



**US
YOUTH
SOCCER**



**FUTSAL
TOOLKIT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3** What is Futsal?
- 4** History of Futsal
- 5** Why Play Futsal?
- 6** The Anatomy of Futsal
- 7** Futsal Versus Soccer
- 9** Organizing a Program
- 9** Facility
- 10** Equipment
- 10** Administrative Resources

OUR VISION

By incorporating Futsal, US Youth Soccer will create an inclusive soccer culture designed to increase the number of children playing soccer. Futsal programming improves player technical creativity and capabilities while building healthier children and stronger communities. We want to ensure every player has the opportunity to play futsal as a part of their continued development. The establishment of a USYS Futsal National Championship is the next step to promote and support Futsal at all levels.

WHAT IS FUTSAL?

Futsal is a modified form of soccer that is played with five players per team (one of which is a goalkeeper); and it is played on a basketball size court (typically indoors).

Flying substitution is used; substitutions are unlimited. Unlike regular soccer or some other forms of indoor soccer, Futsal is played on a hard-court surface defined by lines; walls or boards are not used. Futsal is also played with a smaller ball with less bounce than a regular soccer ball.



FUTSAL IS A SELF-TEACHING GAME

Players are constantly put in situations where they must pass, receive, dribble and move, while under pressure, in a confined space.

“I played Futsal growing up in Bauru. In Futsal you need to think quick and play quick so it’s easier for you when you move to normal football”

-Pele

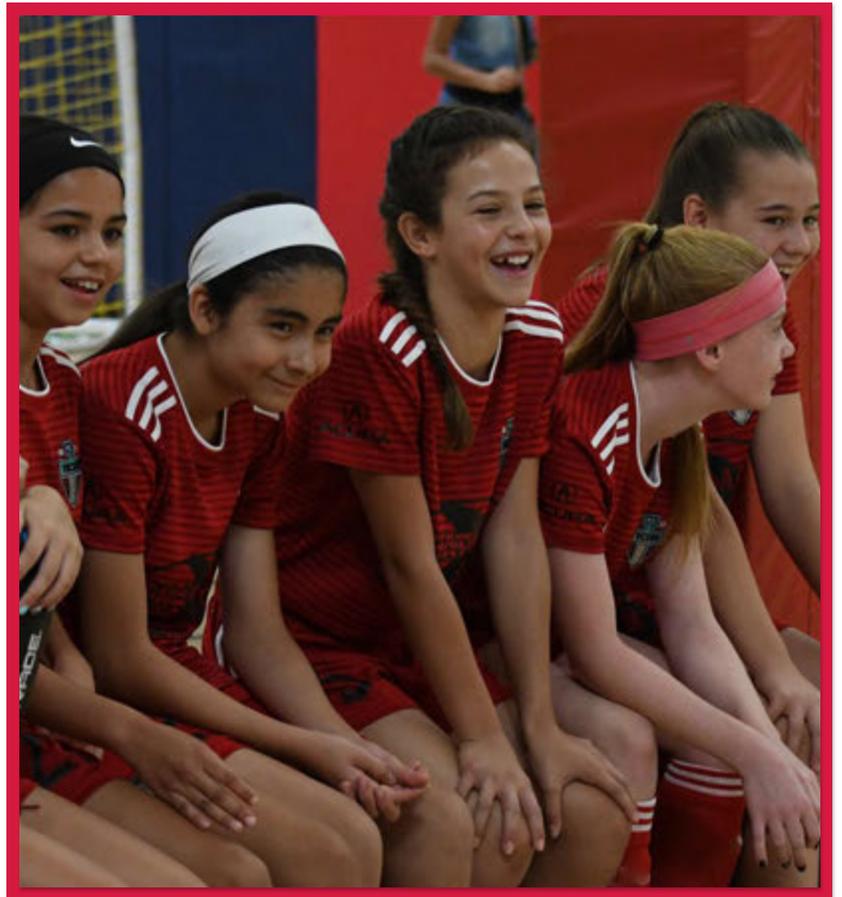
HISTORY OF FUTSAL

In 1930, Juan Carlos Ceriani, a YMCA Director from Argentina working in Uruguay, created a small-sided derivative of soccer to be played on a basketball court borrowing rules and equipment from soccer, basketball, team handball and water polo. Ceriani was a graduate of Springfield College (then known as the International YMCA College), whose earlier graduates are likewise credited with the creation of basketball and volleyball. The sport spread throughout South America and ultimately internationally via the YMCA network.

