



November 29, 2019

To: **SOMA Bowling Programs**
Re: **2019 Winter Games**

Special Olympics Massachusetts (SOMA) was recently informed that Bowlero in Shrewsbury is not available as a host venue for 2019 Winter Games and beyond due to a change in management and business direction. Upon hearing the news, research was conducted to look for alternative facilities. However, facilities were not available to host for the timeframe that has already been booked for 2019 Winter Games.

After consultation with local programs who have the largest bowling programs, and examining a variety of different competition options, SOMA will continue to offer competition in both Traditional and Unified bowling at 2019 Winter Games as single day competitions at AMF Auburn. Traditional competition will be held on Saturday and Unified Bowling on Sunday. Participants will bowl 3 games during their single day competition. SOMA believes that having athletes and partners compete on just one day is the best option for now in order to prevent imposing a severe quota on the sport, which would limit the number of athletes and partners able to compete at Winter Games.

Athletes and partners will still be able to participate in the rest of the event offerings such as the Saturday night dinner and dance, and Saturday night housing at local hotels if they are interested.

SOMA acknowledges that this is only a temporary fix and not a long-term solution. SOMA will establish a task force to help create the long-term plan for the sport offering of bowling immediately after Winter Games. Please contact Matt Ruxton if you are interested in participating on this task force at Matt.Ruxton@SpecialOlympicsMA.org or 508-485-0986 x222.

All of the Invitational and Qualifier dates for the 2019 season have been posted to the [website calendar](#). The 2019 Bowling Seasonal Overview is now posted on the [Winter Season page](#) for your review. Please contact Matt Ruxton with any questions.