

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

06/17/ 2023

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



Contents

- Welcome
- [Shout out a volunteer- UPDATED](#)
- [Reminder- SOMD Staff and Summer Games Week- New](#)
- [Special Olympics World Games Opening Ceremony on ABC – June 17, 3:00-6:00pm - NEW](#)
- [Summer Games – Opening Ceremony Survey – Respond by 6:00pm June 21 - NEW](#)
- [Summer Games – Head of Delegation Webinar and In-Person Meeting – NEW](#)
- [Coach Resource Pages – Your Source for Summer Games info & Results – NEW](#)
- [HR Updates- Welcome Jacob \(Jake\) Novick! Best Wishes, Sarah Spund- NEW](#)
- [Certified Athlete Leader Training- July 15 and 16, 2023- NEW](#)
- [Improv Training and Athlete Leadership- July 15, 2023- NEW](#)
- [Area Leader Quick Guide](#)
- [Summer Games Updates](#)
- [Reminder: Area Director July Meeting](#)
- [SOMD AmeriCorps Opportunities](#)
- [Area Program Fundraising Info Form](#)
- [SOMD Forms Reminder](#)
- [Forms for ALL Training Participants Submitted to SOMD HQ – Even Those Not Going to “States”](#)
- [2023 Brave in the Attempt Talks](#)
- [Finance Corner...With a twist!-UPDATED](#)
- [Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Webinars - UPDATED](#)
- [Sports Directors – Assigned Sports](#)
- [Questions?](#)

Welcome

Happy Summer Games Week! In just 1 week, we'll have wrapped up Friday's Cheerleading and Swimming Competitions and enjoyed Opening Ceremonies, and will be ready for a great day of Saturday competition in the pool, and on the bocce courts, the track, and the softball fields!

It's also Father's Day Weekend! A very happy Father's Day to our Special Olympics Dads, Grand Fathers, Uncles, Godfathers, and Father Figures to our athletes and unified teammates! We hope that you can enjoy the Father's Day weekend celebrating with family and friends (and resting up for Summer Games!)

If there are any members of your area's leadership who are not currently receiving the Area Memo, [please fill out this form](#)

Shout out a volunteer

This memo's shout outs go to...

Marva Davis who is winding down her time as Area Director of our Washington County program after 50 years of serving our athletes and families! Thank you, Marva for your leadership and unending commitment to our athletes and programs!

A continued shout out to our many Law Enforcement Partners across the state who are organizing Torch Runs in our communities, and raising awareness with Torch Run T-Shirts!

Please use the link below to submit your shout outs!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LV88QG9>

(NEW) Reminder- SOMD Staff and Summer Games Week

Just a very friendly reminder that while SOMD Staff and Games Management Team Members make final preparations for Summer Games, we'll be splitting time between Towson, Kiwanis Park, and the office. Cell phone will be the best way to communicate----although we may have our hands full (sometimes literally!) when you call, so apologies for any delay in responding.

(NEW) Special Olympics World Games Opening Ceremony on ABC – June 17, 3:00-6:00pm

As we are putting the final pieces together for the Summer Games, we wanted to let everyone know that the Opening Ceremony for the 2023 Special Olympics World Summer Games from Berlin, Germany will be televised on ABC this Saturday from 3:00pm – 6:00pm.

Please share this with anyone and everyone. We can show our support for all athletes, teammates, coaches and others from around the world, and specifically Special Olympics USA and the representatives from Special Olympics Maryland.

This will remind us of what we do and who we do it for, along with getting “into the groove” for Summer Games.

(NEW) Summer Games – Opening Ceremony Survey – Respond by 6:00pm June 21

On Wednesday, June 14, each Area Director and Summer Games Head of Delegation should have received an email from Mike Czarnowsky regarding the brief survey collecting information related to Opening Ceremony at Summer Games. This includes number of expected delegation members attending, special seating needs, names of the 4 (maximum) athletes and 1 coach/teammate to march in the parade representing their delegation, and nominations for athletes and coaches to participate in the Opening Ceremony (oaths, torch, etc.)

