

# **Futsal Laws of the Game**

## **The Ball:**

Ball size per age...

6, 7, 8 year old (2016-2014)	size 2
9, 10, 11 (2013-2011)	size 3
12 and older (2010-adults)	size 4

## **The Players:**

### Number of players

A match is played by two teams, each with a maximum of five players, one of whom must be the goalkeeper. A match may not start or resume if either team has fewer than three players.

If a team has fewer than three players because one or more players has deliberately left the pitch, the referees are not obliged to stop play and the advantage may be played, but the match must not resume after the ball has gone out of play if a team does not have the minimum number of three players.

If the competition rules state that all players and substitutes must be named before kick-off and a team starts a match with fewer than five players, only the players and substitutes named on the team list may take part in the match upon their arrival.

### Number of substitutions and substitutes

An unlimited number of substitutions may be made during a match.

#### Official competitions

A maximum of nine substitutes may be used in a match played in an official competition organized under the auspices of FIFA, confederations or member associations. Competition rules must state how many substitutes may be named.

#### Other matches

In unofficial national "A" team matches, a maximum of ten substitutes may be used.

In all other matches, a greater number of substitutes may be named and used, provided that:

- the teams concerned reach agreement on a maximum number;
- the referees are informed before the match.

If the referees are not informed, or if no agreement is reached before the match, no more than ten substitutes are allowed.

### Substitution procedure

A substitution may be made at any time, whether the ball is in play or not, except

during a timeout. To replace a player with a substitute, the following applies:

- The player being substituted leaves the pitch via their own team's substitution zone, except as provided for in the Futsal Laws of the Game.
- The player being substituted does not need to obtain either of the referees' permission to leave the pitch.
- The referees do not need to authorize the substitute to enter the pitch.
- The substitute only enters the pitch after the player being replaced has left.
- The substitute enters the pitch via their own team's substitution zone.
- The substitution is completed when a substitute fully enters the pitch via their own team's substitution zone after handing the bib to the player being replaced, unless the latter player has had to leave the pitch via another zone for any reason provided for in the Futsal Laws of the Game, in which case the substitute shall hand the bib to the third referee.
- From that moment, the substitute becomes a player and the player who has been replaced becomes a substitute.
- Permission to proceed with a substitution may be refused under certain circumstances, e.g. if the substitute's equipment is not in order.
- A substitute who has not completed the substitution procedure cannot restart play by taking a kick-in, penalty kick, free kick, corner kick or goal clearance, or by receiving a dropped ball.
- The player replaced may take further part in the match.
- All substitutes are subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the referees, whether called upon to play or not.

### Changing the goalkeeper

- Any of the substitutes may change places with the goalkeeper without informing the referees or waiting for a stoppage in the match.
- Any player may change places with the goalkeeper; however, this player must do so during a stoppage in the match and must inform the referees before the change is made.
- A player or substitute replacing the goalkeeper must wear a goalkeeper's shirt with the player or substitute's own number on the back. Competition rules may also stipulate that a player acting as a flying goalkeeper must wear exactly the same color as the main goalkeeper's shirt.

### Offences and sanctions

If a substitute enters the pitch before the player being replaced has left or if, during a substitution, a substitute enters the pitch from a place other than their own team's substitution zone:

- the referees stop play (although not immediately if they can apply the advantage);
- the referees caution the substitute for entering the pitch in contravention of the substitution procedure and order the substitute to leave the pitch.

If the referees have stopped play, it is restarted with an indirect free kick to the opposing team. If this substitute or their team also commits another offence, play is restarted in accordance with the section dedicated to Law 3 within the Interpretation and Recommendations part of the Practical Guidelines for Futsal Referees and Other Match Officials.

If, during a substitution, the player being replaced leaves the pitch via a place other than their team's substitution zone for reasons not provided for in the Futsal Laws

of the Game, the referees stop play (although not immediately if they can apply the advantage) and caution the player for leaving the pitch in contravention of the substitution procedure.

If the referees have stopped play, it is restarted with an indirect free kick to the opposing team.

For any other offences:

- the players concerned are cautioned;
- the match is restarted with an indirect free kick to the opposing team.

In special cases, play is restarted in accordance with the section dedicated to Law 3 within the Interpretation and Recommendations part of the Practical Guidelines for Futsal Referees and Other Match Officials.

## Players and substitutes sent off

A player who is sent off:

- before submission of the team list cannot be named on the team list in any capacity;
- after being named on the team list and before kick-off may be replaced by a named substitute, who cannot be replaced.

A named substitute who is sent off, whether before or after kick-off, may not be replaced.

A substitute may replace a player who is sent off after kick-off and enter the pitch after two minutes of playing time have elapsed following the sending-off (i.e. after their team has served a two-minute numerical reduction), provided that the substitute has the authorization of the timekeeper or the third referee, unless a goal is scored before the two minutes have elapsed, in which case the following conditions apply:

- If there are five players against four or four against three and the team with the greater number of players scores a goal, the team with fewer players may be increased by one player.
- If both teams are playing with three or four players and a goal is scored, neither team is increased until it has served its respective two-minute numerical reduction.
- If there are five players playing against three and the team with five players scores a goal, the team with three players may be increased by one player only.
- If the team with fewer players scores a goal, the game continues without any change in the number of players until the two minutes have elapsed, unless the team with the greater number of players subsequently scores a goal in the interim.

## **Player's Equipment:**

### Players and substitutes sent off

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- If the team with fewer players scores a goal, the game continues without any change in the number of players until the two minutes have elapsed, unless the team with the greater number of players subsequently scores a goal in the interim.

### Compulsory equipment

The compulsory equipment of a player comprises the following separate items:

- a shirt with sleeves
- shorts – the goalkeeper is permitted to wear trousers
- socks – tape or any material applied or worn externally must be the same color as the part of the sock that it is applied to or covers
- shinguard – these must be made of suitable material to provide reasonable protection and be covered by the socks
- footwear

A player whose footwear or shinguard is lost accidentally must replace it as soon as possible and no later than when the ball next goes out of play; if, before doing so, the player scores a goal or is involved in the scoring of a goal by playing the ball in the build-up, the goal is awarded.

### Other equipment

Non-dangerous protective equipment – for example, headgear, facemasks and knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight padded material – is permitted, as are goalkeepers' caps and sports spectacles.

#### Bibs

A bib must be worn over the shirt to identify the substitutes. The bib should be a different color to both teams' shirts and the opposing team's bibs.

#### Head covers

Where head covers (excluding goalkeepers' caps) are worn, they must:

- be black or the same main color as the shirt (provided that the players of the same team wear the same color);
- be in keeping with the professional appearance of the player's equipment;
- not be attached to the shirt;
- not be dangerous to the player wearing it or any other player (e.g. due to an opening/closing mechanism around the neck);
- not have any parts extending out from the surface (protruding elements).

#### Knee and arm protectors

Where knee and arm protectors are worn, they must be the same color as the

main color of the shirt sleeve (arm protectors) or the shorts/trousers (knee protectors), and cannot protrude excessively.

When it is not possible to match these colors, black or white protectors may be used with shirt sleeves/shorts (or trousers, where applicable) of any color. When protectors that do not match the shirt sleeves/shorts (or trousers) are used, all such protectors must be the same color (black or white).

Electronic communication

Players (including substitutes and sent-off players) are not permitted to wear or use any form of electronic or communication equipment (except where electronic performance and tracking systems are allowed).

The use of electronic or communication equipment by team officials is permitted where it directly relates to player welfare or safety or for tactical/coaching reasons but only small, mobile, handheld equipment (e.g. microphones, headphones/earpieces, mobile/smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, laptops) may be used.

A team official who uses unauthorized equipment or who behaves in an inappropriate manner as a result of the use of electronic or communication equipment will be dismissed from the technical area.

Electronic performance and tracking systems (EPTS)

Where wearable technology (WT) as part of EPTS is used in matches played in an official competition organized under the auspices of FIFA, confederations or national football associations, the competition organizer must ensure that the technology attached to the players' equipment is not dangerous and meets the requirements for wearable EPTS under the FIFA Quality Program for EPTS.

Where EPTS are provided by the match or competition organizer during matches played in an official competition, it is the responsibility of that match or competition organizer to ensure that the information and data transmitted from the EPTS to the technical area are reliable and accurate.

