



3v3 Exhibition Event

Saturday 9th May
at Stanley Park, Chippenham





3v3 Exhibition Event — Saturday 9th May

A fantastic morning of football as players from Chippenham Town Youth, FC Chippenham, Castle Combe Colts and St Andrews took part in the Mid Wilts League 3v3 showcase event— a first look at the format coming in for the 2026/27 season.

Four pitches (which took the organiser 20mins, on his own, to set up), mixed teams, fast action and loads of touches for every player. The games were full of dribbling, shots, goals, brave defending and huge smiles.

When we asked the players what they thought, the verdict was clear:

“great fun” “really enjoyable” “do we have to go home now” (Yes) Ahhhhhhhhh ☹️



Parents shared brilliant feedback throughout the morning:

- “I was sceptical of 3v3, but I’ve been impressed — my son is loving it.”
- “He hardly gets involved in training, but today he was tackling, passing and even scored a goal.”
- “This format keeps them constantly active — no standing around, just football.”
- “My daughter came off buzzing. She said she touched the ball more today than in a whole match.”
- “It’s brilliant for confidence. You can see them trying things they wouldn’t normally try.”
- “The smaller teams mean they all feel part of it — no hiding, no being left out.”
- “I didn’t know what to expect, but this is exactly what children’s football should look like.”
- “It was great to see no one standing on the sidelines.”



A coach taking part added a great perspective:

“This is nothing new where I come from in Spain — we grew up playing small-sided games. It’s why we have better dribblers than England.”

“At first, I wanted to group my players in teams of three but at times we had to have 2v3. I didn’t think it would work, but it really did. We even had a 1v2! I asked the single player if he minded “nah, I can take them”

“Having now seen the event , I can really appreciate how the players will develop and enjoy football”

“At first I thought it would be difficult to organise, with so many players, but having now done an event I can see how we can use it in the new season”

“It was hard not to ‘ref’ the game for the players, and at times I felt that I needed to coach, but as the event went on, I just stood back and let them play, which I now realise is the best thing to do”

“A brilliant event and a great glimpse of what’s ahead for next season”



RULES

To start, players will need more adult support. Over time this will diminish. The role of Pitch Facilitators is not to act as a match official but to support players in managing their own game. This may be by asking questions to ensure players are following the rules and playing fairly.



1. Rock, paper, scissors are used to decide who starts the game.



2. The game will start and end with a high five.



3. Players have the option to either dribble or pass in at all restarts (goal line, corners, sidelines and free kicks). Opposition players should be a minimum of 3m away.



4. For goal line restarts, opposition players retreat to their own half of the pitch.



5. A player must be in their opponent's half for a goal to count when shooting.



6. After a goal is scored, all players (from the team that scored) return to their goal line.



7. After a goal, the game restarts with a goal line restart for the team that has just conceded.



8. There are no goalkeepers and no penalty areas. Any free kick must be at least 3m from the goal.



9. There are no match officials. Games are supported by Pitch Facilitators with players empowered to self-officiate.



10. There are no substitutes. Every child plays the whole game.

TOP TIPS

The first few weeks might look a bit messy until people start to get used to the new format.

CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE 3V3 RULES IN ACTION



Setting up 3v3 - venue and equipment

Pitch Size, Surface and Markings



- The recommended pitch size is 10x15m and the maximum size permitted is 15x20m.
- 3v3 can be played on grass or 3G.
- Pitches can be marked with either lines or cone/flat markers.

Ball Size



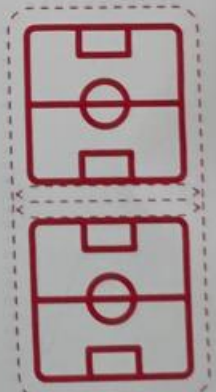
Size 3 (psi 5).

Goal Size



The recommended goal size is 120x75cm (4x2.5ft), but a maximum goal size of 150x90cm (5x3ft) is also permitted.

Run Offs



- Minimum run-offs will be 3m.
- Minimum run-offs between other pitches will be 6m where no spectators are present.

Pitch Layouts

A standard matchday will need more than one pitch and could accommodate many more. Think about the set up and orientation of pitches for the smooth transition of players between games.

