



3x3 Basketball



Hello everyone! My name is Stephen Cannell, I'm a Coordinator for International Relations in Toyohashi. Today I'd like to introduce in more detail the new Olympic event, 3x3 basketball.

According to the FIBA, the International Basketball Federation, 3x3 basketball is the most popular urban sport in the world. Many people have played it with their friends for years, and it has more recently become an official sport. In 2020, it will make its Olympic debut as an official event. 3x3 takes less space and less people than standard basketball, making it more accessible to more people. It will likely become even more popular with its inclusion in the Olympics.

3x3 basketball has some different rules than standard basketball and is played on a different court. 3x3 uses only half of a standard full-length basketball court. In other words, when possession of the ball changes, you don't run to the other side of the court, you play on the same side at the same hoop. Teams consist of 4 players; 3 on the court and 1 substitute. Shots made from outside of the arc are awarded 2 points, and those made inside the arc are awarded 1. After a shot is made, possession of the ball goes to the other team, and before play can resume again, the ball must be taken back outside of the arc. Personal fouls¹ are not recorded in 3x3, in other words, no matter how many times you foul, you will not be removed from the game. However, 2 technical fouls results in removal from the game. Fouls during shots which occur inside the arc are awarded 1 free throw, and those outside of the arc are awarded 2. Because personal fouls are not recorded, 3x3 basketball is far more aggressive than standard basketball, and injuries such as broken noses and bloody lips are not

¹ Personal fouls refer to normal fouls committed between players. Technical fouls are when particularly bad sportsmanship is involved, or when coaches or benched players are involved. For example, yelling at or touching the referee.

uncommon. Games are 10 minutes long. Each team receives 1 time out. When there is not a specific 3x3 rule, the decision defaults to standard basketball rules. The first team to 21 points wins. In the case of a tie at the end of 10 minutes, the game will move into overtime, where the first team to score 2 points wins.

Currently, the strongest nation in 3x3 basketball is Serbia. They are ranked 1st in the world rankings, and have won the 3x3 world championship 4 times. On the women's side, America is strong with 2 world championship wins.

Although 3x3 is extremely popular in America as a casual sport, it has not reached the competitive level that it has in Europe and Asia. That being said, America currently ranks 5th in the men's world rankings. With the Olympics drawing near, America has been pushing to strengthen its 3x3 basketball team. For example, the Red Bull 3x3 series, whose winners will represent the USA at the Olympics.

3x3 is very popular in Japan. The 3x3. EXE league has teams all over the country competing with each other. Among those teams, the strongest is Utsunomiya. The Japanese national team has not yet found success at the international level, but the individual ability of its players is high. The 1st and 2nd ranked players in the men's under-18 world rankings are Japanese, and the 2nd ranked player in the women's under-18 world rankings is Japanese. Number one ranked Keisei Tominaga plays at Sakuragaoka High School, and is considered by many the best high schooler in the country. He was the top high school scorer last year. It has not yet been determined who will play for the Japanese national team, but the future of Japanese 3x3 is promising.

Long-time fans of basketball as well as those who have never seen a basketball game before will find 3x3 easy and fun to watch, and can just as easily go out and try it with their friends!