The FIFA Quality Program for EPTS supports competition organizers with the approval process for reliable and accurate EPTS.

## **The Referee:**

### **The authority of the referees**

Each match is controlled by one or 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.

### **Decisions of the referees**

The decisions of the referees regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the match, are final. The decisions of the referees, and all other match officials, must always be respected.

The referees may not change a restart decision on realizing it is incorrect or on the advice of another match official if play has restarted or the referees have signaled to confirm the end of the first or second period (including extra time) and left the pitch and its vicinity after the timekeeper has sounded the acoustic signal, or the match has been abandoned.

Sometimes, one of the assistant referees indicates/communicates a YC/RC offence

but the referees do not see the indication or hear the communication until after play has restarted. The referees can still take the appropriate disciplinary action, but the restart associated with the offence does not apply.

The decisions of the referee prevail over those of the second referee whenever there is disagreement between them.

In the event of undue interference or improper conduct, the referee will relieve the second referee or the other match officials of their duties, arrange for them to be substituted and make a report to the appropriate authorities.

## Powers and duties

The referees:

- enforce the Futsal Laws of the Game;
- control the match in cooperation with the other match officials, where applicable;
- ensure that any ball used meets the requirements of Law 2;
- ensure that the players' equipment meets the requirements of Law 4;
- keep a record of match incidents;
- stop the match, at their discretion, for any offences against the Futsal Laws of the Game;
- stop, suspend or abandon the match due to any other issue, such as because of outside interference; e.g. if:
  - the floodlights are inadequate;
  - an object thrown/kicked by a spectator hits a match official, player, substitute or team official – the referee may allow the match to continue or stop, suspend or abandon it depending on the severity of the incident;
  - a spectator blows a whistle which interferes with play – play is stopped and restarted with a dropped ball;
  - an extra ball, other object or animal enters the pitch during the match – the referees must:
    - stop play (and restart with a dropped ball) if it interferes with play, unless the ball is going into the goal and the interference does not prevent a defending-team player playing the ball; in such cases, the goal is awarded if the ball enters the goal (even if contact was made with the ball) unless the interference was by the attacking team;
    - allow play to continue otherwise and have it removed at the earliest possible opportunity;

stop play if, in their opinion, a player is seriously injured and ensure that the player is removed from the pitch. An injured player, including a goalkeeper, may not be treated on the pitch, may only return to the pitch after the match has restarted and must re-enter the pitch from their team's substitution zone. The only exceptions to the requirement to leave the pitch are when:

- players from the same team have collided and need attention;
- a severe injury has occurred;
- a player is injured as a result of a physical offence for which the opponent is cautioned or sent off (e.g. a reckless or serious foul challenge), if the assessment/treatment is completed quickly;
- a penalty kick has been awarded and the injured player will be the kicker;
- a penalty kick has been awarded and the injured player will be the goalkeeper;
- ensure that any player bleeding leaves the pitch. The player may only re-enter on receiving a signal from the referees, who must be satisfied that the bleeding has stopped and there is no blood on the equipment;
- ensure that, if the doctors and/or stretcher-bearers have been authorized to

enter the pitch, the player leaves on a stretcher or on foot. A player who does not comply must be cautioned for unsporting behavior;

- show the relevant caution or red card, if they have decided to caution or send off a player who is injured and has to leave the pitch for treatment, before the player leaves the pitch;
- in instances when play has been stopped, restart play with a dropped ball if the match has not been stopped for another reason or if an injury suffered by a player is not the result of an offence;
- allow play to continue until the ball is out of play if a player is, in their opinion, only slightly injured;

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;

- punish the more serious offence when more than one offence occurs at the same time;
- take disciplinary action against players guilty of cautionable and sending-off offences. They are not obliged to take this action immediately but must do so when the ball next goes out of play;
- take action against team officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and warn them, caution them or send them off from the pitch and its immediate surrounds, including the technical area. If the offender cannot be identified, the senior coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction. A medical team official who commits a sending-off offence may remain if the team has no other medical person available, and act if a player needs medical attention;
- make a decision with the assistance of the other match officials regarding incidents that the referees have not seen;
- ensure that no unauthorized persons enter the pitch;
- indicate the restart of the match after it has been stopped;
- give the signals described in the section entitled Referee and Other Match Official Signals;
- take a position on and around the pitch as described in the relevant sections of the Practical Guidelines for Futsal Referees and Other Match Officials, when required to do so;
- provide the appropriate authorities with a match report, which includes information on any sanctions imposed on players and/or team officials and any other incidents that occurred before, during or after the match.

The referee:

- acts as the timekeeper and third referee in the event that these two other match officials are not present;
- suspends or abandons the match, at their discretion, for any offences against the Futsal Laws of the Game;
- suspends or abandons the match, at their discretion, because of outside interference of any kind.

The second referee:

- replaces a referee who becomes injured or indisposed.

## **Start and Restart of Play:**

A kick-off starts both periods of a match and both periods of extra time, and restarts play after a goal has been scored. Free kicks (direct or indirect), penalty kicks, kick-ins, goal clearances and corner kicks are other restarts.

A dropped ball is the restart when the referees stop play and the Law does not require one of the above restarts.

If an offence occurs when the ball is not in play, this does not change how play is restarted.

## Kick-off

### Procedure

- The referee tosses a coin and the team that wins the toss decides whether to take the kick-off in the first or second period.
- Unless stated otherwise in the competition regulations, the home team chooses which goal to attack in the first period.
- The team that did not take the kick-off in the first period takes the kick-off to start the second period.
- For the second period, the teams change ends and attack the opposite goals.
- At half-time, each team changes benches so that its bench is on the defensive side of the pitch.
- After a team scores a goal, the kick-off is taken by the other team.

For every kick-off:

All players, except the player taking the kick-off, must be in their own half of the pitch.

- The opponents of the team taking the kick-off must be at least 3m from the ball until it is in play.
- The ball must be stationary on the centre mark.
- Whichever of the on-pitch referees is situated on the bench side indicates that the kick-off can be taken by signaling with the whistle.
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.
- A goal may be scored directly against the opponents from the kick-off; if the ball directly enters the kicker's goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opponents.

### Offences and sanctions

If the player taking the kick-off touches the ball again before it has touched another player, an indirect free kick, or for a handball offence, a direct free kick, is awarded.

In the event of any other kick-off procedure offence, the kick-off is retaken.

## Dropped ball

### Procedure

- The ball is dropped for one player of the team that last touched the ball at the position of the ball when play was stopped or where it last touched a player, an outside agent or a match official, unless this was in the defending team's penalty area and the last team to touch the ball was the attacking team. In that case, the ball is dropped for one of the attacking team's players on the penalty-area line at the point nearest to the position of the ball when play was stopped or to where it last touched a player, an outside agent or a match official, following an imaginary line parallel to the touchline (as illustrated below).



All other players (of both teams) must remain at least 2m from the ball until it is in play.

- The ball is in play when it touches the pitch, whereupon any player (from either team) may play the ball.

Offences and sanctions

- The ball is dropped again if it:

- touches a player before it touches the pitch;

- goes out of play after it touches the pitch, without touching a player.

- If a dropped ball enters the goal without touching at least two players, play is restarted with:

- a goal clearance if it enters the opponents' goal;

- a corner kick if it enters the goal of the player to whom the ball is dropped.

However, if a dropped ball enters either goal without touching at least two players due to circumstances beyond the control of the player to whom it is dropped (such as the facility conditions or the ball being improperly dropped), the ball should be dropped again.

## **Ball In and Out of Play:**

### **Ball out of play**

The ball is out of play when:

- it has wholly passed over the goal line or touchline on the floor or in the air;

- play has been stopped by the referees;

- it hits the ceiling.

The ball is also out of play when it touches a match official, remains on the pitch and:

- a team starts a promising attack; or

- the ball goes directly into the goal; or

- the team in possession of the ball changes.

In these three cases involving the ball touching a match official, play is restarted with a dropped ball.

### **Ball in play**

The ball is in play at all other times when it touches a match official, as well as when it rebounds off a goalpost or the crossbar and remains on the pitch.

## **DETERMINING THE OUTCOME OF A MATCH:**

### **Goal scored:**

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.

