

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

April 4, 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.

COVID-19 and SOMD Sports Seasons and State Championships

As announced in previous email messages, SOMD had to make the unfortunate decision to suspend all sports training and competition activities through at least May 31, 2020. With this suspension of activity, we have also had to cancel the 2020 Summer Games since our athletes will not be able to properly train. This was also addressed in a survey to all 2019 Summer Games attendees, a series of online athlete input sessions and at the Area Leader meeting on March 21. Based on the virtually unanimous input from the Area leaders, SOMD decided that it should not look to have Areas schedule training in the spring sports during June/July nor look to reschedule a modified Summer Games in July/August. Awhile this decision was both difficult and unfortunate, it was agreed that it was best for everyone to focus on the sports season that will be coming up and re-engaging our athletes in the interim.

During the Area Leader meeting and in the subsequent SOMD Sports Committee meeting, SOMD has also arrived at a series of “trigger dates”, being the deadline by which SOMD will make a decision on whether or not the state championship for a given sport will be held. After consulting with the Powerlifting Sports Management Team, it was determined that the proposed decision schedule would work fine, provided the powerlifting athletes engage in some fitness activity leading up to the season.

Championship	Date	“Trigger Date”
Kayaking	Aug 8 / Aug 15	June 15
Golf	Sept 27	August 1
Fall Sports / Soccer	Oct 17 / Oct 25	August 15
Bowling	Nov 8 / Dec 6	October 1

Areas are strongly encouraged to proceed with any pre-season activity (advance registration, follow-up on expiring medicals, etc.) with the assumption that seasons starting with kayaking will proceed as expected. Areas are also encouraged to have athlete training, once that activity is permitted, even if the state championship for a given sport will not be held. SOMD commits to making decisions as early as feasible with the health and safety of our athletes, coaches, volunteers and families as our primary concern.

(NEW) Local Programs Using Zoom

Local Programs Using Zoom:

If you would like to use SOMD's Zoom for your Management Team or Committee Meetings, please use the link below to request usage.

All Local Programs are sharing 1 Zoom Account paid for by SOMD, so please remember the following:

- Basic Zoom Accounts are FREE, but meetings are limited to 40 min.
- If your Local Program wants to purchase a Zoom Account (\$14.99 per month), you can do that, please contact Jeff
- A submitted meeting request does not mean that your meeting is confirmed. You will hear from Jeff when your meeting is scheduled.
- Meetings will be limited to 1.5 hours....this will be a hard deadline in order to accommodate more meetings, as necessary.
- You must request a meeting no later than 3 business days before your desired meeting

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=v8F2REkhI0W5Cz8dVAf2QmKThch79NpCqms0wtzzhFdUNUFZRjgwT0dLRTVRVjVFTUtlSzJWtIQ1VC4u>

SOMD Virtual MOVEment

If you haven't done so already, join the SOMD Virtual MOVEment! Already over 600 people strong, this is an online community of athletes, staff, and volunteers sharing what they're doing to stay active, stay healthy, and stay connected while we can't have in-person programs!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2863037773816713>

MOVE Meetings

Every Friday at noon, SOMD Athletes, Staff, and Volunteers will be coming together for a quick mid-day fitness class focusing on strength, flexibility, or endurance.

Don't miss out on the fun! Access our Move Meetings each Friday by clicking this link:

<https://somed.zoom.us/j/145460668>

2022 USA Games Updates

UPDATE

Area Directors – please look for a survey to assess your recommendations for the spots we should request for our quota for the 2022 USA Games. This survey will be distributed in early April and will be used at the May meeting of the SOMD Sports Committee to determine our request. We now expect to have the info for the quota request submission in mid-May and want to be prepared for a timely submission.

The 2022 Special Olympics USA Games will be held in Orlando, FL June 5-11, 2022.



As of 3-5-2020, the Organizing Committee has not officially indicated which sports will be offered at the Games. However, Special Olympics Maryland is planning accordingly to prepare for the announcement of the sports to be offered as well as possible allotments for Team Maryland.

The qualifying events that will be used to select and advance athletes, partners and teams to the 2022 Games will begin with Kayaking 2020 and conclude with Summer Games of 2021.

