Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo 8/30/2024

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Welcome

September already?!?!? Summer flew by and we have entered the very busy and very exciting fall season. Many thanks to our Coaches and Sport Coordinators for providing practices, competitions, and more for our Athletes and Unified Teammates!

And best wishes to all of our educators, administrators, parents/guardians, and students who have gone and will be heading back to school! Make it a great year and remember, if you are interested in growing Unified Champion Schools Programming at your school, email <u>UCS@somd.org</u>!

If there are any members of your area's leadership who are not currently receiving the Area Memo, <u>please fill</u> <u>out this form</u>

Shout out a volunteer

This memo's shot outs go to ...

The Management Teams from Howard County, Anne Arundel County, Carroll County, Cecil County, and St. Mary's County for great golf qualifiers last weekend! So many athletes and unified teammates on course and on skills stations thanks to your efforts!

Our Area Directors and Finance Coordinators who are working on building their 2025 budgets! That's a large task and appreciate your work in putting those together to ensure the financial health of our organization!

The Prince George's County Management Team for throwing the athletes an excellent Awards Celebration this week! Athletes and their families were so excited to be recognized for a year of great sports seasons! Thank you for putting this together!

Please use the link below to submit your shout outs! <u>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LV88QG9</u>

Area Leader Quick Resource Guide

With so many new staff members, we have added an updated Quick Resource Guide to this Area Memo. As a reminder, this is not a comprehensive staff roster, but a list of functional areas/responsibilities most used by the Area Programs and the corresponding staff member. But as always, when in doubt, be in touch with your Region Director and we'll point you in the right direction!

(NEW) SOMD Sports Committee - Pickleball Elevated to State Level Sport

The Sports Committee of the SOMD Board of Directors conducted its quadrennial review of SOMD's overall package of sports offerings, including reviewing what is considered a state level sport and what is handled as a locally popular sport. This review was intentionally delayed from 2022 due to the impact of the pandemic on participation numbers.

The committee considered whether any of the current locally popular sports should be elevated to state level status based on a variety of factors including participation numbers, growth trends, etc.. After an extensive and engaging discussion it was decided that *pickleball will be moved to a state level sport* which will have it included as a sport where SOMD HQ will directly work on sport development and host an annual state championship (either as part of an existing multi-sport event or as a standalone tournament).

As you may be aware, pickleball has experienced significant growth since it was first introduced by Howard County to their program in 2022 and is deemed by some to be the fastest growing sport in the USA (possibly the world).

Part of the discussion included consideration of how that process would happen since we haven't added a new state-level sport in at least 10 or 15 years, including the following multi-part question:

- \circ $\;$ What considerations need to be factored in prior to adding a sport to the state calendar such as
 - Creation of a Sport Management Team
 - What sport season will it be added to, if Areas are currently on different seasons
 - Development of coach training opportunities
 - Confirmation of rules
 - Budgeting of projected costs
 - Etc.

We have a lot to figure out, including to which Sport Director this sport would be assigned. We'll begin working through these questions in September.

The SOMD Sports Committee is chaired by board member Elaina Camacho and is composed of members of the SOMD Board of Directors (Steve Eigenbrot, Sean Doordan, Bradley Schlagger), representatives of Area programs (Bob Baker, Don Bewick, John Bogasky) and IUS programs (Barb Cosner, Caprice West), and SOMD Sports Department staff (Mike Czarnowsky, Steve Bennett, Zach Cintron).

(NEW) Fall Sports (including Cycling) and Soccer Training Registrants Advanced to Games in GMS

Training registration for the Fall Sports (cycling, distance running, flag football, powerlifting, tennis) and soccer closed on Thursday night, August 29. We are in the process of doing all of the advancements and should have the games for Fall Sports Festival, Cycling (handled as a separate games in GMS this year) and Soccer available for Area access by Monday.

A few notes:

1. Be sure to check all of your registrants to ensure that everyone you registered as training by the August 29 deadline were advanced properly. Areas are not able to add anyone to a games, and adding someone to training after the deadline does not advance them into the games. If someone is missing send a

message to <u>coaches@somd.org</u> and a determination will be made as to whether or not they can be added to the competitive games.

- 2. Areas will have until Monday, September 12 to submit any missing forms/certifications for any of their registrants who are missing something. Dottie Rush will send lists of missing forms/certifications early next week.
- 3. Areas will have until the competition registration deadline (Monday, October 7) to delete anyone not attending the given games, enter all competitors into their competitive events (with scores as appropriate) and place entrants on teams (flag football and soccer teams will have their memners assigned by SOMD based on the rosters submitted by coaches, buit those individuals must be registered for those events by their Area's GMS person).

