

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

August 19, 2022

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



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Welcome

There's a few more months before we celebrate the start of a new year...but with Kayaking Time Trials and Championships, we officially kick off the new Special Olympics Maryland Program year! We're looking forward to lots of great training and competition--- thank you, program leaders, coaches, volunteers, and families for all you do to get our Athletes and Unified Teammates participating in the sports they love!

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.

Shout out a volunteer

This memo's shout outs go to...

Barbara Allen, SOBA Soccer Coordinator:

Barb took over our soccer coordinator position several years ago, at the 11th hour when we almost had to cancel our program due to lack of volunteers. Now, as an experienced sport coordinator, she has since retired and bought a home in Florida where she spends a good part of the year. For the second year in a row, Barb has committed to stay in Maryland from August - October just to run our soccer program!!! Since I've personally seen the general area where she lives in Florida, this is truly dedication!

From: Joyce Powell

Greta Harrison and Donna Fuss:

Thank you, Greta and Donna, for assisting with a successful Hood College Athletics Department Unified Bocce Event! It was great to get our athletes playing with Hood College Coaches!

From: Melissa Kelly

Do you have a volunteer who has gone above and beyond to support our athletes and mission? Consider sending them an SOMD Shout Out! Recognize your program's coaches, area leaders, management team members, or other volunteers for outstanding contributions to your program! Shout outs will be compiled and added to the Area Memo to be sent out every 2 weeks.

Please use the link below to submit your shout outs!

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

(NEW) Welcome New Team Members

On Monday, 8/15, Special Olympics Maryland Welcomed (and welcomed back!) 3 new Team Members serving in AmeriCorps Coordinator roles. We are excited for them to start their time with SOMD and know they'll make valuable contributions to our organization!

Welcome to...

- Megan Larson, Unified Champion Schools Coordinator (reporting to Melissa Kelly)
- Lindsey Marinzal, Volunteer Coordinator (reporting to Sam Boyd) – *Former SOMD Intern!*
- Abi Bauman, Young Athletes Program Coordinator (reporting to Mackenzie Irvin)- *Former SOMD Intern!*

On Monday, 8/22, we'll also welcome Lily Bean, Region Director- West (Carroll, Frederick, Washington, Allegany, and Garrett Counties). Lily is a recent graduate of Hood College and lives in Frederick County.

Please help me welcome Lily, Abi, Lindsey, and Megan to SOMD!

COVID-19 Protocol Update- Vaccination Requirements

After feedback from many stakeholders, we are making the following changes to our COVID-19 protocol **through the Bowling State Finals (12/4/2022)**:

- At this time, there will be no sport-specific vaccination requirements for fall sports and activities that previously required full vaccination for participation in events and competitions with multiple area programs (flag football team, soccer team, volleyball, powerlifting, bowling).
- At this time, there will be no requirement for full vaccination for overnight housing provided by SOMD, including the local program.
- At this time, a negative COVID test is no longer required to return to activities after a positive COVID test. Individuals must follow CDC recommendations for isolation and masking found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

Some notes about these changes:

- 1) As noted, **these changes are only in effect through the Bowling State Finals (12/4/2022)**. Protocol changes to future sports seasons, sports, and activities will be communicated at a later date.
- 2) We will continue to follow state/local/venue restrictions for all COVID-19 Protocol, so if there is a venue (for local or state activities) that requires proof of full vaccination for participants and/or spectators, we will follow their protocol.
- 3) As a reminder, local programs cannot require vaccinations in sports and activities in which SOMD does not require full vaccination for participation.
- 4) Protocol changes will also be communicated in tomorrow's Area Memo (sent by Jeff) and the upcoming Coach Memo (sent by Mike Czarnowsky)
- 5) As always, COVID-19 protocol is subject to change based on the current COVID-19 situation. Should we need to make further changes to protocol, those will be communicated directly.

We recognize that there are a variety of viewpoints around our protocol change, I want to reinforce how important it is that our Athletes, Unified Teammates, Coaches, Volunteers, and Families continue to make in the best interest of their own comfort and well-being. And while we are rolling back vaccination protocol for our fall sports season, we continue to encourage individuals to talk with their doctor about receiving COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters.

Many thanks to our COVID-19 Protocol Task Force- Justin Hunsinger, Adam Hays, Jeff Hagen, Bob Signor, Pam Greenwood, Mike Czarnowsky, and Rhonda Garrison for their continued efforts in providing an informed, thorough, and practical COVID-19. And as always, THANK YOU, Area Leaders, Coaches, and volunteers for providing feedback as well as safe and meaningful sport experiences for our athletes and Unified Teammates!

(NEW) Get out and Vote Information Sessions

On Tuesday, November 08th, 2022 Marylanders will return to the polls for some important voting opportunities. In order to best prepare you to vote, the Special Olympics Maryland Athlete Leadership Program is offering 5 opportunities for athletes to learn more about the upcoming vote. We will review the upcoming election by using the latest sample ballot so you can see what is being voted on. We will also see what candidates are in your area. We will also introduce our resource page to help you find information.