- This is not meant to indicate that Special Olympics Maryland will receive allotments in any specific sport.
- For example, although the Kayaking State Championships is the first event to be utilized in the selection process, this does not indicate that Special Olympics Maryland will receive allotments for the sport of Kayaking, nor does it indicate that Kayaking will be offered at the 2022 Games.
- However, **IF** the Organizing Committee decides to offer Kayaking as an official sport and **IF** Special Olympics Maryland receives allotments for Kayaking - the 2020 Kayaking State Championships will be the event where participants would be selected to for Team Maryland.

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.*

(UPDATED) CSOA Sessions – Virtual CSOA on April 18

With the recent suspension of training and competition activity, as well as in-person meetings, SOMD is adapting its coach training opportunities to meet this new challenge.

While there will continue to be the online version of Coaching Special Olympics Athletes (CSOA) available via Human Kinetics (links available on the SOMD Coach Resource Page <https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/coach-education/>), we know that many coaches strongly prefer the live version of this course.

SOMD will be testing a **virtual training version of CSOA on Saturday, April 18 from 10:00 til 1:30** (previously announced with a different date). This session will be a "beta test" of offering the live course in an online environment and will be **limited to 15 participants**. Once we have the kinks worked out of this, we will offer additional such sessions as needs require. This is NOT a webinar where you can just sit back and watch – we will be adapting the interactive components of the live session so be prepared to participate!

To Register: <https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/uJMtceisqTseX7zVFmuH5nmKod9ZYaBWA>

Important Note: Given the interactive nature of this course, participants **MUST** be able to join the Zoom meeting with a webcam, speaker and microphone so we can see and hear everyone during the course. Please also check in advance of the session that Zoom works properly for your computer (with webcam, microphone and speaker) as we will have limited opportunity to provide tech assistance during the session itself. (Zoom's online help has been fairly solid.)

(UPDATED) Principles of Coaching Live Course –June 20, 2020 & September 12, 2020

Update: If SOMD is still under a suspension of in person activity, we WILL still hold the June 20 session of Principles of Coaching as a virtual training session (e.g., online).

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

Saturday, September 12, 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

Important Note In The Event This Is Done As A Virtual Training Session: Given the interactive nature of this course, participants ***MUST*** be able to join the Zoom meeting with a webcam, speaker and microphone so we can see and hear everyone during the course. Please also check in advance of the session that Zoom works properly for your computer (with webcam, microphone and speaker) as we will have limited opportunity to provide tech assistance during the session itself. (Zoom’s online help has been fairly solid.)

Coach Education and Development -

UPDATE: This is just to confirm that this process will continue as planned. Since Summer Games will unfortunately not be occurring in 2020, this process will “kick off” with the 2020 Kayaking season, with coaches needing to have up-to-date Coach Sport Certifications at the Head Coach level for kayaking valid through August 15, 2020 in order to bring kayakers to the 2020 SOMD Kayaking Time Trails and State Championship.

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.

(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

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Registration / Recording Link</i>
Kayaking	Thu 4/16 7:00 p.m.	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5MpfumuqD4i1UGQAepVuOgDxKfEuWncmw
Golf	Tue 7/14 7:00 p.m.	https://somd.zoom.us/j/355442527?pwd=UIBZeWp0Mk1PYWdab0V3SWlWY2tHZz09

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Registration / Recording Link</i>
Kayaking	Thu 8/04 7:00 p.m.	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5lrd-Cgpj8iqVOzNIYt8FINEU4GIAC7sg
Golf	Thu 9/17 7:00 p.m.	https://somd.zoom.us/j/319488328?pwd=a2IPL1JDUVVqK05CVetMQVRZOFFXZz09

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)**
Kayaking Time Trials (<i>Required</i>)	08/08/2020	7/9/2020	7/16/2020	7/30/2020
Kayaking Championships	08/15/2020			
2020 Golf State Championship	9/27/2020	8/13/2020	8/20/2020	9/3/2020
2020 Fall Sports Festival	10/17/2020 (<i>Tentative</i>)	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
2020 Bowling Regional Tournaments	11/08/2020	09/24/2020	10/01/2020	10/16/2020
2020 Bowling Championships	12/06/2020			11/24/2020

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