(NEW) Athlete Registration Process Update

SOMD shared with Area leaders some upcoming changes to the Athlete Registration Process during the August 21 Area Leader webinar.

A key point that <u>ALL</u> must keep in mind as this information is reviewed and discussed:

There have been no changes to the SOMD registration process at this time.

<u>All athletes must still have full medical forms (signed by a licensed and authorized medical professional) to participate in any SOMD or Area sports program. No exceptions.</u>

The key change will be use of an Athlete Registration Form and process that will include an annually update health history (comparable to the first to pages of the current SOMD athlete medical form) that will not require the completion of a medical exam and signature by a licensed medical professional (for <u>most</u> athletes). SOMD is tentatively targeting to implement this change for the "winter" season (alpine skiing, snowshoeing, basketball), however that may shift based on any number of factors.

There are an enormous number of questions and issues to be resolved prior to the implementation of this change in process (and questions that we don't even know are questions at this time). SOMD will be working through these issues over the next several months and will incorporate Area input as appropriate and possible throughout that process. Look for more information in the coming weeks and months.

(NEW) 2025 World Games – Maryland Nominees Now Full Delegation Members for SO USA

Special Olympics Maryland is proud to announce that all four of our Athlete Nominees for the Special Olympics USA Team for the 2025 Special Olympics World Winter Games have been accepted! The following athletes are officially members of the Special Olympics USA delegation that will be traveling to Italy to represent their fellow athletes from the United States of America.

0	Claire Potter	Baltimore County	Alpine Skiing
0	Ralph Gemmill, Jr.	Baltimore County	Alpine Skiing
0	Elaina Camacho	Anne Arundel County	Snowshoeing
0	Candi Blessing	Washington County	Snowshoeing

Special Olympics Maryland wishes these athletes all the best in their endeavors for this great opportunity. They will be training and preparing for the World Games leading into next year. Congratulations athletes! If you haven't seen the official announcements yet, you may click on the following links for the announcements:

Special Olympics Maryland Announcement

https://www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsMD/videos/1208696593665078

Special Olympics USA Announcement

<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&si=Y-</u>
 <u>T0sJ_pVnBNMQKR&v=YY0cKmlptRw&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=lwY2xjawE0CKRleHRuA2FlbQ</u>
 <u>lxMQABHZr6kWChTSs3YmWjB6z8H0In5okdfpfvNOMZzPXULaBvp40tCpoQRQUjmA_aem_8IN</u>
 <u>A0XgaOXLKi9CV3dfYUQ</u>

(UPDATED) Cycling Moved To SUNDAY, October 20

UPDATE: The venue for the 2024 SOMD Cycling Championship in the Fall Sports Festival has been confirmed for the Melford Town Center / Business Park (same venue as in 2023). We thank St. John's Properties for the generous inclusion in their events for the 2024 fall season.

The Cycling Championship is now scheduled for SUNDAY October 20 (the day after the rest of the Fall Sports Festival (FSF)) and is planned at the Melford Business Park. This is the same venue as used in 2023, however the shift to a Sunday date is expected to help reduce some of the challenges experienced at the venue last year (along with some alternate planning for the venue including volunteer/marshal deployment). While this goes counter to our general approach of minimizing the number of "stand alone" state championships, it is necessary for this sport this year.

With this change in date, <u>we will also allow Areas to register competitors in cycling and one other FSF sport</u> that will be contested on Saturday: Athletics (Long Distance Running), Flag Football, Powerlifting, Tennis. This is likely an option for <u>2024 only</u> as we will continue to look to have cycling return to the same date as the rest of the FSF in the future (some venues unavailable to us in 2024 may be available in 2025). We will also have Cycling as a separate games in GMS (not included within the Fall Sports Festival in GMS). All due dates and deadlines will remain the same.

JTCC Fall Tennis Program

JTCC is once again offering a free tennis program for Special Olympics Maryland Athletes! NEW this year are separate sessions for adults and juniors. Please see information below. You DO NOT have to be a tennis player with SOMD to participate in these programs.

