



FUTSAL PROGRAM RULES

The Sporting Arkansas Futsal Program is intended to provide a way for all players to have friendly competition in a controlled environment.

SECTION 1 - FACILITY RULES

- 1) REFEREE / OFFICIAL / COACH ABUSE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**
- 2) CHILDREN MUST BE ATTENDED BY AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES ON THE PROPERTY**
- 3) NO FOOD INSIDE THE GYM (Food is allowed in the observation room)**
- 4) ALL GARBAGE MUST BE PLACED IN DUMPSTER OUTSIDE**
- 5) NO PROFANE LANGUAGE OR UNSPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOR AT ANYTIME ON PREMISES**
- 6) NO ALCOHOL, DRUGS, OR TOBACCO**
- 7) NO PETS ALLOWED ON PREMISES**

SASC reserves the right to remove any player, parent, spectator, or coach who violates any of the above rules, the spirit of the game of Futsal, or continues to be problematic to players, coaches, or referees, for any term deemed proper by the staff.

SECTION 2- PROGRAM / LEAGUE RULES

1) GENERAL

- a) Games will be played on the Sporting Arkansas Futsal Court
- b) FIFA Regulation size futsal balls according to age will be used.
 - i. U12 and Under - FIFA SIZE 3 FUTSAL BALL
 - ii. U13 and Older - FIFA SIZE 4 FUTSAL BALL
- c) Games will be 2 x 20 minute halves with a 5-minute break for half time.
- d) Teams may have a maximum of 9 players per team; 5 players are on the court at one time, 4 court players and 1 goalkeeper. (exception for the 3v3 Academy League)
- e) There are unlimited substitutions
 - i. Referee must be notified if the goalkeeper is changed.
 - ii. Substitutions are allowed at the referee's discretion at stoppages of play.

2) Player Equipment

- a) All players within a team must wear the same color playing shirt. Uniforms are highly encouraged, but a coordinated color will suffice
- b) All players must wear non-marking, athletic footwear.
- c) Shin-guards are mandatory and must be covered by the socks at all times.
- d) Players may not wear jewelry, any other sharp adornments or anything that may be deemed dangerous to other players.

3) League Standings and Tiebreakers

- a) Standings where appropriate will be determined by the following point structure:
 - i. 3 Points for a win
 - ii. 1 Point for a draw
 - iii. 0 Points for a loss
- b) Drawn games will be recorded as such, unless they are in a significant semi- final / final.
- c) In the event a major semi-final / final is drawn, a penalty shootout will take place.
 - i. A shootout will be run in accordance with penalty kick guidelines above. Teams must nominate five different players to take a shot at goal. The winner is determined by the team with the most goals scored out of five attempts.
 - ii. If, after five attempts, the game is still drawn, sudden death will occur, and the first team to score when their opponent doesn't, will win.
- d) Tiebreakers:
 - i. Winner of Head to Head Competition
 - ii. Most Wins
 - iii. Goal Differential
 - iv. Goals For (most goals scored)
 - v. Goals Against (least goals allowed)
- e) Forfeits of any kind will be recorded as a 5-0 victory to the non-offending team. Multiple defaults will be met with a warning, and subsequent removal from the league should it continue.

4) Team Benches

- a) Each team will have a team bench made up of chairs.
- b) Teams are required to stay at their own bench and substitutions are required to come directly from the team bench.
- c) A referee area will be in place between benches where players sitting out of the match for disciplinary infractions will be placed until the requirement is completed.

SECTION 3- GAME / PLAY RULES

1) The Start and Restart of Play

- a) From a kick-off:
 - i. The ball must be played forward. A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick off.
 - ii. The opposing team must be inside their own half, outside the center circle.
- b) The Ball In and Out of Play
 - i. When the ball goes out over the sideline, it is then placed on the sideline.
 - a. From a stationary position, the ball is kicked into the court to another player.
 - ii. Corner kicks will be taken in the instance a ball touches a defending player before crossing the goal line.
 - iii. In the instance that an attacking player is the last to touch it before it crosses the goal line, the ball restarts in the GKs hands, where they can play it out.

