

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

October 2, 2022

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



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Welcome

Congratulations to our programs who offer golf on a great season! Last weekend, we enjoyed an excellent State Championship event at Queenstown Harbor, with lots of great competition in both stroke play and skills! Many thanks to Ryan Kelchner and his golf team for putting on a great season and season-ending championship!

We have a busy few weeks ahead--- many qualifiers, league play, district tournaments, and the Fall Sports Festival and Soccer State Championship---- all before November 1st! Many thanks for your efforts in providing these programs to our Athletes and Unified Teammates! It may be busy...but seeing our teams compete is exciting!

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...

Kristen Surak

Our soccer coordinator was away for 2 weeks, shortly after soccer season began. Kirsten made sure all administrative tasks were complete, practices were run safely, and also finalized soccer assessments and submitted to SOMD. Thanks Kirsten for taking on this additional responsibility!

From: Joyce Powell

Kim Powell

Kim is already a SOBA Head Coach during multiple seasons. She rose to the occasion to add yet another commitment when there was no assistant coach for our team. Thank you, Kim!

From: Joyce Powell

Area Leaders responsible for the budget!

Thank you for taking on this important responsibility for our programs, and your attention to detail, accuracy, and deadlines...it is appreciated!

From: Joanne, Kim, and Darlene

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) Good Luck, Team Maryland, at the Tennis NIT

The Special Olympics North America Tennis Championships will be held October 13-16 in Hilton Head, South Carolina! Team Maryland will be represented by:

- Mike Schmidt (Harford County)
- Adam Hays (Frederick County)
- Dan Schmidt (Harford County)
- Jeff Harrison (Frederick County)
- Greta Harrison- Head Coach (Frederick County)

Adam and Mike will both play singles and unified doubles with Dan (Mike) and Jeff (Adam). We're looking forward to great competition and lots of fun! Be sure to follow SOMD Social Media for updates from Hilton Head!

Good luck, Team Maryland!

(NEW) GMS Running Reports Review Webinar – October 13

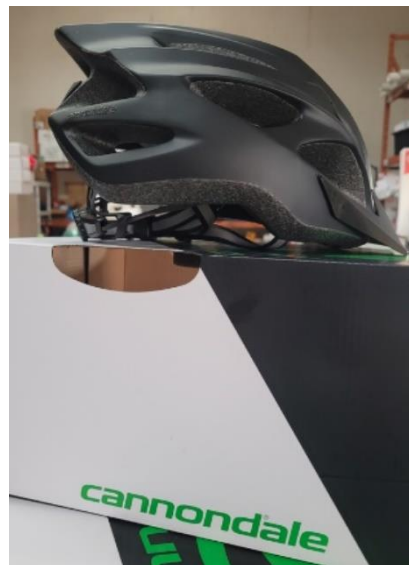
On Thursday, October 13 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm we will be hosting a webinar to review how to run the “pre-designed” reports in GMS and how to make some basic customizations. This is open to GMS users who have their accounts and have completed basic training (typically with Mike Czarnowsky). If possible, attendees should join the session on the computer they use for GMS as our intention is to include some time for users to practice in small breakout groups led by an experienced GMS report runner.

To register for the webinar, please use the following link:

<https://somid.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqdOmgrTkvGtevFfo2-hcvUoWt3ctlas63>

(NEW) Cycling Helmets Available For FREE from SOMD To Area Cycling Programs

SOMD was able to procure 66 Cannondale cycling helmets at a very deep discount and are happy to pass these along to Area cycling training programs for free. These helmets are new, adult size and typically retail for \$55 to \$75. According to Chris Militello of the SOMD Cycling Sports Management Team, these should be good for about three years once someone starts to use them. This was a one-time clearance opportunity courtesy of Trek Bicycle in Ellicott City. As far as sizes, 64 are adult Large/Extra Large, 2 are Adult Small/Medium. All but 4 are black (the other four are grey – all L/XL). We recognize that these sizes do not meet the needs of all athletes in our program – this was an opportunity and what we have in our warehouse is what was available.



Areas will be responsible for picking up the helmets from SOMD HQ no later than the November Area Director meeting on November 12 (which will include an in-person option at SOMD HQ).

To request some of these helmets, you must complete this brief survey no later than Sunday, October 16 (one request per Area please). Use the following link to complete the survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2022_CY_Helmets

Given that there are more than 100 athletes in cycling training this year (and more than 150 pre-COVID) and hopefully some Areas are looking to add or expand cycling in their training program (and these are FREE to the Area), we expect that we will have requests that exceed the inventory. We will use our best judgement on how to allocate the helmets based on the requests received by the 16th.

