direction of Direct Deposit/ACH/EFT for all Stipends, Vendors, and other payments. Anyone issued a physical check is given a sign-up form with that check. We are asking that you strongly encourage the use of Direct Deposit/ACH/EFT. No more lost payments in the postal mail. It is a bank-to-bank transaction, so the person or company is paid faster. The form to sign up for EFT is attached to this memo. When working with current, and especially new vendors, ask them to sign up. Thank you! If you have any questions about this update, please reach out to Joanne.

(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)

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Athletics (T&F)	Tue, 3/26	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-Sr8Yf6Rfg
Bocce	Mon, 3/25	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKi05ssqpw8
Cheerleading	Wed, 3/20	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXWxcnK3u1A
Softball	Wed, 3/20	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZtc15UZofQ
Swimming	Tue, 3/19	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=euixUvfBvVc

Kayaking	Tue, 5/21 6:00-7:30p	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAuduygrDgqH9124x5A32NeRmVQewSLuL-W
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Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars (slides from recorded sessions are available on the respective CRP)

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Athletics (T&F)	Tue, 6/4 6:00-7:00p	https://somed.zoom.us/j/84616489303?pwd=je5aGNpNzuH5TFwgOLcRCmtb8R81pS.1
Bocce	Wed, 6/5 6:00-7:00p	https://somed.zoom.us/j/88104320430?pwd=omzcSayMbwkuqfKKcdg4CLZiukAdAb.1
Cheerleading	Tue, 6/11 7:30-8:30p	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlodOivrijvGtyOPMoGuQ8yUBZX54YVGzi7
Softball	Tue, 6/11 6:00-7:00p	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYocQurz8sHdxJupj2u0lJOH6eDnKEcf43
Swimming	Thu, 6/6 6:00-7:00p	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsd-2rrDsuGdS_FdBmcgIkLi0R9Y6kGF8y
Kayaking Time Trails	Wed, 8/7 6:00-7:30p	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsdO6urT4iHdH5GrfiPkAXMRmQm7RckgOQ
Kayaking Finals	Wed, 8/14 6:00-7:30p	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0odO-uqD0oG9OS1rq-dWhkEPvhmXtYvy1K

(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
 - Flag Football
 - Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball
 - Cheerleading
 - Softball

- **VACANT, Sports Director** (Contact Steve Bennett until position is filled: sbennett@somd.org/304.991.1421)
 - CURRENTLY VACANT
 - Athletics
 - Powerlifting
 - Locally Popular Sports:
 - Distance Running
 - Snowshoeing
 - Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey
 - Golf

- **VACANT, Sports Director** (Contact Steve Bennett until position is filled: sbennett@somd.org / 304.991.1421)
 - CURRENTLY VACANT
 - Alpine Skiing
 - Kayaking
 - Locally Popular Sports: Cross Country Skiing,
 - Cycling
 - Swimming
 - DanceSport, Figure Skating, Sailing

- **Jake Novick, Sports Director**
 - jnovick@somd.org, 774.276.5861
 - Bocce
 - Soccer
 - Locally Popular Sports: Duckpin Bowling,
 - Bowling (10 pin)
 - Tennis
 - Pickleball, Short Track Speed Skating,

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

- **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