

Hello U of M Swim Club families,

We are excited to announce the U of M Swim Program will be a joining together with the Special Olympics College program at the University of Michigan! The SO College program has had a strong presence on the University of Michigan for several years and continues to grow! This opportunity will allow the programs to work collaboratively within the campus, as well as provide more opportunities for athletes. The U of M Swim program will run based on the academic year at U of M. The U of M Swim Program will continue to operate as a recreational program. We are excited for the athletes to be a larger part of the U of M community, connect with other campuses, and grow more opportunity within the SO College community.

What does this mean for competitions?

Special Olympics athletes who wish to participate in local, regional and state events will register utilizing the Area 20 registration process. Coaches/volunteers who participate throughout the academic year with the U of M SO College program will not be attending competitions for swimming during the Summer Games season.

Athletes will be able to choose 1 sport within Area 20's offerings (doesn't need to be swimming) during each sport season throughout the year, while continuing to participate in the SO College program at U of M. Athletes participating under Area 20 will be required to follow all paperwork requirement and procedures for participation. Please note, these may be different from the SO College requirements.

The SO College program may participate in any opportunities the SO College volunteers present.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Kerry Simmons Katy Filion & Kristi Haywood

Regional Specialist A20 Co Area Directors

<u>seborderregion@somi.org</u> <u>area20@somi.org</u>