Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo September 4, 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) Maryland Phase 3 and SOMD Phase Movement

Some questions have come up regarding Gov. Hogan's announcement of Maryland moving into Phase 3 and if that affects SOMD's phases county by county.

At this point, <u>there will be no change to our current process.</u> As a reminder, the protocol is written in such a way that follows the most restrictive guidelines--- SOI, Local, or State.

Please join our Wednesday Area Director call to get an overview of movement from Phase to Phase. Details can be found in this Area Memo.

(NEW) Welcome, Veronica Smaldone, UCS Coordinator!

Thanks to our standing partnership with the A*STAR AmeriCorps program at Frostburg State, we are excited to welcome our newest team member, Veronica Smaldone! Veronica joins us after graduating from The Catholic University of America this past spring. Veronica is also a graduate of Catoctin High School, one of our Unified Champion Schools in Frederick County! Veronica will bring a lot of energy to this new position, and we are so excited that she has joined our team! Please help us in welcoming Veronica!

(NEW) Virtual Training Guides for Cycling, Flag Football and Golf To Be Released Next Week

We are happy to announce that we will be releasing the Virtual Training Guides for Cycling, Flag Football and Golf next week for programs to begin using! These guides will have 8-10 weeks' worth training content that coaches can use for delivering virtual training for your athletes who aren't able to attend the smaller inperson practices that have begun or if you are not planning to offer these sports in-person this season. With many athletes who live in group homes still unable to participate in activities, this could be the perfect way for your programs to keep them engaged!

Along with the release of these guides, we are offering a Zoom session with more information about using the guides, and we will be taking questions that you may have about using them. The session is scheduled for **Thursday September 17th @ 7:00PM**. Please use the link below to register:

https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwrcuivqD0qHdxjk1cGoEpyBMA-UPoz5rN3

Kudos to Zach Cintron who took the lead on the launch of this project along with Melissa Anger and Ryan Kelchner. We look forward to seeing programs use these guides to bring more opportunities to your athletes this fall season!

(NEW) Finance Updates

REMINDER - Budget worksheets are due September 7th. If you need any assistance please reach out to Darlene.

UPDATE – SOMD has completed the Banking Services RFP process that was mentioned in July. Five banks received the invitation to compete and four proposals were received. The evaluation team was made up of Staff, Board and Finance committee members, the Board Treasurer, and representatives from the Area programs. After careful deliberation, SOMD is pleased to announce the selection of M&T Bank.

M&T Bank provides the widest State-wide banking presence with local branches in every County. They have also agreed to a lower fee structure around merchant services, the processing of donations and sales of merchandise via credit and debit cards, with the potential of saving the organization \$25,000 a year or more. SOMD is excited to be partnering with them.

The transition to a new bank will take about three months from start to finish. We will slowly close down the old accounts as the new ones get established. Start thinking now about any vendors that are being paid automatically or electronically. Also any recurring donations that you currently receive. Once the M&T bank Area account is set up, the new banking information needs to be shared with your vendors and donors. New deposit slips with Area specific coding will be ordered as well. As the process unfolds, communications will be pushed out concerning when to start a new process or stop an old one.

If you have any questions about this update, please reach out to Joanne.

(NEW) Athlete Leadership Boot Camps

We are going to try a new idea in September....Boot Camps. We have focused on training to this point. Now let's get some practice in!

These Boot Camps will be short one hour courses focused on developing skills that will help athletes improve in communication skills (Written and verbal), presentation skills, social media skills and some adaptability skills through improv.

^{*}No previous training required.

^{*}You do not have to be an existing Athlete Leader.

WHAT: Athlete Leadership-Boot Camp (READING PRACTICE)

We want to keep up our reading practice during this time at home. We will be picking passages from famous and not so famous written speeches, books, scripts, etc. and taking turns reading them. Each piece will be revealed 72 hours before so you can practice.

Reading suggestions welcome.

All skills levels and abilities are welcome.