NEW: JTCC Junior Special Olympics Tennis | Saturdays 9:30-11:00 am

For players ages 5-18 with an intellectual/developmental disability Dates: September 7, 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 2

NEW: JTCC Adult Special Olympics Tennis | Saturdays 11:00 am-12:30 pm

For players ages 18+ with an intellectual/developmental disability Dates: September 7, 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 2

Please note: some days do conflict with qualifiers, practices, and competitions. The JTCC tennis sessions are optional, so would not be an allowable excuse for missing a qualifier, practice, or competition.

Register here

2026 USA Games – SOMD Quota Received

SOMD has received its quota for the 2026 Special Olympics USA Summer Games in Minneapolis and it is exactly what we requested.

- 1 Unified Basketball Team (10 player roster)
- 1 Traditional Soccer Team (5v5) (10 player roster) (selected from our 7v7 teams)
- 8 Athletics (Track & Field) athletes
- 4 Bocce athletes
- 4 Bowling athletes
- 8 Swimming athletes

• 44 competitors total if receive full quota

More information will be provided once available. We anticipate that teams/individuals will be selected from the following state championships:

- <u>Soccer</u>: 2024 State Soccer Tournament
- <u>Bowling</u>: 2024 State Bowling Championship
- <u>Basketball</u>: 2025 State Basketball Tournament
- <u>Athletics, Bocce, Swimming</u>: 2025 Summer Games

(NEW) SO Learn – Back Online With New LMS

SO Learn, the SOI hosted online learning system, is back online and operational. Anyone who has utilized the system within the past 6 months should have received an email letting them know it was back-up and running with its new LMS (learning management system) and instructing them to create a new password for their account. Even if a previous user did not receive such an email, they can log on using their existing username and they will be prompted to create a new password. (https://elearn.specialolympics.org/learn)

Coaches and all volunteers can complete their Protective Behaviors and Concussion certification courses at this location that has better tracking systems than previous options. Additional online courses are expected to be available in the future.

The layout is different than under the former LMS and seems to be a little more intuitive. More information will be provided as it becomes available. The SOMD Coach Resource Page (CRP) will be edited this weekend to direct users to SO Learn for completion of certifications.

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

 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: <u>Area Donation Tracking Report</u>

- 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 <u>Area Donation Tracking Report</u>.

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!

<u>Click Here</u> 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 <u>Area Donation Tracking Report</u>

Finance Corner

BUDGET 2025 -

The MARTUS training/refresher course on August 6th has been recorded. If you did not receive the materials and recording, please reach out to Joanne.

Budgets are due on or before **September 20th**. If you need any assistance, please reach out to the finance team.

CLOVER CREDIT CARD MACHINES -

Did you know that the Clover Flex and Clover Go credit card machines can hold an inventory of items for sale? This new feature allows us to add your items in an easy-to-use menu format. We can list the item, the price and get reports at the end of the event on what was sold. Currently, we have 2024 LETR and Summer Games inventories on the Clover. It is quick and easy to set up before your events. Contact Kim if you are interested in this feature.

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

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link	
Golf	Tue, 7/16	Recording: <u>https://youtu.be/fruAq3r_LMM</u>	

Athletics (LDR)	Wed, 7/24	Recording: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-0HoEg0_yY</u>	
Cycling Wed, 7/31		Recording: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7hU3c6b-e0</u>	
Flag Football	Wed, 7/17	Recording: <u>https://youtu.be/pKbsGA9vYJY</u>	
Powerlifting	Tue, 7/23	Recording: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVxpclIGdIU</u>	
Tennis	Mon, 7/29	Recording: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHhKNhn-bR0</u>	
Soccer	Tue, 7/30	Recording: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJMnbHxJP18</u>	
Douding	Wed, 9/04	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqd-2vpzkjHtwF_9KFe7aD3y41uW9I7Wib	
Bowling	6:00-7:00p	nttps://soniu.zooni.us/meeting/register/tzequ-zvpzkjHtwF_9KFe7uD3y41uw917wib	

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

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Golf	Tue, 9/17 6:00-7:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ufuqgqjwiGdMm81SqOQCP7pjZm-UY0Mma
Athletics (LDR)	Mon, 10/7 6:00-7:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtduiqrDooGtVRoi2tgQImvB0Jfi7fg6qw
Cycling	Thu, 10/10 6:00-7:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkfu-srDspGNIOySfogdDA-IUfOLuVwBP3
Flag Football	Wed, 10/9 6:00-7:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vcOGspj4pG9Ra0O1XtwTflkcf7GWqkrAL
Powerlifting	Wed, 10/9 7:00-8:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYoc-qupjMqHNyXE0WgdNBJo2IVs-A-bz79
Tennis	Tue, 10/08 6:00-7:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvdOCurjMsEtC_sw5GgmxuWGY6gR8_r3yI
Soccer	Tue, 10/15 6:00-7:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvdeqprDwtGdRpQuAbaHypbP0E0QVm7W-C
Bowling Regionals	Wed, 10/30 6:00-7:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqcuyorToqH9fYC5yKnlgX0gqP8tUk_Ni7
Bowling States	Tue, 12/03 6:00-7:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrdO-prTojHNRiGRDPvFjLE9eW23s4HMXB

