



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution #2

Allow Special Needs Seniors to Participate in Junior Varsity and C-Team Sports

Submitted by: Stefan Retzlaff, Clay Johnson, Charles Wallace, and Chris Smith

Submitted: 4/14/2021

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that:

1. **Whereas**, Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act defines disabled as “any person who has a physical or mental disability which substantially limits a major life activity or has a record of such a disability or is regarded as having such a disability”.
2. **Whereas**, under Alaska State Regulations, these are the categories for having a disability: Autism, Multiple Disabilities, Cognitive Impairment, Orthopedic Impairment, Deafness, Other Health Impairment, Blindness, Specific Learning Disability, Early Childhood Developmental Delay, Speech or Language Impairment, Emotional Disturbance, Permanent Traumatic Brain Injury, Hearing Impairment, and Visual Impairment.
3. **Whereas**, a mental disability is a condition that limits a person's intellectual capacity, resulting directly or indirectly from injury to the brain or from abnormal neurological development.
4. **Whereas**, a physical disability is a physical condition that affects a person's mobility, physical capacity, stamina, or dexterity.
5. **Whereas**, the student with a disability needs to be able bodied and physically able to compete in the sports.
6. **Whereas**, high school seniors are currently required to play on varsity or they are cut.
7. **Whereas**, an “Open” team is a team that can compete at the Junior Varsity level while allowing seniors to play on that level.
8. **Whereas**, the sports that currently have an Open team are baseball, tennis, cross country running, and cross-country skiing.
9. **Whereas**, the student with a disability is capable of competing on JV or C-team level but is exempt from being allowed to compete on these levels due to seniority.

10. **Whereas**, if the sport allowed it, the Junior Varsity team would be changed to an Open team whose seniors would exclusively have special needs.
11. **Whereas**, these student athletes with disabilities will receive a letter for their senior year regardless of the level they compete at with their coach's discretion.
12. **Whereas**, the students must still meet all other requirements for sport eligibility, practices, grades, etc.
13. **Whereas**, the student with a disability will have a senior night with the rest of the seniors regardless of what team they play on.
14. **Whereas**, allowing kids with a disability to play will promote equity and equality and will allow students with disabilities to feel included and respected.
15. **Whereas**, neurotypical and able-bodied students will learn how to cooperate and help the students with a disability, benefiting their social and verbal skills.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports that otherwise eligible special needs senior students are allowed to play on C-team and Junior Varsity teams in the Anchorage School District.

Action Statement: This resolution, if passed by the General Assembly of AASG, will proceed to the Anchorage School District for further discussion and implementation.