|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| SCHOOL | RESPONDENT | RESPONSE |
| Ellis Tech | AD | Not in favor of filling brackets. The 5 division format might work better if the requirements to qualify were more stringent, not less.  For teams that are less than 40% to make a tournament just to play a #1 seed seems to water down the tournaments in general.  They should be only the best teams competing.  ​ |
| NFA | AD/Coach | While we understand the formatting change , We do think it allowed for too many teams making the tournament - some teams with 3 or less wins! |
| Kennedy | AD | We had absolutely no business, nor does any other team below a 40% record, competing in the tournament. |
| Parish Hill | AD | I support the 5 divisions for girls basketball, but totally opposed to filling the brackets. A State Tournament is opportunity for the best teams to match up against each other. They have earned the right to be there because they qualified not because they were placed in the tournament. For whatever reason our qualification standards to make the tournament have been lowered over the years. |
| Plainfield | AD | Talking with a few players and my coaches they feel the brackets should not be filled with teams winning percentage less than 40%. Coaches felt it should actually be 50% winning percentage to be in. |
| Bethel | Coach | “It didn't really effect us this year. My two cents is, what is the purpose of the regular season if everyone is going to get in.  Making the post season should feel like an accomplishment, not a gimie.  “ |
| WCA | AD | We are usually a weaker girls basketball program and would still lean toward not filling the brackets. |
| Holy Cross | AD | I have spoken to several of the girls basketball coaches in our league and the overall feeling was that filling the brackets was not the best thing to do.  To be fair, they also said they do not  really like having a bye either, and you can't have it both ways. |
| Naugatuck | Coach | From what I have heard those teams that would not have generally qualified did not like this at all especially since they would have to travel so far generally to get beaten bad and felt embarrassed.  I think if we were in that position I would feel for the kids and not sure I would want to go up against the best team.  However there are instances with tech schools being 1 and a 4-16. That may be able to beat them but i think you should have to win the 8 games |
| Jonathan Law | Coach | I would go back to 4 divisions but if we stay with  5 I think it should be either 40% or everyone makes the tourney.  With the current format,  4 teams get left out of each division and that does not seem like the best system. |
| Jonathan Law | AD | I like the 5 divisions and  I have no problem with fill the bracket.  Both the 5 divisions and fill the bracket format provide more student-athletes the opportunity to play meaningful games and have a chance at a championship. |
| Weston | AD | I am fine with the five division and I prefer "Fill the Bracket" in all tournaments so I am fine with that as well.  My coach did not like hte 5 divisions.  He thinks our state is too small to need 5 champions and felt that if we were only going to leave out 4 or 5 schools per division that all schools should make the tourney. |
| Lyman Hall | AD | We both like the five divisions but don't like "fill the bracket". |
| Somers | Coach/AD | I am in favor or filling the brackets in basketball, including boys. A clean round of (32) in my opinion also does not leave multiple byes and extend the wait times for upper seeds in post-season play. |
| Foran | AD | I understand the premise behind the "fill the bracket", but personally I am not for it.  I really feel that although we want to provide opportunities for our student-athletes we have to be realistic. Before playing and before the seeds came out, our girls' knew their only hope to have a competitive game was to get matched up with a team with an  "inflated record" from a "weaker league". Once that happened, they knew what their fate would be. I know there are issues with 5 divisions and concerns arise when Class "S" could possibly only have 16 teams make it. If that is a driving force and a concern, then go to 4 divisions. |
| Windham Tech | AD | As an athletic director and as a parent I feel that there needs to be a stronger criteria in making the state tournament. You must have earned something prestigious. At least have a strong winning percentage. |
| Shepaug | AD | I believe that the girls should only be at 5 divisions if there are enough teams to justify doing so while maintaining the traditional 40% qualification standard.  I don't believe that it makes sense to have teams with less than 8 wins in any postseason tournaments.  I understand that without including them, higher seeded teams could have ended up with double byes.  Perhaps that is a sign that we should stay at 4 divisions. |
| Darien | AD | Darien liked the format of this year's girls basketball tournament. |
| Housatonic Valley | AD | I do not see the benefit of filling the bracket for girls.  The loss felt in the case of #32 v #1 or #31 v #2 is much more emotionally damaging than beneficial.  Having been at the higher end, I would rather have a bye and find a team more appropriate to scrimmage than put a team on the court with a fill the bracket team |
| Torrington | Coach | We don’t need 5 divisions. I remember when we needed 50% then it goes to 40% and now who knows what the percentage  ends up to be. Where is the incentive for each team- one of our goals as a team was to get to 40%.  There are other issues to numerous to mention  this was not a good look for girls basketball. |
