



Futsal Rules and Tactics

A Guide for Coaches/Assistant Coaches

- A) Futsal is really much like soccer as far as rules go, with a few exceptions. The main difference is that the game is played in a small space, and not a large field. In the beginning the kids will want to play long passes which just run out of bounds. Their mind set needs to be more like a basketball game, where they use every inch of the court and check back to the ball as it's being passed to them.
- B) Kick-ins - In outdoor soccer when the ball goes out of bounds a player gets a throw-in. In Futsal you have a Kick-in. A player simply places the ball on the line and kicks it in play. The ball must be on the line and not be rolling when it's kicked. The player must also be out of bounds as he takes the kick. Unlike soccer if the ball doesn't go into play when kicked, it goes over to the other team. You can't score directly from a kick-in, it must be touched by a player prior to going in to count as a goal.
- C) Corner Kicks - The ball is placed on the corner of the court, and kicked in just like the kick-in. The difference is that you can score directly from a corner kick.



- D) There are no "offsides" in Futsal. However, it is not recommended that you station a player by the other team's goal. This would defeat the purpose of Futsal, which is to help a player develop skill.
- E) Kick Off - A kick off is taken to start the game, at halftime, or after a goal has been scored. From the kick off the ball must go forward. This year FIFA has changed the rules on the kick off, so you cannot score directly from a kick off.
- F) Player Substitutions - Futsal has unlimited flying substitution, which means that a coach may substitute players at any time without telling the referee or stopping the game.
- G) We play 2 - 25 minute halves.
- H) Each team has 1 time out per half.
- I) There are 4 seconds to put the ball in play from any dead ball situation - kick-in, corner, free kick, etc. It is a slow 4 seconds with the intent being to keep play going.
- J) Futsal uses a foul system just like basketball. Starting with the 6th foul, the other team will get a free kick from about 30 feet away. It's called a double penalty, so the players must stand



behind the ball. At the half the fouls start over. Quite honestly this applies to the older players, and not really the younger teams.

K) Futsal has 4 field players plus a goalkeeper. The goalkeeper should wear knee and elbow pads. Gloves are optional.

L) Goalkeeper Throw - When a shot is taken on goal and it goes out of bounds, the ball is given to the goalkeeper who must restart the game by throwing it in. In this situation the goalkeeper may not kick the ball to restart play. Conversely in soccer a goalkeeper would take a goal kick.

M) When a goalkeeper makes a save, they can distribute the ball in the following manners: they can throw it or put it on the ground and kick it. They may not drop kick or punt the ball. When a player from the same team passes the ball back to their goalkeeper, the goalkeeper can't use their hands, only their feet. This is the same as outdoors. If a goalkeeper uses his hands to catch a pass back from one of their teammates, it results in an indirect kick from the top of the goal area. If the goalkeeper touches the ball with their hands outside the goal area, it results in a direct kick. When the goalkeeper throws the ball, it must first bounce in their own half. This is done to prevent goalkeepers from playing catch. If the goalkeeper throws the ball over the



halfway line, it results in an indirect free kick for the other team from the halfway line.

N) There is no SLIDE TACKLING, or playing the ball on the ground.

O) Futsal is a skill based game, so the physical contact should be kept to a minimum. Typically you can allow the same amount of contact as you would see in a game of basketball. There are no rough shoulder charges allowed.

Basic Tactics of Futsal

As I mentioned before Futsal should be coached just like basketball. Both from an offensive and defensive situation it's really identical.

Defense - The easiest and best way to defend is to play "man to man" defense. That means that every player picks up an opponent and marks (guards) them. The trick is that a player must follow their player where ever they go. One common problem is that players are attracted to the ball and leave the player there marking to try and get the ball. This generally results in the player with the ball finding a totally unmarked player heading toward the goal. Here are a few keys for defending in Futsal:



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- 1) Stay with the person your marking, and follow them wherever they go.
 - 2) Don't leave your man to chase the ball
 - 3) Transition. The minute you lose the ball find the closest opponent and start defending.
 - 4) Keep 1 or 2 players behind the ball. Don't attack with everyone, because if you lose the ball they have a straight shot to the goal.
 - 5) Use the sidelines as another defender. Give the offensive player the sideline, you stay to the inside.

Offense

Offensively it's important that the players try to create space by opening up the field. Many players playing for the first time will have a tendency to stand around. If a player doesn't move he won't get the ball, and will plug up things for the rest of the players. The basic set is called the "point forward". When the ball is being put back into play, the players should open the court by moving out to the lines. Typically one person goes far down in the other teams half, 2 players will move out to the sidelines, and one player will remain off to the side in the back and act as a defender. What you've done is created a large hole in the middle of the field, so that when the goalkeeper or other players are ready to put the ball into play, there is space for them to move the ball. Ideally a player moves out to the boundary lines (creating space), then moves into the space (middle) to receive the ball. This gives you room to play and move the ball.



This is especially important when the goalkeeper is restarting the game. You'll often see players just standing around close to their goal resulting in the goalkeeper having nowhere to throw the ball.

I hope this helps. If you want any clarification on anything, just holler.

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