



3x3 Fast Track

“Success is possible” in 3x3 and
at hand for any national federation

September 2017

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Index

| | |
|--|----|
| 1. Introduction of 3x3 Fast Track..... | 3 |
| 1.1. Background | 3 |
| 1.2. Executive Summary..... | 4 |
| 2. Building Blocks..... | 7 |
| 2.1. Talent Pool | 7 |
| 2.2. Skill Camps for U18 players..... | 7 |
| 2.3. Continuation Programme for U23 players | 8 |
| 2.4. Open Door Policy | 8 |
| 2.5. Clusters | 8 |
| 3. Registration & Derived Commitments | 10 |
| 3.1. Long-term Programme and Registration Windows..... | 10 |
| 3.2. National Federations' Commitment..... | 11 |
| 3.3. FIBA's Commitment..... | 12 |
| 3.4. National Federations' Costs of Participation | 12 |
| 4. FIBA Funding | 14 |
| 4.1. Funding Facility by FIBA..... | 14 |
| 4.2. Eligible National Federations for Funding Support | 14 |
| 4.3. Scope of Funding Facility..... | 15 |

1. Introduction of 3x3 Fast Track

Positioning 3x3 National Teams (mainly from non-basketball powerhouses)
to make them strong favorites for medals in future Olympic Games

By

- Offering support in developing a long-term performance plan
 - Preparing the 16-23* old players to become Olympians
 - Raising competitiveness of 3x3 national team

1.1. Background

FIBA officially launched 3x3 as second basketball discipline in 2010. Since then, more than 150 national federations have competed in a national team competition; also due to the growing number of national team competitions: yearly World Cup (including U18 category), Zone Cup, multi-sport games (Asia Games, Asian Beach Games, European Games, Mediterranean Games, Central American & Caribbean Games, South American Youth Games, African Youth Games and a long et cetera) across the globe.

The aforementioned and the success of 3x3 in the 2010 and 2014 Youth Olympic Games has led to **the inclusion of 3x3 in Olympic Programme as of 2020 Games**. There is an interest of a growing number of national federations to strengthen their 3x3 national team, being players' specialization a recipe for success.

In order to help any interested national federation to hone and prepare their national team for Olympic Games participation, FIBA has launched 3x3 Fast Track; a specific dedicated programme to develop a competitive 3x3 national team.

3x3 Fast Track is open to all national federations; the last years have proven that success is possible for all in 3x3 national team competitions. Whilst in the period 2008-2016 the last six world competitions in 5v5 (both female and male) have seen 18 national federations in the top 8 in any of those, already 21 national federations have reached top 8 in just 2 world cups in 3x3.

The philosophy of 3x3 Fast Track is allowing any national federation to be successful in 3x3 at the world stage: “success is possible”; therefore this development programme is open to any national federation to keep the diversity in the chances to succeed.

1.2. Executive Summary

FIBA's objective is to develop all national federations making them strong medal contenders in Olympic Games. 3x3 Fast Track primarily intends to raise the overall level of 3x3 national teams to level chances by raising participating national federations' competitiveness in order to have the highest number of gold medal contenders: democratisation of success' chances. 3x3 Fast Track is a long-term performance plan to identify talent and prepare selected youth athletes for participation in Olympic Games (the “Programme”). Whilst participation in the Programme will be open to any national federation at its own cost, FIBA will fund participation in the Programme to a few selected national federations chosen based on objective, pre-defined criteria such as strong activity in 3x3. Participation is voluntarily, however participating national federations are expected to commit for one Olympic cycle.

3x3 Fast Track targets two age groups: players turning 16-18 years old (“U18”) and players turning 19-23 years old (“U23”); **3x3 Fast Track's final goal is to prepare the next Olympic medallist.**

The **two pillars** of 3x3 Fast Track are:

- **Skills Camps programme for U18 players** comprised by two national skill camps and one int'l one each semester
- **Continuation programme for U23 year players** centred around an international 3x3 tour

National federations participating in 3x3 Fast Track will enrol a pool of U18 players in each gender and organize minimum of two **national skill camps** each semester for said players' pool; whereas the best players in the pool are invited to join **international skill camps** each semester. FIBA will support these international camps with man-power, as well as subsidising international travel and accommodation costs of selected national federations. Furthermore, participating national federations shall participate in a **continuation programme** that introduces U23 players growing out of the U18 pool to a regular international, high-level competition. The U23 tour will be played by teams representing their federation, i.e. teams will be playing as national team. The continuation programme fits neatly with FIBA's drive to have U23 as standard age category in all multi-sport games.

Young talent will benefit from up to 8 years of an intensive dedicated programme that will develop them into real contenders for medals in Olympic Games, since it is a proven fact that regular practice of 3x3 is indispensable for success, e.g. active Europe first division players, even national team ones, regularly lose when facing 3x3 seasoned players even if latter have not had or are not having a successful 5v5 basketball career. During the FIBA 3x3 European Championships in 2016 all men and women teams reaching semifinals featured players with a minimum two years history of 3x3 activity and all men teams reaching quarterfinals in the last FIBA 3x3 World Cups were comprised by usual FIBA 3x3 World Tour players after beating less 3x3 seasoned teams.

