



VANCOUVER BANDITS AND BASKETBALL BC ANNOUNCE FIRST 3X3 CLUTCH TOURNAMENT PART OF JOINT-PARTNERSHIP

Bandits align with provincial and national sports organizations to strengthen British Columbia's 3x3 basketball ecosystem and announce first tournament.

LANGLEY, B.C., March 25, 2024 – The <u>Vancouver Bandits</u> of the Canadian Elite Basketball League (CEBL) and Basketball BC announced Monday that it has announced the first event part of the joint-partnership for June 1st and 2nd, 2024.

3x3 Clutch is a joint partnership between BC's professional basketball club and Basketball BC that is designed to increase awareness and interest in 3x3 basketball through collaborative events hosted across British Columbia throughout the calendar year. <u>3x3 Clutch</u> is the official pathway for 3x3 basketball development and competition in British Columbia.

"Join us for an electrifying spring kickoff of the 3x3 Clutch," states Shawn Dheensaw, Executive Director Basketball BC. "We invite teams to register now and experience the thrill of fast-paced, competitive action on the court."

3x3 Clutch Spring is open to U9 to U18 boys and girls, and adults. Registration for the 3x3 Clutch Spring tournament can be made through <u>www.thebandits.ca/3x3-clutch</u>. The June 1st and 2nd tournament will be held at Langley Events Centre and teams are guaranteed at least 5 games. Cost to participate is \$140/team for youth and \$160/team for adults. Spectators are welcome to attend for free as there will not be an admission fee for spectators.

Participants and spectators are encouraged to attend the Vancouver Bandits' home game on June 1st vs. Calgary Surge when they tip-off at Langley Events Centre at 7:30 P.M PT.

The sport of 3x3 basketball is a fast-paced rendition of the traditional 5-on-5 game that is played globally; however, it offers various beneficial elements that support the development of a well-rounded basketball player thanks to several rules that increase its speed of play.

3x3 basketball is played in a half-court setting, thus requiring less space to play and also affords each player more opportunities to touch the ball given the reduced amount of players on the court.

Thanks to its surging popularity and global interest in the 3x3 basketball format, the sport was incorporated at the Olympics for the first time at the Tokyo 2020 Summer Games. Medalling at 3x3 events helps generate points toward qualification for international tournaments at the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) and Olympic levels, but hosting domestic tournaments recognized in the FIBA system also drives the accumulation of valuable points toward the <u>ranking of a nation's men's and women's teams</u>.

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Supporting last year's launch of 3x3 Clutch were its co-founding partners; including <u>Sentinel Storage</u>, <u>Kal Tire</u> and <u>BioSteel</u>. More information about 3x3 Clutch can be found at <u>thebandits.ca/3x3clutch</u> where interested players, coaches and event organizers are encouraged to register for future details.

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About the Vancouver Bandits:

The Vancouver Bandits are British Columbia's professional basketball team. As the westernmost club in the Canadian Elite Basketball League (CEBL), the Bandits offer an entertainment experience that combines a fast-paced game day atmosphere with a presentation of some of Canada's top professional athletes within a world-class venue at Langley Events Centre (LEC). The Bandits will play a total of 10 regular season home games in 2024 between Thursday, May 23 and Thursday, July 18. Individuals interested in learning more about tickets for the Vancouver Bandits' upcoming 2024 season are kindly asked to call (604) 455-8881 or email tickets@thebandits.ca. A complete regular season schedule can be found by clicking here. More information is available at thebandits.ca and @vancouverbandits on Instagram and TikTok, as well as @vancitybandits on Facebook and Twitter.

About Basketball BC:

Basketball BC is the governing body for basketball in the province of British Columbia. Basketball BC creates, guides, and supports programs that build and protect the integrity of the game of basketball for all participants in the province.

About the CEBL:

A league created by Canadians for Canadians with a mission to develop Canadian players, coaches, sports executives, and referees, the CEBL boasts the highest percentage of Canadian players of any pro league in the country with 73% of its 2023 rosters being Canadian. Players bring experience from the NBA, NBA G League, top international pro leagues, the Canadian National team program, and top NCAA programs as well as U SPORTS. Fourteen players have signed NBA contracts following a CEBL season, and numerous CEBL players attend NBA G League training camps every year. The CEBL season runs from May through August. More information about the CEBL is available at <u>CEBL.ca</u> and @cebleague on <u>Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, LinkedIn, Facebook & YouTube</u>.

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