Fall Sports Registration Deadlines

Deadlines for registering for fall sports (Cycling, Distance Running, Flag Football, Soccer, Tennis and Volleyball) are fast approaching. (NOTE: Sports marked with an * are full and have a waitlist.)

- Powerlifting*                July 22
- Cycling                      July 31
- Tennis*                      August 1
- Flag Football                August 4
- Soccer Skills                August 8
- Soccer Player Development    August 11
- Soccer Team                  August 11
- Long Distance Running        August 22
- Volleyball*                  August 22

Click here to register or go to the SOHO web site under "Become an Athlete/Register for a Sport". If you do not receive a confirmation email, contact the office. Be sure to save your confirmation email. A reminder that all athletes must have a current medical on file in order to participate in any SOHO activity. These must be updated every 3 years. Click here for a medical form.

As always, Athletes registering for a team sport must review the Team Sports Participation Policy found under Policies on the SOHO web page. They must also commit to attending state games. Athletes may only register for one team sport a season.
Registration for bowling will begin on August 26th. We will offer two sessions to accommodate more athletes. The first runs from October to December and the second from January to March. Athletes will be able to sign up for just one of these sessions.

USA Games Results

Our Howard County athletes and coaches competed well and had a fantastic time at the USA Games in Seattle. We enjoyed watching them on ESPN as they entered Huskie Stadium during opening ceremonies with athletic athlete Charles Gaines carrying the Maryland banner!! ESPN coverage also included a vignette on powerlifter Catherine Gruss. And FOX news had an interview with Jena Jones about her experience at the games.

We are very grateful to all the sponsors who supported these athletes and help make their participation possible.

Athletics athlete Charles Gaines won a Gold medal in the 400M race and placed 5th in the 200M and shot put.

Do you want to be a Global Messenger?

The best ambassadors for Special Olympics are the athletes themselves! If your athlete wants to help spread the word about our great program, then you may want to attend the next global messenger training session. Athletes will learn how to speak in front of an audience, interact with sponsors and be part of the Special Olympics public outreach. We are hoping to have a training session later this fall or winter. If interested, contact our Global Messenger Coordinator, Marian Williams-Cato at vze1ena92@verizon.net and you will be notified when the next training session will be held.

Volunteer Orientations

The next Volunteer Orientation will be at the SOHO office on Thursday, August 9th from 7:00-8:30 pm. Anyone wanting to volunteer should attend, especially those interested in volunteering for fall sports. Families who are new to our program are strongly encouraged to attend a volunteer orientation. Advance registration is required by contacting Janet at janetlarrimore@somdhc.org or calling the office (410-740-0500). Future volunteer orientations are scheduled for Thursday, September 6, Wednesday, October 3,
Bocce athlete Daniel Larrimore and his partner Ben Collins with their coach. Daniel placed 5th in Singles competition. He won a Silver with Ben in Doubles and a Silver in Team competition.

Swimmer Jena Jones won a Gold medal in the 100M backstroke and Silver medals in the 100M breast stroke, 200M individual medley, and the 4x50 medley relay.

Powerlifter Catherine Gruss shows off her two Bronze medals in Bench and Deadlift and Participation ribbons in Squat and Triple Combo.

Golf Unified Partners Julia Phillips and Jim Bourdon earned a Bronze medal in Level 2 Unified competition.

Wednesday, November 7, Thursday, December 13

Sponsors

Are you interested in being a sponsor? Do you want to see your business listed in our monthly e-newsletter or on our web page? Contact info@somdhc.org or call 410-740-0500 to receive a sponsor information package.

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Corridor Mortgage Group
The Lisa Higgins Foundation

LEGACY SPONSORS
Diane and Dwight Mikulis
Integrated Waste Analysts

TEAM SPONSOR
Win Kelly Chevrolet Buick GMC
Two SOHO Athletes Selected for World Games in Abu Dhabi, UAE

Special Olympics Howard County recently learned that based on their qualifying at USA Games, two SOHO athletes have been selected to compete in the Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates next March 14-21 2019. Swimmer Jena Jones and athletics athlete Charles Gaines will be part of Team USA at the games which will be the world’s largest humanitarian and sporting event of 2019.

The Games will feature seven days of competition in 24 sports. An estimated 7,000 Special Olympics athletes and their 2,600 coaches will be participating in the games.

Congratulations to Jena and Charles!

Corridor Golf Classic to Benefit SOHO
The 8th annual Corridor Golf Classic will be held this year on September 12th and 13th at Waverly Woods Golf Course. The Corridor Classic is Central Maryland's premier charity golf tournament, with proceeds benefiting Special Olympics Howard County and the Ulman Cancer Fund. In the seven years of the tournament, Corridor has donated over $150,000 to Special Olympics!