If the goal is moved or overturned by a defending-team player (including the goalkeeper), whether accidentally or deliberately, and the referees confirm the ball has passed over the goal line and would have entered the goal between the normal position of the goalposts (as stipulated in Law 1), the referees shall award a goal.

If the goal was moved or overturned deliberately, the referees shall caution the offending player.

If an attacking-team player, including the goalkeeper, moves or overturns the goal, the referees shall disallow the goal. If it was deliberate, the player must be cautioned.

If the goalkeeper throws the ball directly into the opponents' goal, a goal clearance shall be awarded, except where domestic rules outlaw the throwing of the ball directly over the halfway line in youth, veterans', disability and/or grassroots futsal. In that case, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the ball crossed the halfway line.

No goal

If one of the referees signals a goal before the ball has passed wholly over the goal line (between the goalposts, as stipulated in Law 1) and immediately realizes that an error has been made, play is restarted with a dropped ball.

### Winning team

The team scoring the greater number of goals during a match is the winner. If both teams score an equal number of goals, or if no goals are scored, the match is drawn.

When the competition rules require there to be a winning team after a drawn match or home-and-away tie, the only permitted procedures to determine the winning team are:

- the away-goals rule
- two equal periods of extra time not exceeding five minutes each. The competition rules must stipulate the duration of the two equal periods of extra time
- kicks from the penalty mark

A combination of the above procedures may be used.

### Kicks from the penalty mark

Kicks from the penalty mark are taken after the match has ended and, unless otherwise stated, the relevant Futsal Laws of the Game apply.

Kicks from the penalty mark are not part of the match.

A player who has been sent off during the match is not permitted to take part; warnings and cautions issued during the match are not carried forward into kicks from the penalty mark.

Procedure

Before kicks from the penalty mark start

- Unless there are other considerations (e.g. pitch condition, safety, camera placement, etc.) or the competition rules specify otherwise, the referee tosses a coin to decide the goal at which the kicks will be taken.
- The referee tosses a coin and the team that wins the toss decides whether to take the first or second kick.
- All players and substitutes are eligible to take kicks from the penalty mark, except those players who, when the match or extra time finishes, are injured or have been sent off.
- Each team is responsible for selecting from the eligible players and substitutes, as well as the order in which they will take the kicks. The referees do not need to be informed of the order.
- If, at the end of the match or extra time, and before the kicks from the penalty mark start, one team has a greater number of players (including substitutes) than its opponents, it may choose to reduce its numbers to the same number as its opponents and the referees must be informed of the name and number

of each player excluded, if any. Any excluded player is not eligible to take part in the kicks, whether as a kicker or as a goalkeeper (except as outlined below).

- A goalkeeper who is unable to continue before or during the kicks may be replaced by a player or substitute excluded to equalize the number of players, but the replaced goalkeeper takes no further part and may not take a kick.
- If the goalkeeper has already taken a kick, the replacement may not take a kick until the next round of kicks.

During kicks from the penalty mark

- Only eligible players and substitutes, the referees and the other match officials are permitted to remain on the pitch.
- All eligible players and substitutes, except the player taking the kick and the two goalkeepers, must remain within the centre circle or either on or close behind the halfway line.
- The goalkeeper of the kicker's team must remain on the pitch, outside the penalty area, approximately in line with but at least 5m away from the penalty mark and on the opposite side of the pitch to the benches and the second referee.
- Any eligible player or substitute may change places with the goalkeeper.
- The kick is completed when the ball stops moving or goes out of play or when the referees stop play for any offence; the kicker may not play the ball a second time.
- The referees keep a record of the kicks.
- If the goalkeeper commits an offence and, as a result, the kick is retaken, the goalkeeper is warned for the first offence; if the same player commits any subsequent offence(s), they are cautioned.
- If the kicker is penalized for an offence committed after the referees have signaled for the kick to be taken, that kick is recorded as missed and the kicker is cautioned.
- If both the goalkeeper and the kicker commit an offence at the same time, the kick is recorded as missed and the kicker is cautioned.
- If, during the kicks from the penalty mark, one team's number of players is reduced, the team with more players may choose to reduce its numbers to the same number and the referees must be informed of the name and number of each player excluded, if any. Any excluded player is not eligible to take further part in the kicks, whether as a kicker or as a goalkeeper (except as outlined above).

Subject to the conditions explained below, both teams take five kicks:

- The kicks are taken alternately by the teams.
- Each kick is taken by a different kicker, and all eligible players and substitutes must take a kick before any player or substitute can take a second kick.
- The above principle continues for any subsequent sequence of kicks but a team may change the order of kickers.
- If, before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could score, even if it were to complete its five kicks, no more kicks are taken.

If the scores are level after both teams have taken five kicks, kicks continue until one team has scored one goal more than the other from the same number of kicks.

- Kicks from the penalty mark must not be delayed for a player who leaves the pitch. The player's kick will be forfeited (not scored) if the player does not return in time to take a kick.

Substitutions and sendings-off during kicks from the penalty mark

- A player, substitute or team official may be cautioned or sent off.
- A goalkeeper who is sent off must be replaced by an eligible player or substitute.
- A player or substitute other than the goalkeeper who is unable to continue may not be replaced.
- The referees must not abandon the match if a team is reduced to fewer than three players.

## **FOULS AND MISCONDUCT:**

Direct and indirect free kicks and penalty kicks can only be awarded for offences committed when the ball is in play.

### Direct free kick

A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offences against an opponent in a manner considered by the referees to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

- charges
- jumps at
- kicks or attempts to kick
- pushes
- strikes or attempts to strike (including head-butt)
- tackles or challenges
- trips or attempts to trip

If an offence involves contact, it is penalized with a direct free kick or penalty kick:

- “Careless” is when a player shows a lack of attention or consideration when making a challenge or acts without precaution. No disciplinary sanction is needed.
- “Reckless” is when a player acts with disregard to the danger to, or consequences for, an opponent and must be cautioned.
- “Using excessive force” is when a player exceeds the necessary use of force and/or endangers the safety of an opponent and must be sent off.

A direct free kick is also awarded if a player commits any of the following offences:

- a handball offence that is deliberate and/or involves the hand/arm making the player’s body unnaturally bigger (except for the goalkeeper within their penalty area)
- holding an opponent
- impeding an opponent with contact
- biting or spitting at someone on the team lists or a match official
- throwing/kicking an object at the ball, an opponent or a match official, making contact with the ball with a held object, or deliberately moving the goal such that the goal makes contact with the ball

All of the offences listed in this section count as accumulated fouls.

### Handling the ball

For the purposes of determining handball offences, the upper boundary of the arm is in line with the bottom of the armpit.

No handball

Additional mark

5m from the

10m mark

Handball

No handball

Handball

Not every touch of a player's hand/arm with the ball is an offence.

It is a direct-free-kick offence if a player:

- deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, for example moving the hand/arm towards the ball.
- touches the ball with their hand/arm when it has made their body unnaturally bigger. A player is considered to have made their body unnaturally bigger when the position of their hand/arm is not a consequence of, or justifiable by, the player's body movement for that specific situation. By having their hand/arm in such a position, the player takes a risk of their hand/arm being hit by the ball and being penalized.

The goalkeeper has the same restrictions on handling the ball as any other player outside the penalty area. If the goalkeeper handles the ball inside their penalty area when not permitted to do so, an indirect free kick is awarded but there is no disciplinary sanction. However, if the offence is playing the ball a second time (with or without the hand/arm) after a restart before it touches another player, the goalkeeper must be sanctioned if the offence stops a promising attack or denies an opponent or the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity.

## Indirect free kick

An indirect free kick is awarded if a player:

- plays in a dangerous manner (as defined below);
- impedes the progress of an opponent without any contact being made;
- is guilty of dissent, using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s) or other verbal offences;
- prevents the goalkeeper from releasing or throwing the ball from the hands or kicks or attempts to kick the ball when the goalkeeper is in the process of releasing or throwing it;
- initiates a deliberate trick for the ball to be passed (including from a free kick) to the goalkeeper with the head, chest, knee, etc. to circumvent the Law, whether or not the goalkeeper touches the ball with the hands; the goalkeeper is penalized if responsible for initiating the deliberate trick;
- scores in the opponents' goal:
  - directly from their hand/arm (including by the goalkeeper), provided that it is accidental and the hand/arm did not make their body unnaturally bigger;
  - immediately after accidentally touching the ball with their hand/arm, provided that the hand/arm did not make their body unnaturally bigger.

