

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

September 18, 2022



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Welcome

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...

Julie Johnson, Jacob Novick, and the Campus Recreation Staff at Towson University for a great first week of Unified Soccer Intramurals at Towson!

Tracy O'Connor, Mimi Goodman, Cole Schnorf, Marilyn Miceli, Bob Baker, Janet Larrimore, Mike Ord and the many other Howard County Volunteers for an outstanding Over the Edge event in Columbia this weekend!

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) Towson PLAYS Unified

We are excited to share that a NEW program, Towson Unified Intramurals---- run in partnership with Towson University Campus Recreation, the Hussman Center for Adults with Autism, and Special Olympics Maryland, kicked off this week. Towson students of all abilities, Hussman Center Participants, and SOMD Athletes will compete together in a fun (and competitive) 6- week soccer league on campus through Towson's Intramural program. Week 1 was a great success, and we're looking forward to the rest of the season, and more Unified Intramural Sports offerings!



(NEW) What the heck is field hockey?

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR ATHLETES!

Head Coach, EA Jackson, and the Towson Field Hockey Team invites Special Olympics Maryland athletes to Towson for an on-field Field Hockey Demo! The Towson Field Hockey Team will lead athletes in fun activities, drills, and games to learn more about this great sport! All registered athletes are welcome to join...no previous hockey/field hockey experience is needed!

Date: Friday, 9/30/2022

Time: 4:00-5:30pm

Where: Towson Field Hockey Field (Behind SECU Arena...next to the Softball Field)

Athletes who attend will also be invited to see the field hockey team in action on October 9, 2022 at Towson!

NOTE: this is being offered through our partnership with Towson Athletics. Special Olympics Maryland is not demo'ing field hockey to add to our sports offerings!

(NEW) National Banner Schools Announced!

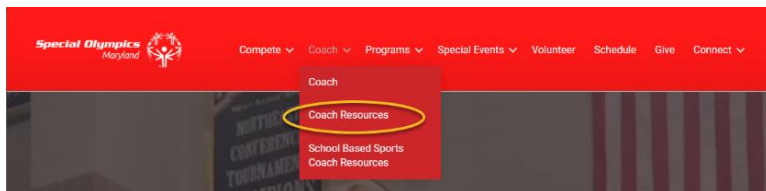
Congratulations to the following schools from Maryland who earned Unified Champion Schools National Banner Recognition! These schools have consistently demonstrated excellence in the 3 components of Unified Champion Schools- Unified Sports & Activities, Inclusive Youth leadership, and Whole School Engagement! We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments at your banner raising ceremonies!

Congratulations to:

- Annapolis High School (AACPS)***
- Kent Island High School (QACPS)***
- North County High School (AACPS)***

Coach Resource Page (CRP) – Where Is It??

With the launch earlier this week of the temporary SOMD website, there have been some temporary changes to the Coach Resource Page. It is now accessible directly from the “Coaches” Menu.



In addition, we currently only have the sport-specific pages for the community sports of Kayaking thru Bowling on the temporary site as we anticipate the new SOMD website will be launched within the next four to six weeks. If that launch timeframe is adjusted, we will add the next season of community sports to the temporary site. *(CRPs for all five IUS HS sports are on the CRP for School Based Sports.)*

Please also note that we are still in the process of getting our team renewed access to make edits/updates to the CRPs so for a short period updates may be slightly delayed.

Summer Games Dates Set through 2025

Thank you to all Area leaders who provided input as we considered the possible shift in dates of future SOMD Summer Games. Based on that input and several other factors, along with input gathered earlier in 2022 from additional stakeholders SOMD has made the decision to shift Summer Games to the weekend immediately following Fathers’ Day for at least the next three years:

- June 23-25, 2023
- June 21-23, 2024
- June 20-22, 2025

This shift affords our athletes, programs and SOMD overall several advantages including

- More training time for the spring season (*and lessening of impact from inclement weather*)
- More competition opportunities with two additional weeks to spring season
- All five Summer Games sports can be contested on the same weekend (*softball won't need to be a week or two later*)
- Sports Gala can continue to be co-located with Summer Games
- Has Summer Games after schools should be out for the year

Thank you again to all for your support.

Berlin2023 World Games – Nominees From Maryland Selected

We are very pleased to announce the nominees from Maryland to the SO USA Team for the 2023 World Games in Berlin, Germany. Maryland's five nominees will attend the SO USA Team Trials in San Antonio in November of this year, after which the SO USA Team will be finalized. Thank you to all of the Area leaders who conducted the "pre-vetting" of the pool of potential selectees. Congratulations to all of our nominees and alternates.

Sport	Status	Name	Area
Cycling	Nominee	Alisha Dey	MO
Cycling	Nominee	Mark Springuel	MO
Cycling	Nominee	Corey Woodland	SM
Kayaking	Nominee	Robin Pearl	CR
Kayaking	Nominee	Ashley Thompson	MO
Cycling	1 st Alt - female	Toni Dawe	MO
Cycling	2 nd Alt - female	Amanda Lowe	SM
Cycling	1 st Alt - male	Marcus Barnes	PG
Cycling	2 nd Alt - male	Jake Becker	MO
Kayaking	1 st Alt - female	Amanda Moore	AA
Kayaking	2 nd Alt - female	Garrie Barnes	MO



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!

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

Thursday, September 22nd, 2022 8am

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

Thursday, September 22nd, 2022 7pm

<https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrdoQrrT0rHd0-t98VEzgBhoJNw35qil03>

Saturday, October 01st, 2022 9am

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

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://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwocOquqjwGtS99YXsA_j_d8ZXypr0W0N4
Cycling	Tue, Oct 11 6:00-7:00 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ufuytqzguE9dviw_7I9HdifXjrTP7CMBL
Flag Football	Wed, Oct. 12 7:00-8:00 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkcO2rpz8pGNPHxtXHLd6pNslTJfj2v4yq
LDR	Thu, Oct 6 6:30-7:30 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtcu6hqzovGNDKcVt6NEQ-T0KOINZ_oxhB
Power-lifting	Thu, Oct 6 7:30-8:45 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsc-ypqTsrG9C6LZXO7_oFYZI2zslWzjK2
Tennis	Wed, Oct. 12 6:00-7:00 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdOCsqj4tGtYOTfD_Ar4VpW2N41W-1SyA
Soccer	Tue, Oct. 18 6:00-7:00 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkdOGvri0vGt1Zm1d6vMU6UTydvqFkvA4z
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	<i>Locally Popular Sports: Figure Skating, Sailing, Short Track Speed Skating, Duckpin Bowling</i>
Bowling (10 pin)	Swimming	
Cycling		

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, 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, 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