The term “futsal” was adopted in the 1980’s as a contraction of “fútbol de salón”, literally translated as “Hall” or “Lounge” soccer. After years of organic growth, the first international rules and confederations were recognized in the 1950’s, culminating in FIFA’s recognition, sanctioning and governance of the sport in 1989, presenting the first FIFA Futsal World Cup in that year.

Futsal has been recognized throughout the world as a preferred off-season format to encourage player development, as well as a stand-alone sport with professional leagues in South America, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the United States. Futsal debuted in the 2018 Buenos Aires Youth Olympic Games and will again feature at the 2022 event in Dakar.

Futsal is fully recognized and sanctioned by the US Soccer Federation and US Youth Soccer.



WHY PLAY FUTSAL?

Futsal is a FUN fast paced sport that will hone the key qualities of a soccer player better than any other indoor format and these benefits are transferrable to the outside game. In fact, two very important soccer components are: (1) having good technique, i.e. foot-skills; and (2) developing a creative, tactical mind, or speed of play.



"As a little boy in Argentina I played Futsal on the streets and for my club... It was tremendous fun and it really helped me become who I am today"

-Lionel Messi



Per US Soccer, here are the key qualities of a player and how it relates to futsal

- Read and understand the game and make faster decisions -improves players decision making skills with or without the ball
- Execute with optimal technical abilities - provides players with more touches on the ball and improves players ball control skills
- Take initiative and be pro-active – Players are better prepared to change positions and make decisions in a split second
- Demonstrate focus – Players are able to stay on task over time
- Take responsibility and accountability for their own development & performance
- Execute with optimal physical abilities – provides players more opportunities to develop fitness, endurance, flexibility, stronger ankles, etc.

THE ANATOMY OF FUTSAL

FUTSAL

5 PLAYERS

GOALKEEPER, DEFENDER (FIXO),
LEFT AND RIGHT WINGERS (ALA),
AND TARGET (PIVOT)

UNLIMITED SUBS

20-MINUTE HALVES

KICK IN

SIZE #4 BALL (U13 & OLDER)

SIZE #3 BALL (U12-U9)

SIZE #2 BALL
(RARELY USED; U8 & BELOW)

