

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

February 23, 2020

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



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Welcome

Welcome to the SOMD Area Memo!

If there are any members of your Area’s leadership who are not currently receiving the Area Memo, please send their names and email address to jabel@somd.org.

(NEW) Medicals and Volunteer Application – Absolutely NO Exceptions!! (but really *not* new!)

Just a friendly reminder that there are ***absolutely no exceptions*** to the rule that no athlete is permitted to participate in any way without an up-to-date and valid medical form and that no volunteer can participate in any way without up-to-date and valid Volunteer Application/Screening.

If an athlete wishes to participate and either has never submitted a medical or their most recent one has expired, the only option is to have him or her not participate until the up-to-date medical has been completed and submitted. There is no “grace period”. There is no allowance because they have a doctor’s appointment next week or because the “have it” but forgot to bring it. If the medical you have for that athlete is expired they simply cannot participate. No exceptions whatsoever. The same applies to volunteers and their application/screening.

We understand this can lead to some difficult conversations, but being clear and consistent, and making sure that athletes, families and caregivers (and volunteers) are aware in advance of the season that their medical/application has or will expire is the solution. The GMS users in your Area can run reports and exports (including email addresses if they are in GMS) to assist with providing such advance notice.

This is reviewed in every pre-season webinar, yet we recently had to prohibit some individuals from participate in a recent on-snow day because they thought they could do so without an up-to-date medical or

volunteer application. Don't put your athletes and volunteers in a similar uncomfortable situation. Be sure they have everything up-to-date (and through the end of the sports season) before the season starts.

Congratulations, Caprice West, SONA Outstanding Coach!

Special Olympics Maryland is thrilled to announce that Caprice West, multi-sport Interscholastic Unified Sports coach from Southern High School in Anne Arundel County, has been named the 2019 Special Olympics North America Outstanding Coach.

Coach West has served as a Special Olympics coach for ten years, currently coaching bowling, bocce, and tennis for Southern High School's Interscholastic Unified Sports (IUS) program. Read more [here](#).



(NEW) 2020 SOMD Winter Games Updates

There have been a number of updates to Winter Games which can all be found on the Coach Resource Page (<https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/>) including updated schedules, most notably that Snowshoeing Time Trials have been shifted to Monday morning.

Be sure to check the Winter Games, Alpine and Snowshoeing pages of the Coach Resource Page for up-to-date competition divisions, results and any other updates related to Winter Games.

JTCC Tennis Clinics- All Are Welcome!

The Junior Tennis Champions Center Tennis Clinics for Special Olympics Maryland are getting ready to start. ALL Special Olympics Maryland Athletes (not just those who have participated in tennis in the past) are welcome to take part in these fun programs. All experiences and levels are welcome! A registration form is attached to this area memo!

In the news: Twin Ridge Elementary School!

Twin Ridge Elementary School in Frederick County is trying to do something no other elementary school has ever done in the entire state of Maryland. It is trying to become a National Banner Unified Champion school. Check out ABC7's piece here: <https://twitter.com/ABC7John/status/1225020276209000449>



Cecil County starts a community based Young Athletes Program!

Cecil County Public Schools Parent Resource Center for Special Education will be incorporating Special Olympics Maryland's Young Athletes Program into their weekly parent/child playgroups held at Gilpin Manor Elementary School. Same great playgroup... only better! We will now be incorporating basic gross motor skills into our playtime, such as balance and movement. Come check it out on Tuesdays from 10:00AM to 11:30AM during the following dates: February 11th, 18th, 25th, March 17th, 24th, 31st and April 7th and 14th.

Frederick County Young Athletes Program: Winter-Spring 2020

We hope you are having a great "winter"! We are inviting families to register for the Winter-Spring 2020 Young Athletes session. Our new session is scheduled to be held Sunday, February 23- Sunday, April 5 from 10:00AM to 11:00AM at Frederick Gymnastics Club. To register please email dmcluckie@frederickgymnastics.com before Monday, February 10th. We are looking forward to seeing you soon!

Risk Reminders

Please remember that all contracts and requests for COIs must be sent to risk@somd.org for review by Rhonda and Jim’s signature. The email address, risk@somd.org, was set up to ensure that these important documents don’t get lost in our inboxes. *Also, a reminder that the only person authorized to sign any form of agreement on behalf of our organization is our CEO.*

(NEW) Camp PALS Baltimore

Camp PALS is a program for young adults with Down Syndrom. This program is not affiliated with Special Olympics Maryland, but we do know that many of our athletes enjoy this program. Attached are flyers with information on their summer program in Baltimore!

