

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

10/11/2024

**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...

Margie Pulleyn, Coach for SOMD- Upper Shore

Margie has stepped up multiple times to coach when no other people would. She coaches sports divisions that her own son does not play in. If her son plays in a sport that she doesn't coach, she is always the one parent to step up to help a coach in practice. She has an amazing spirit and genuine love for our athletes. Without hesitation, this year, she has provided transportation so that a couple athletes could have competition experience. We are very lucky to have Margie part of the Upper Shore.

From: Sharon Myrick, Area Director- SOMD-Upper Shore

The Montgomery County Tennis Program

Thanks for a well-run tennis qualifier for our Levels 1, 2, and 3 players!

Laurie Brewer and the Carroll County Management Team

Congratulations on a GREAT Bag BINGO this past weekend! A PACKED Firehall and lots of fun for athletes, families, and community members. Thank you for your work putting that together!

Please use the link below to submit shout your outs!

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

(NEW) AD Calls and Webinars and Meetings...oh my!

We're looking forward to our upcoming AD Calls and Webinars, and our in-person meeting in November. Please use the links below to register

October AD Call	10/16/2024 6:30pm	https://somd.zoom.us/j/83692152206?pwd=vaVyyX9145yEOEUkwaEx6RirkBvZiN.1
November AD Webinar	11/11/2024 7:00pm	https://somd.zoom.us/j/83692152206?pwd=vaVyyX9145yEOEUkwaEx6RirkBvZiN.1 (Same link as our Monthly calls)
November AD Meeting	11/16/2024	https://wkf.ms/3A6Mzt7

(NEW) New SOI Sports Rules Published

Special Olympics, Inc. recently published the 2024 updates for the Sports Rules, including Article 1 which has more "general" rules for sports. SOI updates its rules every two years based on input from its Sports Resource Teams and input from individual programs (countries).

For SOMD, **ALL 2024 FALL SPORTS WILL CONTINUE TO USE THE 2022 RULES**. This includes athletics (long distance running), bowling, cycling, flag football, powerlifting, soccer, tennis – we will not change rules in mid-season. SOMD will begin using the updated sports rules with the 2024-25 winter sports season (alpine skiing, snowshoeing, basketball) and will review key rule changes during the pre-season sport-specific webinars.

Links to the updated rules, often including summaries of changes per sport, will be available shortly on SOMD's sport-specific Coach Resource Pages (CRPs) (www.somd.org/coach-resources/) as well as on the SOI resources page (resources.specialolympics.org).

(NEW) Coaching Special Olympics Athletes (CSOA) Will Be Available Online to SOMD Coaches Until March

We are very pleased to share that we've been able to negotiate with Human Kinetics to have the online version of the Coaching Special Olympics Athletes (CSOA) course available to SOMD coaches until at least March, 2025. We are truly pleased and grateful to HK for making this extension possible.

As you are hopefully aware, CSOA is the foundational coach education course that is required of essentially ALL Special Olympics coaches. It is available as a live, in-person course, as a virtual or Zoom based course, and also as an online course. Last year HK discontinued the availability of the online course as a new online version was in development for SO. At that time SOMD negotiated an arrangement w/HK to have the course available to our coaches for a year, until Oct 31, 2024, at which time it would no longer be available. Given subsequent further delays in SO creating an online CSOA course, we are very pleased to have an online version still available for our coaches (most other states missed that opportunity).

A few reminders:

- Coaches will NOT find CSOA on the Human Kinetics or ASEP websites. It is no longer available to the general public.
- Coaches may request a license code to access the course by emailing coaches@somd.org. There is no charge to the coach for the code, but we do have a limited quantity and so don't want to hand them out to anyone other than a prospective coach who will complete the course.
- Before issuing a license code, Dottie will verify that the person making the request is registered in GMS and has all required forms and certifications submitted to be a coach (vol app w/CDW, PB, concussion certification). Anyone who is not in GMS or does not have all their forms/certs submitted will not be sent a code until they are completed/submitted.

(NEW) Be Kind, Report Your In-Kind!

Reporting your program's in-kind donations throughout the year ensures that we accurately report the many donations of supplies, equipment, and facilities we generously receive throughout the year...and it saves you the headache of trying to remember a full year of donations!

