

# Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

## 7/22/2024

**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...

"Wild" Bill Ganz for his invitation for SOMD to take part in the Annual American Legion Maryland District Convention. We appreciate the continued support of the American Legion Family!

Please use the link below to submit your shout outs!

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

### **(NEW) Golf Qualifier Competition Grants – Deadline To Submit Request Is Wed, July 24**

At the Area Leader web meeting on Monday, July 15, we shared information about new grants that SOMD had recently been awarded specifically to be used on golf competitions. These grants are generous donations from Caves Valley Golf Club Foundation (\$10K), Jersey Mike's (\$10K matching grant) and Wadsworth Golf Charities Foundation (\$3K). SOMD wants to use this pool of funds specifically for assisting Areas with the costs of hosting golf qualifiers this season with the hope that this will

- Enable athletes and teams to compete at more than just the minimum of 2 events
- Help to collectively have more golf qualifiers this season
- Help more Areas host multiple multi-Area golf qualifiers
- Help Areas increase the number of available tee times for events they host

The **grant request spreadsheet is due by Wednesday, July 24, 2024** (send to [coaches@somd.org](mailto:coaches@somd.org)) and unfortunately no extensions from this date are possible (we are planning to make the grant determinations early the following morning). The spreadsheet was sent by Mani Madala in the follow-up to the Golf Coaches Pre-Season Webinar (sent Tues, July 16) and is also included with this Area Memo. Additional details are

included in the follow-up to the Area Director meeting sent by Jeff Abel (slides 32-24) and we've attached those slides to this Area Memo as well for your convenience.

We look forward to receiving your grant requests for one or more of the golf qualifiers you plan to host (we've already received a few!).

### **(NEW) 2026 USA Games – Some Updates**

Also at the July 15 Area Director web meeting, we shared the quota request that was submitted for the 2026 Special Olympics USA Summer Games in Minneapolis. As we have stated several times at various meetings and memos, Special Olympics Maryland made the determination to significantly reduce the size of the delegation we requested for 2026. This is primarily driven by the inordinate amount of resources (time primarily) that had to be dedicated to such large delegations that we've had at recent USA Games, which took those resources to the detriment of the 1,200 other athletes typically attending Summer Games or the 8,871 athletes in our overall program.

The quota that we requested is shown below. We have been told that our actual quota allotment (which may be smaller than our request) will be provided by the end of July.

- 1 Unified Basketball Team (10 player roster)
- 1 Traditional Soccer Team (5v5) (10 player roster) *(selected from our 7v7 teams)*
- 8 Athletics (Track & Field) athletes
- 4 Bocce athletes
- 4 Bowling athletes
- 8 Swimming athletes
- **44 competitors total if receive full quota**

More information will be provided once available. It should be noted that if we receive the full allotment requested, we anticipate that teams/individuals will be selected from the following state championships:

- Soccer: 2024 State Soccer Tournament *(poss 2025, depending on reg deadlines, but not likely)*
- Bowling: 2024 State Bowling Championship
- Basketball: 2025 State Basketball Tournament
- Athletics, Bocce, Swimming: 2025 Summer Games

### **New Sport Directors, New Sport Assignments**

In the last Area Memo we shared the great news that we now have all of our Sport Director positions filled with the hiring of Julie Klein (started June 20) and Mani Madala (starting July 11). Hopefully many of you had the opportunity to meet Julie and Mani in person at Summer Games.

We have determined sport assignments for our three Sport Directors and one Senior Sport Director:

Melissa Anger – Senior Sport Director ([manger@somd.org](mailto:manger@somd.org))

- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Flag Football
- Softball
- Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball

Julie Klein – Sport Director ([jklein@somd.org](mailto:jklein@somd.org))

- Bowling
- Cycling
- Kayaking
- Swimming
- Locally Popular Sports: Duckpin, Equestrian, Sailing

Mani Madala – Sport Director ([mmadala@somd.org](mailto:mmadala@somd.org)) (beginning 7/11/2024)

- Athletics (Track & Field and Long Distance Running)
- Golf
- Powerlifting
- Snowshoeing
- Locally Popular Sports: DanceSport, Floor Hockey

Jake Novick – Sport Director ([jnovick@somd.org](mailto:jnovick@somd.org))

