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The following is meant to offer an opinion to provoke constructive conversation and discussion. I have based my thoughts on my experiences, facts and knowledge I have at hand.

Over the last few years, as 3 v 3 competitions have become more popular, I have been asked many times my thoughts about it and why Campton does not promote or have teams that compete in it. Over the next few paragraphs I will try to share with you my feelings on this sub-culture that seems to have developed.

Before 3 v 3 tournaments became popular to the mainstream, most progressive coaches were using it as a method to teach basic tactics to their players. In fact it has been a common component of Campton's developmental pyramid for years. The popularity of this training method was first and foremost that it was simply, the game. No matter which way you sliced it, you had two goals, two teams, and a ball all in a defined space. The beauty of this small sided game was that it allowed players more touches on the ball, constant transition from defense to attack. It was also full of 1 v 1 and 2 v 1 situations. It encompassed (from a tactical point of view) three important elements of defense and attack: Pressure-Cover-Balance and Penetration-Support-Unbalance. In all, anyone who plays this will progressively become a better soccer player.

So moving on, can there be any negatives to this great game? Sadly, in my opinion, yes. As soon as you make Regional Championships and National Championships, things always seem to get a little fuzzy. It seems that what once started as friends, fun and vacation can so easily become about winning. As we all know, winning usually means having the best players, which now can make past personnel sometimes surplus to requirements. Added to this, picture a scenario where 6 players from one team are invited to a sleepover-pizza party, and 4 are left out. These are the decisions that sometimes, in ugly fashion, can drive a wedge thru a team.

So I guess the question becomes, "Why is this a problem?" We are all involved in competitive soccer where kids are potentially cut from teams every year. True, but it always seems more difficult for parents when it is their friends cutting their kids versus coaches.

I guess to some all this up I would say that the 3 v 3 experiences can be a very beneficial and fun time when kept in perspective. I would also add that if your goal is to achieve National status, that's ok also. Just make sure everyone else on the team understands that.

Lastly the 3 v 3 team needs to end where the club team begins. Leave it at the door and enjoy both experiences optimally.

As always your feedback is welcome.