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

- o <u>manger@somd.org</u>, 410.979.5112
 - Basketball Flag Football Cheerleading Softball
- Julie Klein, Sports Director
 - o jklein@somd.org, 443.900.3155
 - Bowling Kayaking Cycling Swimming

Locally Popular Sports: Duckpin, Equestrian, Sailing

Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball

- Mani Madala, Sports Director
 - <u>mmadala@somd.org</u>, Athletics (*Track & Field / Long Distance Running*) Golf Snowshoeing Locally Popular Sports: DanceSport, Powerlifting Floor Hockey

• Jake Novick, Sports Director

0	<u>jnovick@somd.org</u> , 774.276.5861			
	Alpine Skiing	Soccer		
	Bocce	Tennis		

Locally Popular Sports: Duckpin Bowling, Pickleball, Short Track Speed Skating,

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

• Steve Bennett, Senior Director, Competitions

<u>sbennett@somd.org</u>, 304.991.1421
 Summer 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
 - <u>zcintron@somd.org</u>, 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

<u>tharrell@somd.org</u>, 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
 - o <u>drush@somd.org</u>, 410.242.1515 x111

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

- Mike Czarnowsky, Vice President, Sports
 - o 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
 - o jabel@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 121
 - Any general question
- Melissa Kelly, Senior Director, Unified® Champion schools
 - o <u>mkelly@somd.org</u>, 410-979-5839
 - o Unified® Champion Schools, Youth Leadership, and School Engagement, Middle School Sports
- Tasha Harris, Director, Unified Champion Schools College Programs
 - o <u>THarris@somd.org</u>, 410-242-1515 ex. 184
 - o College Programs & Partnerships, Unified Intramurals
- Allie Boyd, Manager, Unified Champion Schools
 - o <u>aboyd@somd.org</u>, 223-848-1210
 - o Unified Champion Schools Youth Leadership & Whole School Engagement

• Julie Martin, Unified Champion Schools Consultant

- o jmartin@somd.org
- Unified Champion Schools Grant

Mackenzie Irvin, Senior Director, Inclusive Health & Fitness

- o mirvin@somd.org, 857-939-4867
- Young Athletes Program, Unified Physical Education, Inclusive Health Pilot Programs

• Kayla Shields, Director, Inclusive Health and Fitness

- o <u>kshields@somd.org,</u> 410-404-4115
- o Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs, Unified® Physical Education, Health Messengers

Abi Bauman, Manager, Young Athletes Program

- o <u>abauman@somd.org</u>, 802-881-4623
- Young Athletes Program in school, community, and home

• Sue Snyder, Unified® Physical Education Consultant

- o <u>ssnyder@somd.org</u>
- Unified[®] Physical Education

• Sam Boyd, Volunteer Director

- o <u>sboyd@somd.org</u>, 443-766-9245
- Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training

• Liz Doda, AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator

- o <u>LDoda@somd.org</u>
- o Volunteer Recruitment and Event Engagement

• Mike Myers, Sr. Director, Area Programs

- o <u>mmyers@somd.org</u>, 443-799-5335
- All Area Programs- Primary POC for, SM, CH, CL

• Bob Signor, Region Director- Central

- o rsignor@somd.org
- Anne Arundel, Baltimore County, Howard, Montgomery
- Horace Dickerson, Region Director- Metro Programs
 - o hdickerson@somd.org
 - Baltimore City, Prince George's County

• Kyler Mellott, Region Director- East

- o kmellott@somd.org, 814-470-9474
- Harford, Cecil, Kent, Upper Shore, Lower Shore
- Heather Mattherw, Region Coordinator- East
 - o <u>HMatthews@somd.org</u>
 - Agency Programming- Upper Shore & Lower Shore

• Matt Deal, Region Director- West

- o <u>mdeal@somd.org</u>, 240-329-1801
- o Carroll, Frederick, Washington Allegany, Garrett