

# Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

## 8/16/2024

**Special  
Olympics  
Maryland**



### Contents

- Welcome
- Shout out a volunteer- **UPDATED**
- Welcome, New AmeriCorps members!- **NEW**
- Area Leader Quick Resource Guide
- Golf Qualifier Competition Grants – Seven Awards Granted, Funds Still Available
- Cycling Moved To SUNDAY, October 20
- JTCC Fall Tennis Programs
- 2026 USA Games – SOMD Quota Received - **NEW**
- SO Learn – Where You Should Be Directing People for Protective Behaviors & Concussion Certs - **UPDATED**
- Area Program Sport & Activity Information Form
- Area Program Fundraising Info Form
- Donation Information Corner
- Finance Corner
- Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Webinars - **UPDATED**
- Sports Department Contacts – Assigned Sports
- Questions?

### 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 Kayaking Coaches, Sport Coordinators, and Management Team Members: It's been a great season of kayaking and we appreciate your efforts during a very hot, and very rainy kayak season! We appreciate your flexibility and energy in providing our athletes a high-quality season on the water!

Kathy Axline and the Frederick County Management Team on a great golf qualifier!

Please use the link below to submit your shout outs!

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

### **(NEW)** Welcome New AmeriCorps Members

We are excited to welcome two new AmeriCorps members to Special Olympics Maryland for the 2024-2025 Program Year!

Liz Doda will be serving as our AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator, working with Volunteer Director, Sam Boyd recruiting volunteers for our many events and competitions throughout the year.

Heather Matthews will be our AmeriCorps East Region Coordinator, working with Kyler Mellott to manage the new agency programs on the Eastern Shore.

Welcome, Liz and Heather!

### **Area Leader Quick Resource Guide**

With so many new staff members, we have added an updated Quick Resource Guide to this Area Memo. As a reminder, this is not a comprehensive staff roster, but a list of functional areas/responsibilities most used by the Area Programs and the corresponding staff member. But as always, when in doubt, be in touch with your Region Director and we'll point you in the right direction!

### **Golf Qualifier Competition Grants – Seven Awards Granted, Funds Still Available**

The first golf competition grants funded by a grant from Caves Valley Foundation (\$10K), Wadsworth (\$3K) and a matching grant from Jersey Mike's (\$10K) have been awarded and we are very pleased to be able to fully fund the requests for seven qualifiers:

<b>Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Clustered Spires Golf Club	Frederick County	8/11/2024	\$1,000
Geneva Farms Golf Club	Harford County	8/11/2024	\$1,200
Hog Neck	Upper Shore	8/19/2024	\$756
Chesapeake Bay Golf Course	Cecil County	8/25/2024	\$1,100
The Links at Challedon	Carroll County	8/25/2024	\$2,970
Rattlewood Golf Course	Montgomery County	9/1/2024	\$500
Timbers at Troy	Howard County	9/8/2024	\$3,372

This totals roughly \$11,000 in funds to directly support area-hosted golf qualifiers. We are particularly pleased that this grant funding opportunity also enabled one Area to add a second qualifier this season (Howard County).

There still remains roughly \$12,000 in available funds for golf competitions this season. Please submit any requests for additional qualifiers or to increase tee times at an already scheduled qualifier using the included form sent to [coaches@somd.org](mailto:coaches@somd.org). Qualifiers hosted by Area programs will remain our top priority. Any funds remaining will be used to offset the costs of our state golf championship.

### **Cycling Moved To SUNDAY, October 20**

Cycling Championship is now scheduled for SUNDAY October 20 (the day after the rest of the Fall Sports Festival (FSF)) and is planned at the Melford Business Park. This is the same venue as used in 2023, however the shift to a Sunday date is expected to help reduce some of the challenges experienced at the venue last year (along with some alternate planning for the venue including volunteer/marshal deployment). While this goes counter to our general approach of minimizing the number of "stand alone" state championships, it is necessary for this sport this year.

With this change in date, **we will also allow Areas to register competitors in cycling and one other FSF sport** that will be contested on Saturday: Athletics (Long Distance Running), Flag Football, Powerlifting, Tennis. This is likely an option for **2024 only** as we will continue to look to have cycling return to the same date as the rest of the FSF in the future (*some venues unavailable to us in 2024 may be available in 2025*). We will also have Cycling as a separate games in GMS (not included within the Fall Sports Festival in GMS). All due dates and deadlines will remain the same.

### **JTCC Fall Tennis Program**

JTCC is once again offering a free tennis program for Special Olympics Maryland Athletes! NEW this year are separate sessions for adults and juniors. Please see information below. You DO NOT have to be a tennis player with SOMD to participate in these programs.

**NEW: JTCC Junior Special Olympics Tennis | Saturdays 9:30-11:00 am**

*For players ages 5-18 with an intellectual/developmental disability*

Dates: September 7, 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 2

**NEW: JTCC Adult Special Olympics Tennis | Saturdays 11:00 am-12:30 pm**

*For players ages 18+ with an intellectual/developmental disability*

Dates: September 7, 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 2

Please note: some days do conflict with qualifiers, practices, and competitions. The JTCC tennis sessions are optional, so would not be an allowable excuse for missing a qualifier, practice, or competition.

[Register here](#)

**(NEW) 2026 USA Games – SOMD Quota Received**

SOMD has received it's quota for the 2026 Special Olympics USA Summer Games in Minneapolis and it is exactly what we requested.