If a player does not score immediately after accidentally touching the ball with their hand/arm, play should be continued, provided that the hand/arm did not make the player's body unnaturally bigger.

- commits any other offence not mentioned in the Futsal Laws for which play is stopped to caution or send off a player.

An indirect free kick is also awarded if a goalkeeper commits any of the following offences:

- controls the ball with the hands, arms or feet in their own half of the pitch for more than four seconds;
- after having played the ball in controlled possession, wherever on the pitch, touches it again in their own half of the pitch after it has been deliberately

played to the goalkeeper by a team-mate without an opponent playing or touching it; there is no disciplinary sanction;

- touches the ball with the hands or arms inside their own penalty area after it has been deliberately kicked to the goalkeeper by a team-mate (including from a kick-in);
- where this is outlawed by domestic rules for youth, veterans', disability and/or grassroots futsal, throws the ball directly over the halfway line (the free kick is to be taken from the place where the ball crossed the halfway line).

A goalkeeper is considered to be in control of the ball when:

- the ball is between the hands or between the hand and any surface (e.g. the pitch, own body) or when touching it with any part of the hands or arms;
- holding the ball in an outstretched open hand;
- bouncing it on the pitch or throwing it in the air.

Playing in a dangerous manner

Playing in a dangerous manner is any action that, while trying to play the ball, threatens injury to someone (including the players themselves), and includes preventing a nearby opponent from playing the ball for fear of injury.

A scissors or bicycle kick is permissible provided that it is not dangerous to an opponent.

Impeding the progress of an opponent without contact

Impeding the progress of an opponent means moving into the opponent's path to obstruct, block, slow down or force a change of direction when the ball is not within playing distance of either player.

All players have a right to their position on the pitch; being in the way of an opponent is not the same as moving into the way of an opponent.

A player may shield the ball by taking a position between an opponent and the ball if the ball is within playing distance and the opponent is not held off with the arms or body. If the ball is within playing distance, the player may be fairly charged by an opponent.

Blocking an opponent

Blocking an opponent can be considered a legitimate tactic in futsal, as long as the player blocking the opponent is stationary at the time of any contact and does not deliberately cause contact by moving or extending the body into the opponent's path, and the opponent has the opportunity to evade the block. A block can be performed against an opponent who may or may not have the ball.

## Disciplinary action

The referees have the authority to take disciplinary action from entering the pitch for the pre-match inspection until leaving the pitch after the match ends (including kicks from the penalty mark).

If, before entering the pitch at the start of the match, a player or team official commits a sending-off offence, the referees have the authority to prevent the player or team official from taking part in the match; the referees will report any other misconduct.

If the referees need to caution a named player, substitute or team official before the match starts, they should do so verbally rather than by showing a yellow card, and report it to the appropriate authorities after the match.

If the same person commits another cautionable offence during the match, the referees caution them by showing a yellow card. However, this does not count as

a sending-off offence, as it is the first yellow card shown to the offending person during the match.

A player or team official who commits a cautionable or sending-off offence, either on or off the pitch, against any other person or the Futsal Laws of the Game, is disciplined according to the offence.

The yellow card communicates a caution and the red card communicates a sending-off.

Only a player, substitute or team official may be shown the red or yellow card.

Players and substitutes

Delaying the restart of play to show a card

Once the referees have decided to caution or send off a player, play must not be restarted until the sanction has been administered, unless the non-offending team takes a quick free kick, has a clear goalscoring opportunity and the referees have not started the disciplinary sanction procedure. The sanction is administered at the next stoppage; if the offence was denying the opposing team an obvious goalscoring opportunity, the player is cautioned; if the offence interfered with or stopped a promising attack, the player is not cautioned.

Advantage

If the referees apply the advantage for an offence for which a caution/sending-off would have been issued had play been stopped, this caution/sending-off must be issued when the ball is next out of play. However, if the offence was denying the opposing team an obvious goalscoring opportunity, the player is cautioned for unsporting behavior; if the offence was interfering with or stopping a promising attack, the player is not cautioned.

The advantage should not be applied in situations involving serious foul play, violent conduct, a second cautionable offence or a sixth (or subsequent) accumulated foul, unless there is a clear opportunity to score a goal. The referees must send off the player when the ball is next out of play, but if the player plays the ball or challenges/interferes with an opponent, the referees will stop play, send off the player and restart with an indirect free kick, unless the player committed a more serious offence.

If the advantage is applied and a second yellow card or red card is given after a goal is scored, the sanctioned team continues with the same number of players, with a substitute replacing the sent-off player. If a goal is not scored, the team continues with one fewer player.

If a defending-team player starts holding an attacking-team player outside the penalty area and continues to do so inside the penalty area, the referees must award a penalty kick.

Cautionable offences

A player is cautioned if guilty of:

- delaying the restart of play;
- dissent by word or action;
- entering or leaving the pitch without one of the referees' permission or in contravention of the substitution procedure;
- failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a dropped ball, corner kick, free kick or kick-in;
- persistent offences (no specific number or pattern of offences constitutes "persistent");
- unsporting behavior.

A substitute is cautioned if guilty of:

- delaying the restart of play;
- dissent by word or action;

- entering the pitch in contravention of the substitution procedure;
- unsporting behavior.

Where two separate cautionable offences are committed (even in close proximity), they should result in two cautions – for example, if a player does not enter the pitch via the substitution zone and commits a reckless tackle or stops a promising attack with a foul/handball, etc.

Cautions for unsporting behavior

There are different circumstances when a player must be cautioned for unsporting behavior, including if a player:

- attempts to deceive the referees, e.g. by feigning injury or pretending to have been fouled (simulation);
- commits a direct-free-kick offence in a reckless manner;
- handles the ball to interfere with or stop a promising attack;
- commits any other offence which interferes with or stops a promising attack, except where the referees award a penalty kick for an offence which was an attempt to play the ball;

denies an opponent an obvious goalscoring opportunity through an offence which was an attempt to play the ball and the referees award a penalty kick;

- handles the ball in an attempt to score a goal (whether or not the attempt is successful) or in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent a goal;
- stops a ball going into the goal by a handball offence when the goal is guarded by the goalkeeper;
- makes unauthorized marks on the pitch;
- plays the ball when leaving the pitch after being ordered to leave;
- shows a lack of respect for the game;
- initiates a deliberate trick for the ball to be passed (including from a free kick) to the goalkeeper with the head, chest, knee, etc. to circumvent the Law, whether or not the goalkeeper touches the ball with the hands; the goalkeeper is cautioned if responsible for initiating the deliberate trick;
- verbally distracts an opponent during play;
- deliberately moves or overturns the goal (without denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity).

Celebration of a goal

Players can celebrate when a goal is scored, but the celebration must not be excessive; choreographed celebrations are not encouraged and must not cause excessive time-wasting.

Leaving the pitch to celebrate a goal is not a cautionable offence but players should return as soon as possible.

A player must be cautioned, even if the goal is disallowed, for:

- approaching the spectators in a manner which causes safety and/or security issues;
- acting in a provocative, derisory or inflammatory way;
- covering the head or face with a mask or other similar item;
- removing the shirt or covering the head with the shirt.

Sending-off offences

A player or substitute who commits any of the following offences is sent off:

- denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity by a handball offence (except a goalkeeper within their own penalty area) or by deliberately moving or overturning the goal (such as when this prevents the ball from passing over the goal line)



- denying a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity (provided that the goal is unguarded by the defending goalkeeper) to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal through an offence punishable with a free kick (unless as outlined below)

- serious foul play
- biting or spitting at someone
- violent conduct
- using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s)
- receiving a second caution in the same match

A player or substitute who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the pitch and the technical area.

Denying a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity (DOGSO)

Where a player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity by a handball offence, the player is sent off wherever the offence occurs (except a goalkeeper within their penalty area).

Where a player commits an offence against an opponent within their own penalty area which denies the opponent an obvious goalscoring opportunity and the referees award a penalty kick, the offender is cautioned if the offence was an attempt to play the ball; in all other circumstances (e.g. holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball, etc.), the offending player must be sent off.