You must register in advance so we know how many people will be attending.
Choices of dates and times are below with links

Tuesday, September 06th, 2022 12pm

<https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAld-irrDgjGNcc3YskbAAAnIG39IbqQOh4I>

Tuesday, September 06th, 2022 6pm

<https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcode-hqT4sGtP7LXGo9wcAbvIDY00-5J-A>

Thursday, September 22nd, 2022 8am

<https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqcO6qrDgrGdJ5TCFBI1OYEPSVZyS-4SaQ>

Thursday, September 22nd, 2022 7pm

<https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrdOqrrT0rHd0-t98VEzgBhoJNw35qil03>

Saturday, October 01st, 2022 9am

<https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpfuugqDgqEtxtX6HKfqZLqISaND0oi3rA>

(NEW) What is... Finance Jeopardy?

As we make final preparations for budgets due on September 12, join Joanne and Jeff for a finance review to reacclimate yourself to the chart of accounts and budget process...and what could be more fun than some Finance Jeopardy! Come for some great information, lots of fun, and don't miss out on the prizes! Use the link below to register! This is open to any Local Program management team members who want to learn more about our budget process and functions!

When: August 30, 6:30pm

Registration link:

<https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlcO6qpjltG933RLoXrCZiffu2YTXISxKI>

Polar Bear Plunge 2023

The Plunge [website](#) is now live! Create your area teams today, to start to fundraise. This year, areas across the state received \$91,050 from Plunge fundraising, so this is a great opportunity!

Don't forget – virtual plunging is an option still for 2023! Any questions? Reach out to Jessie:

jhayes@somid.org.

Get Over It with Howard County

Is your program looking for a great collaborative fundraiser this fall? Join SOMD-Howard County's Over the Edge on September 17, 2022 in Columbia, MD! Local Programs can sponsor a rappeler or a team; and receive 70% net revenue of their team's fundraising!

Is your program ready to go Over the Edge? Email Jeff (jabel@somd.org) to connect with the Howard County Program!

(UPDATED) Finance Corner

BUDGET 2023 – For those programs that hold Spring Games Events, the 2023 budget may need to be adjusted to accommodate more expense line items. If your program has this need, please reach out to me so I can help adjust your worksheet.

Please remember to round all values to the nearest dollar. It is difficult to balance out the worksheets to the budget upload when budgets include cents, so no cents. Remember that all cells need a value, even if it is a \$0 – no blanks.

Budget worksheets are due back to Darlene on or before September 12th.

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

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Golf	Tue, July 19	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNWUfHyVRKg
Cycling	Tue, July 26	Recording: https://youtu.be/NKrMTB6SvJk
Flag Football	Wed, July 27	Recording: https://youtu.be/flel3m6kuBk
LDR	Mon, July 25	Recording: https://youtu.be/-D7NG8YwMkQ
Power-lifting	Mon, July 25	Recording: https://youtu.be/RIBxRZJcRAk
Tennis	Wed, July 27	Recording: https://youtu.be/bXbA9HM6n_k
Soccer	Wed, Aug 3	Recording: https://youtu.be/ugJNDWpyUZs
Bowling	Thu, Aug 11	Recording: https://youtu.be/-VjjkYv4XJw

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Golf	Tue, Sept. 20 6:30-7:30 pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwocOquqjwGtS99YXsA_j_d8ZXypr0W0N4
Cycling	Tue, Oct 11 6:00-7:00 pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ufuytqzguE9dviw_7I9HdifXjrTP7CMBL
Flag Football	Wed, Oct. 12 7:00-8:00 pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkcO2rpz8pGNPHxtXHLd6pNslTJfj2v4yq
LDR	Thu, Oct 6 6:30-7:30 pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtcu6hqzovGNDKcVt6NEQ-T0K0INZ_oxhB
Power-lifting	Thu, Oct 6 7:30-8:45 pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsc-ypqTsrG9C6LZXO7_oFYZI2zslWzjK2
Tennis	Wed, Oct. 12 6:00-7:00 pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdOCsqj4tGtY0tfd_Ar4VpW2N41W-1SyA

Soccer	Tue, Oct. 18 6:00-7:00 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkdOGvrj0vGt1Zm1d6vMU6UTydvqFkvA4z
IUS Tennis	Wed, Oct 26 6:30-8:00 PM	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlcuusrD8pE9VYH5v5qBeSAYshaj3GXNOp
Bowling – Regionals	Wed, Nov 2 6:30-7:30 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctcOCrqDsqHdBkGveMJM9DReZDDDqKGI3A
Bowling - Finals	Wed, Nov 30 6:30-7:30 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpd--qpzliEtecKwbJIGXR7Nt5jWHhKRts

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*

- **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*

- **TBD, Sports Director (interim contact: Steve Bennett)**

- sbennett@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x102

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
- **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
 - 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
 - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- **Mike Myers, Baltimore Region Director**
 - mmyers@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Baltimore County and City
- **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
 - Carroll, Frederick, Washington Allegany, Garrett