

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

06/02/ 2023

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



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Welcome

If there are any members of your area’s leadership who are not currently receiving the Area Memo, [please fill out this form](#)

Shout out a volunteer

This memo’s shout outs go to...

Our many Law Enforcement Partners across the state who are organizing Torch Runs in our communities, and raising awareness with Torch Run T-Shirts!

Deb Marcus and the AACPS HPED Team for 3 great Unified PE & Dance Showcases! Always exciting to see the innovative and inclusive programs happening in Anne Arundel County!

Please use the link below to submit your shout outs!

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

(NEW) Area Leader Quick Guide

Attached to this memo is the most up-to-date version of the Area Leader Quick Guide. With the number of new staff members on our team, we wanted to make sure this got updated and distributed. While not comprehensive, this list is organized by content/question/area of concern and will help you identify the best SOMD staff member to contact.

For ease, we will include this attachment on the area memo moving forward and will highlight if/when updates are made.

Summer Games Updates

We want to apologize that we (okay Mike) has had to delay opening Summer Games in GMS for Areas to do their data entry. It is open now and memos will go out on Monday, May 22, related to entry status and

process as well as housing. Due to the delay in providing some of this information, we will be extending two deadlines related to Summer Games:

Missing Forms and Certifications Deadline is now Tuesday, May 30, 2023
Competition Registration Deadline is now Monday, June 5, 2023

Also, as noted previously, if you wish SOMD HQ to “advance” your entries and scores from a previous competition in GMS (even one which was rained out), it will only work if you have NOT already entered them into their events in Summer Games in GMS. When doing an advancement, if the system sees that the athlete is already in the 50M Freestyle, it will ignore anything in that athlete’s record in Summer Games related to the 50M Freestyle (i.e., it will NOT update the score/time).

(NEW) Reminder: June Area Director Monthly Call & July Meeting

2 quick reminders for upcoming Area Director Meetings and calls:

Monthly Call: Will be held on 6/14 at 6:30pm:

<https://somd.zoom.us/j/81789995337?pwd=TGxlZkJOY1BOcFRsZ1NRNUhDcDBoZz09>

Summer Area Director Webinar and VIRTUAL Meeting: As a reminder, we are moving the dates to July 17 (Webinar) and July 22 (Virtual Meeting) to accommodate the summer SONA Unified Champion Schools meeting! Thank you for your flexibility.

Please use the links below to register:

Webinar: <https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqf-Chpz4pGdNMnwFFNFU85nH-eFyf6PsL>

Virtual Meeting: <https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqd-yvqzgtH9dbQvr30VCN7tZgzoS8Li16>

(NEW) SOMD AmeriCorps Positions

For the past 7 years, Special Olympics Maryland has partnered with Frostburg State’s ASTAR AmeriCorps program to host AmeriCorps members for a year of meaningful service to our athletes and programs!

AmeriCorps Members serve with Special Olympics Maryland from August 15, 2023-August 14, 2024 and receive:

- A bi-weekly stipend
- End of service Segal Education Award (can be used for existing Student Loans, and/or future education expenses)
- Interest-free student loan forbearance during term of service
- Health Insurance and Childcare reimbursement are available

We are currently working to fill the positions of:

- AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator
- AmeriCorps Young Athletes Coordinator
- AmeriCorps Interscholastic Unified Sports Coordinator
- AmeriCorps Unified Champion Schools Coordinator

If you know of anyone who may be interested in serving as an AmeriCorps member for Special Olympics Maryland, please have them email Jeff (Jabel@somd.org) for more information and next steps on how to apply.

Area Program Fundraiser Info Form

As we discussed in our Area Director meeting and on Monday's call, we'd like to get a better idea of the many fundraisers taking place around the state in support of Special Olympics Maryland. This will also help us advertise your events while also consolidating state office requests for credit card machines, Classy Pages, and more.

[Moving forward, please fill out this form when you are planning a fundraiser.](#)

Area Directors- Please send Jeff 1 email address that will receive a confirmation email when a fundraiser is submitted for your local program (thanks to those who already have...you'll receive an activation email from Monday.com)

SOMD Forms Reminder

As you welcome new athletes to your program and existing athletes update their forms for continued participation, please make sure we are collecting the Special Olympics Maryland forms that can be found here: <https://www.somd.org/coach-resources/> . Sometimes, our athletes and families (especially new families) will find blank forms through an internet search and print out forms from SOI or other state programs.