A player, sent-off player, substitute or team official who enters the pitch without the required permission from one of the referees or in violation of the substitution procedure and interferes with play, committing an offence by denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity, is guilty of a sending-off offence.

The following must be considered when determining whether it is a DOGSO situation:

- the distance between the offence and the goal
- the general direction of the play
- the likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball
- the location and number of defending outfield players, as well as the goalkeeper
- whether or not the goal is "unguarded"

If a goalkeeper denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity by a handball offence outside the penalty area when their goal is unguarded or only guarded by an outfield defending-team player behind the goalkeeper, the goalkeeper is considered guilty of a sending-off offence.

If the number of attacking-team players is the same as or greater than the number of defending-team players when the goal is not guarded by the goalkeeper and other criteria for DOGSO are met, this can be considered a DOGSO situation.

If a defending-team player commits an offence without attempting to play the ball (e.g. holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball, etc.) and the number of attacking players is greater than the number of defending players, this must be considered a DOGSO situation, even if the goal is guarded by the goalkeeper.

If a substitute, sent-off player or team official denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity by a handball offence or an offence punishable with a free kick, the number of players is reduced in accordance with Law 3.

Serious foul play

A tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent or uses excessive force or brutality must be sanctioned as serious foul play.

Any player who lunges at an opponent with excessive force when challenging for the ball from the front, from the side or from behind, whether using one or both legs, or who endangers the safety of an opponent is guilty of serious foul play.

## Violent conduct

Violent conduct is when a player uses or attempts to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball, or against any other person, regardless of whether contact is made.

Violent conduct may occur either on the pitch or outside its boundaries, whether the ball is in play or not.

The advantage should not be applied in situations involving violent conduct unless there is a clear subsequent opportunity to score a goal. In such a case, the referees must send off the player guilty of violent conduct when the ball is next out of play.

The referees are reminded that violent conduct often leads to mass confrontation between players; therefore, they must try to avert this with strict intervention.

A player or substitute who is guilty of violent conduct must be sent off.

## Team officials

Where an offence is committed by a team official and the offender cannot be identified, the senior team coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction.

## Warning

The following offences should usually result in a warning; repeated or blatant offences should result in a caution or sending-off:

- entering the pitch in a respectful/non-confrontational manner
- failing to cooperate with a match official, e.g. ignoring an instruction/request from an assistant referee
- minor/low-level disagreement (by word or action) with a decision
- occasionally leaving the confines of the technical area without committing another offence

## Caution

Cautionable offences by team officials include (but are not limited to):

- clearly/persistently not respecting the confines of their team's technical area
- delaying the restart of play by their team
- deliberately entering the technical area of the opposing team (non-confrontationally)

dissent by word or action, including:

- throwing/kicking drinks bottles or other objects
- action(s) which show(s) a clear lack of respect for the match official(s), e.g. sarcastic clapping
- excessively/persistently gesturing for a red or yellow card
- acting in a provocative or inflammatory manner
- persistent unacceptable behavior (including repeated warning offences)
- showing a lack of respect for the game

## Sending-off

Sending-off offences include (but are not limited to):

- delaying the restart of play by the opposing team, e.g. holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a player
- deliberately leaving the technical area to:
  - show dissent towards, or remonstrate with, a match official
  - act in a provocative or inflammatory manner
- entering the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner
- deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the pitch
- entering the pitch to:
  - confront a match official (including at half-time and full-time)
  - interfere with play, an opposing player or a match official
- physical or aggressive behavior (including spitting or biting) towards any other person

- receiving a second caution in the same match
- using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s)
- using unauthorized electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as a result of using electronic or communication equipment
- violent conduct

Offences where an object is thrown/kicked (including the ball)

In all cases, the referees take the appropriate disciplinary action:

- reckless – caution the offender for unsporting behavior
- using excessive force – send off the offender for violent conduct

### Restart of play after fouls and misconduct

If the ball is out of play, play is restarted according to the previous decision.

The following restarts apply if the ball is in play and a player commits a physical offence on the pitch:

- against an opponent – an indirect or direct free kick or penalty kick
- against a team-mate, substitute, sent-off player, team official or match official – a direct free kick or penalty kick

All verbal offences are penalized with an indirect free kick.

If, when the ball is in play:

- a player commits an offence against a match official or an opposing player, substitute, sent-off player or team official off the pitch; or
- a substitute, sent-off player or team official commits an offence against, or interferes with, an opposing player or a match official off the pitch:

play is restarted with a free kick on the nearest boundary-line point to where the offence/interference occurred; a penalty kick is awarded if this is a direct-free-kick offence and the nearest boundary-line point lies on the part of the goal line that belongs to the offender's penalty area.

- a substitute, sent-off player or team official commits an offence against a substitute, sent-off player or team official of either team, play is restarted with a dropped ball (see Law 8).

Even if a substitute, a sent-off player or a team official commits a direct-free-kick offence, this counts as an accumulated foul against their team.

If an offence is committed off the pitch by a player against a player, substitute or team official of their own team, play is restarted with an indirect free kick on the boundary line closest to where the offence occurred.

If a player makes contact with the ball with an object (a boot, shinguard, etc.) held in the hand, play is restarted with a direct free kick (or penalty kick).

If a player who is on or off the pitch throws or kicks an object (other than the match ball) at an opposing player, or throws or kicks an object (including a ball) at an opposing substitute, sent-off player, team official or a match official or the match ball, play is restarted with a direct free kick from the position where the object struck or would have struck the person or the ball, or with a penalty kick if this is within the offender's penalty area. If this position is off the pitch, the free kick is taken on the nearest point on the boundary line; a penalty kick is awarded if the closest boundary-line point lies on the part of the goal line that belongs to the offender's penalty area.

If a substitute, sent-off player, player temporarily off the pitch or team official throws or kicks an object onto the pitch and it interferes with play, an opponent or a match official, play is restarted with a direct free kick where the object interfered

with play or struck or would have struck the opponent, match official or ball (or with a penalty kick if this is within the offender's penalty area).

If the referees stop play for an offence committed by a player, on or off the pitch, against an outside agent, play is restarted with a dropped ball, unless an indirect free kick is awarded for leaving the pitch without the referees' permission; the indirect free kick is taken from the point on the boundary line where the player left the pitch.

## **FREE KICKS:**

### Types of free kick

Direct and indirect free kicks are awarded to the opposing team of a player, substitute, sent-off player or team official guilty of an offence.

The four-second count must be shown clearly by one of the referees when a direct or indirect free kick is taken.

#### Indirect-free-kick signal

The referees indicate an indirect free kick by raising one arm above the head; this signal is maintained until the kick has been taken and the ball touches another player or goes out of play.

An indirect free kick must be retaken if either or both of the referees fail(s) to signal that the kick is indirect and the ball is kicked directly into the goal.

#### Ball enters the goal

- If a direct free kick is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a goal is awarded.
- If an indirect free kick is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a goal clearance is awarded to the opponents (unless the indirect-free-kick signal was not made by either or both of the referees).
- If a direct or indirect free kick is kicked directly into the kicker's own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opponents.

### Procedure

All free kicks must be taken:

- within four seconds;
- from the place where the offence occurred, except:
- free kicks to the defending team in its penalty area, which may be taken from anywhere in that area;
- indirect free kicks for an offence committed by the defending team inside its own penalty area or for an applicable offence when play was stopped with the ball inside the defending team's penalty area, which are taken from the penalty-area line at the point nearest to the place where the offence was committed or the ball was located, following an imaginary line parallel to the touchline (as illustrated in the image below);
- indirect free kicks for offences involving a player entering, re-entering or leaving the pitch without permission, which are taken from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped with the ball inside the penalty area, in which case the free kick is to be taken from the penalty-area line at the point nearest to the place where the ball was located when play was stopped, following an imaginary line parallel to the touchline (see the image above). However, if a player commits an offence off the pitch (except against an outside agent), play is restarted with a free kick

taken from the point on the boundary line nearest to where the offence occurred; a penalty kick is awarded if this is a direct-free-kick offence and the closest boundary-line point lies on the part of the goal line that belongs to the offender's penalty area;

- where the Law designates another position.

