Proposal: Move that Michigan Swimming support David Tolstyka, a deaf swimmer, in the amount of $1,000 on a reimbursement basis for expenses related to his participation in the August 2011 Deaf World Games in Coiumbra Portugal.

Rationale: David has been a member of Michigan Swimming for about 6 years, currently with Plymouth Canton Cruisers, and previously with Club Wolverine. He became deaf recently, and just lost his remaining hearing over the 2010 Labor Day weekend. David has been selected to the USA team that will compete at the Deaf World Games. As the attached letter explains, David must raise his own funds for this trip, hence a request from David's family for $1000 from Michigan Swimming.

Response from Jeff Wilkins: First congratulations David, I wish you the best, I know you will do us proud. Secondly, we have in our rules a section on athlete reimbursement with some preset amounts in place which are as follows:

Qualifying Meets and their reimbursements are as follows:
Trails for USA Swimming National Teams $500
Major National and International swimming $500
competitions for disability swimming
Major National/International swimming $500
competitions not funded by USA Swimming
US Open Championship $350
Senior Nationals (short and long course) $350
Junior Nationals (short and long course) $300
Open Water National Championships $300
NCSA Junior Nationals $200

I would heartily approve of this amount, which would be done as a reimbursement once David attends the meet, which is how we normally handle reimbursements. If I'm reading your letter correctly you would like Michigan Swimming to contribute $1000.00. I would recommend that we bring this up as a BOD meeting item requesting a grant. I certainly support this endeavor but to deviate from the established policy would be a matter for the Board of Directors. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Gail I would be more than happy to work with you on bringing this up at our next meeting for a vote. Please let me know what you need.

Further rationale: Major international competitions for deaf swimmers are held once every two years. The Deaflympics are held in the years preceding Olympic Games, and Deaf World Games are held two years following each Deaflympics. Assuming that David qualifies for all such competitions, he would be making a request to Michigan Swimming every two years - less frequently than hearing swimmers who request travel funds.

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