

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Question:** How many teams have registered in my age group so far – I want to be sure that the division is competitive or not too competitive?

Answer: *LI Futsal* will provide and publish a list of teams that have registered usually in early December and a list of tentative bracket alignments will be published soon after registration closes. Coaches will have some time to review and comment on the alignments (adjustments to the brackets will be made based on coach comments) prior to the league starting the scheduling process. So, my recommendation to all inquiries of this nature, is to register your team **as soon as you make the decision to play futsal** for the Winter season, and indicate that you will “**pay by check**” when asked for the payment solution on-line. This way, there is absolutely no financial risk for the team, but does reserve your spot and allows *LI Futsal* to start aligning divisions as well as publish the list of registered teams sooner. If too many teams waited until they were sure of the competition level, we would have great difficulty aligning divisions and teams may get closed out – **so signing up early** actually enhances the competition level throughout the league – it is a **Win – Win** situation for all!

Also, *Long Island Futsal* is now one of the largest futsal leagues in the country (**thanks to you!**), and as a result, we have consistently have had multiple divisions in the same age group.

2. **Question:** Can you guarantee that our team will play back to back games every week and how and when do I make schedule requests?

Answer: Unfortunately, we cannot **guarantee** (but we do come pretty darn close) back to back games as there are so many “sister teams” that register in each group, that it becomes mathematically impossible. However, we do our best to accommodate this request and do meet them a great percentage of the time. **Schedule requests/conflicts or any other special requests** must be entered on-line with your team’s registration. The requests must be put in before the deadline (usually a few days before we start the scheduling process – the deadline date for requests will provided to you when your receive your teams registration email confirmation

REQUESTS NOT ENTERED BEFORE THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE OF , WILL NOT BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. Even if you had previously e-mailed us, talked with LI Futsal staff or any other type of communication regarding a conflict or request , IT NEEDS TO BE ENTERED HERE (ON-LINE) OR IT WILL NOT BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. A CONFLICT IS DEFINED AS A DATE (S) YOUR TEAM CANNOT PLAY (Only ONE conflict date is allowed) PLEASE BE SPECIFIC – IF YOUR TEAM IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR THE WEEKEND, THEN BOTH DATES MUST BE LISTED - THIS WILL BE CONSIDERED AS ONE CONFLICT.

If you have no conflicts or coach multiple teams, put NA in the box., put N/A in the "Conflict Comments" box. Requests for schedule changes after the deadline will only be considered if there is gym space available and the opposing teams agrees.

3. **Question:** Why does a “sister team” have to pay the league registration fee?

Answer: The “sister team” concept which was incorporated into the league several years ago, was done to allow coaches to move players from one of their teams to another on a week to week basis. This made it easier for coaches to split their outdoor team into two or more futsal teams without a concern for: a) who they would permanently roster on each team for the whole futsal season, and b) the concern of one futsal team being short one week not being able to borrow players from their sister team. This concept also allowed high school and club teams in the same age group to roster players on both teams Coaches throughout the league have been overwhelmingly in favor of this change, as they felt (as do I) that the Winter futsal season is primarily about development, and getting the players touches on the ball. Since the “sister team” plays a full 8 game schedule, utilizing the same court and referee time as any other team, the sister teams must pay a registration fee. *LI Futsal* does, however, offer discounts to clubs or trainers that register two or more teams.

Also, players only pay the **player registration fee once**, no matter how many futsal teams they are on.

If you enter two sister team, both teams will be receive a \$25 per team discount – for example: if you enter three teams, then all three teams will receive a \$25 per team discount. DISCOUNTS ARE ONLY APPLIED WHEN PAYING BY CHECK, VENMO or ZELLE

4. **Question:** What is the [player registration](#) fee and what does it cover?

Answer: The [player registration](#) seasonal fee is \$10.00 per player and covers the registration and insurance of players with [Eastern New York State Soccer Association](#).

5. **Question:** What days, locations and times will my team be playing this season?

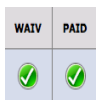
Answer: We can give general answers to these questions i.e. the older (U13 and above) will play in the larger gyms **or** the younger age groups usually start first in the day.

Since, we try to follow the same format as the previous year; it may be helpful to look at last year's schedule (but that is not a guarantee either). We will make an attempt to provide days and locations as soon as we have all the gym requests approved by the school districts.

Makeups due to school cancellations or other re- schedules (request submitted) may very possibly on an opposite day you are not scheduled to play – due to school availability and it is very difficult to schedule a make-up on the same day as your typical playing day due to both team having to “double up” (play two games in one day) – so please be prepared for that possibility

6. **Question:** Can a team play their game without submitting a roster or can a player play without being on the roster and registered (waiver signed and paid)?

Answer: [Long Island Futsal](#) must stay in compliance regarding registered teams and players being verified prior to each game. NO if a team does not have a printed roster to submit to the referee prior to the game then the team cannot play and all players on the roster must show having their waiver signed and the insurance fee paid indicated by double check marks.



Only players that show completed waiver and paid are eligible to play.

7. **Question:** Do teams have to pay the referees fees?