The ball:

- must be stationary and the kicker must not touch it again until it has touched another player;
- is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.

Until the ball is in play, all opponents must remain:

- at least 5m from the ball;
- outside the penalty area for free kicks inside the opponents' penalty area.

Where two or more defending-team players form a "wall", all attacking-team players must remain at least 1m from the "wall" until the ball is in play.

A free kick can be taken by lifting the ball with a foot or with both feet simultaneously. Feinting to take a free kick is permitted as part of futsal.

If a player, while correctly taking a free kick, deliberately kicks the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again but not in a careless or reckless manner or using excessive force, the referees allow play to continue.

## Offences and sanctions

If, when a free kick is taken, an opponent is closer to the ball than the required distance, the kick is retaken unless the advantage can be applied; notwithstanding, if a player takes a free kick quickly and an opponent who is closer than 5m from the ball intercepts it, the referees allow play to continue. However, an opponent who deliberately prevents a free kick from being taken quickly must be cautioned for delaying the restart of play.

If, when a free kick is taken, an attacking-team player is less than 1m from a "wall" formed by two or more defending-team players, an indirect free kick is awarded to the defending team.

If, when a free kick is taken by the defending team inside its penalty area, any opponents are inside the penalty area because they did not have time to leave, the referees allow play to continue.

If an opponent who is in the penalty area when the free kick is taken, or who enters the penalty area before the ball is in play, touches or challenges for the ball before it is in play, the free kick is retaken.

If, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball again before it has touched another player, an indirect free kick is awarded; if the kicker commits a handball offence:

- a direct free kick is awarded;
- a penalty kick is awarded if the offence occurred inside the kicker's penalty area, unless the kicker was the goalkeeper, in which case an indirect free kick is awarded.

If the free kick is not taken within four seconds, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team from the place where the kick was to be taken, except when a team commits such an offence inside its own penalty area; in that case, the indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team on the penalty-area line at the point nearest to the place where the offence was committed, following an imaginary line parallel to the touchline (see the image in section 2 of this Law).

## Accumulated fouls

- Accumulated fouls are those penalized with a direct free kick or penalty kick as

specified in Law 12.

- The accumulated fouls committed by each team in each period are recorded in the match report.
- The referees may allow play to continue by applying the advantage if the offending team has not previously committed five accumulated fouls and the opposing team is not denied a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity.
- If they apply the advantage, the referees should use the mandatory signals to indicate an accumulated foul to the timekeeper and third referee as soon as the ball is out of play.

If extra time is played, accumulated fouls from the second period of the match continue to count during extra time.

### Direct free kick beginning with the sixth accumulated foul by each team in each period (DFKSAF)

A direct free kick beginning with the sixth accumulated foul is awarded for the sixth accumulated foul and all subsequent such fouls committed by a team in each period. However, if the sixth or subsequent accumulated foul is committed inside the offender's penalty area, a penalty kick is awarded instead.

A goal may be scored directly from a DFKSAF and the kicker must attempt to do so. The defending team's players may not form a "wall" to defend a DFKSAF.

#### Procedure

- The ball must be stationary on the 10m mark or at the place where the DFKSAF offence was committed (provided that this was in the area between the defending team's goal line and the imaginary line outside the penalty area, 10m from and parallel to the goal line).
- If the DFKSAF offence was committed in this area, the kicker may choose to take the DFKSAF either on the 10m mark or from the place where the foul was committed.
- The goalposts, crossbar and goal net must not be moving.
- The player taking the DFKSAF must be clearly identified.

The defending goalkeeper must be at least 5m away from the ball until it has been kicked.

- The players, other than the kicker and defending goalkeeper, must be:
  - on the pitch;
  - at least 5m from the ball;\*
  - behind the ball;
  - outside the penalty area.

\* A player's position at a restart is determined by the position of their feet or any part of their body which is touching the pitch (see Futsal Terms).

- After the players have taken positions in accordance with this Law, one of the referees signals for the DFKSAF to be taken.

The player taking the DFKSAF must kick the ball towards the opponents' goal and with the intention of scoring a goal directly; back-heeling is permitted provided the ball moves towards the opponents' goal and it is an attempt to score directly.

- The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves towards the opponents' goal.
- The kicker must not play the ball again until it has touched another player.

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- If a DFKSAF is awarded when a period is about to end, the period will be considered to have ended when the DFKSAF has been completed. The kick is considered completed when, after the ball is in play, one of the

following occurs:

- the ball stops moving or goes out of play;
- the ball is played by any player (including the kicker) other than the defending goalkeeper;
- the referees stop play for an offence by the kicker or a team-mate of the kicker.

#### Offences and sanctions

- Once the referees have signaled for a DFKSAF to be taken, the kick must be taken within four seconds. If the kick is not taken within four seconds, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team from the place where the kick was to be taken.

- If, before the ball is in play, one of the following occurs:

- the player taking the DFKSAF or a team-mate commits an offence:

- if the ball enters the goal, the kick is retaken;

- if the ball does not enter the goal, the referees stop play and restart with an indirect free kick to the opposing team;

except for the following situations, when play will be stopped and restarted with an indirect free kick to the opposing team, regardless of whether or not a goal is scored:

- a DFKSAF is not kicked towards the opponents' goal and with the intention of scoring a goal directly;

- a team-mate of the identified kicker takes the kick: the referees caution the player who took the kick;

- the kicker feints to kick the ball after having completed the run-up (feinting in the run-up is permitted): the referees caution the kicker.

- the defending goalkeeper commits an offence:

- if the ball enters the goal, a goal is awarded.

- if the ball misses the goal or rebounds from the crossbar or goalpost(s), the kick is only retaken if the goalkeeper's offence clearly impacted on the kicker;

- if the ball is prevented from entering the goal by the goalkeeper, the kick is retaken.

If the goalkeeper's offence results in the kick being retaken, the goalkeeper is warned for the first offence in the game; if the same player commits any subsequent offence(s) in the game, they are cautioned.

- a team-mate of the defending goalkeeper commits an offence:

- if the ball enters the goal, a goal is awarded;

- if the ball does not enter the goal, the kick is retaken; the offender is warned for the first offence in the game. If the same player commits any subsequent offence(s) in the game, they are cautioned.

- a player of both teams commits an offence, the kick is retaken unless a player commits a more serious offence (e.g. illegal feinting); the offenders are warned for the first offence in the game. If the same players commit any subsequent offence(s) in the game, they are cautioned.

- both the defending goalkeeper and the kicker commit an offence at the same time, the kicker is cautioned and play restarts with an indirect free kick to the defending team.

An opponent who obstructs the kicker from moving towards the ball when a DFKSAF is going to be taken must be cautioned, even if the offender was respecting the 5m minimum distance.

If, after the DFKSAF has been taken:

the kicker touches the ball again before it has touched another player:

an indirect free kick (or a direct free kick for a handball offence) is awarded to the opposing team.

the ball is touched by an outside agent as it moves towards the opponents' goal:

the kick is retaken unless the ball is going into the goal and the interference does not prevent the defending goalkeeper or a defending-team player from playing the ball, in which case the goal is awarded if the ball enters the goal (even if contact was made with the ball) unless the interference was by the attacking team.

the ball rebounds into the pitch from the goalkeeper, the crossbar or the goalposts and is then touched by an outside agent:

the referees stop play;

play is restarted with a dropped ball at the position where the ball touched the outside agent

## **THE PENALTY KICK:**

A penalty kick is awarded if a player commits a direct-free-kick offence inside their penalty area or off the pitch as part of play as outlined in Law 12.

A goal may be scored directly from a penalty kick.

### **Procedure**

The ball must be stationary on the penalty mark and the goalposts, crossbar and goal net must not be moving.

The player taking the penalty kick must be clearly identified.

The defending goalkeeper must remain on the goal line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts, without touching the goalposts, crossbar or goal net, until the ball has been kicked.

The players other than the kicker and goalkeeper must be:

- on the pitch;
- at least 5m from the penalty mark;
- behind the penalty mark;
- outside the penalty area.

After the players have taken positions in accordance with this Law, one of the referees signals for the penalty kick to be taken.

The player taking the penalty kick must kick the ball forwards; back-heeling is permitted provided the ball moves forwards.

When the ball is kicked, the defending goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot touching, in line with or behind the goal line.