- 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. 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

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

**UPDATE:** SO Learn is now offline and is expected to relaunch on **August 21 (changed from August 15)**. SOMD has posted alternate means for completing Protective Behaviors and Concussion Certification on the main Coach Resource Page (CRP) available at <https://www.somd.org/coach-resources/> and in the "Applications, Certifications and Other Forms" section of that page. **Once it is back online, previously registered users will be sent an email message directly prompting them to reset their password. We have been informed that all courses that users have previously completed or started will be carried over to the new LMS.**

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.*

### **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**

**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)

<b><i>Sport</i></b>	<b><i>Date/Time</i></b>	<b><i>Registration / Recording Link</i></b>
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	Recording: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-0HoEq0_yY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-0HoEq0_yY</a>
Cycling	Wed, 7/31	Recording: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7hU3c6b-e0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7hU3c6b-e0</a>
Flag Football	Wed, 7/17	Recording: <a href="https://youtu.be/pKbsGA9vYJY">https://youtu.be/pKbsGA9vYJY</a>
Powerlifting	Tue, 7/23	Recording: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVxpclIGdIU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVxpclIGdIU</a>
Tennis	Mon, 7/29	Recording: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHhKNhn-brQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHhKNhn-brQ</a>
Soccer	Tue, 7/30	Recording: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJMnbHxJP18">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJMnbHxJP18</a>
Bowling	Wed, 9/04 6:00-7:00p	<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)

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Registration / Recording Link</b>
Kayaking Time Trails	Tue, 8/6	Recording: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMqx0BoTrIQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMqx0BoTrIQ</a>
Kayaking Finals	Tue, 8/13	Recording: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTZGBYRtHhw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTZGBYRtHhw</a>
Golf	Tue, 9/17 6:00-7:00p	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ufuggjwiGdMm81SqOQCP7pjZm-UY0Mma">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ufuggjwiGdMm81SqOQCP7pjZm-UY0Mma</a>
Athletics (LDR)	Mon, 10/7 6:00-7:00p	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtduiqrDooGtVROI2tgQlmvB0Jfi7fg6qw">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtduiqrDooGtVROI2tgQlmvB0Jfi7fg6qw</a>
Cycling	Thu, 10/10 6:00-7:00p	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkfu-srDspGNIOySfogdDA-lUfOLuVwBP3">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkfu-srDspGNIOySfogdDA-lUfOLuVwBP3</a>
Flag Football	Wed, 10/9 6:00-7:00p	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vcOGspi4pG9Ra001XtwTflkcf7GWqkrAL">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vcOGspi4pG9Ra001XtwTflkcf7GWqkrAL</a>
Powerlifting	Wed, 10/9 7:00-8:00p	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYoc-qupjMqHNyXE0WgdNBJo2IVs-A-bz79">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYoc-qupjMqHNyXE0WgdNBJo2IVs-A-bz79</a>
Tennis	Tue, 10/08 6:00-7:00p	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvdOCurjMsEtC_sw5GgmXuWGY6gR8_r3yI">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvdOCurjMsEtC_sw5GgmXuWGY6gR8_r3yI</a>
Soccer	Tue, 10/15 6:00-7:00p	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvdeqprDwtGdRpQuAbaHypbP0E0QV7W-C">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvdeqprDwtGdRpQuAbaHypbP0E0QV7W-C</a>
Bowling Regionals	Wed, 10/30 6:00-7:00p	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYacuYorToqH9fYC5yKnlGx0gqP8tUk_Ni7">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYacuYorToqH9fYC5yKnlGx0gqP8tUk_Ni7</a>
Bowling States	Tue, 12/03 6:00-7:00p	<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	<i>Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball</i>
Cheerleading	Softball	
  
- **Julie Klein, Sports Director**
  - [jklein@somd.org](mailto:jklein@somd.org), 443.900.3155
 

Bowling	Kayaking	<i>Locally Popular Sports: Duckpin, Equestrian, Sailing</i>
Cycling	Swimming	
  
- **Mani Madala, Sports Director**
  - [mmadala@somd.org](mailto:mmadala@somd.org),
 

<i>Athletics (Track &amp; Field / Long Distance Running)</i>		
Golf	Snowshoeing	<i>Locally Popular Sports: DanceSport, Floor Hockey</i>
Powerlifting		

- **Jake Novick, Sports Director**
  - [jnovick@somd.org](mailto:jnovick@somd.org), 774.276.5861
 

Alpine Skiing	Soccer	<i>Locally Popular Sports: Duckpin Bowling, Pickleball, Short Track Speed Skating,</i>
Bocce	Tennis	

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
- **Tasha Harris, Director, Unified Champion Schools College Programs**
  - [THarris@somd.org](mailto:THarris@somd.org), 410-242-1515 ex. 184
  - College Programs & Partnerships, Unified Intramurals
- **Allie Boyd, Manager, Unified Champion Schools**
  - [aboyd@somd.org](mailto:aboyd@somd.org), 223-848-1210
  - Unified Champion Schools Youth Leadership & Whole School Engagement
- **Julie Martin, 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, Unified Physical Education, Inclusive Health Pilot Programs
- **Kayla Shields, Director, Inclusive Health and Fitness**
  - [kshields@somd.org](mailto:kshields@somd.org), 410-404-4115
  - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs, Unified® Physical Education, Health Messengers
- **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
- **Liz Doda, AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator**
  - [LDoda@somd.org](mailto:LDoda@somd.org)
  - Volunteer Recruitment and Event Engagement
- **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
- **Kyler Mellott, Region Director- East**
  - [kmellott@somd.org](mailto:kmellott@somd.org), 814-470-9474
  - Harford, Cecil, Kent, Upper Shore, Lower Shore
- **Heather Mattherw, Region Coordinator- East**
  - [HMatthews@somd.org](mailto:HMatthews@somd.org)
  - Agency Programming- Upper Shore & Lower Shore
- **Matt Deal, Region Director- West**
  - [mdeal@somd.org](mailto:mdeal@somd.org), 240-329-1801
  - Carroll, Frederick, Washington Allegany, Garrett