The deadline for responses of 6:00pm on Wednesday, June 21 is a firm deadline as that information will be used in the Games Management Team Meeting that evening and several other games-related decisions will be handled that evening and the next day so we can have up-to-date and accurate info for the Head of Delegation meeting on Thursday night.

Any Area/delegation for which a response is not received by the 6:00pm June 21 deadline will not have designated seating and will not have representatives march in the parade. They will be acknowledged by the emcees from the stage.

Here is the survey link again for your convenience.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SG23_OC_Delegations

(NEW) Summer Games – Head of Delegation Webinar and In-Person Meeting

Just a friendly reminder that we will be holding a web meeting for Summer Games Heads of Delegations (HODs) on Monday night, June 19, at 6:00pm. We have 2 hours slotted for the meeting to allow ample time for any questions the HODs may have. To keep the meeting “focused” please have only HODs and Area leaders attend – not other coaches, family members or athletes. Here’s the link again for the session in case it’s helpful to you:

<https://somb.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkcu6oqjoiGtBXDUgDal4XKZoqWmlJxnt2>

Also, a reminder that there will be an “in person” HOD meeting on Thursday evening at Towson University in the West Village Commons (exact location will be shared at Monday night’s web meeting and the follow-up communication from that). This should be strictly HODs in attendance. Please plan for other arrangements for any athletes that may be with your HOD (the need for this may vary depending on the final location of the meeting and will be addressed during the Monday night web meeting).

(NEW) Coach Resource Pages – Your Source for Summer Games info & Results

Please be sure to remind all of your delegation members that the best and most-up-to-date (or soon to be!) source of information on Summer Games is the Coach Resource Page (CRP):

Main CRP: www.somd.org/coach-resources/

Summer Games CRP Section: www.somd.org/coach-resources/summer-games-coach-resources/

Currently on the Summer Games CRP are

- the Event Guide (whole and sport specific sections)
- “standalone” map of Towson University
- links to the CRPs for the individual sports
- Links to recording and slides for the five sport-specific Pre-Competition webinars

This will also be the location for additional information, including results. The CRPs for each sport will have the competition details posted when available (divisions, brackets, etc.) as well as results and other info.

By Saturday, June 17, an email will be sent to each Summer Games delegation member (for whom we have a valid email in GMS) advising/reminding them of the CRPs and the information available there, particularly focus on the Event Guide.

(NEW) HR Updates- Welcome Jacob (Jake) Novick! Best Wishes, Sarah Spund

Jake Novick:

We are excited to welcome Jake Novick to the Special Olympics Maryland Staff in the new role of Unified Recreation Manager!

He is joining us from Towson University where he just earned his master’s degree while working as the Graduate Assistant for Competitive Sports with Towson Campus Recreation. During his assistantship, he played a leadership role in the development and implementation of SOMD’s four unified intramural seasons at Towson.

Jake was a candidate for the Metro Region Director position and through his many interviews with our staff, it was clear that his knowledge of campus recreation programs and experience starting a unified intramural program can provide an immediate positive impact in the growth of our programs. The role of Unified Recreation Manager is a new position for our organization, and one that will be supported by Unified Champion Schools funding. It was a position that we had planned to post and hire over the summer, but with an exceptionally strong candidate identified and vetted, we chose to expedite the process.

To better facilitate the life-long participation of athletes and unified teammates, Special Olympics North America has identified improved integration between school and community programs as a priority of the Unified Champion Schools grant. Special Olympics Maryland was selected as one of the state programs to participate in their School Community Program Integration pilot, and through this, we have identified the growth of new models of unified play and competition as an important way to both grow our program and keep athletes and unified teammates engaged.

As Unified Recreation Manager, Jake will report directly to Jeff and will continue to grow existing Unified Intramural programs with Towson and Mount St. Mary's while establishing new programs with both university and community partners. The Unified Recreation Manager will work collaboratively with Region Directors and Sports Directors to implement new program models for play and competition as we work to engage more athletes and unified teammates.

We look forward to Jacob's positive contributions in support of our athletes and unified teammates! Please join me in welcoming him to the team.

Jake will be at Summer Games with Jeff, so as you see him, please welcome Jake to Special Olympics Maryland.