The ball is in play when it is kicked forwards and clearly moves.

The kicker must not play the ball again until it has touched another player.

If a penalty kick is awarded when a period is about to end, the period will be considered to have ended once the penalty kick has been completed. The kick is considered completed when, after the ball is in play, any of the following occurs:

- the ball stops moving or goes out of play;
- the ball is played by any player (including the kicker) other than the defending goalkeeper;
- the referees stop play for an offence by the kicker or a team-mate of the kicker.



## Offences and sanctions

Once the referees have signaled for a penalty kick to be taken, the kick must be taken. If it is not taken, one of the referees may take disciplinary action before signaling again for the kick to be taken.

If, before the ball is in play, one of the following occurs:

- the player taking the penalty kick or a team-mate commits an offence:
- if the ball enters the goal, the kick is retaken;
- if the ball does not enter the goal, the referees stop play and restart with an indirect free kick to the opposing team;

except for the following situations, when play will be stopped and restarted with an indirect free kick to the opposing team, regardless of whether or not a goal is scored:

⚠ a penalty kick is kicked backwards;

⚠ a team-mate of the identified kicker takes the kick: the referees caution the player who took the kick;

⚠ the kicker feints to kick the ball after having completed the run-up (feinting in the run-up is permitted): the referees caution the kicker.

- the defending goalkeeper commits an offence:
- if the ball enters the goal, a goal is awarded;
- if the ball misses the goal or rebounds from the crossbar or goalpost(s), the kick is only retaken if the goalkeeper's offence clearly impacted on the kicker;
- if the ball is prevented from entering the goal by the goalkeeper, the kick is retaken.

If the goalkeeper's offence results in the kick being retaken, the goalkeeper is warned for the first offence in the game; if the same player commits any subsequent offence(s) in the game, they are cautioned.

- a team-mate of the defending goalkeeper commits an offence:
- if the ball enters the goal, a goal is awarded;
- if the ball does not enter the goal, the kick is retaken.
- a player of both teams commits an offence, the kick is retaken unless a player commits a more serious offence (e.g. illegal feinting).
- both the defending goalkeeper and the kicker commit an offence at the same time, the kicker is cautioned and play restarts with an indirect free kick to the defending team.

An opponent who obstructs the kicker from moving towards the ball when a penalty kick is going to be taken must be cautioned, even if the offender was respecting the 5m minimum distance.

If, after the penalty kick has been taken:

- the kicker touches the ball again before it has touched another player:
- an indirect free kick (or a direct free kick for a handball offence) is awarded to the opposing team.
- the ball is touched by an outside agent as it moves forwards:
- the kick is retaken unless the ball is going into the goal and the interference does not prevent the defending goalkeeper or a defending-team player from playing the ball, in which case the goal is awarded if the ball enters the goal (even if contact was made with the ball) unless the interference was by the attacking team.
- the ball rebounds into the pitch from the goalkeeper, the crossbar or the goalposts and is then touched by an outside agent:
- the referees stop play;
- play is restarted with a dropped ball at the position where the ball touched the outside agent.

## **THE KICK-IN:**

A kick-in is awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball when the whole of the ball passes over the touchline on the floor or in the air, or when the ball hits the ceiling while in play.

A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-in:

- If the ball enters the opponents' goal, a goal clearance is awarded.
- If the ball enters the kicker's goal, a corner kick is awarded.

### **Procedure**

At the moment of delivering the ball:

- the ball must be stationary on the touchline at the point where it left the pitch or the nearest point to where it touched the ceiling;
- only the kicker may be off the pitch (except as otherwise provided for in the Futsal Laws of the Game – see the section on authorized departure from the pitch within the Interpretation and Recommendations part of the Practical Guidelines for Futsal Referees and Other Match Officials);
- all opponents must stand at least 5m from the point on the touchline where the kick-in is to be taken.

The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.

The ball must be put into play within four seconds of the team being ready to put the ball into play or the referee signaling that the team is ready to put it into play.

If the kick-in is taken and then, after it has been in play, the ball goes off the pitch over either touchline without touching any other player, a kick-in is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the point where the ball went off the pitch.

If a player, while correctly taking a kick-in, deliberately kicks the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again but not in a careless or reckless manner or using excessive force, the referees allow play to continue.

The kicker must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player.

### **Offences and sanctions**

If, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball again before it has touched another player, an indirect free kick is awarded; if the kicker commits a handball offence:

- a direct free kick is awarded;
- a penalty kick is awarded if the offence occurred inside the kicker's penalty area, unless the kicker was the goalkeeper, in which case an indirect free kick is awarded.

An opponent who unfairly distracts or impedes the kicker (including moving closer than 5m to the point from where the kick-in is to be taken) is cautioned for unsporting behavior and, if the kick-in has been taken, an indirect free kick is awarded.

If a team-mate of the kicker is off the pitch to deceive an opponent or take up an advantageous position when the kick-in is taken, a kick-in is awarded to the opposing team and the offending player is cautioned.

For any other offence, including if a kick-in is not taken within four seconds, a kick-in is awarded to the opposing team.

## **THE GOAL CLEARANCE:**

A goal clearance is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line on the floor or in the air, having last touched a player of the attacking team, and a goal is not scored.

A goal may not be scored directly from a goal clearance. If the ball directly enters the goal of the team whose goalkeeper took the goal clearance, a corner kick is awarded to the opponents. If the ball directly enters the goal of the team that did not take the goal clearance, the said team is awarded a goal clearance.

### **Procedure**

- The ball is thrown or released from any point within the penalty area by the goalkeeper of the defending team.
- The ball is in play when it is thrown or released and clearly moves.
- The ball must be put into play within four seconds of the team being ready to put the ball into play or the referee signaling that the team is ready to put it into play.
- Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.

### **Offences and sanctions**

If, after the ball is in play, the goalkeeper who took the goal clearance touches the ball again before it has touched another player, an indirect free kick is awarded; if the goalkeeper commits a handball offence:

- a direct free kick is awarded;
- an indirect free kick is awarded if the offence occurred inside the goalkeeper's penalty area.

If, when a goal clearance is taken, any opponents are inside the penalty area because they did not have time to leave, the referees allow play to continue. If an opponent who is in the penalty area when the goal clearance is taken, or who enters the penalty area before the ball is in play, touches or challenges for the ball before it is in play, the goal clearance is retaken.

If a player enters the penalty area before the ball is in play and fouls or is fouled by an opponent, the goal clearance is retaken and the offender may be cautioned or sent off, depending on the offence.

If the goal clearance is not taken within four seconds, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team.

Where this is outlawed by domestic rules for youth, veterans', disability and/or grassroots futsal, if the goalkeeper throws the ball directly over the halfway line, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the ball crossed the halfway line.

For any other offence, the goal clearance is retaken.

## **THE CORNER KICK:**

A corner kick is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line on the floor or in the air, having last touched a player of the defending team, and a goal is

not scored.

A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick, but only against the opposing team; if the ball directly enters the kicker's goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opponents.

### Procedure

- The ball must be placed in the corner area nearest to the point where the ball passed over the goal line.
- The ball must be stationary and is kicked by a player of the attacking team.
- The ball must be put into play within four seconds of the team being ready to put the ball into play or the referee signaling that the team is ready to put it into play.
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves; it does not need to leave the corner area.
- At the moment when the ball is put into play, only the kicker may be off the pitch (except as otherwise provided for in the Futsal Laws of the Game – see the section on authorized departure from the pitch within the Interpretation and Recommendations part of the Practical Guidelines for Futsal Referees and Other Match Officials).
- Opponents must remain at least 5m from the corner arc until the ball is in play.

### Offences and sanctions

If, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball again before it has touched another player, an indirect free kick is awarded; if the kicker commits a handball offence:

- a direct free kick is awarded;
- a penalty kick is awarded if the offence occurred inside the kicker's penalty area, unless the kicker was the goalkeeper, in which case an indirect free kick is awarded.

If a player, while correctly taking a corner kick, deliberately kicks the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again but not in a careless or reckless manner or using excessive force, the referees allow play to continue.

If a team-mate of the kicker is off the pitch to deceive an opponent or take up an advantageous position when the corner kick is taken, a goal clearance is awarded to the opposing team and the offending player is cautioned.

