



Players Indoor Sports Futsal League Rules & Policies

We will make our league as much like playing professional futsal as possible by following the following rules/guidelines:

- FIFA Futsal Laws Of The Game (see “Futsal Laws of the game” at <https://www.fifa.com/who-we-are/official-documents/#fifa-laws-regulations>)
- US Soccer Federations Player Development Initiative (https://static.ussdcc.com/users/148963/897090_eng-october2017pdi.pdf) in the “7v7 Standards Of Play” section (“the PDI” referenced below).

with a few modifications and house rules (see below) to accommodate the realities of playing small-sided games indoors and the age of our participants.

Note that the rules below may be superseded by guidance provided by Players Indoor via email and/or on the league web site on an as-needed basis so please make sure you read the web site and any emails you receive from us pertaining to rules adjustments.

Quick Reference

The rules people most commonly ask about for playing indoors are:

1. Number a-side: Futsal is always 5v5 (4+keeper).
2. Slide-tackling: No slide-tackling but sliding to keep a ball in is OK.
3. Throw-ins: No throw-ins, those are indirect kick-ins.
4. 3-line rule: There is no 3-line rule.
5. Substitutions: Substitutions are not on the fly.
6. Walls: There are no walls.
7. Blue card: We have no blue cards, just yellow and red.
8. Offside: There are no offsides.
9. Goalie punting: Goalies cannot punt or drop-kick the ball.
10. Guest players: With restrictions stated below, guest players are allowed.
11. Footwear: no cleats, flat indoor shoes only.

For details on those and everything else, see below.

Modifications To The Laws Of The Game

FIFA Law 1: The Court

1. The court is approx. 100' long by 60' wide.
2. The court is a snap-together shock-absorbent sports surface.

FIFA Law 2: The Ball

1. We will use the following age-appropriate ball sizes:
 - a. Up to U10 = Size 3 if requested by both teams
 - b. In all other cases = Size 4.

FIFA Law 3: The Players

1. Birth year ages apply, see <http://illinoisyouthsoccer.org/age-group-chart>.
2. EVERY PLAYER must sign a waiver before participation
3. We play 5v5 (4+keeper) at all ages.
4. No max roster size but max 10 players allowed at each game (see Rationale below).
5. A player can only be rostered on one team but similar age+gender+ability players rostered on other teams in our league are allowed to guest-play at games (see Rationale below).
6. We do not require each team to provide a roster to the ref before each match.

FIFA Law 4: The Players' Equipment

1. Each team must have a dark shirt and a light-colored shirt at every game.
2. Numbers are not required on jerseys.
3. All players on a team must wear the same color shirt as each other.
4. In the event of a color clash, if neither team volunteers then a coin toss will decide which team changes.
5. Indoor shoes are required – NO cleats or molded shoes allowed.

FIFA Law 5: The Referee

1. No changes

FIFA Law 6: The Other Match Officials

1. There will be no other match officials, just one center referee.

FIFA Law 7: The Duration Of The Match

1. Each match will be two 20-minute halves, running clock.
2. Each team is allowed to call one 1-minute timeout per game during which time the clock will not be stopped.
3. Timeouts are not allowed to be called in the last 3 minutes of the game.
4. There will be no additional time added for stoppages of any kind.

FIFA Law 8: The Start And Restart Of Play

1. No changes.

FIFA Law 9: The Ball In And Out Of Play

1. No changes.

FIFA Law 10: Determining The Outcome Of A Match

1. A match result is determined strictly by goal difference unless a team forfeits.

2. The league standings will be based on 3 points for a win, 1 for a tie, and 0 for a loss.
3. Max goal difference of 10 will be recorded to discourage teams from running up the score.
4. Goal difference up to a max of 10 per game will be considered if/when necessary to determine a tiebreaker for league champion.
5. When teams play different numbers of games in a season their points and goal differences will be averaged to allow equivalent comparison before standings are determined.

FIFA Law 11: Offside

1. No changes (there is no offside in futsal).

FIFA Law 12: Fouls And Misconduct

1. No changes BUT it's worth noting since there is no equivalent in regular soccer that an indirect free kick is awarded if a goalkeeper commits any of the following offences:
 - a. Controls the ball with the hands, arms or feet in his/her own half of the pitch for more than four seconds.
 - b. After playing the ball, wherever on the pitch, touches it again in his/her 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.

FIFA Law 13: Free Kicks

1. No changes BUT it's worth noting since there is no equivalent in regular soccer that 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.

FIFA Law 14: The Penalty Kick

1. No changes.

FIFA Law 15: The Kick-In

1. No changes.

FIFA Law 16: The Goal Clearance

1. 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.

FIFA Law 17: The Corner Kick

1. No changes.

Adopted/Modified PDI Rules *(see the PDI for all details)*

PDI Rule 1: Concussion Initiative

1. We do not allow heading the ball **at any age**.
2. A deliberate header will result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team.

PDI Rule 2: Build Out Line

1. No changes (there is no build out line in futsal).

PDI Rule 3: Goalkeeper Restarts (*under "Build Out Line" in the PDI*)

1. Goalkeepers are not allowed to punt or drop-kick the ball.
2. If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.
3. If the punt or drop kick occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken from the free kick spot at the tip of the penalty arc.