Answer: **NO**, the referees are paid by the Long Island Futsal League.

8. **Question:** What is the deadline for submitting requests and/or conflict dates?

Answer: The deadline for submitting requests is typically the second week in December.

The request **must be made using the on-line** registration form – NOT by email or phone

9. **Question:** Are there games scheduled on Super Bowl and Winter Recess weekends?

Answer: In 2022, the league will not have scheduled games on February 13, 2022 Super Bowl Sunday Games will be scheduled on Winter Recess weekends.

10. **Question:** Are coaches required to have a background check?

Answer: Yes, all coaches are required to have a current background check on file with ENYSSA.

11. **Question:** What about weather cancellations?

Answer: Games may be cancelled due to the weather and/or if the school district closes the school district for any reason. Please check the website and your email in the event of questionable weather. We will also call those teams that are scheduled to play the early morning games. Makeups for cancelled games will be scheduled based on school availability – most likely we will have to extend the season a week. There will be no refunds for one or two cancelled games, although Long Island Futsal will consider refunds or a credits if there are multiple (more than 2) games cancelled during the season that cannot be made up.

12. Question: What are the rule differences between outdoor soccer and futsal and what are the **Long Island Futsal** specific rules?

Answer: - *see below:*

Differences between Soccer and the LONG ISLAND FUTSAL LEAGUE Rules

Soccer	Futsal (Five-a-Side Soccer)
#5 Ball	#4 Ball – for U13 and older #3 Ball for U12 and younger 30% less bounce
11 players	5 players
3 substitutions	Unlimited “flying” substitutions– player being subbed must be off the playing field before substitute enters otherwise a player penalty and team loses possession.
Throw-in (player must have both feet on or behind side line)	Kick-in (opponents must 5 yds. from ball) – ball must be put in play within 4 seconds Kicks-ins are an indirect kick, so cannot score directly from a kick in. Player can kick-in to their goalie without a penalty. (player must have one foot on or behind side line). (the four second count starts when player retrieves the ball and places the ball on the touchline – ball should not be moving) Team loses possession if longer than four seconds
Running Clock	Running Clock
45 minute halves	50' games (25'.halves) for the LONG ISLAND FUTSAL LEAUGE (teams do NOT switch goals at half time)
No time-outs	No time-outs
Goal kicks	Goal Clearance (throw) – ball is in play when it is released and clearly moves; cannot throw over midfield – ball must be put in play within 4 seconds (the four second count starts when player retrieves the ball and enters the goalie penalty area)
Some contact	No shoulder charges or sliding tackles & NO intentional sliding of any kind
No absolute time limit to restart game	4-second rule on restarts
Offside Rule	No Offside Rule
Goalkeeper steps	No restrictions, but limited to 4 seconds
Goalkeeper cannot touch by hand a ball kicked back	Goalkeeper cannot touch by hand a ball played back
Unlimited back passes to Goalkeeper	One back pass to Goalkeeper (* U12 and younger can play unlimited back passes to goalie)
No sub for player sent off	Player sent off can be substituted for after 2 minutes or other has scored
Corner kick placed in arch	Corner kick placed on corner

Additional Points of Emphasis for the LONG ISLAND FUTSAL LEAGUE

- *After gaining possession of the ball with his/her hands, a goalkeeper may **not** throw the ball over the halfway line without it first touching the floor or a player. He/She may **not** punt or drop kick the ball after making a save (restart at midfield)*
- ***NO HAND CHECKING OR SHIELDING WITH THE ELBOW – this will be called a “push” – indirect foul. Players who receive a yellow card must serve a 3 minute penalty in which they may not play***
- *Goalkeepers may dive forward on their knees but may not extend their feet **The GK is allowed to slide with hands first in an attempt to clear or save the ball, if in referees’ judgment, his slide is an attempt only to make contact with the ball and not the opponent***
- ***If GK slide is reckless (a foot in air, a hook, rolling tackle) it is a foul and possibly a cardable offense.***
- [**Accumulated Fouls**](#)

- are those sanctioned by a direct free kick mentioned in Law 12.

Direct Free Kick

A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following six offenses in a manner considered by the referees to be careless, reckless or excessively forceful:

- kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- trips or attempts to trip an
- jumps at an opponent
- charges an opponent, even with the shoulder
- strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- pushes an opponent

A direct free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following six offenses:

- holds an opponent ("hand checking" is considered holding)
- spits at an opponent
- slides in an attempt to play the ball when it is being played or attempted to be played by an opponent [sliding tackle]
- sliding when there IS an opponent near the ball
- touches the opponent before the ball when attempting to win possession
- handles the ball deliberately
(except for the goalkeeper in his own penalty area)

A direct free kick is taken from the place where the infringement occurred, unless the free kick has been awarded to the defending team in its own penalty area, in which case the free kick may be taken from any point inside the penalty area.

At the FIFTH foul by a team in the half and for every subsequent foul their opponents get a free shot at goal from the penalty mark, 7 meters from the goal line. The foul count resets to zero at the start of the second half.

Please take the time to read all the rules and additional points of emphasis posted on the website.

Thank you

*Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any other questions or suggestions – Thank you
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