(NEW) Registration Due Dates Through End of 2023 Set

Registration Deadlines for community sports through the end of 2023 have been set and are incorporated into the Sports Calendar included with this email. They are summarized below for your convenience as well. Please keep in mind that **these dates are when the information/certifications must be to SOMD HQ.** Coaches/coordinators must get this information to their Area Leaders 1 to 2 weeks prior to those dates so they may have time to get them to HQ.

Event	Competition Date(s)	Training Registration Deadline (in GMS)	Last Date To Submit Missing Forms	Competition Registration Deadline (in GMS)
Fall Sports Festival (<i>cycling, distance running, flag football, powerlifting, tennis</i>)	10/22/2022	9/7/2022	9/16/2022	10/03/2022
Soccer Championships	10/30/2022	9/7/2022	9/16/2022	10/03/2022
Bowling (Regionals)	11/13/2022	9/30/2022	10/10/2022	10/24/2022
Bowling (Championships)	12/04/2022			11/23/2022
Winter Games (<i>alpine skiing, snowshoeing</i>)	02/26-28/2023	01/03/2023	01/13/2023	02/06/2023
Basketball	03/25-26/2023 (TENTATIVE)	01/12/2023	01/23/2023	02/06/2023
Summer Games (<i>athletics, bocce, cheerleading, softball, swimming</i>)	06/23-25/2023	04/21/2023	05/05/2023	06/01/2023

Kayaking	08/19/2023 (TENTATIVE)	07/06/2023	07/17/2023	08/02/2023
Golf	09/24/2023 (TENTATIVE)	08/11/2023	08/21/2023	09/01/2023
Fall Sports Festival (<i>cycling, distance running, flag football, powerlifting, tennis</i>)	10/21/2023 (TENTATIVE)	08/29/2023	09/11/2023	10/03/2023
Soccer Championships	10/29/2023 (TENTATIVE)	08/29/2023	09/11/2023	10/03/2023
Bowling (Regionals)	11/12/2023 (TENTATIVE)	09/27/2023	10/09/2023	10/24/2023
Bowling (Championships)	12/03/2023 (TENTATIVE)			11/22/2023

(NEW) Finance Corner

2023 BUDGETS – 2023 budget worksheets were due Sept 12th. There is only one Area budget that I do not have yet. Please forward your worksheet to Darlene by Sept 31st.

The Summer Games Fee invoices to the Areas that had overnight stays will be sent out shortly. Please review and let Darlene know if you have any questions.

If you have any questions about this update, please reach out to Joanne.

National Banner Schools Announced!

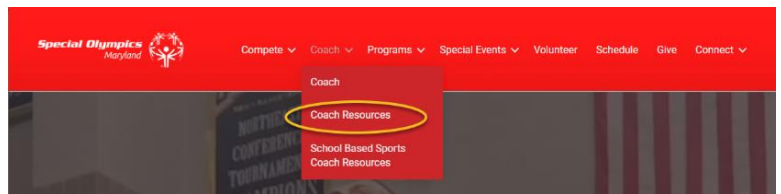
Congratulations to the following schools from Maryland who earned Unified Champion Schools National Banner Recognition! These schools have consistently demonstrated excellence in the 3 components of Unified Champion Schools- Unified Sports & Activities, Inclusive Youth leadership, and Whole School Engagement! 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.

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!

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	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
Cycling	Tue, Oct 11 6:00-7:00 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/join/719HdifXjrTP7CMBL
Flag Football	Wed, Oct. 12 7:00-8:00 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/join/tZwkcO2rpz8pGNPHxtXHLd6pNslTJfj2v4yg
LDR	Thu, Oct 6 6:30-7:30 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/join/tZUtcu6hqzovGNDKcVt6NEQ-T0K0INZ_oxhB
Power-lifting	Thu, Oct 6 7:30-8:45 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/join/tZUsc-ypqTsrG9C6LZX07_oFYZI2zsIWzjK2
Tennis	Wed, Oct. 12 6:00-7:00 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/join/tZ0pdOCsqj4tGtYOfd_Ar4VpW2N41W-1SyA
Soccer	Tue, Oct. 18 6:00-7:00 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/join/tZUkdOGvri0vGt1Zm1d6vMU6UTydvqFkvA4z
IUS Tennis	Wed, Oct 26 6:30-8:00 PM	https://somed.zoom.us/join/tZMlcuusrD8pE9VYH5v5qBeSAYshaj3GXNOp
Bowling – Regionals	Wed, Nov 2 6:30-7:30 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/join/tZctcOCrQDsQhdBkGveMJM9DReZDDDqKGI3A
Bowling - Finals	Wed, Nov 30 6:30-7:30 pm	https://somed.zoom.us/join/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, 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