



2020 NIFA Bylaw Change Proposal

Here is the explanation and reasoning for the proposed Bylaw change.

Hosting a National SAFECON is a significant logistical and financial commitment for the host organization/school, airport, and city. Assurances by NIFA that an organization/school will be the host of a National SAFECON multiple years from now, or for consecutive years, will increase efficiencies for the host organization and can lead to a better event for all involved. This will allow the host significantly greater planning and preparation for the National SAFECON.

Approval of this change to the NIFA bylaws allows NIFA Membership to hear and vote upon host locations with more freedom. In current bylaw language, NIFA Membership is only able to vote on future host organizations for the next year's SAFECON. If an aspiring host organization wanted to host for multiple years in a row, or for specific years in the future, they currently are not able to do that.

The NIFA Executive Director and NIFA Council strongly believe the current bylaw limitation has had an adverse effect on receiving host organization/school proposals.

This proposal does not require that any aspiring organization hosts for more than one National SAFECON, or that they will not be able to submit for the next year's National SAFECON (if that National SAFECON is not already named). The language change in the bylaw only expands the scope of timeline for which an organization can bid.

The examples below are hypothetical situations created in an

effort to demonstrate the bylaw as well as what the change would allow:

Example 1: XYZ Airport Authority has a desire to host a National SAFECON. Upon research, the Airport Authority has determined that they would need to invest in a new paved parking lot and additional ramp space since they currently do not have enough parking for all the planes, competitors, coaches, judges, and volunteers. However, the investment required by the Airport Authority would not make financial and logistical sense for them to host a one-time event. They desire to host SAFECON for two consecutive years. Under the current bylaw, the XYZ Airport Authority does not have the ability to make such a proposal. Because the financial risk is too high, XYZ Airport Authority does not submit a bid to host a National SAFECON.

Example 2: Anytown University in Somewhere, USA is a long-time NIFA member school. The large airport near their city would be a perfect set-up to have Anytown U and Somewhere to host a National SAFECON. Anytown U has a strong desire to host, and up to now has been reluctant to submit a bid due to a lack of time to prepare. They feared a 12 month notice from the time of their proposal until the National SAFECON would be a huge burden on their staff and students. They desire to have a 2-year advance notice so they can prepare and coordinate with their school, the airport, and the city of Somewhere. With the bylaw change, Anytown U would now have the ability to submit to host the National SAFECON in 2 years from now.

Proposed Bylaw Change:

ADD: ***11.13 Host Selection***

A. The Executive Director will solicit proposals for hosting future National SAFECONs. The solicitation will include a deadline no later than 180 days prior to the start of the last National SAFECON of any existing agreement.

B. The Executive Director, in consultation with the NIFA Council, will screen the applicants and forward the names of the three best qualified organizations to the NIFA President. The Executive Director shall notify the NIFA Council of any proposals that are unfit for hosting the National SAFECON.

C. Each organization with a qualified proposal will be given an opportunity to address NIFA membership.

D. After considering each proposal, the membership will vote at the annual business meeting using rules described in 13.1. A majority vote is required to select any proposal. If a majority vote is not achieved, an additional vote considering only the two presentations with the highest number of votes in the first vote, shall be conducted. The NIFA President shall have one (1) vote for tie breaking purposes.

E. If there are no qualified bids for the National SAFECON, the NIFA Council will appoint a host organization.

F. If a host organization has been selected but is unable to fulfill the obligations of conducting the National SAFECON, the NIFA Council shall appoint another host organization as soon as possible. The Executive Director shall coordinate this effort.

Remove paragraphs: 13.2, 13.3, and 13.4