



Naugatuck High School

John Harris

PRINCIPAL

Eileen Mezzo

Associate Principal

James Leary

Dean of Students

Brian Mariano

Dean of Students/Athletic Director

"In Pursuit of Excellence"

April 9, 2025

Boys Basketball Committee Members:

Proposal: Based on the information below, the NVL is requesting that the boys basketball committee reduce the “league multiplier” used in our formula.

Rationale: For a number of years, NVL boys’ basketball has struggled for overall success in the state tournament. The 2025 tournament saw the league win a total of 3 games and lose 12. Currently, 10 of 15 NVL teams are in Division I, II, or III. An examination of results from the last 10 tournaments supports this proposal.

Number of teams that made finals (with multiplier):

CCC: 21 (3)

SCC: 13 (3)

SWC: 12 (3)

SC: 9 (1)

NCCC: 7 (1)

FCIAC: 7 (3)

ECC: 6 (2)

CRAL: 6 (1)

BL: 2 (1)

NVL: 2 (3) WCA - Division III (2023), Naugatuck - Class L (2015)

Tech: 1 (1)

Number of teams that won championship:

CCC: 10

SCC: 7

SWC: 6

ECC: 5

SC: 4

FCIAC: 3

CRAL: 3

NCCC: 2

NVL: 1 WCA - Division III (2023)

Tech & BL: 0



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Since the inception of the five division format:

2025 - 12 NVL teams qualified, 11 eliminated in first or second round.

2024 – 10 NVL teams qualified, 8 eliminated in first or second round

2023 – 10 NVL teams qualified, 6 eliminated in first or second round

2022 – 10 NVL teams qualified, 7 eliminated in first or second round

2019 – 11 NVL teams qualified, 9 eliminated in first or second round

2018 – 11 NVL teams qualified, 10 eliminated in first or second round

Further Notes:

- The closure of Sacred Heart has eliminated the strongest NVL team of the last 10 years.
- The opening of Waterbury Career has spread out city talent and weakened other Waterbury public schools.
- Moving to a “2” multiplier puts the NVL on the same level as the top half of ECC. Since 2019, the ECC has been to three Division II finals (won 2), and two Division I finals. No NVL team has ever reached a Division I or II final.

Please let me know if any additional information is needed or if there are any further questions. Thank you.

John Harris
NVL Governing Board President



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Proposal to CIAC Boys Basketball Committee

Submitted by the Eastern Connecticut Conference

The Eastern Connecticut Conference is requesting that the CIAC Boys' Basketball Committee look at our conference as two leagues within one when adding the league multiplier for state tournament classification. Currently, the CIAC formula uses a multiplier (x2) for all 19 Eastern Connecticut Conference schools. We feel this is not equitable, nor fair, for all of our league member schools. We break our league into four divisions and we also hold two postseason tournaments due to the disparity of size and competitiveness within our league. There is a huge gap between our Division 1 and Division 2 schools when comparing them to our Division 3 and Division 4 schools. They should not be weighted in the same manner by our state association when classifying schools for post season play.

Our request is that schools that compete in Division 1 and Division 2 of the ECC will fall under the multiplier (x2) currently utilized by the CIAC basketball committee for state tournament alignment. However, we ask that schools that compete in Division 3 and Division 4 of the ECC fall under the multiplier (x1) that is more appropriate for these schools. We feel this will go a long way into placing our league member schools into the appropriate classification for post season play at the state level.

In the 2023-24 state tournament, our Division 3 and Division 4 member schools have played against schools twice or even three times larger in school enrollment and regular season schedules that do not compare in competitiveness. A simple change in how our league is calculated at the state level will prove dividends for all involved. If our Division 3 and Division 4 schools were all in the (x1) multiplier, they would have been classified differently this year and their opponents in the state tournament would have been more appropriate for their level of play.

Each year, the ECC re-aligns based on enrollment, strength of program, returning student-athletes within that program and other variables to form competitive schedules and fair divisions for our league member schools. To ensure appropriate timing, the CIAC boys' basketball committee will have our league alignment well in advance for classification purposes. Our ECC alignment for the 2024-25 boys basketball season is completed. Our suggestion when putting your state classifications together for 2024-25 based on our alignment:

Division 1 and Division 2 (CIAC x2 multiplier): St. Bernard, NFA, Fitch, New London, East Lyme, Waterford, Windham, Woodstock Academy, Killingly.

Division 3 and Division 4 (CIAC x1 multiplier): Ledyard, Montville, Griswold, Stonington, Plainfield, Tourtellotte, Putnam, Wheeler, Bacon Academy, Lyman Memorial

If you have any further questions, please feel free to reach out. Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Buonocore
Eastern Connecticut Conference Boys Basketball Chair
Ledyard High School Athletic Director and Assistant Principal

Al Carbone
Chief Advisory Officer
Eastern Connecticut Conference