

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

May 1, 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.

(UPDATED) COVID-19 Area Directors Call

On Wednesday, May 6, 2020, we will resume our COVID-19 Calls with Area Directors. Use this link to join our meeting: <https://somd.zoom.us/j/350506855>

(NEW) SOMD HQ Staffing Update

As announced in recent communications, six members of the Sports and Local Program Development departments are on a temporary furlough while we are unable to hold events or in person activities. We are all looking forward to having our team back to full strength on June 30.

In the interim, please contact the following individuals:

Furloughed Team Member	Interim Contact
Melissa Anger	Steve Bennett
Zach Cintron	Steve Bennett
Ryan Kelchner (Steve Bennett)	Steve Bennett
Mike Myers	Jeff Abel
Angela Nadeau	Melissa Kelly
Dottie Rush	Mike Czarnowsky
Danielle Weddle	Jim Schmutz

We’ve also created an “interim” version of the Area Leader Resource Guide of who to contact for various issues or topics that will be in effect until our team members return. That guide is included with this Area Memo.

(NEW) Coaches Training – Virtual CSOA and PoC Sessions

With the recent suspension of training and competition activity, as well as in-person meetings, now extended through June 30, 2020, SOMD is adapting its coach training opportunities to meet this new challenge and offering Virtual Coaches Training for CSOA and PoC Courses (matching the “live and in person” versions of these courses as much as possible).

Coaching Special Olympics Athletes (CSOA) - May 30 and June 27, 2020

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](#), SOMD is aware that many coaches strongly prefer the live version of this course and will offer the following “Virtual Training” sessions for CSOA, delivered live online (limit of 20 participants per session).

Saturday, May 30, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*

Register: <https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0kduutpzsJE9Qjpd2eRaUD7ioUGOjx3EAO>

Saturday June 27, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*

Register: <https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcrcOutqT8pGNNqGLm8c8tTaD6VnotwdyNI>

Additional sessions will be considered if both of these sessions fill up quickly.

Principles of Coaching (PoC) Virtual Course - June 20 and July 25, 2020

We currently have 1 session of this course to be offered as a virtual training and will look to potentially add another session interest warrants it. Those who had previously registered for the live course on June 20 will be given first preference for the virtual session on that date. Registration will be limited to a maximum of 20 coaches per date.

Saturday, June 20, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., delivered as a Virtual session*

Saturday, July 25, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., delivered as a Virtual session*

To register for one of these sessions, please use this [link](#).

(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).

We will also hold the live and in person session on September 12 (or convert it to a virtual session if needed).

****Important Note on Virtual Training Sessions (CSOA and PoC):*** Given the interactive nature of these courses, 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 though.)

(NEW) National Invitational Tournaments

The **Softball NIT** is currently scheduled for September 3-6, 2020 in Roanoke/Salem, Virginia.

There was interest from Frederick County to attend this event. At this time, the quota request has been submitted to Special Olympics North America. It is anticipated that this request to attend will be accepted and will proceed accordingly.

Please Note: As with all events at this time, given the changing environment of the country and the world relating to the COVID-19 situation, this event is tentative and information will be shared once made available.

The **Golf NIT** is currently scheduled for October 4-7, 2020 at the Seaview Golf Club in Galloway, New Jersey.

There was interest from three Area/County Programs within Maryland to attend this event. These Programs include Carroll County, Montgomery County and the Upper Shore. At this time, the quota request for Levels I, II, IV and V has been submitted to Special Olympics North America for their review. Once the allotments are received by Special Olympics Maryland, the previously mentioned Area/County Programs will be notified and the selection process will begin based upon the allotments received within the different levels.

Please Note: As with all events at this time, given the changing environment of the country and the world relating to the COVID-19 situation, this event is tentative and information will be shared once made available.

(NEW) 50th Anniversary Video Request

As you may know, 2020 is Special Olympics Maryland's 50th Anniversary. Before these unexpected times occurred we were in the midst of planning several celebrations which included our Torch Gala, Law Enforcement Torch Run, and Summer Games in June to kick off our campaign. Unfortunately, those plans have been sidelined for the foreseeable future. Despite these postponements, we still want to celebrate this important milestone for our organization. On Saturday, June 6th we will be hosting a virtual block party that will consist a full day of programming and interactive virtual activities for our athletes, while celebrating our 50th Anniversary.

As a valued partner of Special Olympics Maryland, who has helped make the past 50 years so successful for our athletes, we want to invite you to experience inclusion and be part of our virtual block party. Throughout the day we will be featuring stories from our community and we'd love to hear about your SOMD experience. We are looking for short testimonial video messages – examples can include but are not limited to:

- How Special Olympics Maryland has changed your life?
- What you love about Special Olympics Maryland
- Your favorite Special Olympics Maryland memory

Video Filming Checklist:

- Keep your video messages under 30 seconds (unless you have a must-hear longer story)
- Film horizontally or with landscape orientation
- Send your video files to somdcomm@gmail.com by Friday, May 8th
- If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Perfetti at sperfetti@somd.org.

Thank you for the role you have played in helping us reach our 50th year of sports. We look forward to many successful years with you in the future!

(UPDATED) 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 June, 30, 2020 (*update*). 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. While 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
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Golf	9/27	8/1
Fall Sports (CY, PL, TN, LDR, FF, SC)	10/17 & 25	8/15
Bowling	11/8 & 12/6	10/1

UPDATE: It was announced yesterday (4/30) that our Kayaking Time Trials (8/8) and State Championships (8/15) would be canceled based on lack of practice time, but please know this does not mean Area Programs should cancel their kayaking seasons altogether. In the event that we can safely return to play this summer or fall, kayaking may be a good activity that can be done safely with physical distancing.

Similarly, we will be offering at-home training opportunities for coaches to lead with their athletes. More information will be released on a sport-by-sport basis.

(UPDATED) Local Programs Using Zoom

Coaches Using Zoom Training: On Wednesday, April 22, 2020 Zach Cintron and Pat Cullinan held a training for coaches on how to use Zoom as a way to engage athletes during our in-person program suspension. A Recording of that meeting can be found here: <https://youtu.be/ifQ4L-mAdTY>

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

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Registration / Recording Link</i>
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>
Golf	Thu 9/17 7:00 p.m.	https://somd.zoom.us/j/319488328?pwd=a2lPL1JDUVVqK05CVetMQVRZOFFXZz09

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)**
2020 Golf State Championship	9/27/2020	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
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

(UPDATED) Sports Directors – Assigned Sports

If you have questions regarding a specific sport, coach education, or competition, please work with the corresponding Sport Director. ***As a reminder, our 3 Sports Directors are on a temporary furlough and will return to work on 6/30/2020. PLEASE DIRECT ALL COMMUNICATION TO STEVE BENNETT- sbennett@somd.org***

- **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