Sarah Spund

Sarah Spund, our Partnerships Relationship Manager, will be departing Special Olympics Maryland to move to a different position with a different organization. Sarah's last day with us will be during Summer Games. As you see Sarah around the Games, please thank her for her enthusiasm for our athletes and mission over the past few months and send her off with some well-wishes!

(NEW) Certified Athlete Leadership Training

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR ATHLETES AND FAMILIES!

Want to become a Certified Athlete Leader at Special Olympics Maryland?

We are offering all 5 classes on July 15th and July 16th during our Athlete Leadership Weekend.

Classes will take place at the main office, 3701 Commerce Drive, Suite 103, Halethorpe, MD 21227

SATURDAY JULY 15th, 2023

9:00am-10:15am Understanding Emotions

10:30am-12:30pm Engaging with Others

1:30pm-3:00pm Managing Time

SUNDAY JULY 16th, 2023

9am-10:30am Leading Discussions

11am-12:30pm Unified Leadership

If you want to attend, please email Jason at jschriml@somd.org or text 410-916-4749

(NEW) Improv Training and Athlete Leadership

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR ATHLETES AND FAMILIES!

OPEN TO ANY ATHLETE

SATURDAY, July 15th, 2023 9am-12:30pm

LOCATION: SOMD Office (3701 Commerce Drive, Suite 103, Baltimore, MD)

We are welcoming back our friend Emma Shipley-Gribben to lead us in an active morning of Improv/Acting exercises that will enhance your leadership skills.

If you are interested in attending please let me Jason Schriml know through email (jschriml@somd.org) or text 410-916-4749. Class limited to 20 athletes

9-9:30am: Introduction
9:30-10:15am: Trust building + Active listening
10:15-10:30: BREAK
10:30-11:15am: Projection + perspective taking
11:15-11:30: BREAK
11:30am-12:15pm: Dynamic two-way communication + flexibility
12:15-12:30: Closing debrief

Area Leader Quick Guide

Attached to this memo is the most up-to-date version of the Area Leader Quick Guide. With the number of new staff members on our team, we wanted to make sure this got updated and distributed. While not comprehensive, this list is organized by content/question/area of concern and will help you identify the best SOMD staff member to contact.

For ease, we will include this attachment on the area memo moving forward and will highlight if/when updates are made.

Summer Games Updates

We want to apologize that we (okay Mike) has had to delay opening Summer Games in GMS for Areas to do their data entry. It is open now and memos will go out on Monday, May 22, related to entry status and process as well as housing. Due to the delay in providing some of this information, we will be extending two deadlines related to Summer Games:

Missing Forms and Certifications Deadline is now Tuesday, May 30, 2023
Competition Registration Deadline is now Monday, June 5, 2023

Also, as noted previously, if you wish SOMD HQ to “advance” your entries and scores from a previous competition in GMS (even one which was rained out), it will only work if you have NOT already entered them into their events in Summer Games in GMS. When doing an advancement, if the system sees that the athlete is already in the 50M Freestyle, it will ignore anything in that athlete’s record in Summer Games related to the 50M Freestyle (i.e., it will NOT update the score/time).

Reminder: July Area Director

Reminder for upcoming Area Director Meetings and calls:

Summer Area Director Webinar and VIRTUAL Meeting: As a reminder, we are moving the dates to July 17 (Webinar) and July 22 (Virtual Meeting) to accommodate the summer SONA Unified Champion Schools meeting! Thank you for your flexibility.

Please use the links below to register:

Webinar: <https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqf-Chpz4pGdNMnwFFNFU85nH-eFyf6PsL>

Virtual Meeting: <https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqd-yvqzgtH9dbQvr30VCN7tZgzoS8Li16>

SOMD AmeriCorps Positions

For the past 7 years, Special Olympics Maryland has partnered with Frostburg State's ASTAR AmeriCorps program to host AmeriCorps members for a year of meaningful service to our athletes and programs! AmeriCorps Members serve with Special Olympics Maryland from August 15, 2023-August 14, 2024 and receive:

- A bi-weekly stipend
- End of service Segal Education Award (can be used for existing Student Loans, and/or future education expenses)
- Interest-free student loan forbearance during term of service
- Health Insurance and Childcare reimbursement are available

We are currently working to fill the positions of:

- AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator
- AmeriCorps Interscholastic Unified Sports Coordinator
- AmeriCorps Unified Champion Schools Coordinator

If you know of anyone who may be interested in serving as an AmeriCorps member for Special Olympics Maryland, please have them email Jeff (Jabel@somd.org) for more information and next steps on how to apply.