WHEN: Thursday September 10th, 2020 9am

WHERE:

https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAvceygrDMjE9NF1eUigpaUkRtN8pQ-CENs

WHAT: Athlete Leadership Boot Camp (SOCIAL MEDIA PRACTICE)

We are going to work on our social media skills. We will pick one topic to update on Facebook, Twitter Instagram and/or TikTok. These may be trending topics or there may be directly related to Special Olympics Maryland.

We will work on the words to use and any images we would want to attach. We will also take time to "LIKE" and "SHARE" other people's social media postings.

WHEN: Friday September 11th, 2020 12pm (NOON)

WHERE:

https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0vd-upqDsoHNyQcu_GnTgnrrwqudd6CqIH

WHAT: Athlete Leadership Boot Camp (SOMD FACTS-Learning through Games)

As an athlete leader it is important to know some facts about Special Olympics Maryland that you share when people ask you. We are going to play games and have fun contests to help us learn facts about SOMD, Sports, Local Programs, Special Events, Fundraising Events, etc.

WHEN: Tuesday September 15th, 2020 4pm

WHERE: https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtc-6tpjstHdP2Y2ZJn1fl5hjjbzVAg3sY

WHAT: Athlete Leadership Boot Camp (30 SECOND SPEECHES)

We will designate a topic or subject to create a speech around. We will work together then to put together a 30 second speech around the topic. You can write it down and recite it. Or you can put it together in your head and recite it. It will follow different formats every time. Each subject or topic will be revealed at the beginning of the meeting. This will help us work on our spontaneous speaking skills.

WHEN: Thursday September 17th, 2020 9am

WHERE:

https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUpc-yurjojH91c0tMzmylw9OeOhgQgz_dy

WHAT: Athlete Leadership-Boot Camp (READING PRACTICE)

We want to keep up our reading practice during this time at home. We will be picking passages from famous and not so famous written speeches, books, scripts, etc. and taking turns reading them. Each piece will be revealed 72 hours before so you can practice.

Reading suggestions welcome.

All skills levels and abilities are welcome.

WHEN: Tuesday September 22nd, 2020 5:30pm

WHERE:

https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlpcOCgqj0qGNRKffiSihDy017IZ3DtEyRN

WHAT: Athlete Leadership Boot Camp (IMPROV SKILLS TO BE A BETTER LEADER)

We will use Improvisational Games and exercises to help gain better skills at presenting ourselves in the community and at events. These will be fun and dynamic and we will learning new skills as well as improving existing skills to enhance our leadership abilities.

WHEN: Friday September 25th, 2020 12pm (NOON)

WHERE:

https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEodeqqqDlqHNCMfd787Jc6DAufPtAEaQXy

WHAT: Athlete Leadership Boot Camp (30 SECOND SPEECHES)

We will designate a topic or subject to create a speech around. We will work together then to put together a 30 second speech around the topic. You can write it down and recite it. Or you can put it together in your head and recite it. It will follow different formats every time. Each subject or topic will be revealed at the beginning of the meeting.

This will help us work on our spontaneous speaking skills WHEN: Monday September 28th, 2020 4pm

WHERE:

https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwpdOGgrjkjHdH3S_eohzZCAAMCQ4O7jEQf

WHAT: Athlete Leadership Boot Camp (IMPROV SKILLS TO BE A BETTER LEADER)

We will use Improvisational Games and exercises to help gain better skills at presenting ourselves in the community and at events. These will be fun and dynamic and we will learning new skills as well as improving existing skills to enhance our leadership abilities.

WHEN: Wednesday September 30th, 2020 9am

WHERE:

https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUlc--hqTlvH9BrlFGkwM1gniRusCo69M4d

(NEW) <u>SOI Athlete Survey</u>

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR ATHLETES

Dear fellow athletes,

Because of the COVID-19 virus, things have changed all around the world for our athletes, coaches, friends and family. For all athletes, the virus has changed how we play sports and how we come together. I want to hear your voices through this short survey about returning to play. Our voices and input are important in how we can get back to do what we as athletes love to do – play sports. By hearing from you in this short survey, I can represent us all.