(UPDATED) Live CSOA Sessions Scheduled thru May

SOMD is pleased to host several live sessions for Coaching Special Olympics Athletes, a requirement for all Coaches. Unless otherwise noted in the list below, sessions will be held at SOMD Headquarters (3701 Commerce Drive, Suite 103, Baltimore MD 21227). We must have a minimum of 7 registrants for each class at least two business days in advance in order for it to be held.

Sunday, March 8, 2020, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Farring Baybrook Rec Ctr in Baltimore City

Sunday, March 15, 2020, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at SOMD HQ

Sunday, April 5, 2020, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at SOMD HQ

Saturday, May 16, 2020, 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at SOMD HQ

Please use the link below to register for any of these sessions

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CSOA2020Q1Q2>

As always, Areas are encouraged to host additional CSOA sessions using SOMD’s group of trained and certified instructors. All sessions must be approved by SIOMD HQ in advance. If interested, please send a message to coaches@somd.org. We’ve gotten interest from several Areas and look forward to posting those additional sessions on the Coach Education and Development section of the Coach Resource Page

March Area Leader Meeting

The March Area Leader meeting and webinar is right around the corner! Please register using the links below!

<p>WEBINAR March 16, 2020 7:00pm-9:00pm</p>	<p>https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/v50vcumvrzws3Zwp2jGSfhJF_UElngAYRQ</p>
<p>MEETING March 21, 2020 9:30am-5:00pm <i>(Exact end time will be communicated closer to the meeting)</i></p>	<p>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AD2020M1</p>

(UPDATED) Principles of Coaching Live Course – March 7, 2020 & June 20, 2020

Update – We have already exceed the minimum number of registrants need to host each of these sessions. So if you were “holding back” to be sure the session will be held, it definitely will be.

We are very pleased to be one of the first few SO USA programs to offer the updated “live” version of the Principles of Coaching course. This exceptional, highly participative full day course is designed for coaches with at least two years of experience and covers such topics as:

- Developing a Coaching Perspective
- Team Management & Training
- Athlete-Centered Coaching
- Fitness & Nutrition
- Safety and Risk Management

As noted in the new Coach Education & Development Model, completion of Principles of Coaching is a requirement for a coach to earn Advanced Coach status and will also renew, upgrade and extend all current coach sport certifications for three years from the date of course completion. As a reminder, *Advanced Coach status is a requirement in order for a coach to take a team or athletes to any competition above the state level* (including USA Games, World Games, and National Invitational Tournaments or their equivalents). Coaches must attend and participate in the entirety of the course to receive credit for course completion.

We currently have 2 sessions of this course scheduled in the first half of 2020 and will look to potentially add another session in the fall if interest warrants it. Our intent is to offer this live session at least twice per year going forward.

Saturday, March 7, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., SOMD HQ (Baltimore area)
 Saturday, June 20, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., SOMD HQ (Baltimore area)

There is no registration fee for these sessions. Lunch and refreshments throughout the day will be provided and registration for each session will be limited to a maximum of 25 coaches.

(Note: Please do not register for a session if you are not certain you will attend – it may mean another coach who actually could attend will be unable to register).

To register for one of these sessions, please use the following link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/POC_2020_reg

(UPDATED) *Coach Education and Development* -

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the several sessions reviewing the Coach Education and Development system and the implications of the “full implementation” that takes place starting with the 2020 Summer Games sports seasons. The slides from the sessions have been posted on the Coach Education section of the Coach Resource Page (<https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/coach-education/>) along with a link to a recording of one of the sessions.

While there have not been any actual changes to the system, please be certain that all Area leaders and coaches are aware that starting with the 2020 Summer Games Sports seasons, the following will be in place (in summary):

- Areas will not be able to send athletes or teams to a state competition unless they have a fully certified head coach for each sport or team (including fully up-to-date SONA sport certification).
- Only coaches who have a fully up-to-date (through the state championship) sport certification for their sport will be credentialed as coaches and only those individuals will have access to areas and privileges for coaches specifically (including team being on team benches, serving as base coaches, etc.)
- Only teams with coach certified as an Advanced Coach for their sport will be considered for advancement to competition above the state level (such as USA Games, NITs, etc.). Only coaches certified as Advanced Coaches in their sport will be considered for selection as coaches for events above the state level.