Area Program Fundraiser Info Form

As we discussed in our Area Director meeting and on Monday's call, we'd like to get a better idea of the many fundraisers taking place around the state in support of Special Olympics Maryland. This will also help us advertise your events while also consolidating state office requests for credit card machines, Classy Pages, and more.

[Moving forward, please fill out this form when you are planning a fundraiser.](#)

Area Directors- Please send Jeff 1 email address that will receive a confirmation email when a fundraiser is submitted for your local program (thanks to those who already have...you'll receive an activation email from Monday.com)

SOMD Forms Reminder

As you welcome new athletes to your program and existing athletes update their forms for continued participation, please make sure we are collecting the Special Olympics Maryland forms that can be found here: <https://www.somd.org/coach-resources/> . Sometimes, our athletes and families (especially new families) will find blank forms through an internet search and print out forms from SOI or other state programs.

If you notice a form that looks different than what SOMD uses, please provide and upload the correct forms.

Forms for ALL Training Participants Must Be Submitted to SOMD HQ – Even Those Not Going to “States”

Just a friendly reminder that forms and certifications for everyone participating in your sports training programs must be valid and up-to-date through the end of the season (June 25 for Summer Games sports) AND must be submitted to SOMD HQ even if they are not attending the state championship. We've found that at the end of each season there are still several individuals who participated in various Area programs but whose medical, volunteer application, CDW, etc. were never submitted to SOMD HQ. Please be certain to submit those forms and certifications for ALL of your training program participants.

2023 Brave in the Attempt Talks

Six speakers from Special Olympics Maryland and other external agencies will take to the stage on June 20th, 2023 from 6pm-8pm for the First Lady presents Brave in the Attempt Talks.

The talks are 5-7 minute TED-Talk style presentations around a common theme.

This year's theme is "**Lead the Way**" where speakers will share their experience in leadership and how they or others Lead the Way.

This year's speakers include Clara Scholz, Charles Gaines, Alexea Wentz, Matt DiGilio, Abby Knight and Dominique Palmer.

We are happy to host this year's talks at the Jim Rouse Theatre 5460 Trumpeter Rd, Columbia, MD 21044 in Howard County. There will a short reception at 6pm followed by the talks at 7pm.

Tickets are FREE but we request that you reserve them through our ticketing system to help us have a better understanding of size of crowd that night.

Ticket sign up available here <https://support.somd.org/event/2023-brave-in-the-attempt-talks/e458207>

(UPDATED) Finance Corner

This is a reminder everyone that Special Olympics Maryland has several Corporate Tax Exempt accounts set up with equipment vendors – REI, Amazon Business, etc. Please order through our corporate accounts. You must place your orders by phone and ask for the Special Olympics Maryland account. Communicate the shipping address for your location for your order. If you place an order online, we will be charged sales tax, which for some items can get expensive and is an unnecessary cost. If there is an equipment vendor that you use that is not set up yet with a tax exempt corporate account, please reach out to Joanne so that we can establish an account.

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

(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 *(slides from recorded sessions are available on the respective CRP)*

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Athletics (T&F)	Wed, Mar 22	Recording: https://youtu.be/XtB6GcKyyME
Bocce	Wed, Mar 22	Recording: https://youtu.be/5e9Ud9jjE2I
Cheerleading	Mon Apr 17	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eoIH7mbUWek
Softball	Tue Apr 18	Recording: https://youtu.be/_s_c4PvcPTc
Swimming	Mon Apr 10	Recording: https://youtu.be/kTODwkRur7w

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars *(slides from recorded sessions are available on the respective CRP)*