Click the link below to complete this short 5 question survey.

Survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3DFM2M8

Please complete the survey by September 25. Thank you so much for being a leader.

Loretta Claiborne Athlete and Chief Inspiration Officer Special Olympics, Inc.

LET Jason Schriml (jscriml@somd.org) KNOW IF YOU FILL THIS OUT SO I CAN MARK IT DOWN.

(NEW) September Athlete Speaker Series

Jason still has room for a few athletes for the September Speaker Series. It does not matter if you have previous experience or not as a speaker. Even if you have done one of these before you are welcome. This is a great practice for experienced athletes to keep their presentation skills up and for new athletes to try their hand at public speaking.

Don't think you are cut out for this? We have augmentative forms of communication to help you if speaking is not your thing. Try using a PowerPoint to get your point across with your points on it.

Trouble reading? We can help you design a presentation with symbols and photos that you can use for your message.

<u>WHAT:</u> The Athlete Leadership Program is offering a monthly Athlete Speaker Series beginning in September and occurring every month for the next 6 months.

Interested athletes will present a speech around a topic or theme that has already been chosen. We will offer brief trainings and material on how to write and present a speech every Monday at 4pm for the first three Mondays in each month. On the last Wednesday of each month athletes will present their speech to invited friends, family and guests over ZOOM.

If you are interested in participating please sign up below for the September Series.

Even if you have no experience this would be a great opportunity to learn a new skill and share your story and observations.

WHEN:

Tuesday September 08th, 2020 4pm Monday September 14th, 2020 4pm Monday September 21st, 2020 4pm

Wednesday September 30th, 2020 4pm

WHERE: Register in advance for this meeting:

https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJluc-qtrzosGtSFyyCLd6CCaYTv-rT6ELdh

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Submission of Return to Activity Forms

As all should already be aware, there are two new forms that are required to be provided for programs that have restarted activity – Acknowledgement of Risk (one for each person participating) and Screening Log (one for each training session). The <u>attached document</u> provides the information on how and where to submit each of these forms. If you have any questions, contact Dottie at coaches@somd.org.

GMS Updates

As noted in previous meetings and communications, the recent situation has precipitated some changes within GMS. Upon further investigation and discussion with participants at a recent GMS Update webinar (which was also attend by a number of Area Directors), some additional changes either have been made or are currently underway.

Acknowledgement of Risk (AOR) Certification: We have created and populated a new AOR Certification based on the submission of AOR forms. Area GMS users can access the data fields for the AOR Certification as they can for all other certifications. It also now appears in the "pop-up info" box when you hover over a record as either an existing certification or as a red highlight that it is missing. As of this writing, ALL AOR forms which have been submitted to HQ have been processed and entered into GMS.

Athlete Self-Guardianship: A new custom field has been created and is being populated indicting that an athlete has self-guardianship based on their response to that question that has been on the first page of the athlete medical for several years. Dottie is checking all current medicals for all athletes on an Area-by-Area basis and as of this writing has completed this checking and entering the data into GMS for 11 Areas (AA, BA, CH, CR, FR, HA, KE, MO, SM, US, WA) and has partially completed this process for one additional Area (HO). We expect this process to be completed for all Areas before the end of the month.

Also, based on feedback from the participants in the earlier AD/GMS session we will not be including this flag in standard reports/exports at this time (although Areas wishing to have this info available can easily add it as an additional field to any export within GMS).

Volunteer-Minor Background Screening in GMS: While the forms and process for obtaining volunteer screening for volunteers who are minors (under the age of 18) has not changed in any manner and they are still valid until that person's 18th birthday, how we will be tracking it has changed within GMS. Based on suggestion by Shelly Bogasky a couple years ago, and validated/supported by the participants in the AD/GMS webinar, we have incorporated all currently valid Vol-Minor Certifications in GMS into the "regular" Volunteer Background Certification so that we have a single certification that indicates whether or not a given individual has a valid background screening that allows them to serve as a volunteer. We have included a "checkbox" in the certification as well to indicate that the certification is for a minor (to make pulling those certifications easy should we ever need to do so). We did not delete the current Vol-Minor certification from GMS in case anyone still needs to access it, but we will no longer be updating it. Dottie completed all of these updates earlier this week.

