

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

9/15/2024

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



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Welcome

Reminder: 5 days until your Area Program Budgets are needed in Martus! Don't forget to save and submit when you are done! There will be a few reminders in the Area Memo...thank you for your work in putting together your budgets!

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...

Bob Freeman and the Lower Shore Management team on a successful fundraiser with Salisbury University Athletics. Thank you for your time in putting that together and cultivating the Salisbury Athletics partnership.

The Howard County Management Team on an awesome Over the Edge Fundraiser! What a great community event in support of the many Howard County Athletes! And thank you for your willingness to open this up as a Collaborative Fundraiser for more Area Programs!

Our Area Leaders and Finance Directors working hard to put together their 2025 program budgets! Thank you for your time and attention during this process!

Please use the link below to submit shout your outs!

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

(NEW) Monthly Area Director Call

Reminder to Area Directors that our Monthly Area Director call will be on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 6:30pm. Please use the link below to register and join our call!

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

(NEW) Area Cash Balances (Highlighting Joanne's Email from Friday)

Just a quick note asking all Area Directors take a look at the cash balance in CHECKING for your program. The balance in the Area checking—all together—is \$435,000 as of 9/12. Reminder that the FDIC insurance limit is \$250,000. Typically our area cash balance in checking hovers around \$325,000, which is fine.

There are some major fundraisers going on, which adds to the checking balance, but please consider moving some money for your program into savings, which lowers our risk and earns 5% on funds not needed right away.

If you have any questions or need help reading your Sage Dashboard, please reach out to your region director, Jeff, or Joanne--- we are happy to help!

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!

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:

- 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).

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 coaches@somd.org 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 members assigned by SOMD based on the rosters submitted by coaches, but those individuals must be registered for those events by their Area's GMS person).

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 **ALL** must keep in mind as this information is reviewed and discussed:

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

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.

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 most 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.

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.

- **Claire Potter** Baltimore County Alpine Skiing
- **Ralph Gemmill, Jr.** Baltimore County Alpine Skiing
- **Elaina Camacho** Anne Arundel County Snowshoeing
- **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

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&si=Y-T0sJ_pVnBNMQKR&v=YY0cKmlptRw&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwY2xjawEOCKRleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHZr6kWChTSs3YmWjB6z8H0In5okdfpfvNOMZzPXULaBvp40tCpoQRQUjmA_aem_8INAOXgaOXLKi9CV3dfYUQ

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, ***we will also allow Areas to register competitors in cycling and one other FSF sport*** that will be contested on Saturday: Athletics (Long Distance Running), Flag Football, Powerlifting, Tennis. This is likely an option for ***2024 only*** 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.

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

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

BUDGET 2025 –

Just a quick reminder that budgets are due on or before **September 20th**. If you need any assistance, please reach out to the finance team.

IN-KIND

Kim has been working on a project for capturing all In-Kind donations using Monday.com. Essentially the process will send an email at the conclusion of an event/sports season so that the In-kind can be captured as the year unfolds. More to come as this gets rolled out.

(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)

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Registration / Recording Link</i>
Golf	Tue, 7/16	Recording: https://youtu.be/fruAq3r_LMM
Athletics (LDR)	Wed, 7/24	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-0HoEq0_yY
Cycling	Wed, 7/31	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7hU3c6b-e0
Flag Football	Wed, 7/17	Recording: https://youtu.be/pKbsGA9vYJY
Powerlifting	Tue, 7/23	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVxpclIGdIU
Tennis	Mon, 7/29	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHhKNhn-bR0
Soccer	Tue, 7/30	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJMnbHxJP18
Bowling	Wed, 9/04	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpn6o2Olrw

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>
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/tZYtduiqrDooGtVROI2tgQlmvB0Jfi7fg6aw
Cycling	Thu, 10/10 6:00-7:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkfu-srDspGNIQySfogdDA-IUfOLuVwBP3
Flag Football	Wed, 10/9 6:00-7:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vcOGspj4pG9Ra001XtwTfIkcf7GWqkrAL
Powerlifting	Wed, 10/9 7:00-8:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYoc-qupjMqHNYXEOwgdNBJo2IVs-A-bz79

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
- **Tasha Harris, Director, Unified Champion Schools College Programs**
 - THarris@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 184
 - College Programs & Partnerships, Unified Intramurals
- **Allie Boyd, Manager, Unified Champion Schools**
 - aboyd@somd.org, 223-848-1210
 - Unified Champion Schools Youth Leadership & Whole School Engagement
- **Julie Martin, 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, Unified Physical Education, Inclusive Health Pilot Programs
- **Kayla Shields, Director, Inclusive Health and Fitness**
 - kshields@somd.org, 410-404-4115
 - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs, Unified® Physical Education, Health Messengers
- **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
- **Liz Doda, AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator**
 - LDoda@somd.org
 - Volunteer Recruitment and Event Engagement
- **Mike Myers, Sr. Director, Area Programs**
 - mmyers@somd.org, 443-799-5335
 - All Area Programs- Primary POC for, SM, CH, CL

- **Bob Signor, Region Director- Central**
 - rsignor@somd.org
 - Anne Arundel, Baltimore County, Howard, Montgomery

- **Horace Dickerson, Region Director- Metro Programs**
 - hdickerson@somd.org
 - Baltimore City, Prince George's County

- **Kyler Mellott, Region Director- East**
 - kmellott@somd.org, 814-470-9474
 - Harford, Cecil, Kent, Upper Shore, Lower Shore

- **Heather Mattherw, Region Coordinator- East**
 - HMatthews@somd.org
 - Agency Programming- Upper Shore & Lower Shore

- **Matt Deal, Region Director- West**
 - mdeal@somd.org, 240-329-1801
 - Carroll, Frederick, Washington Allegany, Garrett