| Glastonbury | AD/Coach | Both Chris and I feel that whether we offer five or four divisions, that will have little impact on Glastonbury in large part because of our size and if we continue to see success in the post-season.  That said we both feel that four divisions is enough but would continue to support the five divisions if that is what is best for others. |
| Shepaug | AD | I believe that the girls should only be at 5 divisions if there are enough teams to justify doing so while maintaining the traditional 40% qualification standard.  I don't believe that it makes sense to have teams with less than 8 wins in any postseason tournaments.  I understand that without including them, higher seeded teams could have ended up with double byes.  Perhaps that is a sign that we should stay at 4 divisions.  If the Girls committee wanted to explore something similar to the boys Division I, where everyone qualifies regardless of record, perhaps that is a good alternative.  I haven't done the math, but if that enabled the lower divisions to maintain a 40% qualification standard and not have double byes, I would be supportive of that. |
| Morgan | AD | The fill the bracket concept is problematic.  Our tournaments should be about the best teams in the state competing.  To qualify, teams should have to demonstrate a reasonable level of success throughout the regular season.  This format does not yield that outcome.  Rather, inferior teams are be forced to play uncompetitive games that risk injury and humiliation.  I would be a proponent of returning to the 40% win threshold. |
| Pomperaug | AD/Coach | I am not a big fan of filling the bracket.  I think you should have at least a 40% winning percentage. |
| Ridgefield | AD/Coach | It's not ideal for teams with less than 8 wins (40%) to qualify. It creates uncomfortable situations for both teams and diminishes the value of the tournament. It's also messy when looking at potential seeding/brackets. That said, we do NOT favor "BYEs"; to us, 4 divisions is a better setup for girls. We don't need to mirror the boys in every circumstance, especially when "32 teams must make the tournament." Either change the number of teams getting in or go back to 4 divisions with 32 teams/each - 8 win mandate to get in. |
| Hamden | AD | I feel it is no harm with the division we are in. Also we won’t be able fill the brackets at the lower divisions if this changes.  Having teams with the ability to play in the tournament at the end of the season I think keeps kids from jumping ship during a tough season. |
| East Lyme | AD | I think it is mostly beneficial not to have a quarter of a bracket or so having byes into the second round which was a result of filling the bracket. Conversely, I don't think teams with 2, 3, or 4 wins should be making the state tournament. Maybe needing to win 25% of your games would be a better threshold for qualification. Some teams would still receive byes into the second round but not nearly as many as you see in some of the boys divisions. |
| North Haven | Coach | I do not like the format of 5 divisions. It cheapens the regular season. There were a lot of teams that had no business in the tournament. It waters it down. It’s like the NBA and the NHL. I hope they go back to 4 divisions which should make almost everyone earn their way in. |
| West Haven | Coach | As far as the tournament goes, we have been on both ends.  A team that does not qualify and a team that does.  As far as "filling the brackets" I think it is unfair to have teams that go 3-17 travel hours to play the top team to lose by an excessive margin, just to make sure the brackets are filled.  It's shouldn't be everyone gets to qualify in order to make a number, it's always been you either get 8 wins or you don't.  8 wins is always the first goal many teams set to achieve, but at this point 8 wins doesn't have as much significant meaning anymore.  I have had seasons where we went 4-16 and would not want to subject my team (a Class LL school) to go play the number one team in the state, it's not good morally for either program. |
| Northwest Reg. | AD/Coach | If we stay with the five divisions I favor the 40% rule and not to fill the brackets. I truly feel there should be four divisions for both boys and girls. Have the super division and then just divide the others in three divisions by school enrollments, |
| Capital Prep | AD | My experience is that the lower win teams tend to take an unnecessary beating. I am not sure how the gates are for those games, but in my experience the gates have not been substantial enough to justify the lack of quality or competitiveness in the game. |
| Tolland | AD | Tolland does not believe in the "fill the bracket" system.   We believe it should be the same as all other sports .400. |
| Lyme-Old Lyme | AD | My original thoughts on the "fill the bracket with 32 teams" format haven't changed much. I think all it really did was put more teams in. It didn't make for better competition, especially in the first round. In Class S, 13 teams were eligible this year who would not have been previously. They all had below a 40% win ratio. Hale Ray qualified and they are a program in distress. I have nothing against HR, but you can't have it both ways. I know adding the 5th bracket affected all of this, but maybe they should just lower the win % to 30% or something. I also think they need to keep the 5 brackets for the girls, if they do so for the boys. |
|  |  |  |