- Alpine Skiing
- Bocce
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Locally Popular Sports: Cross Country Skiing, Figure Skating, Pickleball, Speed Skating

Or in a possibly more helpful format:

	Sport	2024 Lead		Sport	2024 Lead
<b>Spring Sports</b>	Athletics (Track & Field)	Mani	<b>Interscholastic Unified Sports</b>	Spring IUS Athletics (Track & Field)	Zach
	Bocce	Jake		Spring IUS Outdoor Bocce	Zach
	Competitive Cheer	Melissa A		Fall IUS Tennis	Zach
	Softball	Melissa A		Fall IUS Flag Football	Zach
	Swimming	Julie		Winter IUS Indoor Bocce	Zach
				Winter IUS S&C	Zach
<b>Summer / Fall Sports (** = at FSF)</b>	Bowling (10 pin)	Julie	<b>Locally Popular Sports</b>	Cross Country Skiing	Jake
	Cycling**	Julie		DanceSport	Mani
	Athletics (Long Distance Running)**	Mani		Duckpin Bowling	Julie
	Flag Football**	Melissa A		Equestrian	Julie
	Golf	Mani		Figure Skating	Jake
	Kayaking	Julie		Floor Hockey	Mani
	Powerlifting**	Mani		Pickleball	Jake
	Soccer	Jake		Sailing	Julie
	Tennis**	Jake		Speed Skating	Elizabeth
				Volleyball	Melissa A.
<b>Winter Sports</b>	Basketball	Melissa A			
	Alpine Skiing	Jake			
	Snowshoeing	Mani			

***(UPDATED) SO Learn – Where You Should Be Directing People for Protective Behaviors & Concussion Certs***

*UPDATE: On July 18, SOI confirmed that SO Learn will shut down at 2:00am on Thursday morning, August 1. The new site will launch on Thursday, August 15.*

Back in March of this year, in response to challenges people were experiencing with completing both Protective Behaviors and Concussion certifications, we shifted to directing everyone to utilize Special Olympics International’s “SO LEARN” site. The process is described on the SOMD’s Coach Resource Page ([www.somd.org/coach-resources/](http://www.somd.org/coach-resources/)).

Please be sure that you are directing your volunteers and coaches to this site. Twice in the last week we've heard complaints from folks who turned out to be using the former process/sites (which was why we made the change months ago).

*Note: The usage of SO Learn (worldwide) has grown significantly in the past many months that they will be conducting and upgrade of their LMS (learning management system) that will require the SO LEARN site to shut down temporarily beginning on or about August 1. They expect that it should be down for 2 weeks. We'll provide additional information as it becomes available and will make what accommodations we can during that period of unavailability.*

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pint Size Plunge- July 20, 2024**

Join Special Olympics Maryland at Lone Oak Farm Brewing for the Pint Size Polar Bear Plunge on Saturday July 20 from 12:00pm-5:00pm as a 6-month kick off to the 2025 MSP Polar Bear Plunge. Bring the family, experience inclusion, and join us for a fun-filled day of food, drinks, music and 2 unique plunge experiences. Buy and enter pint size into the pond plunge for a change to win prizes, and/or cool off in our trough plunge on site!

Visit <https://plungemd.com/pint-size-plunge/> for more details!

### **Area Program Sport & Activity Information Form**

To more effectively capture the many programs and activities taking place in the community, we have put together a Training Program Information Form.

This form will help our state office stay more organized with up-to-date information on what programs are happening, where they're happening, and when they are happening.

Please submit 1 form for each sport/activity from your program using the link below:

<https://wkf.ms/3Kqg0Zp>

To avoid duplicate submissions, Coaches, Sport Volunteers, and Sport Coordinators, please work with your Area Leadership on submitting this form as they may have done so already.

We ask that this is submitted by the registration deadline during each sport season.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Abel ([jabel@somd.org](mailto:jabel@somd.org)).

### **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.](#)

### **Donation Information Corner**

1. **Area Donation Tracking Link:** please use this link to provide information to SOMD about any anticipated gifts that may come directly to the SOMD office or bank account:  
[Area Donation Tracking Report](#)
2. **Private Donation Link for Honor/Memorial Donations and specific gifts from donors:** If you have an individual donor or sponsor that has reached out to you and wants to make a donation to support your program directly, or if you would like to include a link for memorial donations, you can provide this PRIVATE donation link, but please remember, **this link cannot be included on your local area website or**

**sent out as an email blast.** Please encourage donors to fill out the “Direct My Gift to” dropdown in the form. [Private Giving Link Request](#)

3. **Stock Giving Option:** please provide the information below to anyone who would like to make a gift of stock to your local area program. You can also notify SOMD that a gift is coming to support your program by adding this information to the [Area Donation Tracking Report](#).

