



Online Discussion Board “March Madness” Pool

At our school, we’re thinking of putting together a pool for the NCAA basketball tournament where students fill out a bracket sheet, and those who get the most right win a small prize (like a homework pass).

Do you think this will be okay?

3-16-2015, 03:06 PM

Mrs. Thompson

I don't see why not... all of the students will be talking about the tournament anyway (and even entering pools on their own), so it's a good opportunity to make it a school wide event and control the chaos a bit. Of course, like anything else, you don't want it to be distracting to the school work.

3-16-2015, 03:20 PM

Mr. McGee

This is completely unacceptable. Betting on sports is illegal, and that's what a "pool" is. The last thing we want to do is promote activities that are against the law at our schools!

3-16-2015, 04:31 PM

Mrs. Thompson

Mr. McGee, I think you are overreacting. When a school has a raffle, isn't that "gambling"? Plus, if students don't pay any money to enter, then by definition it isn't gambling. Like a raffle, though, I think it's okay if students have to pay an "entry fee" to cover the cost of the prizes, or even for school fundraising. I think it's very important to draw a line between dangerous gambling and harmless fun.

3-16-2015, 04:35 PM

Jonathan

I'm a 5th grade student, and this sounds like a great idea. I love it when the whole school gets involved in something, and this will be really fun.

3-16-2015, 04:35 PM

Mr. Jones

While Mr. McGee may have been a little harsh about calling this "illegal gambling", I do think he has a fair point there. I'm sure the students will enjoy a March Madness pool, but won't that be introducing them to the thrill of gambling? Is that really what we want to do?

Source: Open online discussion forum. The topic is provided by a mediator, and comments can freely be posted by anyone.