We are posting updated transcripts of coaches training course completion as well as rosters of the sport certifications status of coaches on at least a monthly basis on the Coach Resource Page (<https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/coach-education/>).

While SOMD has no desire to eliminate any athletes or teams from Summer Games or any other upcoming competition, the full implementation of the Coach Education system and the implications that will begin with the 2020 Summer Games has been shared with Area leaders and coaches regularly since late 2018 and will be in place for the upcoming Summer Games and thereafter.

2020 Basketball Championships Confirmed for Mount St Mary's Univ & Gov Thomas Johnson HS

We are very pleased to announce that the 2020 SOMD Basketball Championship will be held on March 28 & 29 at Mount Saint Mary's University (Emmitsburg) and Governor Thomas Johnson HS in northern Frederick. The schedule will follow the same structure as in 2019:

Saturday: 5v5 Traditional & 5v5 Unified Competition

Sunday: 3v3 Traditional and PDU, 5v5 PDU and Individual Skills Competition

More details are being shared directly with basketball coaches and will be covered in the Pre-competition webinar on March 24 at 7:00 p.m.

(UPDATED) Pre-Season and Pre-Competition 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

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Basketball	Wed 12/04	Recording: https://youtu.be/3z4aQpfM1-k
Athletics	Tue, 3/17 7:00 p.m.	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/uJcuduihqDMiku2sMFvS725Tlq5aA8itRg
Bocce	Tue, 3/17 8:00 p.m.	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/vpcvde6qqTgqWuC-SAojNtlbOGa8XXBLtw
Cheerleading	Tue, 3/10 8:00 p.m.	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5lrduGgqT8iDLKoTIEJSEiwjI58vszNBw
Softball	Tue, 3/10 7:00 p.m.	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0udeuoqD4q3iDggIAAjzEUfcfIUckXCQ
Swimming	Tue 3/03 7:00 p.m.	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/v5Ukc-qhrzgrYG7-7roO6GEAQTbQs5IS6w

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Basketball	Tue 03/24 7:00 p.m.	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/285561165198905611
Athletics	TBA	TBA
Bocce	TBA	TBA
Cheerleading	TBA	TBA
Softball	TBA	TBA
Swimming	Thu, 5/21 7:00 p.m.	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5lrduGgqT8iDLKoTIEJSEiwjI58vszNBw

Community Sports Registration Deadlines For Most of 2020

Registration Deadlines for community sports through most of 2020 have been set and are incorporated into the Sports Calendar included with this email. They are summarized below for your convenience as well.

Event	Competition Date(s)	Training Registration Deadline (in GMS)**	Last Date To Submit Missing Forms**	Competition Registration Deadline (in GMS)**
Basketball Tournament	3/28 – 29/2020 (Tentative)	1/23/2020	2/3/2020	2/13/2020
2020 Summer Games	6/5-7/2020	4/23/2020	5/4/2020	5/18/2020
Kayaking Time Trials (Required)	08/08/2020	7/9/2020	7/16/2020	7/30/2020
Kayaking Championships	08/15/2020			
2020 Golf State Championship	9/20/2020 (Tentative)	8/13/2020	8/20/2020	9/3/2020
2020 Fall Sports Festival	10/17/2020 (Tentative)	8/27/2020	9/10/2020	10/1/2020
2020 State Soccer Championships	10/25/2020 OR 11/1/2020 (Tentative)	8/27/2020	9/10/2020	10/1/2020

Upcoming Athlete Leadership Trainings

WHAT: *Introduction to Athlete Leadership*
WHERE: *SOMD HQ, 3701 Commerce Drive, Suite 103, Baltimore (Halethorpe), MD 21227*
WHEN: *March 14th, 2020 2pm-5pm*

Register: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Intro_March_14_2020

WHAT: *Introduction to Athlete Leadership and Understanding Leadership (2 Courses)*

WHERE: *Northeast Community Center, 4075 Gordon Stinnett Ave, Chesapeake Beach, MD*

WHEN: *April 4th, 2020 9am-noon Introduction to Athlete Leadership*
April 4th, 2020 1pm-4pm Understanding Leadership

WHY: *Special Olympics Inc. is retooling the requirements for the Athlete Leadership Program and we are following their lead.*

We need all existing leaders to come in and get recertified.

We are not going to do a full retraining but we will do a shorter version to meet the obligations of the new requirements.

WHO: *All CURRENT certified athletes and all NEW athletes interested MUST take this NEW training to move on to the next level in leadership.*

OTHER DETAILS: *Lunch will be provided*

You must attend both session to remain a certified Athlete Leader moving forward.

