

MA Travel Fund Committee meeting  
MA Office – Tues, December 20, 2008 – 11:00 am

Attending: John Carroll (Chr), Burt German, George Breen, Fred Killian

1. Discussion regarding the 2008-09 Travel Assistance budget. The \$78K budget for the current year was allocated and approved at a prior Board meeting, and is included in the Travel Fund Policy posted on the MA website. Allocations are \$4K for the WINTER (December), \$35K for SPRING and \$39K for SUMMER meets. The committee affirmed the present amounts, and noted the following: (a) no extra meets beyond those listed in the Policy have been approved; (b) the \$4K for the December meets will first be used to support the SC National meet, and remaining funds used for the Junior Natl meet (except that qualified Jr Natl meet attendees will receive the Bonus amount.) Swimmers not receiving the Max Award will be reviewed at the end of the year.

The meets to be funded in SPRING and SUMMER are included in the posted policy; requests for additional meets must be presented to and approved by the MA Board.

2. Support for Open Water and Disability Meets – there was no funds provided for these meets in the 2008-09 budget. The current policy includes eligibility and registration requirements for these meets. Swimmers attending such meets should apply to the MA Board; the Board will consider each application on its merits.
3. Review of the MA Travel Assistance policy - What is the stated purpose and objective of the Travel Assistance Fund? Who should be supported?

There was considerable discussion about revising the MA policies in the following areas: (1) how can the eligibility requirements be simplified or streamlined? (2) should coaches (or Clubs) be included to receive travel assistance? (4) how should college swimmers be supported? Who must they represent? (5) must college-age swimmers represent a MA club to receive support? (6) are the budgets and allocation methods appropriate?

Comments were recorded – especially relating to the issue of college swimmer representation; each member present was asked to make comments and notes on the current policies for review at the next meeting. The committee set an objective to have a revised policy ready for review by the June HofD meeting.

The ‘travel support’ policies of other LSCs (as obtained from their websites) were reviewed as examples of how others deal with these issues.