**Rachel A. Dean Financial Assistance Application**

Sponsored by Bloomington Normal Swim Club

On September 14th, 2017, BNSC Coach Rachel Dean lost her life in a tragic car accident. Having never met a stranger, Rachel inspired everyone she met, especially those in the swim community. Rachel believed in and personified a greater good that transcended the swimming pool. In addition to coaching and teaching, Rachel managed a public pool on Bloomington's west side and was discouraged that the majority of her patrons would never have the opportunity to receive the benefits swimming on a team had given her. It was her dream to make this possible. In her honor, the Rachel A. Dean Financial Assistance Program makes it possible for underprivileged athletes to participate in the competitive sport of swimming.

This application must be filled out completely in order to be considered for financial assistance. We encourage parents and guardians to cover as much of the cost as possible. Once completed, return this application to Todd Schmidt, BNSC Board Secretary, tas830@gmail.com. Please contact Todd with any questions at (309) 825-6076.

Swimmer’s name:

Parent or Legal Guardian:

Home Street Address:

City:

State: zip code: Phone:

Email:

**Eligibility**

Any family is encouraged to apply for assistance, however assistance will be offered to those with the greatest financial need. The BNSC Board of Directors will offer assistance based on a review of applications and careful selection of those families that are determined to benefit most. The board asks families to provide information on the application including but not limited to the applicant’s qualification for Free or Reduced Price lunches through the National School Lunch Program and/or an explanation of financial hardship. It is the responsibility of the board to administer the program in a fair manner, directing assistance funds to the families that may benefit most. **The board reserves the right to offer temporary or reduced assistance based on need and funding availability. The board has the right to cancel assistance** **at any time, if there are any violations of the obligations.**

**Confidentiality**

All information obtained is for the sole purpose of assisting BNSC in making sound financial assistance decisions. Application materials, requests and correspondence related to assistance are held in strict confidence.

Please check all qualifying factors that may apply, attach a photocopy of an approved application for one of the following assistance programs, and provide additional details below that you would like the BNSC Board to consider:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [ ] Free/reduced school lunch program | [ ] Section 8 public housing | [ ] Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) |
| [ ] Medical assistance program | [ ] Social security disability insurance | [ ] Financial hardship |
| [ ] Summer school lunch program | [ ] Home energy assistance program | [ ] Other |

Please provide any additional details you would like to be considered as part of this application (attach additional paper if necessary):

**Assistance Terms:** Please review terms carefully. The BNSC Board of Directors will administer this program in a manner that is fair to all swimmers receiving assistance. Assistance includes the following:

* Monthly training fees for up to one year
* An initial equipment set will be provided, including but not limited to swim cap, goggles, kick board, and fins. Additional equipment may be provided depending on the swimmer’s training group.
* Equipment NOT provided: swim suit (girls suit, boys jammer/brief)
* Meet & event entry fees associated with swimming in all BNSC hosted swim meets. This may be three to five swim meets per year.
* Annual Illinois Swimming membership fees
* Non-BNSC hosted meets are not covered under the terms of this assistance program. However the swimmer is encouraged to participate in as many swim meets as they choose, at their own expense.

**Obligations:** Please review your obligations carefully. The BNSC Board of Directors will administer this program in a manner that is fair to all swimmer applicants. Failure to meet these obligations may result in termination of the swimmer’s assistance and any terms offered for the remainder of the swim season.

* The swimmer must attend **a minimum of three practices per week**. If the swimmer is unable to attend the practices, the parent or legal guardian must communicate the reason for absence to the coach prior to the beginning of practice.
* The swimmer must attend and compete in **at least two of the BNSC hosted swim meets** throughout the year. The swimmer & family is encouraged to participate in as may swim meets as they choose, at their own expense
* Upon approval and for the first month of training, the swimmer will be in an **evaluation status for the first full month of the program**. The swimmer is expected to meet the obligations stated during the evaluation period. If the obligations have been met, the board will apply financial assistance to the swimmer’s account. If the obligations have not been met during the one month evaluation period, the swimmer’s family will be notified and no financial assistance will be applied to the swimmer’s account.
* If the obligations have not been met at any point throughout the one-year assistance period, the **board has the right to cancel** the terms of this offer, in which the swimmer’s parent/legal guardian would be responsible for all fees incurred after the assistance is terminated.

**Financial Assistance Application Process and Rules:**

1. Financial assistance is not guaranteed. Applications will be reviewed and assistance will be distributed based on the greatest need determined by the BNSC Board of Directors.
2. Applications must be submitted to the BNSC Board of Directors by June 30th.
3. Applications will be reviewed by the BNSC Board of Directors by July 31st.
4. If assistance is awarded, a confirmation letter will be sent to the parent/legal guardian August 1st.
5. Assistance terms are good for up to one year, September 1st through August 31st.
6. Applications must be submitted annually with assistance eligibility expiring August 31st.
7. If the obligations detailed above are not met, the assistance will be revoked and the swimmer will be responsible for regular training, membership and meet fees incurred after the assistance is terminated.
8. Coaches have no authority to either determine eligibility or guarantee assistance.

**I understand that this program can be discontinued at any time due to exhausted funds. I have carefully read this agreement and I understand my obligations and terms under receiving assistance from Bloomington Normal Swim Club.**

Applicant Signature: Date:

(Parent or Legal Guardian)

Approval Signature: Date:

Board of Directors voting member