

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

July 24, 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) SOMD Cancels All State-Level Community Sports Championships Through 2020

On Saturday, July 18, we had a meeting of Area Directors. One key point of discussion was the planning of sport competition opportunities for the Fall 2020 season (thru 12/31/2020).

Based on that discussion, SOMD will not conduct any community-based state championship competitions between now and December 31, 2020. This painful but necessary decision was not made lightly and is based on the current expected status of local training programs returning to activity and the non-viability of such competitions. The decision was made with near unanimous support from the Area Directors (one AD wanted to wait before deciding on bowling but was otherwise in support).

This decision does NOT mean that there will be no competitive opportunities for our athletes this Fall. SOMD HQ will be looking to co-host competitions in most sports during this time, coordinating with Area leaders and using this opportunity to expand the capacity to conduct local/regional competitions by Areas. Several expressed interest in co-hosting such competitions during Saturday's meeting. We will be working on developing those plans with Area leaders and coaches over the next several weeks. We do not anticipate any such competitions to be held until at least September and also not until we are in Phase 2 of the R2A protocol.

This decision does NOT affect school-based activities or the IUS Tennis state championship in November. We are watching decisions made by the various school systems and MPSSAA and will make a determination at some point in the future when appropriate (likely sometime in August).

(NEW) GMS Updates Related to Return to Activities

With the Return To Activity (R2A) protocols we have implemented some changes to GMS, including:

- Extending to September 30, 2020 the expiration date for all medicals that would have expired between March 15 – September 29, 2020
- Creation of a new custom field for tracking which athletes are their own guardians
- Creation of a new certification for tracking who has completed and submitted the new required “Acknowledgement of Risk Form” that will used with all program participants
- Updating of existing reports/exports and creation of new reports/exports (*still underway*)

Join us for a webinar for GMS Users on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. where we will review the new data, new/revised reports, and other changes/updates to GMS. (*Note: This is a different date than was shared at the July 18 Area Director meeting.*)

Use the link below to register:

https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAqd-ygpjvEtQWPm2hLDVlxI8gaFp1U_dR

We look forward to seeing many of you on the 5th.

(NEW) Nominations Sought for Area Director & Coach for SOMD Sports Committee – Due Aug 17

SOMD’s Board-level Sports Committee is seeking nominees to fill its current vacancy or an Area Director and a Coach. The Sports Committee oversees the community and school-based SOMD Sports program, decides on approval of sports rules changes that will be followed by SOMD, reviews the overall sports program every four years, and addresses additional sports matters. The committee meets a minimum of four times per year (with occasional additional meetings based on needs), typically on weekday evenings at SOMD HQ with an option to join virtually for those located at significant distances from HQ. There is typically work done between meeting either independently (reviewing provided info, etc.) or in small groups. The successful nominees will join the committee for a three-year renewable term (given multiple openings, the “initial” term may be 1 year or 2 years to stagger renewal dates).

Nominations will only be accepted from Area Directors (Area Directors may nominate themselves for the open Area Director spot) and can be done by completing the attached nomination form and sending it to Mike Czarnowsky, VP of Sports (mzczarnowsky@somid.org) by Monday, August 17, 2020. Nominations will be reviewed by a sub-committee of the current Sports Committee with final selection by the overall current Sports Committee. Selected nominees will receive orientation and be immediately actively engaged with the current issues of the committee so they can join the Sports Committee prior to their November 3, 2020, meeting and be involved with the issues addressed at that meeting.

Note: The nomination form has a space for a “live signature” from the Area Director making the nomination. A live signature can be omitted if the nomination form is emailed from the Area Director’s email address.

(NEW) 2022 Special Olympics World Winter Games Update

The Special Olympics World Winter Games are among the world's most prestigious sporting events and are focused on advancing a truly inclusive world for people with intellectual disabilities. The World Games also provide a prominent platform for the movement's work in health, education, and leadership for athletes.

