

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

April 17, 2020



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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) COVID-19 Area Directors Call

On Wednesday, April 22, we will resume our COVID-19 Calls with Area Directors. Use this link to join our meeting: <https://somd.zoom.us/j/350506855>

A major topic for discussion will be **Return to Play**. In no way do we intend to say that this will be happening soon, but we want to start discussing how we can support our local programs, athletes, coaches, and families returning to play in the safest way possible.

Questions to consider:

- Would your local program be able to/willing to hold practices, fitness opportunities, and sport experiences even if a State Championship event can't occur?
- What parameters/resources would you need to have from SOI/SOMD to ensure the safety of athletes and coaches?
- If restrictions on number of people stand, could your program effectively manage that to ensure compliance with social distancing guidelines? What support would you need from SOMD?
- Are there certain sports that you feel lend themselves to social distancing without negative impact on the game? Would you be able/willing to offer sports out their traditional season?

We understand that all of our practices, fitness opportunities, and sport experiences are dependent on facility availability.

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=v8F2REkhI0W5Cz8dVAf2QmKThch79NpCqms0wtzzhFdUNUFZRjgwT0dLRTVRVjVFTUtISzJWtIQ1VC4u>

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>

Check out our calendar for what’s coming up! Visit: www.virtualmovement.somd.volunteerhub.com

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) 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
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

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Kayaking	Thu 8/04 7:00 p.m.	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5Ird-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 <i>(Tentative)</i>	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

- **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