

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

November 26, 2022

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



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Welcome

Happy Thanksgiving! I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday with friends and family!

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...

Our friends with the Sons of the American Legion for their sponsorship of our Bowling Tournaments.

Carolyn Roney, Marva Davis Laurie Brewer, Trish Miles, Scott Geist, Shelly Bogasky, Bob Baker, Melanie McManus, Katy Schieman, Ruth Vickers, Anna Eyler for coordinating Jersey Mikes store visits with the Thank You Plaques. The pictures look awesome so far!

Please use the link below to submit your shout outs!

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

DEI Stakeholder Survey- Please complete and Share

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5QVDL2X>

Please share with your Athletes, Unified Teammates, Volunteers, and Families!

As part of Special Olympics Maryland's efforts to become a more equitable and inclusive organization, we are asking you to complete the SOMD DEI Survey by Friday, December 2nd. We want to hear about your unique experiences with this organization. In order to advance this work, Special Olympics Maryland has partnered with Nonprofit HR to launch this comprehensive assessment.

This assessment has been prepared, executed, and analyzed by Nonprofit HR. While this survey collects demographic data, the information gathered will be used to identify the diversity of our organization and significant trends about how people of varied dimensions of diversity are experiencing SOMD. You will not

provide your name, and all results will go directly to Nonprofit HR. Your individual responses will remain anonymous.

We encourage you to engage in this survey as openly and honestly as possible so that we will have enough data to gain a true sense of Special Olympic Maryland's organization's strengths and opportunities for improvement. Your perspective is critical and valued. This survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. We have also attached key definitions to assist you while completing the survey. You can click here to access the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5QVDL2X>

Participant Confidentiality: Nonprofit HR will never share categories that have been used for data slicing in the summary data where less than five respondents are a part of a given group. We do not overlay multiple demographic dimensions in attempts to identify individual respondents. Suppose any key themes arise in dimensions where there are just a few respondents; in that case, we will bundle them or more generally share the theme if needed to ensure each individual's data remains anonymous. The raw data collected is never shared, and Nonprofit HR provides carefully analyzed data points only.

How we will use this feedback: Nonprofit HR will incorporate anonymized survey data into an assessment report and integrate it into the Strategic Roadmap to assist Special Olympics Maryland in creating a culture of inclusion.

If you have any questions about the survey or the process overall, don't hesitate to reach out to Rachael Forester rforester@nonprofithr.com or Simone McNish smcnish@nonprofithr.com directly. Thank you in advance for using your voice to help shape positive change within Special Olympics Maryland.

(NEW) JTCC Special Olympics Maryland Tennis Festival- ALL ARE INVITED!

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR ATHLETES

Ready to work off that Thanksgiving Turkey? Join Special Olympics Maryland and the JTCC for a Tennis Festival on December 3, 2022 from 11am-2pm at the JTCC (5200 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740). Join athletes from Maryland, DC, Virginia, and Delaware for a fun day of tennis drills, matches, and games! This is open to all individuals interested in playing...you do not have to be a tennis athlete with SOMD to participate.

When: December 3, 2022; 11am-2:00pm

Where: JTCC- 5200 Campus Drive, College Park, MD)

To Register: Email Gabby Hesse- GHesse@jtcc.org

(NEW) 2023 Athlete Leadership Training Feedback Survey

Please share this with all your athletes.

As we prepare for the Athlete Leadership Trainings in 2023, we want to know

"What classes or courses do you want to take in 2023?"

Share your thoughts and ideas by going to the link below.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023_ALPS_Classes_Survey

(NEW) Reminder: AmazonSmile

As we approach Cyber Monday and the holiday shopping season, it's a good time to remind you and your programs that AmazonSmile is a great way to support Special Olympics Maryland! When you designate Special Olympics Maryland as your AmazonSmile charity, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to Special Olympics Maryland with no additional cost to you!

A reminder for Area Leaders: Because of how AmazonSmile sends and reports on donations through AmazonSmile, we cannot allocate specific donations/individuals to local programs through AmazonSmile, but remind your families that funds through AmazonSmile support state-wide competition for our athletes!

2023 Winter Games – Confirmed For Wisp Resort

Contracts have all been finalized, so it is with great pleasure that we share that Special Olympics Maryland is will host the 2023 SOMD Winter Games at Wisp Resort, in McHenry, Maryland. The 2023 Winter Games will be held on Sunday-Tuesday, February 26-28, returning to Wisp for the first time since 2010. Since that time Wisp has continued to support SOMD’s Garrett County skiing program as a training site and is enthusiastic to once again host SOMD’s premiere winter sports competition.

SOMD is also very appreciative of the tremendous and incredibly generous support it has received over the past decade from Whitetail Resort, serving as both a primary athlete training location and host for Winter Games. We are excited that our partnership with Whitetail will continue, as it will serve as site for on-snow athlete training dates on January 7, and February 11, 2023.

GMS – 2023 Training Registration is Open

As many Area programs are starting to register participants in their winter season training programs (Alpine Skiing, Snowshoeing, Basketball), we are pleased to let you know that the “2023 Community Training Program Participant Registration” games is now open. You should be using that “games” to register any athletes, coaches, unified teammates, volunteers, etc. for any of you training programs that will either continue into 2023 or will start in 2023. Any training that will be solely done in 2022 should continue to be added in the “2022 Community Training Program Participant Registration” games.

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)
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	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

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 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

- 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.
- 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 in effect until further notice.***
- 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!

(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
Bowling	Thu, Aug 11	Recording: https://youtu.be/-VijkYv4XJw
Alpine	Wed, Nov 30 7:30-8:30pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkfu-srToiHda-icEnORVeZ6SFy7zO6kYS
Snowshoeing	Wed, Nov 16 6:30-7:30pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtduGqriOoGtUF28sUB4tzDOBJZITc7-a5
Basketball	Tue, Dec 6 6:00-7:00pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qdOmrpissGtPuR1HIYRq66jBWELuo1AR2_Cop

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Bowling – Regionals	Wed, Nov 2	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ck9YivpV4CY
Bowling - Finals	Wed, Nov 30 6:30-7:30pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpd--qpzliEtecKwbJIGXR7Nt5jWHhKRts
Alpine	TBD	
Snowshoeing	Thu, Feb 23 6:30-7:30pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMoceuoipJiGdLh-WXsRFkRGpN6EH-sd37I
Basketball	Wed, Mar 15 6:00-7:00pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvdeCurT0uGt3BEiBXVP8qGTmqr--X8usF

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	<i>Locally Popular Sports: Dance, Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey</i>
Bocce	Powerlifting	
Distance Running	Snowshoeing	
- **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

- **Allie Boyd, City Schools Coordinator**
 - aboyd@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Baltimore City Schools APE Sports Program

- **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, 410-242-1515
 - Carroll, Frederick, Washington Allegany, Garrett