To make a gift of stock, please share this information with your financial advisor:

**Morgan Stanley LLC**  
DTC #0015  
For the benefit of Special Olympics Maryland/633-117478  
c/o: Morgan Stanley  
650 S. Exeter Street, Suite 1100  
Baltimore, MD 21202

4. **Matching Gifts:** Many companies generously offer to match their employees’ charitable contributions. Some even provide matching funds to support employee volunteer hours. Most of these programs match contributions dollar for dollar, and some will even double or triple the amount of your gift!

[Click Here](#) to enter your employer’s name to see if they participate in the matching gift program, and if they do, get a link to the matching donation page.

If you are aware of any matching gifts that may be coming in for your local area program, please notify SOMD that a gift is coming to support your program by adding this information to the [Area Donation Tracking Report](#)

## **Finance Corner**

### **FUN FACT - SHOT PUT**

- The first events resembling the modern shot put likely occurred in the Middle Ages when soldiers hurled cannonballs
- The sport has been a part of the modern Olympics since 1896
- Ryan Crouser holds the world record in shot put, both indoor and outdoor. He set the outdoor world record at 23.56 meters in May 2023
- Crouser has been awarded two Olympic gold medals and three world titles. If he wins again in the Paris Olympics, he will be the first athlete in his sport to win 3 Gold metals
- Ryan earned a master’s degree in finance at the University of Texas

**BUDGET 2025** – The schedule for completing the 2025 budget has been set. This schedule will be shared during the AD Webinar and emailed to everyone. To make sure that the budget packet is ready for the Board in December, please keep to the schedule.

**MARTUS** - We will be using the MARTUS budget software again this year. Because we are limited to the number of licenses to log in, please work with your regional director when completing your budget. Joanne will be holding a MARTUS refresher course on August 6<sup>th</sup> from 1-2:30p. Invitations have already been sent out. Please join her in the main conference room for some hands-on training. We will also review the mechanics of coding. You are encouraged to bring your computer so that you can ‘try out’ as we go along. There is a Zoom link included in the invitation for those that can’t make it in person. The training will be recorded.

Budgets are due on or before **September 20<sup>th</sup>**. If you need any assistance, please reach out to the finance team.

**BANKING** - Remember to continue to monitor your cash balances between checking, savings, and the investment portfolio. The end of a quarter is a great time to assess your positions. Currently, checking balances are creeping up. Savings is earning 5% interest.

CORP. CREDIT CARDS – just a quick reminder, as we have some new card holders. Please remember to complete your credit card transaction coding and receipting in the Truist ESP portal by the 3<sup>rd</sup> business day after the close of the month. Coded transactions need to be approved by the 6<sup>th</sup> business day. Thank you for continuing to support this process.

Kim will be on vacation June 24<sup>th</sup> – June 28<sup>th</sup>. Joanne will be in Lancaster PA July 10<sup>th</sup> – July 15<sup>th</sup>, working remotely in between conference events, and on vacation July 22<sup>nd</sup> – July 26<sup>th</sup>.

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

**(UPDATED) Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Coach Webinars**

The dates and time for Pre-Season and Pre-Competition 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)