This event sells out every year so reserve your spot now. For further information on what the golf package includes, check out this flyer. To register, click here. The silent auction items offered each day are awesome!

In addition, the Classic will have a special Raffle Event - The Corridor Classic Cash Bash. How it works: 50% of the ticket sales will go towards the WINNER'S POT and a minimum of 5 lucky winners will win a portion of the pot and the proceeds will go directly to charity! Based on last year, the expected prize to the winner could be between $20,000 - $25,000. The drawing will be held at Waverly Woods Golf Club on Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 6:00 PM EST and will be live streamed on Corridor's Facebook page. If you are interested in purchasing a raffle ticket, click here. Raffle tickets can also be purchased at the SOHO office (cash or check). Tickets are $25, 5 for $100 or 10 for $175.

Special Olympics Celebrates 50 Years!

This July, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Special Olympics movement in Chicago where the first official competition was held in 1968 at Soldier Field.

On July 20, 2018, over 170 landmarks across the world participated in the Light Up Red for Inclusion! In Maryland, two locations - the Emerson Bromo Selzter Tower and the Maryland Governor’s Mansion - were lit up red.

Special Olympics Maryland is gearing up for our own 50th anniversary in 2020!

Health Expo - Postponed
In our last newsletter, we announced the Healthy Expo presented by CareFirst and Special Olympics Maryland on Saturday, September 22nd at Towson Center Gymnasium, Towson University. Unfortunately, SOMD has just announced that the event is being postponed until later in the fall (date yet to be determined). As soon as details are available, we will share with our athletes and families.

Celebration of Sports Photo Contest

Think you’ve captured what it means to be a good sport? Enter up to three photos of your own that represent respect, positive leadership, team ethics and/or dedication in community sports. The deadline is August 31, 2018. Winners will receive two complimentary tickets to Celebration of Sports on October 16, 2018 at Turf Valley Resort and have their photos on display at the event. Rules and application can be found here.

Nominations for the Howard County Commission on Disability Issues 2018 Annual Awards Program Sought

The Howard County Commission on Disability Issues is seeking nominations for the 2018 annual Awards Program. This year’s award recipients will be recognized for their outstanding efforts in advancing full participation in community life for all residents, and promoting the spirit and intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other disability rights laws. To be eligible, nominees must live, work or provide services in Howard County.

- Do you work with, or know of, an employer who values diversity and provides equal opportunities for qualified workers with disabilities?
- Do you know of a person or organization demonstrating commitment to the principles of self-determination and community integration by supporting the choices of individuals with disabilities?
- Do you know of a person or organization advancing the principles of universal design to improve access for people with disabilities and benefitting the general population?
- Do you know of a person or organization demonstrating a commitment to the spirit of the ADA and other disability rights laws through welcoming environments and accommodations beyond the requirements of the law?
• Do you know of an individual, youth or adult, who happens to have a disability and who has achieved success as a role model or leader? If so, please consider submitting a nomination! The nomination packet is available online here.

The deadline for nominations is Monday, August 20, 2018. Howard County Executive Alan H. Kittleman and the Commission on Disability Issues will host an event to honor award recipients on October 4, 2018, 7:00 to 8:30 pm, at the Roger Carter Community Center, 3000 Milltowne Drive, Ellicott City, 21043.

Bike Safety Education and Rodeo

Distance Running Coordinator and Coach Ann and John Worley and St. John United Church are hosting a bike safety education and rodeo on Saturday, September 22 at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center. The purpose of the event is (1) to educate children and adults on bike safety, bike care, and proper use of bikes and (2) to encourage interest in biking as a sport, to show biking as a viable means of transportation, and to increase bike ridership. There will be a bike rodeo, helmet check, bike inspections, and fun bike activities as well as bike advocacy groups, bike vendors, HC Office of Transportation people, and others.

For additional information, contact John and Ann Worley @ 410-730-0749 or worley.ann@gmail.com.

Concussion Training

ALL Special Olympics coaches (head coaches and assistant coaches) must complete a concussion training certification process prior to starting coaching and once every three years. Click here for more details.

Newsletter Information

If you are an athlete, parent or caregiver, we highly recommend that you do not unsubscribe from this newsletter. You will miss valuable information about seasonal sports registration, policies, highlights, activities and other relevant information. Please add info@somdhc.org and bobbaker@somdhc.org email addresses to your address book so that this letter does not go into your Junk Mail folder. If you have any suggestions or questions about the newsletter, please let us know at info@somdhc.org.