

SYFA Limited (SYFA)

FUTSAL LAWS OF THE GAME



What you need to know to get started

FUTSAL LAWS OF THE GAME

Futsal Laws are designed to encourage fast, attacking play yet as closely resemble the outdoor game as practicable. The basic Laws required to capture the essence of the game are as follows. There are a number of more detailed aspects and an abbreviated version of the Laws can be found in the Laws section, or via the FIFA link.

1 – No boards. The game is played on a marked pitch and if the ball goes out of play the other team gets a kick in to restart play. Court size varies from 15mx25m (about the size of a basketball court) to 20mx40m. Adult games at national and international level are always played on courts with the larger dimensions.

2 – Smaller ball. The futsal ball is a size 4, low bounce ball made of leather or other suitable synthetic material. Futsal doesn't use the traditional felt, tennis-type ball.

3 – Number of players. Whilst there are only 5 players allowed on the court at any given time, a futsal team can have up to 12 players named per match, all of whom can be used throughout the course of the game.

4 – Substitutions. Substitutions are made during play; the departing player must leave the court before the replacement enters. Players can leave and enter the game as often as they (or the coach!) requires. Unless of course they have been sent off.

5 – Time outs. Each team can request one time out per half lasting one minute.

6 – Fouls and misconduct. Whilst futsal has more clearly defined Laws regarding player conduct than Scottish 5-a-side football it has no more than outdoor football, Many are the same. The fundamental differences, though are; no sliding tackles, no shoulder barging and no foul and abusive language or dissent.

7 – Accumulated fouls. All fouls punishable by a direct free kick are accumulated. Once a team has reached five fouls in a half all subsequent fouls result in a 10m penalty kick for the opposition (unless the offence occurs in the penalty area!). This can only be defended by the goalkeeper.

8 – Dismissals. If a player is sent off, he/she can play no further part in the game. This players team must play the next two minutes with a player short (or until the opponent scores a goal.) Once the opponent scores or 2 minutes have elapsed a replacement player can join the game and the game continues as normal. The dismissed player must leave the playing area.

9 – All defending players must be at least 5m away from the ball at kick-ins, free kicks etc. The attacking team has 4 seconds to get the ball back into play (at the discretion of the match referee).

10 – The officials. At national and international level there are two on court referees, a third referee on the sidelines monitoring the benches and a timekeeper. The minimum requirements are a referee and an administrator (covering team benches/substitutions and timekeeping).

Law 5 – The Referee

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the laws of the game in connection with the match to which he has been appointed, from the moment he enters the locality where the pitch is situated until he leaves.

The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play are final.

Law 6 – The Second Referee

A second Referee is appointed to operate on the opposite side of the pitch to the referee. He is permitted to use a whistle. The second referee assists the referee to control the match in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

In any situation where there is disagreement between the Referee and second Referee, the Referee's decision prevails.

Law 7 – Timekeeper and third referee

Keeps time and note of all disciplinary sanctions, goals scored etc.

Law 8 – Duration of the match

The match lasts two equal periods of 20 minutes at international level.

Local time restrictions can be adopted.

Time-outs (one per team per half) can be allowed.

Law 9 – Start and restart of Play

After winning a coin toss a team will decide which goal it attacks. The other team gets kick off. The ball must move forward and all players must be in their own half of the field. The defending team must be at least 3m from the ball

A goal can be scored directly from kick off.

Law 10 – Ball in and out of play

The ball is out of play when it has wholly crossed the goal line/touch line, play has been stopped by the referee or it hits the ceiling.

Law 11 – Method of scoring

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar unless it has been thrown, carried or intentionally propelled by the hand or arm of a player of the attacking side, goalkeeper included.

Law 12 – Fouls and misconduct

Direct Free Kick is awarded when a player commits any of the following offences in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force.

- Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- Trips or attempts to trip an opponent
- Jumps at an opponent
- Charges an opponent, even with the shoulder

- Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- Pushes an opponent

A direct free kick is also awarded when a player

- Holds an opponent
- Spits at an opponent
- Slide tackles, except for the goalkeeper in his own penalty area and provided that he does not play in a careless, reckless way or using excessive force.
- Handles the ball deliberately, except for the goalkeeper in his own area

These are ACCUMULATED fouls

The first 5 fouls can be defended with defending players at least 5m away from the ball.

The sixth and subsequent fouls cannot be defended other than by the goalkeeper. All players must be 5m away from the ball when the free kick is taken. The attacking side can choose to take the free kick from the place the incident occurred or from the 10m (second) penalty mark.

A penalty is awarded if any of these takes place in the penalty area.

Indirect free kicks are awarded if the goalkeeper commits one of the following offences

- After releasing the ball from his possession he receives it back from a team mate without it having first passed beyond the halfway line or without it having been played or touched by an opponent
- Touches or controls the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team mate
- Touches or controls the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from an kick in taken by a team mate
- Touches or controls the ball with his hands or feet in his own half of the pitch for more than 4 seconds.

An indirect free kick is also awarded if, in the opinion of the referee, a player

- Plays in a dangerous manner
- Deliberately impedes the progress of an opponent when the ball is not being played
- Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands
- Commits any other offence not previously mentioned in Law 12 for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player

Disciplinary sanctions

A player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if he commits any of the following offences

Is guilty of unsporting behaviour

Shows dissent by word or action

Persistently infringes the laws of the game

Delays the restart of play

Fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted.

Enters or re-enters the pitch without following the substitution procedures.

Sending off offences

A player is sent off and shown the red card if he commits any of the following offences.

- Is guilty of serious foul play
- Is guilty of violent conduct
- Spits at an opponent or any other person
- Denies a goal or obvious goalscoring opportunity by deliberately handing the ball (except the goalkeeper in his own area)
- Denies a goal or goalscoring opportunity by committing an offence punishable by a free kick or penalty kick
- Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language
- Receives a second caution in the same match

After a player has been sent off he can take no further part in the game. The player can be replaced by another player after two minutes have elapsed or if the opposing team scores a goal.

Law 13 – Free kicks

A goal can only be scored from a direct free kick. Indirect free kicks the ball must be touched by another player before a goal is valid.

Law 14 – Accumulated fouls

Are those sanctioned by a direct free kick

Law 15 – The penalty kick

A penalty kick is awarded against a team which commits any of the offences for which a direct free kick is awarded, inside its own penalty area and while the ball is in play.

Law 16 – The kick in

A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick in.

As with any restart of play the player has no more than 4 seconds to take the kick in after taking possession of the ball.

Law 17 – The goal clearance

A goal may not be scored directly from a goal clearance.

Law 18 – The corner Kick

A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick but only against the opposing team.

A full unabridged version of the Laws of the Game can be found at www.FIFA.com