If you notice a form that looks different than what SOMD uses, please provide and upload the correct forms.

Summer Games – Only Fully Certified Coaches with Sport Certification To Be Credentialed as Coaches

Areas are advised that only those individuals who are fully certified as coaches will be credentialed as coaches at the 2023 Summer Games (and at all future SOMD competitions). "Fully certified" includes a sport-appropriate up-to-date Special Olympics Sport Certification valid thru June 25, 2023, in addition to up-to-date volunteer application, protective behaviors, communicable disease waiver (CDW) and concussion certification.

Individuals who do not meet these certification requirements will not receive credentials as coaches and will not be eligible for the access granted coaches and any other coach benefits. They will be eligible to be registered as volunteers or sports volunteers, provided they meet the requirements for those roles.

As always, coach sport certification status is available on the Coach Education and Development section of SOMD's Coach Resource Page (CRP) at <https://www.somd.org/coach-resources/>.

Forms for ALL Training Participants Must Be Submitted to SOMD HQ – Even Those Not Going to "States"

Just a friendly reminder that forms and certifications for everyone participating in your sports training programs must be valid and up-to-date through the end of the season (June 25 for Summer Games sports) AND must be submitted to SOMD HQ even if they are not attending the state championship. We've found that at the end of each season there are still several individuals who participated in various Area programs but whose medical, volunteer application, CDW, etc. were never submitted to SOMD HQ. Please be certain to submit those forms and certifications for ALL of your training program participants.

2023 Brave in the Attempt Talks

Six speakers from Special Olympics Maryland and other external agencies will take to the stage on June 20th, 2023 from 6pm-8pm for the First Lady presents Brave in the Attempt Talks.

The talks are 5-7 minute TED-Talk style presentations around a common theme.

This year's theme is "**Lead the Way**" where speakers will share their experience in leadership and how they or others Lead the Way.

This year's speakers include Clara Scholz, Charles Gaines, Alexea Wentz, Matt DiGilio, Abby Knight and Dominique Palmer.

We are happy to host this year's talks at the Jim Rouse Theatre 5460 Trumpeter Rd, Columbia, MD 21044 in Howard County. There will be a short reception at 6pm followed by the talks at 7pm.

Tickets are FREE but we request that you reserve them through our ticketing system to help us have a better understanding of size of crowd that night.

Ticket sign up available here <https://support.somd.org/event/2023-brave-in-the-attempt-talks/e458207>

(UPDATED) Finance Corner

This is a reminder everyone that Special Olympics Maryland has several Corporate Tax Exempt accounts set up with equipment vendors – REI, Amazon Business, etc. Please order through our corporate accounts. You must place your orders by phone and ask for the Special Olympics Maryland account. Communicate the shipping address for your location for your order. If you place an order online, we will be charged sales tax, which for some items can get expensive and is an unnecessary cost. If there is an equipment vendor that you use that is not set up yet with a tax exempt corporate account, please reach out to Joanne so that we can establish an account.

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 (slides from recorded sessions are available on the respective CRP)

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Athletics (T&F)	Wed, Mar 22	Recording: https://youtu.be/XtB6GcKyyME
Bocce	Wed, Mar 22	Recording: https://youtu.be/5e9Ud9jjE2l
Cheerleading	Mon Apr 17	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eolH7mbUWek
Softball	Tue Apr 18	Recording: https://youtu.be/_s_c4PvcPTc
Swimming	Mon Apr 10	Recording: https://youtu.be/kT0DwkRur7w

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars (slides from recorded sessions are available on the respective CRP)

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Athletics (T&F)	Thu Jun 15 7:00-8:00 pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcucO6tpj0oHdXEnETohS0iPlxb8XvF50yS
Bocce	Thu Jun 15 6:00-7:00 pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvcuugrj0qHdCluXQZWHnCWuc-9yQHPhR
Cheerleading	Wed Jun 14 7:00-8:00 pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrd-mhrTlqEt2dfYaty_BD-BP8-0G8De6R
Softball	Wed Jun 14 6:00-7:00 pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqcOmspj4iG9z3KU3hYVqUdw59K15Ebkgi
Swimming	Tue Jun 13 6:30-7:30 pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpceCrrzguG9K7y9aORLHxZG61W3bSeLkj

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, Pickleball*

- **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*

- **Elizabeth Kramer, Sports Director**

- ekramer@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x127

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, Sr. Director, Area Programs**
 - 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