

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

6/7/2024

**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...

Thank you to all of the **SOBA track and field coaches** and volunteers who continually rise to the occasion and step in to do whatever is needed, at every event! We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated team of people!!!

Karen Sparzak for her persistence in planning and carrying out Harford's first swim qualifier, and Nancy for organizing softball qualifiers and everything she does to keep SOHA moving forward!!

Thank you to **Pat(ricia) Neary and Pat(rick) Neary** for coming out to help present to the Harford County Parks and Recreation Council Presidents! We're excited for future programming opportunities with Harford P&R, and appreciate both of your time and input to help make them happen.

Many thanks to **Dr. Brandon Lauer, Athletic Director Wilde Lake High School** for recruiting an awesome group of volunteers from both Wild Lake and River Hill High Schools. **Matt Aubin, Brian Anderson and Kristina Dronenburg**, teachers and coaches from WLHS who helped out during the meet both on and off the track. Thanks to **Lavonne Smith, Shirley Duhaney, Debbie and Teresa Docal, John and Ann Worley and Adam Yoe**. And special thanks to **Mike Czarnowski** for all his support and his presence. This last big event before the end of the season was a huge success thanks to all these people!

Please use the link below to submit your shout outs!

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

(NEW) Reminder- Monthly Area Director Call

Reminder that our June Area Director Call will be this Wednesday (6/12) at 6:30pm. Remember, this is a week earlier based on Summer Games! Please use this link to register and join:

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

(NEW) Brave in the Attempt Talks

The Brave in the Attempt Talks are coming up next week- Tuesday, June 11 at 6:00pm at Chesapeake College Todd Performing Arts Center
1000 College Circle, Wye Mills, MD 21679.

Join us to hear the stories of 5 Special Olympics Maryland athletes around the theme: ***Brave by the Bay***

Not able to join us on campus? Join our livestream audience on Facebook or Youtube:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsMD>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCayfIK9gdAsEGQSOHP7JDUQ>

(NEW) Class of 2024, let's keep in touch!

Please share with your athletes, unified teammates, and volunteers

Congratulations to the Class of 2024! We enjoy having so many high schoolers involved in our program as athletes, unified teammates, volunteers, and more. And remember, involvement with Special Olympics programs in Maryland (or other states!) doesn't have to stop here! Let's keep in touch!

Members of the Class of 2024 should complete this brief survey to help us stay connected:

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

Even if you are headed to work, programs, or college out of state, we will help connect you to the Special Olympics Program closest to you!

(NEW) Free Tickets to Blue Crabs Game – July 26 at Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf

Thank you to George Hoehl who has arranged for free tickets for the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs minor league baseball team. These tickets are for Friday, July 26, 2024 with a 7:00pm game time at Regency Furniture Stadium (11765 Saint Linus Drive, Waldorf, MD 20602). Tickets are free and parking is free as well. Please see the attached flyer and contact George Hoehl for tickets or more information (ghoehl@hotmail.com).

(UPDATED) It's Torch Run Season

Torch Runs have started! 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@somid.org) to connect with your local agency for a shirt.

Torch Run Website: For the most UP TO DATE Torch Run Information, please visit:

<https://www.somid.org/programs/letr/>

Important update: The Torch Run scheduled for 6/8 has been cancelled and runners will join the 6/18 Torch Run in Prince George's County!

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/tZwrfuurqjosEta-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/tZcvdeuuqjsoE9Kziy5axqK00udblC431wd2>

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](#)

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=g-Sr8Yf6Rfg
Bocce	Mon, 3/25	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKi05ssqpw8
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
Kayaking	Tue, 5/21	Recording: https://youtu.be/cwSNcOFza5w

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	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4qLiqT8imU
Bocce	Wed, 6/5	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvMweatuxRo
Cheerleading	Tue, 6/11 7:30-8:30p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlodOivrigvGtyOPMoGuQ8yUBZX54YVGzi7
Softball	Tue, 6/11 6:00-7:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYocQurz8sHdxJupj2u0lJOH6eDnKEcf43
Swimming	Thu, 6/6	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6U0Z6DbAx0E
Kayaking Time Trails	Wed, 8/7 6:00-7:30p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsdO6urT4iHdH5GrfiPkAXMRmQm7RckgOQ
Kayaking Finals	Wed, 8/14 6:00-7:30p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0odO-uqD0oG9OS1rq-dWhkEPvhmXtYvy1K

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

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

- **VACANT, Sports Director** (Contact Steve Bennett until position is filled: sbennett@somd.org / 304.991.1421)
 - CURRENTLY VACANT
 - 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
 - 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