Other sessions exactly like this will be offered throughout Maryland in 2020 to update as many athletes as possible.

REGISTER HERE: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Calvert_April_4th

WHAT: *Introduction to Athlete Leadership and Understanding Leadership (2 Courses in 4 parts)*

WHERE: *On line via ZOOM Meetings. We will take each section of the class over the computer. Links in the WHEN Section below.*

WHEN: *April 15th, 2020 6:30pm-8pm*
Introduction to Athlete Leadership Part 1/2 <https://somid.zoom.us/j/311053034>

WHY: *Special Olympics Inc. is retooling the requirements for the Athlete Leadership Program and we are following their lead. We need all existing leaders and any athletes wishing to become leaders to log on and take these courses We are not going to do a full retraining but we will do a shorter version to meet the obligations of the new request. We hope by offering these course on line it will help those athletes and families who live a little further away from our office.*

WHO: *All **CURRENT** certified athletes and all **NEW** athletes interested **MUST** take this **NEW** training to move on to the next level in leadership.*

OTHER DETAILS: *You must attend all four sessions in order to take additional classes moving forward.*

WHAT: *Athlete Leadership Training-Eastern Shore*

WHERE: *Chesapeake Culinary Center, 512, Franklin Street, Denton, Maryland 21629*

WHEN: *April 18th, 2020*
Beginner Global Messenger 9am-2pm (room for 15)
Basics of a Smart Phone 2:30pm-5pm (room for 15)

WHAT ELSE:

*-Lunch provided for Beginner Global Messengers
-refreshments and snacks for all*

-Bring a sheet of paper answering the following questions

Name, Hometown, Sports, Year you began Special Olympics, Other important things.

-Photos may be taken of you for a future trading card. Come dressed nice for the photo.

To register go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/April_18_Eastern_Shore

WHAT: *Introduction to Athlete Leadership*

WHERE: *On line via ZOOM Meetings. We will take each section of the class over the computer. Links in the WHEN Section below.*

WHEN: *April 22nd, 2020 6:30pm-8pm*
Introduction to Athlete Leadership Part 2/2 <https://somid.zoom.us/j/926259131>

WHY: *Special Olympics Inc. is retooling the requirements for the Athlete Leadership Program and we are following their lead.*

We need all existing leaders and any athletes wishing to become leaders to log on and take these courses We are not going to do a full retraining but we will do a shorter version to meet the obligations of the new requirements. We hope by offering these course on line it will help those athletes and families who live a little further away from our office.

WHO:

All **CURRENT** certified athletes and all **NEW** athletes interested **MUST** take this NEW training to move on to the next level in leadership.

OTHER DETAILS: You must attend all four sessions in order to take additional classes moving forward.

WHAT: **Understanding Leadership**

WHERE: On line via ZOOM Meetings. We will take each section of the class over the computer. Links in the WHEN Section below.

WHEN: May 20th, 2020 6:30pm-8pm
Understanding Leadership Part 1/2 <https://somid.zoom.us/j/620680651>

WHY: Special Olympics Inc. is retooling the requirements for the Athlete Leadership Program and we are following their lead.
We need all existing leaders and any athletes wishing to become leaders to log on and take these courses
We are not going to do a full retraining but we will do a shorter version to meet the obligations of the new requirements. We hope by offering these course on line it will help those athletes and families who live a little further away from our office.

WHO:

All **CURRENT** certified athletes and all **NEW** athletes interested **MUST** take this NEW training to move on to the next level in leadership.

OTHER DETAILS: You must attend all four sessions in order to take additional classes moving forward.

WHAT: **Understanding Leadership**

WHERE: On line via ZOOM Meetings. We will take each section of the class over the computer. Links in the WHEN Section below.

WHEN: May 27th, 2020 6:30pm-8pm
Understanding Leadership Part 2/2 <https://somid.zoom.us/j/724553345>

WHY: Special Olympics Inc. is retooling the requirements for the Athlete Leadership Program and we are following their lead.
We need all existing leaders and any athletes wishing to become leaders to log on and take these courses
We are not going to do a full retraining but we will do a shorter version to meet the obligations of the new requirements. We hope by offering these course on line it will help those athletes and families who live a little further away from our office.

WHO:

All **CURRENT** certified athletes and all **NEW** athletes interested **MUST** take this NEW training to move on to the next level in leadership.

OTHER DETAILS: You must attend all four sessions in order to take additional classes moving forward.