Special Olympics Maryland currently has three (3) athletes that have been nominated to represent Special Olympics USA. These athletes hail from three (3) County Programs; Anne Arundel County, Carroll County and

St. Mary's County. The athlete nominees, if selected for the official delegation, will participate in the sports of Alpine Skiing and Snowshoeing at the World Games.

Date: January 22-28, 2022 (7 Days of Competition)
Location: Kazan, Russia
Participants: 2000 Athletes and Unified® Partners
Nations: 108 Nations
Volunteers: 3000
Sports Offered (7): Alpine Skiing, Cross-Country Skiing, Figure Skating, Floor Hockey, Snowboarding, Snowshoeing and Speed Skating

Nominees from SOMD: Larry Mills, St. Mary's County
Elaina Camacho, Anne Arundel County
Jenny Herrmann, Carroll County

(NEW) General Volunteer Orientations offered virtually

The FIRST of our virtual General Volunteer Orientations will be offered on Thursday, August 6, 2020. Knowing that many of our local programs have not offered a general orientation regularly, these orientations are being led by Sam Boyd, SOMD Volunteer Director, and will be offered for any volunteer from any local program. If your local program doesn't offer a general orientation, consider sending new volunteers to this orientation.

August 6, 2020, 7:00PM: <https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtcOCgpjlsHNKPtQWocpu1H96risjS8h6>

Please note, this will not cover Protective Behaviors, Coaching Special Olympics Athletes, Concussion Training or other required trainings for volunteering and/or coaching.

Return to Activities Website

Please use the site below as a resource for your Athletes, Coaches, Volunteers, and Families! SOMD's Return to Activities Website is filled with resources to help our state successfully and safely get our athletes back on the field!

<https://virtualsomd.com/return-to-play/>

(UPDATED) Return to Activities Volunteer Orientations

As mentioned on Wednesday's Call, Sam Boyd will be hosting Return to Activity Volunteer Orientations for volunteers interested/willing to support return to play screening efforts. Trainings will be scheduled throughout July and August are scheduled with links below. Please direct any questions to Sam (sboyd@somid.org)

August 4 at 7:00pm: <https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0sdeCpqjgtGtDD1ProHWuChSDGHaWicbPz>

(UPDATED) Safe Practice Athlete Training

As we get closer to returning to play, we will be offering 3 interactive webinars for athletes to help them get acquainted with our new in-person event environment!

Webinar 1 Recording: <https://virtualsomd.com/news/2020/07/athlete-webinar-1/>

Webinar 2: Recording: <https://virtualsomd.com/news/2020/07/return-to-play-athlete-webinar-2/>

Webinar 3: 7/27/2020 at 6:00 PM- JEOPARDY! Come test your knowledge of our Return to Play Protocol!

<https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtdOuvqTotGdd4YT7qQxqW6tkwk9P5vZGQ>

Also, encourage athletes to pay attention to our #WellnessWednesday posts on social media, which will not be themed on safe practice information!

(UPDATED) Area Leader Meeting & Webinar

Thanks to those who joined our Area Director Webinar and Meeting last week! And thanks to Mike M. and Pat C. for facilitating that meeting. Recordings for both the webinar and virtual meeting can be found below.

Webinar:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/gfwj2xps2ktcjac/2020_07_13%20Webinar.mp4?dl=0

Meeting:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/6a0vxhl3hp46gd1/GMT20200718-130040_Area-Direc_1920x1080.mp4?dl=0

(UPDATED) COVID-19 Area Directors Call

Our Bi-Weekly Call will take place this Wednesday, 7/29 at 6:30pm. Please use this link to join the meeting: <https://somid.zoom.us/j/96328411657?pwd=TkE0SUUVhb1Y0ZTlXNkx6TWxhYUJNUT09>

(Updated) 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) - August 1, 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” session for CSOA, delivered live online (limit of 20 participants per session).

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

Register: <https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0kduutpzsje9Qjpd2eRaUD7ioUGOjx3EAO>

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

Principles of Coaching (PoC) Course Sept 12 (in person; will convert to virtual if unable to meet in person)

We currently have one session of this course to be offered over the next several months. Registration will be limited to a maximum of 20 coaches.