SOCCER

11 PLAYERS

GOALKEEPER, DEFENDER,
MIDFIELDER, FORWARD

THREE SUBS

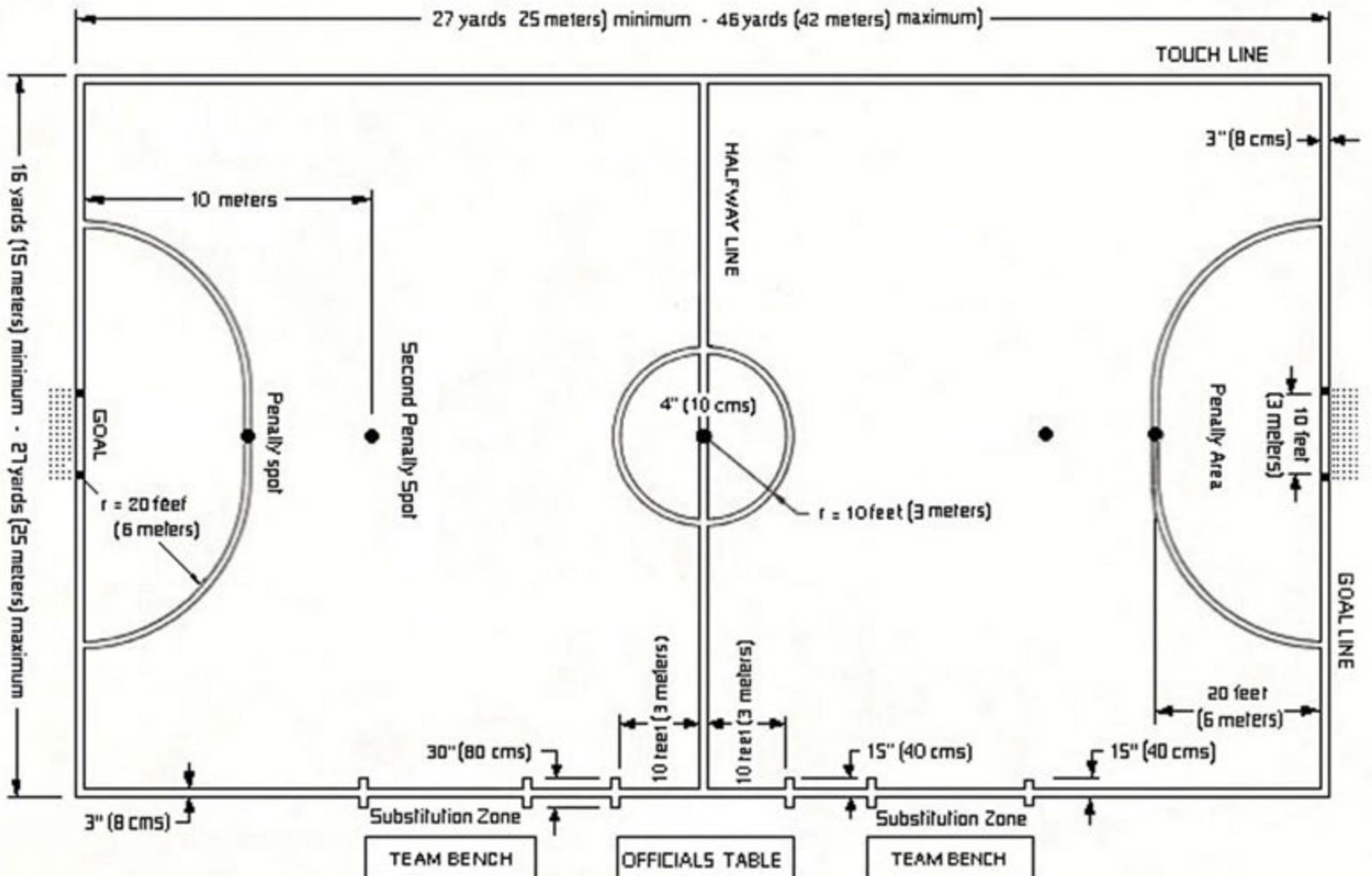
45-MINUTE HALVES

THROW IN

SIZE #5 BALL (U13 & OLDER)

SIZE #4 BALL (U12-U9)

SIZE #3 BALL (U8 & BELOW)



FUTSAL VERSUS SOCCER

SIMILARITIES

SCORING

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar, provided that no offence has been committed by the team scoring the goal.

BALL IN/ OUT OF PLAY

When the ball has wholly passed over the goal line or touchline on the floor or in the air; the referees have stopped play.

KICK-OFF

Kick-offs occur at the beginning of each half and after a goal is scored.

DIRECT FREE KICK

There are ten identical fouls that result in direct free kicks and if any one of these fouls occur in the penalty area, a penalty kick is awarded.

ADVANTAGE RULE

Allow play to continue when the team against which an offence has been committed stands to benefit from such an advantage and penalize the original offence if the anticipated advantage does not ensue at that time or within a few seconds.

YELLOW & RED CARDS

Cautions and sending-off offenses are also identical, and the procedure regarding free kicks is the same, although in Soccer all opponents must stay at least 9.15 meters from the ball until it is back in play where in Futsal, all opponents must stay at least 5 meters from the ball until it is back in play.



FUTSAL VERSUS SOCCER

DIFFERENCES

SIZE OF THE FIELD

International Matches - Max 42m x 25m; Min 38m x 20m
Non-International Matches - Max 42m x 25m; Min 25m x 16m

FIELD MARKINGS

The court must be rectangular and marked with continuous lines, which are not to be dangerous. These lines belong to the area of which they are boundaries and must be clearly distinguishable from the color of the pitch. When a multipurpose hall is used, other lines are permitted if they are a different color and clearly distinguishable from the futsal lines.

