

Proposal #2 – By-law change for the NFA National tournament to add accessible accommodations

(requires majority to pass)

Justification: While students are systematically granted accommodations to be able to have equal access to schoolwork, these accommodations are not granted in speech and debate. Lack of accommodations makes our activity inaccessible to many people with disabilities who would otherwise be able to garner the competitive and educational benefits of speech and debate. If accommodations are granted at all, they are acknowledged in a haphazard manner. This proposal simplifies and universalizes the process of accessing accommodations. The tournament committee will be responsible for vetting accommodations, and can do so for example by requesting accommodations letters from the student's school. This will ensure accommodations are legitimate and geared towards competitive equity and access.

Add by-law

“II.B.3: All students will be granted reasonable accommodations at the NFA National Championship tournament, including but not limited to wheelchair accessible rooms, the opportunity to use a notetaker, extended preparation time, and the provision of an ASL interpreter. Accommodations requests shall be privately submitted to the National Tournament Director and will not be released publicly. Regional tournament directors are strongly encouraged to follow the same procedure.”