

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

October 16, 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) Sports Updates From AD COVID Web Mtgs – Alpine, Snowshoeing, Basketball and Summer Games

Winter Sports

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us at the October 7, 2020, AD COVID mtg where we discussed possible scenarios for Alpine Skiing, Snowshoeing and Winter Games. We truly appreciate the thoughtful consideration and points that were made by Area leaders , which were very informative for the Winter Games GMT members who listened in on the web mtg and then met as a GMT immediately afterwards.

The consensus was that keeping the possibility of a “traditional” Winter Games as a scenario was not realistic. It was also generally considered that having a one-day Winter Games as a possible option was highly unlikely given such factors as number of athletes/partners/coaches expected to participate in training, restrictions on from the facility related to non-participants lingering in the lodge, general congestion issues with any of the indoor spaces, travel challenges for individuals who could not be transported by family members. That said, after a quick poll, we decided to leave that one-day Winter Games as a possible, if remote, option for the time being. The GMT and Alpine and Snowshoeing SMTs will focus their energies on developing additional training opportunities and resources.

The Winter Games GMT will be sending a brief survey to Areas in the next week or so to assess estimates of participation, etc. so they can best focus their efforts for training resources.

At the October 21, 2020 Area Director COVID call, we will briefly revisit the possibility of a one-day Winter Games. Based on further review of the issues raised by Area leaders, the GMT and SOMD staff believe that this may not be a realistic option but would wish to have a brief discussion on the topic.

Basketball And Summer Games

Following the discussion with Area leaders on October 7, we think that many of the issues raised regarding winter sports, as well as restrictions with Return-to-Activity protocols and the trajectory of the pandemic make it feasible to make some decisions after we gather some **input at the next Area Director COVID call on October 21**. Specifically, we’d like to gather input from Area leaders on the following two topics:

- **Basketball: Is it realistic to keep the possibility of a “traditional” state basketball tournament as an option?** The current thinking is that we will not realistically be able to have actual basketball games during the upcoming season, though the SMT is looking at possible “team level” skills competitions much as was accomplished for flag football and soccer.
- **Summer Games: Is it realistic to keep any “overnight stay” as a component of Summer Games?** Given that the consensus is that overnight stays are not realistic until we get to “Phase 3”, it’s really a question of the likelihood of when we would be at Phase 3. We would, of course, proceed with options for a one-day Summer Games or some variation of that.

Please give thought to the above two questions and come next Wednesday night’s call prepared to discuss. Thank you in advance for another thoughtful discussion.

Note: Part of the purpose for gathering this information and possibly making a decision now rather than waiting until the November Area Director meeting is related to finalizing the SOMD budget. While such decisions **absolutely will NOT** be driven by the budget, taking truly unrealistic options off the table now can help in making potentially painful budgetary decisions (e.g., if we know we can’t have a state basketball tournament, removing those funds now from the 2021 budget may mean we don’t cut or trim some other programmatic component to get things into balance).

November Area Director Webinar and WebConference

We are just about 1 month away from our last AD Webinar and Meeting of 2020! Please use the links below to register. The current plan for the meeting will be to run 2 sessions with an hour break in between... 9-12 and 1-3. We may modify those times (shorten the meeting) based on content.

Webinar	11/9/20	7pm-9pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/vpQsc-mvqD8tF8w2XpVmpFD7UXdUTgVAFQ
Web Conference	11/14/20	9am-12pm 1pm-3pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqcOqtqD4tH9crRWnAlonK7onaP24oykEP

Friendly reminders on Screening Logs and Acknowledgement of Risk Forms

As covered in the protocol for returning to activity:

Screening Logs – Must be submitted within one week of the activity

Acknowledgement of Risk Forms Must be submitted within one week of first session (AOR forms for folks subsequently joining, within one week of their first session)

Both forms are submitted into the folders in the Area’s folder on the SOMD network. Please refer to the attached document (included in several previous Area Memos) for more direction.

SOMD Office

As athletes and coaches are returning to play, some of our staff members are slowly beginning to work from our office in Baltimore again. To lessen the number of people in and around the office at any given time, our office remains closed to visitors. If you need to come to the office for any reason, you must contact a staff member at least 48 hours in advance, who will work with you to make arrangements. Masks are required at all times and your temperature will be taken upon entry.

Phase Movement Tracking Document

As was discussed on last week's AD Covid Call, protocol has been laid out for programs to progress (or regress) in phases!

The requirements for programs to move into Phase 2 include:

- 2 weeks in Phase 1
- 7 consecutive days at a 'yellow' or 'green' risk level defined by the Harvard multi-metric covid risk map.
- Site Assessment done by SOMD Staff member

Jeff will be tracking risk levels daily--- and you can keep track of your program by visiting:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1s4Y3v_-yH6WBXcM1AsI7YR4_eJgxrwmlTLhTufGM_vU/edit?usp=sharing

Remember, coaches and Area Leaders should work together to determine when they feel comfortable moving into a less-restrictive phase. Additionally, programs MUST continue to operate in their current phase until they receive written approval to progress from Jeff.

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 (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 learn new skills as well as improving existing skills to enhance our leadership abilities.

WHEN: Tuesday October 27th, 2020 5:30pm

WHERE: <https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJckfuqtrDMrG9aSgtakY0FaZOFPSmj8ZqOB>

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: Friday October 30th, 2020 4pm

WHERE: <https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcpcOqrj0uHdDpmBtGH4fQfSB5sbanWC-C>

(NEW) November Athlete Social Club Changes

See the attached document for our November Athlete Social Club Schedule!

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://virtualsomid.com/return-to-play/>

(UPDATED) COVID-19 Area Directors Call

Our Bi-Weekly Call will take place this Wednesday, 10/21 at 6:30pm

Please use this link to register:

<https://somid.zoom.us/j/92787955616?pwd=L2RadVNKT2pmNDg5UGRodXZqb0JtZz09>

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 3 business days prior to the course in order for it to be held.)*

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 5 business days prior to a virtual PoC course in order for it to be held.)*

Tues & Thur, October 27 & 29, 2020, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. each evening; Virtual Training session (limit of 20 participants) ***(MUST ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS TO COMPLETE COURSE)***

To register for 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.)*

(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 –

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/ifjxgZZNOb4
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	Tue 10/06	Recording: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-YQ6ZIKpZr8&feature=youtu.be

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 and valid through the date of that 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 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All Coaches: 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

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

- ***Veronica Smaldone, Unified Champion Schools Coordinator (Western MD)***

- vsaldone@somd.org
- Inclusive Youth Leadership & Whole School Engagement

- **Emma Bush, Unified Champion Schools Coordinator (Eastern Shore)**
 - ebush@somd.org
 - Inclusive Youth Leadership & Whole School Engagement

- **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