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Registration / Recording Link</i>
Kayaking	Tue, 5/21	Recording: <a href="https://youtu.be/cwSNcOFza5w">https://youtu.be/cwSNcOFza5w</a>
Golf	Tue, 7/16	Recording: <a href="https://youtu.be/fruAq3r_LMM">https://youtu.be/fruAq3r_LMM</a>
Athletics (LDR)	Wed, 7/24 6:00-7:00pm	<a href="https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtduigrDooGtVRoi2tqQlmvB0Jfi7fg6qw">https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtduigrDooGtVRoi2tqQlmvB0Jfi7fg6qw</a>
Cycling (tentative)	Wed, 7/31 6:00-7:00pm	<a href="https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkd-yvpz8oHtFZYGFtUIbik85qouMuU_a8">https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkd-yvpz8oHtFZYGFtUIbik85qouMuU_a8</a>
Flag Football	Wed, 7/17	Recording: <a href="https://youtu.be/pKbsGA9vYJY">https://youtu.be/pKbsGA9vYJY</a>
Powerlifting	Tue, 7/23 6:00-7:30pm	<a href="https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvcOmqrTMsG9GZqciIVyZ8I25VML7qs_9D">https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvcOmqrTMsG9GZqciIVyZ8I25VML7qs_9D</a>
Tennis	Mon, 7/29 6:00-7:00pm	<a href="https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkd-ioqzwpGNUaVrIJZeC0Qts4TaXNqLF">https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkd-ioqzwpGNUaVrIJZeC0Qts4TaXNqLF</a>
Soccer	Tue, 7/30 6:00-7:00pm	<a href="https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAufuugrz8tG9Ee7W4cXH2YCd9g1tfatY5I">https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAufuugrz8tG9Ee7W4cXH2YCd9g1tfatY5I</a>
Bowling	Wed, 9/04 6:00-7:00pm	<a href="https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqd-2vpzkiHtwF_9KFe7aD3y41uW9I7Wib">https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqd-2vpzkiHtwF_9KFe7aD3y41uW9I7Wib</a>

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

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Registration / Recording Link</i>
Kayaking Time Trails	Wed, 8/7 6:00-7:30p	<a href="https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsdO6urT4iHdH5GfPiPkAXMRmQm7RckgQQ">https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsdO6urT4iHdH5GfPiPkAXMRmQm7RckgQQ</a>
Kayaking Finals	Wed, 8/14 6:00-7:30p	<a href="https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0odO-uqD0oG9OS1rq-dWhkEPvhmXtYvy1K">https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0odO-uqD0oG9OS1rq-dWhkEPvhmXtYvy1K</a>
Golf	Tue, 9/17 6:00-7:00pm	<a href="https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ufuggqjwiGdMm81SqOQCP7pjZm-UY0Mma">https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ufuggqjwiGdMm81SqOQCP7pjZm-UY0Mma</a>
Athletics (LDR)	Mon, 10/07 6:00-7:00pm	<a href="https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtduigrDooGtVRoi2tgQlmvB0Jfi7fg6qw">https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtduigrDooGtVRoi2tgQlmvB0Jfi7fg6qw</a>
Cycling (tentative)	Thu, 10/10 6:00-7:00pm	<a href="https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkfu-srDspGNIOySfogdDA-lUfOLuVwBP3">https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkfu-srDspGNIOySfogdDA-lUfOLuVwBP3</a>
Flag Football	Wed, 10/09 6:00-7:00pm	<a href="https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vcOGspj4pG9Ra001XtwTfikcf7GWqkrAL">https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vcOGspj4pG9Ra001XtwTfikcf7GWqkrAL</a>
Powerlifting	TBD	
Tennis	Tue, 10/08 6:00-7:00pm	<a href="https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvdOCurjMsEtC_sw5GgmXuWGY6gR8_r3yl">https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvdOCurjMsEtC_sw5GgmXuWGY6gR8_r3yl</a>

Soccer	Tue, 10/15 6:00-7:00pm	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvdqprDwtGdRpQuAbaHypbP0E0QV7W-C">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvdqprDwtGdRpQuAbaHypbP0E0QV7W-C</a>
Bowling Regionals	Wed, 10/30 6:00-7:00pm	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqcuyorToqH9fYC5yKnlgX0ggP8tUk_Ni7">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqcuyorToqH9fYC5yKnlgX0ggP8tUk_Ni7</a>
Bowling States	Tue, 12/03 6:00-7:00pm	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrdO-prTojHNRiGRDPvFjLE9eW23s4HMXB">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrdO-prTojHNRiGRDPvFjLE9eW23s4HMXB</a>

**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](mailto:manger@somd.org), 410.979.5112

Basketball                      Flag Football                      *Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball*  
Cheerleading                      Softball

- **Julie Klein, Sports Director**

- [jklein@somd.org](mailto:jklein@somd.org), 443.900.3155

Bowling                      Kayaking                      *Locally Popular Sports: Duckpin, Equestrian,*  
Cycling                      Swimming                      Sailing