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Athletics (T&F)	Thu Jun 15	Recording: https://youtu.be/ehB4VcUqiO4
Bocce	Thu Jun 15	Recording: https://youtu.be/YpzuE8EB3EE
Cheerleading	Wed Jun 14	Recording: https://youtu.be/QSu4omRWf10
Softball	Wed Jun 14	Recording: https://youtu.be/iJspXVNA5LI
Swimming	Tue Jun 13	Recording: https://youtu.be/vc9e5ps4c-Y

Sports Department Contacts – Assigned Sports

Your Area Director and Area Leadership should always be your first point of contact. However, should you have questions regarding a specific sport, coach education, or competition, please work with the corresponding Sport Director.

- **Melissa Anger, Senior Sports Director**

- manger@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x122

Basketball	Soccer
Cheerleading	Softball
Flag Football	Tennis

*Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball,
Cross Country Skiing, Pickleball*

- **Ryan Kelchner, Sports Director**

- rkelchner@somd.org, 410-242-1515 x171

Athletics	Golf
Bocce	Powerlifting
Distance Running	Snowshoeing

*Locally Popular Sports: Dance,
Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey*

- **Elizabeth Kramer, Sports Director**

- ekramer@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x127

Alpine Skiing	Kayaking
Bowling (10 pin)	Swimming
Cycling	

*Locally Popular Sports: Figure Skating,
Sailing, Short Track Speed Skating,
Duckpin Bowling*

If you have questions regarding multi-sport events, or USA/World Games, please contact:

- **Steve Bennett, Senior Director, Competitions**

- sbennett@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x102

Summer Games	Fall Sports Festival	USA Games
Winter Games		World Games

If you have questions regarding High School Unified® Sports (IUS) training and competition, please contact:

- **Zach Cintron, Senior Director, High School Unified® Sports**

- zcintron@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x161

IUS Athletics (T&F)	IUS Outdoor Bocce	IUS Tennis
IUS Indoor Bocce	IUS Strength & Conditioning	

Overall Sports Leadership (any sports/competition questions that aren't related to a specific sport)

- **Mike Czarnowsky, Vice President, Sports**

- mczarnowsky@somd.org, 410.241.6280

Questions?

If You Have Any Questions on Any Other Non-Sports-Related Issues, please contact a member of the Local Programs Team

- **Jeff Abel, Vice President. Local Program Development**

- jabel@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 121
- Any general question, COVID Protocol

- **Melissa Kelly, Senior Director, Unified® Champion schools**

- mkelly@somd.org, 410-979-5839
- Unified® Champion Schools, Youth Leadership, and School Engagement

- **Megan Larson, Coordinator, Unified® Champion Schools**
 - mlarson@somd.org
 - Unified® Champion Schools, Youth leadership, and School Engagement
- **Jake Novick, Manager, Unified Recreation**
 - jnovick@somd.org
 - College Unified Champion Schools Programs, Unified Intramurals, Community Unified Rec Options
- **Mackenzie Irvin, Senior Director, Inclusive Health & Fitness**
 - mirvin@somd.org, 857-939-4867
 - Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming
- **Kayla Shields, Director, Inclusive Health and Fitness**
 - kshields@somd.org, 410-404-4115
 - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs, Unified® Physical Education
- **Abi Bauman, Young Athletes Program Coordinator**
 - abauman@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Community Young Athletes Programs
- **Sue Snyder, Unified® Physical Education Consultant**
 - ssnyder@somd.org
 - Unified® Physical Education
- **Sam Boyd, Volunteer Director**
 - sboyd@somd.org, 443-766-9245
 - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- **Lindsey Maritzel, Volunteer Coordinator**
 - LMaritzel@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- **Mike Myers, Sr. Director, Area Programs**
 - mmyers@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Baltimore County and City
- **Allie Boyd, City Schools Coordinator**
 - aboyd@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Baltimore City Schools APE Sports Program
- **Kyler Mellott, Region Director- East**
 - kmellott@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Harford, Cecil, Kent, Upper Shore, Lower Shore
- **Lily Bean, Region Director- West**
 - lbean@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Carroll, Frederick, Washington Allegany, Garrett