Abstract
Streetball or 3-on-3 basketball is a particularly successful sport that is derived from basketball. It is a sport which is usually played on open air courts and does not have the same strict rules as in basketball. Players focus, mainly, on showing off their own physical skills - leaving behind team play and coordination.

There are a multitude of actions which rank this game high in sports, and the large number of tournaments, magazines, TV shows, blogs and dedicated sites are just a few aspects. Even in Romania, more and more tournaments are organized - they make big city crowds happy.

Keywords: basketball, streetball, European Championship

JEL classification: I20, I25

Introduction
Streetball or 3-on-3 basketball is a particularly successful sport that is derived from basketball. It is a sport which is usually played on open air courts and does not have the same strict rules as in basketball. Players focus, mainly, on showing off their own physical skills - leaving behind team play and coordination.

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General rules
Streetball benefits from some simplified basketball rules. The rule book is very permissive and flexible, rules contained in it being usually made on the spot. In unofficial games, one of the most interesting aspects regarding these rules is the fact that any player can call a foul in any moment he/she feels someone is tackled.

When one of the players call this while someone goes for netting the ball, he point scored is not validated and the ball must be given to the fouled team’s player. In unofficial streetball there are no free throws. The ultimate goal of this rule is speeding up the game and also an “insurance policy” regarding decreasing injuries. These rules seem to significantly improve streetball quality.

There is another special rule according to which when a team reaches a certain

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amount of points with the other team having scored none, the game ends. This rule can suffer mild modifications, but usually the most commonly used is the “7-0 rule”.

A very important aspect connected to this sport is the easiness with which any player can travel to an open air location where streetball can be played and express he/she wish to play. The person will then be asked to choose a team and will be able to play till 7, 11, 15 or 21 points marks are achieved. Usually, in this game, every net is worth one point and 3 points basketball nets are considered 2 pointers here. Also, there is a “2 point win rule” which means a team can only win by scoring at least 2 points more than its competitor.

The game is usually played by 3 players against other 3 but sometimes 5 on 5 is also a viable option. In official games, a referee is present on the court and manages the game in the vicinity of players but far enough so he/she does not affect focus and gameplay.

In 2013, The International Basketball Federation (IBF) brought modifications to 3 on 3 basketball rules which are now applied in all IBF Endorsed competitions.

Main rulebook modification

- The official ball will be of size 6 (the one used in women’s 5 on 5 basketball).
- A team is in penalty play when it reaches 6 fouls. After a team makes 9 fouls, any additional illegal tackle will be judged as a technical foul. In order to avoid doubts, players are not sent off based on their personal fouls (except for disqualifying tackles).
- Team fouls number 7, 8 and 9 will be penalized with 2 free throws in any situation (even if they are during throw, or not - the classical situation in giving penalties).
- Starting with the 10th team foul, just as in any technical or anti-fairplay foul, the penalty consists of 2 free throws and possession. This is also applied to fouls done during throws.
- After a kept possession immediately after a last free throw that is derived from technical fouls or anti-fairplay, the game is to be resumed by the 6, 75 meters’ checkball point.
- In case of an interception (rebound), a block or a lost attacking team possession, it is no longer required that the other team takes the ball outside the 6,75 semi-circle - in the case of a defensive rebound, this rule is still in act.
- Substitutions do not require anymore confirmation from the referee. A substitution can be executed by using the net’s opposite side and is only
accepted if a contact between the substitute player and the substituted one is done.

Streetball benefits

Just like basketball, streetball is a team sport and has educational value. It brings together physical exercise and sport advantages and the educational side of the game.

The game brings significant contributions in proper player development, in developing movement skills, traits and habits and also in strengthening personality. 3-on-3 basketball equally strains the whole movement skills set by its high mobility requirements and variety of moves.

Skill, coordination and suppleness, manifested by high finesse movement are reflected by driving the ball in different balance situations at high speeds. Speed is present in all of its forms. Force is manifested through speed (expansion) in board jumps, in pass precision and net throws. General stamina ability is generated by using the other movement traits.

Streetball contributes to proper body development, constructing a right posture, because movements are done during the game, with or without the ball, are varied and complex, they stimulate alternative, simultaneous, symmetrical and asymmetrical and participations of all body segments.

This game strains and develops at the same time, on a higher level, our body’s main functions like: blood flow, breathing, thermal regulation, metabolism, etc.

It has also got a special influence over developing mental characteristics. Fighting spirit and will get channeled to obtaining victory - commitment, bravery and perseverance are mental skills that can be honed by practicing this sport and are obviously influenced. This influence is subordinated to team spirit and to other players respect. It develops team play and mutual help, by contributing to social integration. Also, discipline and conscious organization are educated by the rules themselves, refereeing and team placement.

Streetball contributes to active thinking ability. For example, game activity accustoms players to analyzing situations, compare them and draw conclusions quick. All these thinking processes correlate analyzed situations and finally lead to developing distributive attention and action anticipation capacity.
3-on-3 basketball in Romania

Annually, in Romania, numerous streetball tournaments are organized. The most important 3-on-3 basketball tournament is organized together with the Romanian Basketball Sports Arena. Recently, Sport Arena Streetball has grown very much. In 2012, this competition gained an international importance, being the only 3-on-3 basketball competition in Romania part of the world IBF 3x3 World Tour, and in 2013, this competition was included in the 3on3 Euro Tour calendar, a calendar hosted by the European Basketball Federation.

In 2014, Romania will host the first 3x3 European Championship in history. This announcement was made by IBF Europe, the governing basketball forum. The competition will take place in Bucharest, in September and will be organized and supported by the Romanian Basketball Federation at Sport Arena, the company which has been hosting for 10 years the most important streetball tournament in Romania.

There will be 3 qualifying tournaments in which 32 teams (men) and 27 teams (women) have announced their presence - the final stage will contain only 16 teams (both genders). Romania is directly qualified, as a host privilege.

“Bucharest is considered, not only in Europe but also the world, as the unofficial streetball capital. Allowing Romania to host this event is an extension of IBF Europe and Bucharest collaboration, last year Bucharest being the host of the first 3 x 3 Euro Tour”, said IBF Europe President, Cyriel Coomans.

Sport Arena Streetball 2013, Source: www.gsp.ro

As stated above, in 2013, IBF Europe launched in Bucharest the first European 3x3 basketball competition, which consisted of 10 tournaments, in 10 European cities. This tour brought in Bucharest the IBF, IBF Europe and Walter Sieber - a member
in the Olympic Committee - he came to see this discipline in order to introduce it in the Olympics.

The tournament which took place in front of the House of Parliament, gathered in its 3 days of competition over 10000 spectators who watched 311 teams or over 1200 players.

Conclusions

Streetball is a sport which combines basketball and free spirit on open courts. The game has simple rules from basketball. The rulebook is permissive and flexible, and it is many times done at the beginning of games. Just like basketball, streetball is a team sport with educational value. It brings together the positive aspects of a sport and education. This game brings significant contribution in players’ proper development, in developing movement skills, traits and positive education of the character. Nowadays, streetball aims for becoming an Olympic sport.

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