And to repeat – <u>nothing has changed in any manner for Volunteer-Minor Certifications except how</u> <u>they are recorded in GMS and where they will appear on reports/exports</u>.

Updating of GMS Reports and Exports: Given the above noted changes (most notably the collapsing of all volunteer screening certifications into a single certification — which significantly affects available "report real estate"), the redesign of canned reports/exports for Areas was paused. That has been reinitiated and we expect to have a handout of new reports/exports no later than the next Area Memo.

Special Olympics Launches "Developmental Sports Implementation Guide"

We're very excited to announce the launch of the <u>Developmental Sports Implementation Guide</u>, which supports the sport development of children 6-12 with and without intellectual disabilities throughout the entire Special Olympics movement. It is packed with ready-to-use resources designed to help schools, communities and coaches effectively offer and implement developmental sports activities.

There is a known participation gap between Young Athletes and traditional Special Olympics sports beginning at age 8. By emphasizing age-appropriate sports skill development in a structured sport environment, Special

Olympics can focus on retention of participants and development of athlete skills, while also creating a more robust opportunity for participation.

This guide includes sport-specific curricula from Special Olympics sport federation partners. These inclusive and age appropriate activities are not meant to be structured as a new Special Olympics program or initiative, but rather can be used to support a child's transition to traditional Special Olympics participation, or as an introduction to Special **Olympics** Unified Sports[®]. The



Sports Implementation Guide was developed with support from the following partners:

iCoachKids

Developmental

- **ASPEN Institute Project Play**
- SHAPE America
- Badminton World Federation (BWF)
- International Basketball Federation (FIBA)
- International Floorball Federation (iFF)
- Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)
- Michael Phelps Foundation
- International Tennis Federation (ITF)
- European Volleyball Confederation (CEV)

During this time of limited in-person practices happening around the globe the suggested guidance for this guide is to have Programs and coaches get comfortable with the material. When return to play is reinstated in their particular Program they will be ready to go with this new resource. Additional languages of the guide will be available later in 2020 and a companion youth coaches training will be completed in early 2021!

Virtual Torch Run

Our Virtual Torch Run Registration is OPEN! We are excited to roll out this collaborative fundraising opportunity with Local Programs and our Law Enforcement community!

Visit www.marylandtorchrun.com to register!

Remember, each local program is able to sign up 1 fundraising team and benefit from 70% of the net revenue raised by your team! Please work with your Area Director to start a team or register on their existing team.

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/

COVID-19 Area Directors Call

Our Bi-Weekly Call will take place this Wednesday, 9/9 at 6:30pm. We will be discussing the steps necessary for programs to enter Phase 2 of our Return to Play Protocol.

Please use this link to register:

https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMpd-GspzkqEtbOY0iPl8EHMW0ggC46v-m1

(Updated) Coaches Training -CSOA and PoC Sessions

Coaching Special Olympics Athletes (CSOA) -- SOMD is pleased to offer in-person training sessions for Coaching Special Olympics Athletes, a requirement for all Coaches. (*Due to the conversational and interactive nature of this course, we must have a minimum of 7 registrants at least 2 business days prior* to the course in order for it to be held.)

Saturday, September 26, 2020, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Virtual Training session at SOMD HQ (limit of 20 participants) (*Note: This previously scheduled "live" session has been shifted to virtual*)

Sunday, November 15, 2020, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. In-person Training session at SOMD HQ (limit of 20 participants) (Note: We will make a determination no later than November 2, 2020, whether this session will be held as an "in-person" or "virtual" course.)

