

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

August 21, 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) 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 *attached document* provides the information on how and where to submit each of these forms. If you have any questions, contact Dottie at coaches@somd.org.

(NEW) 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 – nothing has changed in any manner for Volunteer-Minor Certifications except how they are recorded in GMS and where they will appear on reports/exports.

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 re-initiated and we expect to have a handout of new reports/exports no later than the next Area Memo.

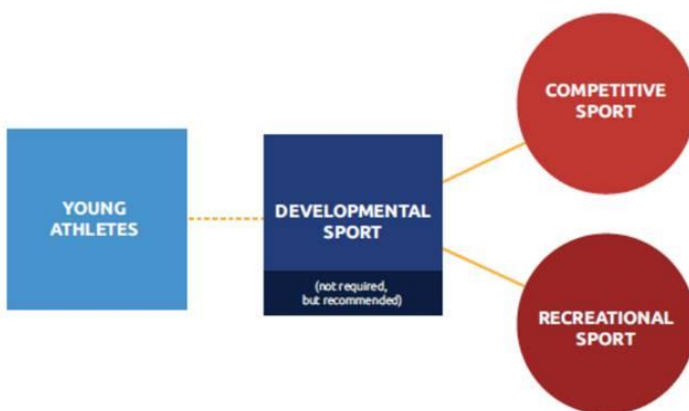
(NEW) Special Olympics Launches "Developmental Sports Implementation Guide"

We're very excited to announce the launch of the [Developmental Sports Implementation Guide](#), 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*

ATHLETE PATHWAY



Olympics Unified Sports®. **The Developmental Sports Implementation Guide was developed with support from the following partners:**

- iCoachKids
- 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!

(NEW) Check Out Carroll County's New Website

After a months of hard work, the Carroll County Management Team is excited to share their *new* webpage! www.socrathletes.org. Check out the great pictures and format! Way to go, Carroll County!

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.marylandtorchrn.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.

2022 USA Games Updates

Quota – SOMD has received its initial quota for its delegation to the 2022 USA Games and is reviewing it prior to final acceptance and confirmation later this month. Once the quota has been finalized it will be shared with Area leaders.

Athlete Selection Criteria – Based on Area leader feedback at the July 18, we have asked the Sports Committee of the SOMD Board of Directors to review the selection criteria for athletes, particularly related to the degree of independence and self-sufficiency they possess (or the level of supervision they require in order to be considered for possible selection to Team Maryland). The Sports Committee began that discussion this week and is looking forward to sharing its findings to date at the November 2020 Area Director meeting. *(Note: The Sports Committee is looking for two additional members from Areas – see the article elsewhere in the Area Memo for the nomination process.)*

One step in the process will be gathering input from athletes, coaches, families and other volunteers, particularly focused on folks who have attended a USA Games within the last 10 years or so. Look for notice of a series of web-based input sessions

Coach Certification Requirements – As a reminder, as has been stated for the past two years as a component of the SONA Coach Education and Development model, in order for a coach to be considered for possible selection to Team Maryland, they must have earned/maintained Advanced Coach certification

status for their sport *prior to selection* (this applies to ALL coaches on Team Maryland – both Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches). In addition, in order for a TEAM to be considered for selection its coaches must have earned/maintained Advanced Coach Certification status prior to team selection. Any coaches or teams that do not meet this requirement will be eliminated from consideration prior to selection. (Selection of individual sport coaches is expected to take place in March/April 2021; selection of sport teams will take place in June 2021.)

One core requirement of Advanced Coach Certification is the successful completion of the Principles of Coaching (PoC) course (*which requires a minimum of two years Special Olympics coaching experience to enroll*). Coaches wishing to have themselves or their team considered for possible selection to Team Maryland should plan now to earn their Advanced Coach Certification status. The next PoC course is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, and has a capacity limit of 20 people, the capacity for all live and virtual PoC courses (see the article elsewhere in this Area Memo for details). We will add additional PoC sessions as interest is determined. Coaches should not wait until the last minute to complete this requirement.

Planning for Team Maryland – We’ve pulled together a very basic tentative timeline of major components of Team Maryland’s preparations for the 2022 USA Games (see table below). More details will be shared as they become available and finalized.

Month	Core Activity
August 2020	Quota confirmation
Aug – Dec 2020	Project Planning
Aug ‘20 – Mar ‘21	Selection criteria and process review and finalization (Staff, Sports Comm., ADs)
Nov 2020	Application Process launched for Team Maryland Management Team
Jan 2021	Team Maryland Management Team selected App. Process launched for Team Maryland Individ. Sport Coaches (& poss Addit Personnel)
Mar/Apr 2021	Team Maryland Individual Sport Coaches selected (& poss Addit Personnel)
April 2021	“Eligible for Advancement” list created/shared (except Summer Games sports)
Apr-May 2021	Areas vet eligible list for appropriateness for inclusion based on selection criteria
June 2021	Selection of nominees and alternates to Team Maryland
August 2021	Team Maryland Training Camp for nominees
Sept 2021	Determination of nominees who will advance to be full members of Team Maryland
June 2022	USA Games

Social Clubs

We are planning for the September and October Social Clubs and wanted to reach out to you for ideas.

Is there a topic you want to learn more about? Do you want to host an evening on a Tuesday or Thursday? Let me know and we can book one of the evenings for you.

Maybe it's not you but you know someone who has an interesting hobby or knows a lot about a subject. Are there any parents, siblings, etc. that would be interested in hosting one of these social club nights?

Send an email to Jason Schriml (jscrhiml@somd.org) if you have any ideas or leads

Looking forward to hearing from you

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, 8/9 at 6:30pm. Please use this link to join the meeting:

<https://somd.zoom.us/j/96328411657?pwd=TkE0SUUVhb1Y0ZTlXNkx6TWxhYUJNUT09>

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. In-person Training session at SOMD HQ (limit of 20 participants) *(Note: We will make a determination no later than September 14, 2020, whether this session will be held as an "in-person" or "virtual" course.)*

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. at SOMD HQ (limit of 20 participants; 13 spots remaining) *(Note: We will make a determination no later than August 31, 2020, whether this session will be held as an "in-person" or "virtual" course.)*

To register for any of these sessions, [please click here](#).

Important Note On All Virtual 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>

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 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=zIzhW6QSor0&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.somid.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 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 <u>valid through 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*.• <u>All Coaches & Sports Vols</u> must have Special Olympics Concussion Certification.
Bowling*	11/01/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <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

*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
- **Angela Nadeau, Sports Director**
 - 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**
 - jabel@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 121
 - Any general question
- **Melissa Kelly, Sr. Director, Unified Champion schools**
 - mkelly@somd.org, 410-979-5839
 - School engagement & partnerships
- **Mackenzie Irvin, Young Athletes Program Director**
 - mirvin@somd.org, 857-939-4867
 - Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming
- **Sam Boyd, Volunteer Director**
 - sboyd@somd.org, 443-766-9245
 - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- **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
- **Tyler Martin, Western Region Coordinator**
 - tmartin@somd.org, 717-321-3642
 - Frederick, Washington, Allegany, Garrett Counties