FIELD SURFACE

The surface of the pitch must be flat and smooth, and be comprised of non-abrasive surfaces, preferably made of wood or artificial material, according to the competition rules. Dangerous surfaces for players, team officials, and match officials are not permitted.

REFEREES

Two referees - the referee and the second referee who have full authority to enforce the Futsal Laws of the Game in connection with the match, control each match. Two assistant referees (third referee and a timekeeper) may be appointed to the match.

GAME DURATION

A futsal match lasts for two equal periods of 20 minutes of playing time, which may only be changed if permitted by competition rule.

ACCUMULATED FOULS

The sixth and each successive Direct Free Kick foul committed by a team in a half results in the awarding of a "kick from the second mark (10m spot)" to the opponent, unless committed in the offender's penalty area or if the opponent opts for restart from the spot of the foul.

OFFSIDE

There is no offside in Futsal.

RESTARTS

Kick in from the touchline within 4 seconds; ball over the goal line is a "Goal Clearance" where the goalkeeper throws the ball into play from inside the penalty area within 4 seconds.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitution Zones are the areas on the touchline in front of the team benches. A team's substitution zone is situated in the half of the pitch defended by the said team. Each team's substitution zone changes in the second half of the match and any required periods of extra time. An unlimited number of substitutions may be made during a match. A substitution may be made at any time, whether the ball is in play or not, except during a timeout.

PENALTY KICK

Taken from the penalty mark, 6 meters from the goal line. All players must be at least 5 meters from the kicker, except for the goalkeeper, who must remain in contact with the goal line until the penalty kick is taken.

ORGANIZING A PROGRAM, LEAGUE, OR COMPETITION

Creating a Futsal program or adding one to existing programming can take different forms with varying degrees of effort and resource requirements. The type of programming may range from Academy/Clinic style, intramural/intra-club games, jamboree/festival/tournament events, recreational/developmental leagues to fully competitive leagues.

In all cases, clubs and leagues are strongly encouraged to work with their respective State Association to understand, verify and comply with registration, affiliation and insurance requirements and coverage.

Establishing a program, regardless of level and targeted outreach, will require identifying and securing an appropriate FACILITY, acquiring Futsal-specific EQUIPMENT including goals and balls, ensuring ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES to manage marketing, registration, scheduling, compliance, fees and policies, referee training and assignment, financial reporting, rules of competition, etc. as needed.

FACILITY

Futsal is designed to be played on a hard surface. If Futsal-specific courts are not available, basketball courts with either wood or all-purpose playing surfaces are commonly used and widely accessible. Repurposed basketball and tennis courts are options for outdoor play. Public and private schools, YMCAs, college and commercial athletic facilities and municipal recreation facilities are possible sources of court space.



EQUIPMENT

- Balls are specially constructed for low-bounce and come in two sizes
 - “Junior” (equivalent to a standard size 3 soccer ball) for age 12 and under
 - “Senior” (size 4 equivalent) for age 13 and older
- Futsal goal is 2m x 3m (6’6” x 9’ 10”)
 - Goals are available from many vendors as pop-up, portable or permanent, at various price points
- Other items:
 - Soccer cones, pinnies, and other training aids



ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES

As with any youth sports program, there will be a degree of administration required. For new organizations, governance and administrative infrastructure would need to be created and documented.

Some items to be considered:

- Fee structure and administrative policies
- Registration/web platform
- Marketing and Communication
- Financial reporting and oversight
- Compliance oversight
- Training curriculum/Coach education* (Academy/clinics)
- Rules of competition* (League/tournament play)
- Scheduling (League/tournament play)
- Referee recruitment and assignment* (League/tournament play)
- Post-season/Playoff structure (if applicable)

**More details at USYouthSoccer.org/Futsal*



**US
YOUTH
SOCCER**

WE ARE YOUTH SOCCER



“During my childhood in Portugal, all we played was Futsal. The small playing area helped me improve my close control, and whenever I played futsal I felt free. If it wasn’t for futsal, I wouldn’t be the player I am today.”

**-CRISTIANO
RONALDO**



FUTSAL