WHAT: Athlete Leadership-Improvisation and Theatre Training Course SUMMER 2020

The Athlete Leadership Program is excited to announce that we are adding a new course this fall "This interactive class will help support communication and confidence through creativity. Participants will learn valuable speech, language, and social skills that will assist them not only within Special Olympics MD, but across all aspects of their lives. Oh, and we'll laugh. A lot."

Improv and theater skills and practices have been shown to improve a variety of skills such as receptive and expressive language, pragmatics, fluency of speech, socialization, syntax and grammar, semantics, cognition, and the list goes on! Making this the perfect course for both beginner and advanced athlete leaders. Not previous training in athlete leadership is needed.

Target and ideally improve participants speech, language, and social skills, and help build confidence in communication.

WHEN: *

Wednesday	June 10 th	7pm-8:30pm	
Wednesday	June 17 th	7pm-8:30pm	
Wednesday	June 24 th	7pm-8:30pm	
Wednesday	July 01 st	7pm-8:30pm	
Wednesday	July 08 th	7pm-8:30pm	
Wednesday	July 15 th	7pm-8:30pm	Rehearsal
Friday	July 17 th	6pm-9pm	Performance

*You must attend 4 of the 5 courses to be eligible for the final performance

WHERE: Special Olympics Maryland HQ, 3701 Commerce Drive, Suite 103, Baltimore (Halethorpe), MD 21227

INSTRUCTOR: Emma Shipley, MS, CF-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist

HOW MANY: **This is a Unified Leadership opportunity.** Open to up to 24 athletes. Unified partners, siblings, family members, etc. are welcome to attend with a SOMD athlete. Limit one per athlete. This is not required but is an option.

To sign up please fill out the Survey Monkey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SUMMER_2020_IMPROV

Email Jason Schriml if you have any questions about this course at jschriml@somd.org

WHERE: SOMD HQ, 3701 Commerce Drive, Suite 103, Baltimore, MD 21227

WHEN: Saturday August 02nd, 2020 9am-3pm

WHO: Athletes who wish to learn how to write, read and present a short 1 minute speech about themselves

-Lunch and refreshments will be provided

-Bring a sheet of paper answering the following questions

Name, Home town, Sports, Year you began Special Olympics, Other important things.

-Photos will be taken of you for a future trading card. Come dressed nice for the photo.

REGISTER: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BeginnerGM_Aug_02_2020

*If you have any questions or your attendance status changes please email me so I will be aware.
Not showing up without notice makes us purchase more supplies and food than needed for the course. Money that could be used elsewhere for training, competition and athlete leadership opportunities.*

Sports Directors – Assigned Sports

If you have questions regarding a specific sport, coach education, or competition, please work with the corresponding Sport Director.

- **Melissa Anger, Sports Director**
 - manger@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x122
 - Basketball
 - Cheerleading
 - Flag Football
 - Soccer
 - Softball
 - Tennis
 - Locally Popular Sports: Cross Country Skiing, Duckpin Bowling
- **Zach Cintron, Sports Director**
 - zcintron@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x161
 - Bowling (10 pin)
 - Cycling
 - Kayaking
 - Snowshoeing
 - Swimming
 - Locally Popular Sports: Figure Skating, Sailing, Short Track Speed Skating, Volleyball
- **Ryan Kelchner Sports Director**
 - rkelchner@somd.org, 410-242-1515 x171
 - Alpine Skiing
 - Athletics
 - Bocce
 - Distance Running
 - Golf
 - Powerlifting
 - Locally Popular Sports: Dance, Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey

Questions?

If You Have Any Questions on Any Other Non-Sports-Related Issues, please contact a member of the Local Program Team

- **Jeff Abel, Vice President. Local Program Development**
 - jabel@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 121
 - Any general question
- **Claire Huston, Development Services Manager**
 - chuston@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 145
 - All Local Program Fundraising
- **Ben Varga, Healthy Communities Manager**

- bvarga@somd.org
- Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs

- **Pat Cullinan, Northern Chesapeake Region Director**
 - pcullinan@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Harford, Cecil, and Kent Counties

- **Mike Myers, Baltimore Region Director**
 - mmyers@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Baltimore County and City

- **Ron Freeman, Baltimore City Coordinator**
 - rfreeman@somd.org, 410.598.1027
 - Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore City Rec and Parks

- **Tyler Martin, Western Region Coordinator**
 - tmartin@somd.org, 717-321-3642
 - Frederick, Washington, Allegany, Garrett Counties