

Pros of a Team Format in CIAC Tournament

- Potential reduction in travel and with students missing school
- Subjectivity in seeding is eliminated in the class tournament
- More of a team feel or atmosphere as matches are played at one site at the same time
- A team with a few good players (as opposed to depth) cannot easily dominate the tournament
- SAT/ACT and other end of the year activities that hinder tournament scheduling could be minimized
- Consistency with regular season format
- Consistency with girls CIAC format
- Obtaining accurate and ample information about specific players from coaches is eliminated in the class tournament only
- Individual players from non-qualifying teams would have no bearing on which TEAM wins a state tournament
- Issue and expense of finding large facilities to host class tournaments is eliminated
- Playing head to head would eliminate constraints of supervision (and liability) of playing at multiple sites (i.e. class Bristol Eastern, Cheshire in the past)
- Teams would be less likely to take singles players and move them to doubles just for the tournament

Cons of a Team Format in CIAC Tournament

- Authenticity of lineup could be a concern (stacking)
- Lack of jamboree environment where all players and coaches can be seen at one site
- Teams may be at a disadvantage for playing a challenging schedule or playing in a strong league due to the fact that seeding in a team format is done strictly by team won-lost record; conversely, teams could be awarded a higher seed for playing a weaker schedule
- A team format would not allow some of the better players from non-qualifying teams to play in the class tournament (note: they may qualify for the state open)
- There isn't CIAC supervision—a site director, for example—for all matches
- Teams could potentially play other teams in the first round they've already played once or twice during the regular season
- A team format may not yield as much flexibility for scheduling individuals with conflicts
- Teams may not be allowed to shift lineups during the tournament if that is approved; players would have to keep their positions during the regular season to qualify for the State Open, even against weaker opponents
- Specific format would need to be determined (i.e. 4-3, 5-2, etc)