

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

June 12, 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.

COVID-19 Area Directors Call

We will continue our bi-weekly calls for Area Directors on Wednesday/20 at 6:30 PM. Please use this link: <https://somd.zoom.us/j/96328411657>

(New) Return to Play Calls with Area Leadership- What Sports Could you Offer?

There's light at the end of the tunnel! July 1 is around the corner, which means SOMD "In Person" Training Programs can likely start soon! So that we may best prepare for the upcoming training programs and potential competitions, we want to get an idea of the sports programs that our local programs are both interested in and likely to host.

Some things to remember:

- 1) The possibility of holding large state competitions is very much dependent on MD state government determined group size regulations, but just because we may not hold a state competition doesn't mean an approved sport can't be offered locally for training and possibly some level of competition.
- 2) We do not anticipate modifying the sports calendar or sports typically offered in a given season at the state level, but again, a local program could choose to offer a sport locally outside of the traditional season if appropriate, although we would discourage a late summer Alpine Skiing season!
- 3) While not a sport, fitness (both traditional and Unified) can be a great way to engage athletes in fun and meaningful physical activity with little needed in terms of equipment and facility reservations.

Process:

Over the next few weeks, SOMD Staff will be working with Local Program leaders to gather information to help determine the anticipated status of sports and the prospect of holding some type of competition, so we would ask you to do the following:

- 1) Start talking to your coaches, management teams, athletes, and families about sports in which there is interest in beginning in-person training.
- 2) If you haven't heard from facilities about their availability, contact your typical facilities to find out if they are open and accepting group reservations (and remember to get all necessary contracts to risk@somd.org for review and Jim's signature)
- 3) Wednesday, 6/17/2020- During our bi-weekly Area COVID-19 call We will review, in more detail, the types of questions and information which SOMD Staff will be discussing with you.
- 4) Local Program and Sport Staff will schedule 15-20 min phone interviews during the week of June 22 to capture the information specific to your Area and answer questions as possible (one interview with each Area).

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff (jabel@somd.org)

(NEW) We're Gettin' The Band Back Together- Join Us!

WHAT: Social Club-LIVE MUSIC TUESDAY

Back to where we started. Remember our first Social Club? A concert by two Montgomery County athletes? We are going to do it all again. Join athlete musical artists and other supporters of SOMD who are musicians as they share some of their favorite songs to play for a short concert.

WHEN: July 21st, 2020 7pm-8:30pm

(NEW) Virtual Block Party Replay and Links

Thanks to those who could join us last weekend for our Virtual Block Party, and special thanks to all those who submitted videos!

We have been uploading each segment of the Virtual Block Party to our Facebook and YouTube channels every day this week. We are planning on doing a Watch Party within the Virtual MOVEment group on Sunday morning at 10:00am ([link](#)).

If you know of any friends, family, athletes, volunteers, etc. that were not able to join us last weekend or who ran into technology problems, please let them know about the Watch Party and feel free to send them the link to the Facebook and YouTube playlists

- [Facebook Playlist](#)
- [YouTube Playlist](#)

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.

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) - June 27 and 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" sessions for CSOA, delivered live online (limit of 20 participants per session).

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

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

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

Register: <https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0kduutpzsjE9Qjpd2eRaUD7ioUGOjx3EAO>

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 2 sessions of this course to be offered as a virtual training and will look to potentially add another session interest warrants it. Registration will be limited to a maximum of 20 coaches per date.

Also, note that the course has undergone a number of changes (SOMD will be the first to offer the new version of the course!!), including removing many redundancies with CSOA. Given those changes, the estimated length of the course is now 4.5 hours (rather than 8 hours). We expect have an improved time estimate in the next several weeks (and certainly following our first online session)

Saturday, June 20, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., delivered as a Virtual session* (*only 3 seats remaining*)

Saturday, July 25, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 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.)

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=v8F2REkhI0W5Cz8dVAf2QmKThch79NpCqms0wFzjhFdUNUFZRjgwT0dLRTVRVjVFTUtISzJWtIQ1VC4u>

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@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.*

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
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
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)**
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

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