Also, note that the course has undergone a number of changes, including removing many redundancies with CSOA. Given those changes, the estimated length of the course is now 4.5 hours (rather than 8 hours).

Saturday, September 12, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., live at SOMD HQ

(the 9/12/2020 session will convert to a virtual session if we are unable to safely offer live sessions at that time; a decision on this will be made no later than August 31, 2020)

To register for this session, 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).

***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.)

SOMD Virtual MOVEment

If you haven't done so already, join the SOMD Virtual MOVEment! 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>

NEW WEBSITE! : Don't have facebook? No problem! Visit our new website www.virtualsomid.com for archived workouts, social clubs, and a calendar events. Don't miss the virtual block party section!

Risk Reminders

Please remember that all contracts and requests for COIs must be sent to risk@somid.org for review by Rhonda and Jim's signature. The email address, risk@somid.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 webinars have been set for the upcoming seasons. Please share this info with your coaches and sports volunteers.

Pre-Season Coaches Webinars – **THESE SESSIONS HAVE ALL BEEN EXPANDED TO 90 MINUTES TO ALLOW COVERAGE OF RELEVANT RETURN TO ACTIVITY (R2A) CONTENT**

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Cycling	Thu 7/16	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zlzhW6QSor0&feature=youtu.be
Distance Running	Tue 7/21	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYmt15dO2mA&feature=youtu.be
Flag Football	Thu 7/23	Recording link is forthcoming and will be posted on the SOMD Coach Resource Page: https://www.somid.org/coach/coach-resources/
Golf	Tue 7/14	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gV0U7sv4utk&feature=youtu.be
Power-lifting	Wed 7/22	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQiUYKvLbAk&feature=youtu.be
Tennis	Mon 7/20	Recording link is forthcoming and will be posted on the SOMD Coach Resource Page: https://www.somid.org/coach/coach-resources/
Soccer	Tue 7/28 7:00 – 8:30 pm	https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJluceGgqTgqGNeb3tBz5fhh1kvjvLQchhQn
Bowling	Thu 8/06 7:00 – 8:30 pm	https://somid.zoom.us/j/91170715341?pwd=WnBRQnV2T3JtCVIUTIVIM0dq1huUT09

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

Due to the decision to cancel all community state-level championships through the end of 2020, there is no need to conduct the previously scheduled "pre-competition" webinars, so they have been cancelled.

Note: As SOMD and Areas determine specifics for co-hosted competition opportunities in Fall 2020, webinars/web meetings will likely be scheduled prior to those competitions to review what to expect (given the newness of the application of the R2A protocols).

(Updated) Community Sports Registration Deadlines For Most of 2020

Given the cancellation of state-level community championships through the end of 2020, our “traditional” schedule structure for deadlines is not applicable. That said, all participants still **MUST** be registered and have their valid and up-to-date forms/certifications submitted to SOMD HQ in a timely manner.

Regardless of deadlines noted below, forms/certifications must be up-to-date at HQ prior to any competition.

Sport	When	What Is Due
Golf*	09/01/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roster entered into GMS of all athletes, Unified® partners, coaches and volunteers participating in your program.
Cycling Distance Running Flag Football Powerlifting Soccer Tennis	10/01/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every athlete must have a complete medical form valid through <u>October 31, 2020</u> on file at SOMD HQ*. Every coach/partner/volunteer must have a complete volunteer application and updated Protective Behaviors Certification valid thru <u>October 31, 2020</u> on file at SOMD HQ*. All Coaches & Sports Vols must have Special Olympics Concussion Certification. All Coaches: must have the sport-specific certification for their sport completed and submitted to SOMD HQ along with CSOA.
Bowling*	11/01/2020	

*Golf forms/certifications must be valid thru Sept 30, 2020

*Bowling forms/certifications must be valid thru Dec 31, 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