Additional House Rules

House Rule 1: Sliding

1. No slide-tackling is allowed.
2. Sliding to stop the ball is allowed as long as you are not within 5 yards of another player and a safe distance from the wall.
3. If a player breaks this rule, it shall be treated as a foul.

House Rule 2: Blue Cards

1. There are no blue cards, only yellow and red.

House Rule 3: The 3 Line Rule

1. There is no 3-line rule in futsal.

House Rule 4: Add a player

1. When down by 5 goals or more, the losing team can, at their own discretion but after informing the referee, add a player until the goal difference gets down to 2 at which time the extra player must leave the field.
2. If a team adds a player, the final score will be recorded as the 5-goal-difference that was in place the first time a player was added.
3. Only 1 additional player is allowed total, regardless of score.

House Rule 5: Sidelines

1. Only rostered players and a maximum of 2 coaches may be on the sidelines during the game.
2. All other spectators should remain off the turf surface and behind the closed door to the field.
3. No additional player equipment aside from a game ball and a water bottle should be brought onto the field of play, this includes extra balls and player bags.

House Rule 6: Entering/leaving the field

1. Pre-game warm-ups are very limited, and all players should be ready to play directly after the previous game.

2. Play will start at the scheduled start time and end on time, NO exceptions.
3. Keep bench doors closed at all times, except during substitution.
4. "Jumping the Boards" is not permitted.
5. Teams must leave the bench area as soon as possible to allow for sanitization of the bench area and the next team's fast access to the bench.

House Rule 7: Age/Gender Differences Between Teams

1. We will schedule as many games as possible between as similar ability teams as possible with as little difference in age or gender as possible, unless a team requests to play up a year or a girls requests to play boys.
2. Girls can play on boys or co-ed teams, boys cannot play on girls teams without previous written approval from the league manager.
3. A co-ed team is one which has at least 3 girls on the roster and will have all of them play in most games with similar playing time to the boys, otherwise it's considered a boys team even if it has girls on the roster.
4. A player can play on a 1-year-older team but be aware they might then need to play against a team that's older still.
5. A team may be scheduled to play against a similar-ability (adjusted for gender) team of a different gender.
6. A team may be scheduled to play against a similar-ability (adjusted for age) team that is no more than 1 year older or 1 year younger (except for high-school age teams where the age difference could be greater).
7. When 1 team requests a size 4 ball and the other size 5, the size 5 ball will be used.

House Rule 8: Tiebreakers

1. Individual games do not require tiebreakers, they can and in a draw.
2. For league standings tiebreakers will be decided in the following order:
 - a. head to head results between the tied teams
 - b. ONLY if all teams have same number of head to head games: goal difference in head to head games
 - c. ONLY if all teams have same number of head to head games: goals against in head to head games
 - d. goal difference in pool play games
 - e. goals against in pool play games
 - f. coin toss

House Rule 9: Age Challenge

1. If you want to challenge the age of a player on the opposing team, the head coach (and only the head coach, not a parent or team manager of anyone else) must tell the ref before the start of the game. If the challenged coach cannot produce proof of the challenged player's age then that player must not play the game. Please do not do this frivolously as it creates a negative environment and in 99% of cases you're just plain wrong and the challenged player IS age-appropriate, no matter what you might think otherwise. Also be sure that YOU have all of your documentation with you before you challenge another coach as (s)he will almost certainly immediately challenge the age of your players in return.

House Rule 10: Social Distancing

3. Max 1 spectator allowed per player.
4. All social distancing guidelines must be followed.
5. Masks must be worn to enter the building.
6. Follow the traffic arrows.
7. Please leave the building as soon as your game is over.

House Rule 11: Miscellaneous

1. NO unsportsmanlike behavior.
2. NO food or drinks on the fields.
3. Respect the refs at all times.
4. The decisions of the referees are FINAL.
5. Adults: please keep in mind at all times that the kids are watching you and learning from you how to behave!
6. **Any complaints please have your coach put in writing and email to our league manager, Doug Kluener, doug@playersindoor.com.**

Rationale For Roster Size And Guest Players

1. No max roster size but max 10 players allowed at each game.
 - a. No max roster size allows an outdoor team that normally plays 9v9 or 11v11 and so has a larger roster than 14 to register all of their players to play on 1 team if they like, they just can't bring all players to all games.
 - b. 10 is the max roster size for 5v5 teams in NISL and other leagues so max 10 at a game allows a 5v5 outdoor team to show up intact.
 - c. 10 allows for every player to play 50% of the time and avoid a crowded bench area.
2. A player can only be rostered on one team but similar age+gender+ability players rostered on other teams in our league are allowed to guest-play at games.
 - a. We do not want any team to bring a "ringer" to win a game.
 - b. We understand that sometimes a coach doesn't have enough rostered players available for a given game and so needs to bring guest players or cancel/forfeit at short notice.
 - c. We understand that a coach may need to split their much larger outdoor team into 2 or even 3 teams to play 5v5 and allow adequate playing time for all players but that shouldn't force them to then get by with just a fixed 6-7 person roster for their 5v5 team.
 - d. We considered restricting this to only bringing players from the same club but we often have players playing with their club team who also want to play sometimes with their friends on some different parent-coached team.