3x3 Fast Track will provide the national federations with an opportunity to integrate their national performance plan in an international structure creating synergies and knowledge sharing between countries; furthermore it will be a stimulus for other federations to engage in 3x3 in order to join the Programme.

The launch of 3x3 Fast Track will have a snow-ball effect due to a me-too reaction of interested federations.

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2. Building Blocks

2.1. Talent Pool

At the start of each year national federations shall select and nominate a **pool of 16 U18 players per gender with at least 50% being U17 players**. In the course of a calendar year said pool can only get modified in case of grave injury. While national federations are free to select new players each year, it is recommended to reduce churn and aim at a high retention rate as 3x3 Fast Track is a long-term performance plan focused on a continued development of players.

2.2. Skill Camps for U18 players

National federations shall organize at least two 2-days national skill camps per semester (4 per year) with all players from talent pool, such skill camps will include a 3x3 tournament. These national training camps will aim mainly at **skill development**, while the 3x3 tournament at the end will allow for evaluating the practiced skills under competition conditions.

Furthermore, **national federations will participate with one team per gender in one 3-days international skill camp each semester** (two per year); such teams will be comprised by players enrolled in the talent pool of said year. **The Programme will support these international skill camps** by sending FIBA 3x3 referees and 3x3 experts. Players and coaches of all participating national federations will work together with the FIBA experts on skill and tactics development. These international camps will also include a 3x3 tournament. Such international 3x3 tournament will be awarded a prominent level in FIBA's 3x3 event hierarchy thereby allowing players and national federations to collect valuable ranking points that will improve their chances to qualify to FIBA 3x3 U18 World Cup and Youth Olympic Games.

Each semester cycle the two national camps ought to be organized prior to the international one in order to be used to select the players for latter.

2.3. Continuation Programme for U23 players

The 3x3 Fast Track includes a continuation programme to ensure long-term impact.

The most talented players outgrowing the youth categories are retained by a dedicated U23 competition. **National federations participating in 3x3 Fast Track's Continuation Programme must enrol 1 team per gender to the stops of an international, national-team based U23 tour.** Hereby, players are guaranteed an on-going opportunity to hone their skills in preparation for World Cups, multi-sport games and Olympic Games.

This U23 continuation programme perfectly fits with FIBA's intention of playing the various multi-sports games with an U23 rule as the logical sequel of the Youth Olympic Games ("YOG"): "From YOG to Olympic Games via multi-sport games".

2.4. Open Door Policy

3x3 Fast Track will have an open door policy. Whilst a handful of national federations selected at FIBA discretion following objective criteria, such as level of activity in 3x3, will be supported with funding, **any interested national federation can join 3x3 Fast Track at its own costs.** National federations can choose to join either the U18 skill programme or the U23 continuation programme or both.

Further, wild cards for the int'l skill camps and/or the U23 tour stops can be awarded at FIBA's discretion.

2.5. Clusters

Number of enrolled national federations to the international skill camps is uncertain at this stage, though it is expected to increase overtime. The international skill camps ought to have a limited number of teams per gender in order to guarantee that quality time is dedicating to each player.

Therefore, FIBA may group national federations into clusters depending on the number and location of the enrolled national federations. In such case, the international camps will be played within these clusters.

Clusters, if created by FIBA, will be geo-arranged to limit travel as well as travel cost.

The U23 tour may also be split into conferences based on clusters to facilitate its management and contain costs.

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3. Registration & Derived Commitments

3.1. Long-term Programme and Registration Windows

3x3 Fast Track is a **long-term programme with four years of duration until 2020**; because only a continuous development and tutoring of young athletes will lead to tangible success. Therefore, federations that chose to participate in the programme **have to stay until the end of the 4-years cycle in 2020**. **Dropping out of the Programme prior to its termination will lead to 2-years ban** from any 3x3 national team competition and the inability of re-enrolling to the Programme in the current Olympic cycle.

There will be a **registration window** on the 4th quarter of every year during the four years of the Programme (deadline for registration to be announced every year). Therefore the year of registration is the calendar year prior to joining the Programme.

Any eligible national federation can decide to join at a given registration window.

Eligible national federations are those meeting the following conditions:

- Having and maintaining 3x3 e-learning certified status;
- Having one appointed responsible for 3x3 in the federation;
- Having registered to all available Zone Cup with both genders, as well as World Cup if qualified, in the year of registration.

Eligible national federation applying to join the Programme have to indicate whether they are joining the U18 skill programme or the U23 continuation programme or both. However, FIBA-funded national federations have to join both pillars of the Programme to benefit from the financial support.

3.2. National Federations' Commitment

The success of the programme relies on the engagement of the participating federations. Therefore it is important to ensure that all enrolled national federations are fully engaged and fulfil the obligations of participation for the benefit of all participating national federations.

A national federation shall request the inclusion in 3x3 Fast Track in writing and signed by its president committing to comply with the enrolment obligations.