To register for either of these sessions, please click here.

Principles of Coaching (PoC) - SOMD is pleased to host additional sessions of the Principles of Coaching course, necessary for all coaches wishing to take teams/athletes or serve as a coach to any competition above the state level (including USA Games, World Games, NITs, NIRSA events, etc.). This free course is intended for coaches with a *minimum of two years coaching experience* and, along with appropriate sport-specific training, serves to certify a coach as an Advanced coach. (*Due to the conversational and interactive nature of this course, and the need to send "hard copy" course materials to participants in advance of the session, we must have a minimum of 7 registrants at least 4 business days prior to a virtual PoC course in order for it to be held.)*

Saturday, September 12, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Virtual Training session (limit of 20 participants; 6 spots remaining) (*Note: This previously scheduled "live" session has been shifted to virtual.*)

To register for any of these sessions, please click here.

Important Note On All <u>Virtual</u> Training Sessions: Given the interactive nature of these courses, if a course gets changed to a virtual training session, 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.)

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

<u>NEW WEBSITE!</u>: Don't have facebook? No problem! Visit our new website <u>www.virtualsomd.com</u> 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@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.

<u>Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Webinars</u>

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 -

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: https://youtu.be/ifjxgZZN0b4
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.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/
Soccer	Tue 7/28	Recording: https://youtu.be/Fvcla3Axa8A
Bowling	TBD	This web session has been postponed pending additional information on indoor activities while operating under "Return to Activity" protocol

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).

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 be 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	• Roster entered into GMS of all athletes, Unified® partners, coaches and
Cycling Distance Running Flag Football Powerlifting Soccer Tennis	10/01/2020	 Volunteers participating in your program. Every athlete must have a complete medical form valid through October 31, 2020 on file at SOMD HQ*. Every coach/partner/volunteer must have a complete volunteer application and updated Protective Behaviors Certification valid thru October 31, 2020 on file at SOMD HQ*. All Coaches & Sports Vols must have Special Olympics Concussion Certification.
Bowling*	11/01/2020	 <u>All Coaches</u>: must have the sport-specific certification for their sport completed and submitted to SOMD HQ along with CSOA.

^{*}Golf forms/certifications must be valid thru Sept 30, 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

- o 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

- o <u>zcintron@somd.org</u>, 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

- o <u>rkelchner@somd.org</u>, 410-242-1515 x171
 - Alpine Skiing
 - Athletics
 - Bocce
 - Distance Running
 - Golf

^{*}Bowling forms/certifications must be valid thru Dec 31, 2020

- Powerlifting
- Locally Popular Sports: Dance, Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey
- Angela Nadeau, Sports Director
 - o anadeau@somd.org, 410-242-1515 x163
 - IUS Athletics
 - IUS Indoor Bocce
 - IUS Outdoor Bocce
 - IUS Strength & Conditioning
 - IUS Tennis

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
 - o jabel@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 121
 - Any general question
- Melissa Kelly, Sr. Director, Unified Champion schools
 - o mkelly@somd.org, 410-979-5839
 - School engagement & partnerships
- Mackenzie Irvin, Young Athletes Program Director
 - o mirvin@somd.org, 857-939-4867
 - o Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming
- Veronica Smaldone, Unified Champion Schools Coordinator (Western MD)
 - o vsmaldone@somd.org
 - Inclusive Youth Leadership & Whole School Engagement
- Sam Boyd, Volunteer Director
 - o <u>sboyd@somd.org</u>, 443-766-9245
 - o Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- Ben Varga, Healthy Communities Manager
 - o bvarga@somd.org
 - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs
- Pat Cullinan, Northern Chesapeake Region Director
 - o pcullinan@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - o Harford, Cecil, and Kent Counties
- Mike Myers, Baltimore Region Director
 - o mmyers@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Baltimore County and City
- Tyler Martin, Western Region Coordinator
 - o tmartin@somd.org, 717-321-3642
 - Frederick, Washington, Allegany, Garrett Counties