- **Mani Madala, Sports Director**

- [mmadala@somd.org](mailto:mmadala@somd.org),

Athletics (*Track & Field / Long Distance Running*)  
Golf                      Snowshoeing                      *Locally Popular Sports: DanceSport,*  
Powerlifting                      *Floor Hockey*

- **Jake Novick, Sports Director**

- [jnovick@somd.org](mailto:jnovick@somd.org), 774.276.5861

Alpine Skiing                      Soccer                      *Locally Popular Sports: Duckpin Bowling,*  
Bocce                      Tennis                      *Pickleball, Short Track Speed Skating,*

If you have questions regarding multi-sport events, or USA/World Games, please contact:

- **Steve Bennett, Senior Director, Competitions**

- [sbennett@somd.org](mailto:sbennett@somd.org), 304.991.1421

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](mailto:zcintron@somd.org), 973.862.0414

IUS Athletics (T&F)                      IUS Indoor Bocce                      IUS Tennis  
IUS Outdoor Bocce                      IUS Strength & Conditioning                      IUS Flag Football

- **Tyler Harrell, Manager, High School Unified® Sports**

- [tharrell@somd.org](mailto:tharrell@somd.org), 410.251.0331

IUS High School program logistics and coordination with Districts and Local School Systems

If you have questions regarding training/competition registration certifications or the processing of forms, please contact:

- **Dottie Rush, Registration Manager**
  - [drush@somd.org](mailto:drush@somd.org), 410.242.1515 x111

Overall Sports Leadership (any sports/competition questions that aren't related to a specific sport)

- **Mike Czarnowsky, Vice President, Sports**
  - [mczarnowsky@somd.org](mailto: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 Programs**
  - [jabel@somd.org](mailto:jabel@somd.org), 410-242-1515 ex. 121
  - Any general question
- **Melissa Kelly, Senior Director, Unified® Champion schools**
  - [mkelly@somd.org](mailto:mkelly@somd.org), 410-979-5839
  - Unified® Champion Schools, Youth Leadership, and School Engagement, Middle School Sports
- **Julie Martin, Manager, Unified Champion Schools Consultant**
  - [jmartin@somd.org](mailto:jmartin@somd.org)
  - Unified Champion Schools Grant
- **Mackenzie Irvin, Senior Director, Inclusive Health & Fitness**
  - [mirvin@somd.org](mailto:mirvin@somd.org), 857-939-4867
  - Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming
- **Kayla Shields, Director, Inclusive Health and Fitness**
  - [kshields@somd.org](mailto:kshields@somd.org), 410-404-4115
  - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs, Unified® Physical Education
- **Abi Bauman, Manager, Young Athletes Program**
  - [abauman@somd.org](mailto:abauman@somd.org), 802-881-4623
  - Young Athletes Program in school, community, and home
- **Sue Snyder, Unified® Physical Education Consultant**
  - [ssnyder@somd.org](mailto:ssnyder@somd.org)
  - Unified® Physical Education
- **Sam Boyd, Volunteer Director**
  - [sboyd@somd.org](mailto:sboyd@somd.org), 443-766-9245
  - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- **Mike Myers, Sr. Director, Area Programs**
  - [mmyers@somd.org](mailto:mmyers@somd.org), 443-799-5335
  - All Area Programs- Primary POC for, SM, CH, CL
- **Bob Signor, Region Director- Central**
  - [rsignor@somd.org](mailto:rsignor@somd.org)
  - Anne Arundel, Baltimore County, Howard, Montgomery
- **Horace Dickerson, Region Director- Metro Programs**
  - [hdickerson@somd.org](mailto:hdickerson@somd.org)
  - Baltimore City, Prince George's County



- **Allie Boyd, City Schools Coordinator**
  - [aboyd@somd.org](mailto:aboyd@somd.org), 223-848-1210
  - Baltimore City Schools APE Sports Program
  
- **Kyler Mellott, Region Director- East**
  - [kmellott@somd.org](mailto:kmellott@somd.org), 814-470-9474
  - Harford, Cecil, Kent, Upper Shore, Lower Shore
  
- **Matt Deal, Region Director- West**
  - [mdeal@somd.org](mailto:mdeal@somd.org), 240-329-1801
  - Carroll, Frederick, Washington Allegany, Garrett