The mandatory obligations and activities derived from joining and participating in 3x3 Fast Track include:

- Keeping the 3x3 e-learning certified status;
- Keeping one appointed responsible for 3x3 in the federation;
- Identifying the talent pool every year not later than end of February;
- In case of participating in Skills Programme, organizing a minimum of two national camps per semester prior to the half-yearly's international camp and participating in all international camps, as well as an international camps on rotational basis (max 2 in a 4 years cycle);
- In case of participating in Continuation Programme, participate in up to six stops of the U23 int'l tour of the continuation programme; as well as organizing one U23 stop per year;
- Ensuring a path to the World Tour in its territory by having a World Tour Qualifier tournament or a Satellite (qualifying to such World Tour Qualifiers) that is either organized by the national federation or a third party;
- Participating in all World Cup, Zone Cup, YOGs and other multi-sport events when and if eligible and/or qualified.

These obligations apply to all national federations participating in the Programme. If a national federation only registers to one pillar of the programme (U18 skill programme or U23 continuation programme), then only the relevant Programme's obligations have to be met.

The enrolment obligations target a continuous activity to secure efficacy of Programme.

3.3. FIBA's Commitment

FIBA commits to supervise and co-ordinate the Programme as well as to provide the required manpower to the Programme. Moreover, FIBA will provide experts and referees at FIBA's cost for the international skill camps.

Furthermore, FIBA commits to subsidize the travel & accommodation pursuant international camps of national federations benefiting from the FIBA funding support (for 8 players + 2 coaches) as well as to up six U23 stops of two teams (8 players) in excess of a pre-defined allowance.

3.4. National Federations' Costs of Participation

The main cost derived for the participating national federations is travel to and accommodation at the international activities of 3x3 Fast Track. Minor costs are the travel to the mandatory national activities as well as the hosting of international event from time to time.

Participating **national federations ought to budget for the following costs:**

- Organizing 4 national skills camps a year each for 32 players that will include travel, accommodation, venue and referees;
- Attending 2 international skills camps each for 8 players (and two accompanying staff) a year that will include a contribution for accommodation per delegation & camp of USD 3.600 (EUR 3.600 in Europe) and travel thereto;
- Organizing 1 international skill camp for 8 countries (16 teams) every second year;
- Attending up to 6 international U23 stops with two teams each year that will include a contribution for accommodation per delegation & stop of USD 2.000 (EUR 2.000 in Europe) and travel thereto;
- Organizing 1 stop of an international U23 tour for 16 teams (8 team per gender) a year.

Experience shows that finding host cities for international events is feasible with certain lead time. FIBA considers that finding host for the stops of the U23 tour is realistic and there is already today a strong demand for events that cannot be satisfied.

Furthermore, NOC and sponsors can have a significant role in funding the costs to be borne by the enrolled national federations. Whilst FIBA will actively search for potential sponsors for 3x3 Fast Track, national federations are recommended to liaise with their National Olympic Committee and apply for IOC's Solidarity funds as well as explore other public or private funding opportunities. FIBA will support national federations applying for Solidarity and/or similar kind of financial support programmes.

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4. FIBA Funding

4.1. Funding Facility by FIBA

FIBA has earmarked funds to financially support the most active national federations in 3x3 subject to the diversity criteria below. Unfortunately, the FIBA funding facility is limited and therefore only a limited number of national federations can benefit from it.

This said, FIBA will do its best endeavours to tap into additional funds such as sponsors or IOC's solidarity in order to increase overtime the beneficiaries of this funding facility.

FIBA will offer the funding facility at its discretion to those national federations that are highly engaged in 3x3 and have a big potential however subject to universality criteria.

4.2. Eligible National Federations for Funding Support

The FIBA funding facility is aimed to support diversity by supporting highly engaged federations in 3x3 that have not finished within the top 8 in any of the last 5v5 world competitions in the period 2008-2016.

Therefore Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Rep, France, Greece, Lithuania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Turkey, USA are not eligible for funding support in the upcoming Olympic cycle (2017-2020).

However, those aforementioned federations, if eligible for the Programme, are more than welcome to join the 3x3 Fast Track, if they so wish and are ready to comply with the derived commitments.

4.3. Scope of Funding Facility

The FIBA funding facility will cover the following cost for the beneficiaries:

- The contribution for accommodation per delegation of 10 (8 players and 2 accompanying staff) per camp of USD 2.000 (EUR 2.000 in Europe) pursuant attending two international skill camps a year;
- The contribution for accommodation per delegation of 8 per stop of USD 800 (EUR 800 in Europe) pursuant attending 6 U23 tour's stops a year;
- The travel of a delegation of 10 (8 players and 2 accompanying staff) to two international skill camps and the travel of 2 teams of 4 per gender to 6 U23 tour's stops a year in joint excess of an allowance of USD 5.000.

FIBA and the national federations benefiting from the funding facility will agree every January on an expected travel cost based on the required travel for the upcoming year and FIBA will cover the excess above USD 5.000 in two tranches (one in February and one in July). The required travel booking is then done by the national federations at their convenience; advanced planning in travel bookings is recommended to keep costs to the expected standard as FIBA will not take care of costs above the agreed expected travel cost.

END.