Locally Popular Sports – HQ Support

(updated January, 2025 – pickleball change to "State Sponsored")

- A decision was made in 2011 (effective in 2012) by the SOMD Sports Committee and SOMD Board of Directors to focus organizational energy and resources on those sports with a combination of larger participation, greater number of Areas participating, and greater growth potential (as well as many additional factors).
- At that time there was a lack of clarity on what support will and will not be provided to "locally popular sports" by SOMD, as well as how sports could potentially be re-categorized in the future.
- In 2017, SOMD gathered feedback from Area leaders to better clarify both of the above issues.
- The SOMD Sports Committee reviewed this feedback and agreed with the clarification of support for locally popular sports as noted in the chart below.
- The SOMD Sports Committee will conduct a comprehensive review of SOMD's overall sports program every 4 years following each USA Summer Games. This review will include a review of the status of each sport offered (including locally popular sports) and a determination of whether any changes in status are appropriate.

Locally Popular Sports
Cross Country Skiing
DanceSport
Duckpin Bowling
Equestrian
Figure Skating
Floor Hockey
Sailing
Speed Skating
Volleyball

Aspect	SOMD "State Sponsored" Sports	Locally Popular Sports
Annual Culminating Event	SOMD HQ coordinates event and is responsible and accountable for ensuring success of event	Only held if an Area, or group of Areas, owns and coordinates event; must have an Area identified as "owner" of the event and responsible to ensure all SO and SOMD standards and requirements are met
Funding	Costs for culminating event and general support budgeted and funded by SOMD; may have a registration fee charged to Areas on a per person basis (e.g., Summer Games and Winter Games)	Costs for culminating event budgeted and funded by Area hosting or Area programs involved. SOMD will assist in charging back event costs to individual Areas on a per registrant basis, if requested.
Communication	SOMD coordinates communication with participating programs regarding season, dates and deadlines, registration process, etc.	Area hosting event (or designee if jointly hosted by several Areas) coordinates communication with participating programs regarding season, dates and deadlines, registration process, etc.
Staff "Lead"	HQ Staff lead oversees sport; ensures ongoing development and growth of sport; responsible for development of SMT & GMT, etc.	HQ Staff lead serves strictly as a point of information; provides no event-related support beyond what would be provided for a typical Area hosted event *(Spring Games, etc.)*
Equipment loaning	HQ would loan equipment to Areas as possible for Area events; Areas responsible for pick up / return	HQ would loan equipment to Areas as possible; Areas responsible for pick up / return
GMS Computer Support	HQ creates games, manages advancement, handles divisioning & report generation, etc.	Support provided comparable to that provided for a typical Area hosted event; i.e., • Set-up Games • Advancement of entries (if requested) • Opening & Closing Games
USA/World Games, Nat'l Inv. Tourns (NITs) & similar events	Could be included in SOMD quota requests	Would not be included in SOMD quota requests for any competitions above a state-level