For any other offence, including if a corner kick is not taken within four seconds or from the corner area, a goal clearance is awarded to the opposing team.

## **619Futsal League Rule Amendments:**

No Sliding by players other than the goalkeeper while inside their penalty area.

### Procedure

- a direct free kick is awarded

Goalkeeper throws may not be into the opponent's penalty area.

## Procedure

- a indirect free kick is awarded at the top of the arc where the violation occurs.

Example: Team A goalkeeper throws the ball in to Team B's penalty area. Team B restarts with a indirect kick at the top of their penalty area.

# Glossary of Futsal Terms:

## A

Abandon

To end/terminate a match before the scheduled finish

Action area

Area of the pitch where the ball is and the play is taking place

Accumulated foul

A foul committed by a player that is penalized by a direct free kick or penalty kick; each team's tally is added up, starting from zero, in the first and second periods of the match. If extra time is needed, accumulated fouls from the second period of the match are added to those committed during extra time

Advantage

The referees allow play to continue when an offence has occurred if this benefits the non-offending team

Assessment of injured player

Quick examination of an injury, usually by a medical person, to see if the player requires treatment

Away-goals rule

Method of deciding a match/tie when both teams have scored the same number of goals; goals scored away from home count double

## B

Blocking

Action whereby a player takes up or moves into a position to distract an opponent or prevent an opponent from reaching the ball or a particular area of the pitch, but without deliberately causing contact

Brutality

An act which is savage, ruthless or deliberately violent

## C

Careless

Any action (usually a tackle or challenge) by a player which shows a lack of attention, consideration or precaution

Caution

Disciplinary sanction which results in a report to a disciplinary authority, indicated by showing a yellow card; two cautions in a match result in a player, substitute or team official being dismissed (sent off)

Challenge

An action when a player competes/contends with an opponent for the ball

Charge (an opponent)

Physical challenge against an opponent, usually using the shoulder and upper arm (which is kept close to the body)

## D

Deceive

Act to mislead/trick the referees into giving an incorrect decision/disciplinary sanction which benefits the deceiver and/or their team

Deliberate

An action which the player intended/meant to make; it is not a “reflex” or unintended reaction

Direct free kick

A free kick from which a goal can be scored by kicking the ball directly into the opponents’ goal without it having to touch another player

Discretion

Judgement used by referees or other match officials when making a decision

Dissent

Public protest or disagreement (verbal and/or physical) with a match official’s decision; punishable with a caution (yellow card)

Distract

To disturb, confuse or draw attention (usually unfairly)

Dropped ball

A “neutral” method of restarting play – the referees drop the ball for one player of the team that last touched the ball; the ball is in play when it touches the ground

## E

Electronic performance and tracking system (EPTS)

System which records and analyses data about the physical and physiological performance of a player

Endanger the safety of an opponent

Put an opponent in danger or at risk (of injury)

Excessive force

Using more force/energy than is necessary

Extra time

A method of trying to decide the outcome of a match, involving two equal additional periods of play not exceeding five minutes each

## F

Feinting

An action which attempts to confuse an opponent. The Futsal Laws define permitted and “illegal” feinting

Flying goalkeeper

A goalkeeper who (temporarily) plays as an outfield player, often stationed in the opponents’ half and leaving the goal unguarded. This role may be performed by the team’s regular goalkeeper or another player brought on to replace the usual goalkeeper specifically for this purpose

## H

Holding offence

A holding offence occurs only when a player’s contact with an opponent’s body or equipment impedes the opponent’s movement

# I

Impede

To delay, block or prevent an opponent's action or movement

Indirect free kick

A free kick from which a goal can only be scored if another player (of any team) touches the ball after it has been kicked

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Influence area

Area of the pitch where the ball is not being played, but a dispute between players may occur

Intercept

To prevent a ball reaching its intended destination

# K

Kick

The ball is kicked when a player makes contact with it using the foot and/or the ankle and it clearly moves

Kicks from the penalty mark

Method of deciding the result of a match by each team alternately taking kicks until one team has scored one more goal and both teams have taken the same number of kicks (unless during the first five kicks for each team, one team could not equal the other team's score even if it scored from all its remaining kicks)

# N

Negligible

Insignificant, minimal

# O

Offence

An action which breaks/violates the Futsal Laws of the Game

Offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s)

Behavior (verbal and/or non-verbal) which is rude, hurtful or disrespectful: punishable with a sending-off (red card)

Outside agent

Any person who is not a match official or on the team list (players, substitutes and team officials) or any animal, object, structure, etc.

# P

Penalize

To punish, usually by stopping play and awarding a free kick or penalty kick to the opposing team

Pitch

The playing area confined by the touchlines and goal lines, as well as goal nets, where used

Play

Action by a player which makes contact with the ball

Playing distance

Distance to the ball which allows a player to touch the ball by extending the foot/ leg or jumping or, for goalkeepers, jumping with arms extended. The distance depends on the physical size of the player

### Playing time

The time during which the ball is in play, as timed using the chronometer; the timekeeper stops the chronometer when the ball goes out of play or play is stopped for any other reason

## Q

### Quick free kick

A free kick taken (with either referee's permission) very quickly after play was stopped

## R

### Reckless

Any action (usually a tackle or challenge) by a player which disregards (ignores) the danger to, or consequences for, the opponent

### Restart

Any method of resuming play after it has been stopped

### Restart position

A player's position at a restart is determined by the position of their feet or any part of their body which is touching the pitch

## S

### Sanction

Disciplinary action taken by the referees

### Sending-off

Disciplinary action when a player is required to leave the pitch for the remainder of the match having committed a sending-off offence (indicated by a red card). A team official may also be sent off

### Serious foul play

A tackle or challenge for the ball that endangers the safety of an opponent or uses excessive force or brutality; punishable with a sending-off (red card)

### Serious injury

An injury that is judged to be bad enough that play must be stopped, but for which medical staff should swiftly remove the player from the pitch for treatment or assessment, if necessary, so that play may resume

### Severe injury

An injury that is judged to be so serious that play must be stopped and it is necessary for medical staff to perform treatment or an assessment on the pitch before removing the injured player, such as in potential cases of concussion, broken bones or spine injuries

### Signal

Physical indication from the referees or any match official; usually involves movement of the hand or arm, or use of the whistle

### Simulation

An action which creates a wrong/false impression that something has occurred when it has not (see also "deceive"), committed by a player to gain an unfair advantage

### Spirit of the game

The main/essential principles/ethos of futsal as a sport but also within a particular match

### Suspend

To stop a match for a period of time with the intention of eventually restarting play, e.g. due to leaks on the pitch or severe injury



# T

## Tackle

A challenge for the ball with the foot (on the floor or in the air)

## Team list

Official team document usually listing the players, substitutes and team officials

## Team official

Any non-player listed on the official team list, e.g. coach, physiotherapist, doctor

## Technical area

Defined area for the team officials and substitutes which includes seating

## Timeout

A one-minute break requested by a team in each of the two periods

## Two-minute numerical reduction

A situation when a team has its number of players reduced for two minutes of playing time after having a player sent off; the number of players may, in certain circumstances, be increased before the two minutes have elapsed if the opposing team scores a goal

# U

## Undue interference

Action/influence which is unnecessary

## Unsporting behavior

Unfair action/behavior: punishable with a caution

# V

## Violent conduct

An action, which is not a challenge for the ball, which uses or attempts to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent or when a player deliberately strikes someone on the head or face unless the force used is negligible

## REFEREE TERMS

### Match official(s)

General term for person or persons responsible for controlling a futsal match on behalf of a football/futsal association and/or competition under whose jurisdiction the match is played

### “On-pitch” match officials

#### Referee

The main match official, who operates on the pitch. Other match officials operate under the referee’s control and direction. The referee is the final decision-maker

#### Second referee

The second match official who operates on the pitch. Other match officials operate under the referee’s control and direction. The second referee is always under the referee’s supervision

#### Other match officials

Competitions may appoint other match officials to assist the referees:

#### Third referee

- An assistant referee who particularly assists the referees with controlling the team officials and substitutes, recording match data such as accumulated fouls and making decisions

#### Reserve assistant referee

- An assistant referee who replaces a third referee or timekeeper who is unable to continue

Timekeeper

- A match official whose main duty is to control the playing time