In order to help us all stay organized, Kim put together the In-Kind reporting form linked below. This will stay open throughout the year (and will stay in the area memo) so that Area Leaders can easily report in-kind donations after each sport season or program. This will also be linked on the Area Leader Resource Page on SOMD.org (<https://www.somd.org/area-programs/area-leader-resources/>) (Reminder, this page is password protected)

In-Kind Reporting Link: <https://forms.monday.com/forms/3e273d9c6d7b342729d0e8d03d93388d?r=use1>

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!

(UPDATED) Pickleball Survey to be Sent On Tuesday, Oct 1

Update: Friendly reminder that this survey will close on Monday, October 14 and we will be putting the info to use later that week. To date we have responses from 14 Areas and are looking to get a response from each program, even if they are not planning to do anything with pickleball in the next year. Please take a few minutes now to complete the survey if you haven't already done so.

As shared in a previous Area Memo, Pickleball was elevated to a "state level" sport at the end of August. As a first step in moving this sport to its new level, we need to collect some information on the programs that either already exist or which Areas are planning to start in the foreseeable future.

The information to be captured in the survey (so you can prepare) includes:

- Current status of program (active, planning, none) with estimates of participation
- Viability of potential seasons for the sport (Jan-Mar, Apr-Jun, Jul-Sep, Oct-Dec)
- Potential resources needed by your Area to start or expand a pickleball program

The survey will launch by Tuesday evening, October 1, with responses due by Monday, October 14.

We ask that ALL AREAS respond (one response per Area please) even if the Area doesn't have any plans to start pickleball in the foreseeable future (which in itself is extremely valuable information). Thank you in advance

As noted previously, this survey is one of the several steps as we address the various issues related to transitioning to a state level status:

- 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.

As we work through this change, Mike Czarnowsky, VP of Sports, will serve as the lead for Pickleball. At a point in the process where we have a better handle on things (most notably the season for the sport) it will then be assigned to a Sport Director.

(NEW) Cycling Championship Changed to Nov 3 at Oak Crest Professional Center in California, MD

We are pleased to share that the 2024 SOMD Cycling Championship will be held on Sunday, November 3, at Oak Crest Professional Center in California, Maryland. We want to thank Saint John's Properties Inc for their assistance in securing this location after others had fallen through.

Coaches have been informed directly of this change as well as the change in date of the Cycling Pre-Competition Webinar (now on Monday, October 28).

Please note that this location will have a loop of 1 kilometer which is smaller than the loop in 2023 but is the same length as the loop at Fort Ritchie which we had used for several years up to 2022.

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:
[Area Donation Tracking Report](#)
- 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](#)
- 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 –

A great big THANK YOU to everyone for submitting their FY2025 budgets.

Area programs had 100% submitted by Sept 20th! YAY!

Several programs are working on some questions regarding their budgets.

I need a quick turn-around on these so please make all changes by the end of the day Monday, Tuesday morning at the latest.

If you need any assistance, please reach out to your Regional Director or the finance team.

(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>
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=AVxpcllGdIU
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=qpn6o2Olirw

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>
Athletics (LDR)	Mon, 10/7	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLWM2lh62fk
Cycling	Thu, 10/28 6:00-7:00p	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkfu-srDspGNIOySfogdDA-lUfOLuVwBP3
Flag Football	Wed, 10/9	Recording: https://youtu.be/fjqTvgRqwdQ
Powerlifting	Wed, 10/9	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kf6l8xJ3OUg&feature=youtu.be
Tennis	Tue, 10/08	Recording: https://youtu.be/OCEUynDstGgyou

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/tZYqcuyorToqH9fYC5yKnlgX0ggP8tUk_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**

- manger@somd.org, 410.979.5112
Basketball Flag Football *Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball*
Cheerleading Softball

- **Julie Klein, Sports Director**

- jklein@somd.org, 443.900.3155
Bowling Kayaking *Locally Popular Sports: Duckpin, Equestrian,*
Cycling Swimming *Sailing*

- **Mani Madala, Sports Director**

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

- **Jake Novick, Sports Director**

- jnovick@somd.org, 774.276.5861
Alpine Skiing Soccer *Locally Popular Sports: Duckpin Bowling,*
Bocce Tennis *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
- **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 Matthews, 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