- iv. All restarts of play must be completed within 6 seconds. The 6 seconds begins at the referee's discretion.
 - v. The opposing team must be at least 3 yards away from the ball for any restart of play.
 - vi. For a ball to be out of play all of the ball must have crossed the side or goal line, either on the ground or in the air.
- c) For a goal to be scored, all of the ball must have crossed the goal line between the goal posts, either on the ground or in the air.
 - a. Play to be restarted by a kick-off.
 - d) A goal cannot be scored directly from any restart of play from the ball being out of play.
 - e) Whether a ball is in or out of play, or a goal being scored, is at the discretion of the referee.
 - f) If the ball touches the roof, play will be restarted by the GK of the team who did not strike the ball into the roof.

2) Free Kicks

- a) Direct and indirect free kicks will be awarded at the discretion of the referee.
- b) A direct free kick allows the kick taker to score directly from the free kick.
 - i. A direct free kick will be awarded in the following instances; - A foul e.g. tackle from behind, slide tackle, careless/excessive contact. A direct free kick may also be awarded for any behavior the referee deems to be unsportsmanlike e.g. purposely hand-balling, shirt- pulling etc.
- c) To score from an indirect free kick the ball must touch another player before entering the goal.
 - i. An indirect free kick will be awarded for all other offences such as; - accidental handball, goalkeeping infringement, breach of the goalkeeping area by court players, restart of play.
 - ii. Goalkeeping infringements include; not restarting play within 6 seconds, handling the ball when passed back by a team mate, handling the ball outside the goalkeepers area.
- b) Kick takers are permitted a 'one step distance' as a run up to take kicks.
- c) All opposing players must be 3 yards from the ball on direct and indirect free kicks.

3) Fouls and Misconduct

- a) All decisions are at the discretion of the referee.
- b) There are no slide tackles of any kind or tackling a player from behind.**
- c) Playing on the ground is permitted when not endangering a player at the referee's discretion
- d) Physical contact is expected, but should be kept to an absolute minimum e.g. minimal shoulder-to-shoulder contact will be allowed, and judged by the referee.
- e) The referee has the ability to remove a player from the game for continued fouls, accumulation of a 10 team fouls, or unsportsmanlike conduct. This may result in a temporary 'sin-bin' or complete removal from the remainder of the game.
 - a. A 'sin-bin' will result in a player being removed for between 3-5 minutes, with no substitution allowed.

- b. This decision is at the discretion of the referee
- f) There is NO offside.

4) The Penalty Kick

- a) A penalty Kick can be awarded in the following instances at the discretion of the Referee
 - a. the goalkeeper deliberately handles the ball outside the goalkeeper area in order to stop a shot at goal.
 - b. a foul when a player is in the act of scoring a goal in the GK Area
- b) The penalty taker must be identified before the kick is taken
- c) Penalty kick takes place from the PK Mark
 - a. For U13 and older the mark is near the basketball free throw line.
 - b. For u12 and younger the mark is near the GK arc.
- d) All other players must be at least 3 yards away, and behind the line of the ball
- e) The U13 or older penalty taker is permitted one step back before kicking the ball
- f) The referee will give a signal to indicate when the penalty will be taken.

5) Goal Keepers

- a) Goalkeepers have 6 seconds to control the ball/restart play inside their own area.
- b) Goalkeepers are not allowed to pick up a back pass from any of their team mates.
- c) Goalkeepers restart with a throw when the ball has gone out of play behind their goal.
- d) **Drop-kicks and punts are not allowed.**
- e) Goalkeepers may be changed during the match, as long as the referee is notified of the change

6) The Referee

- a) All games will be controlled by a referee, who enforces the rules of the game
- b) Referees have the right to warn, ask to leave or eject from the premises, any player or spectator whom they feel is bringing the game into disrepute.
- c) Referee's may play an advantage should a team not be negatively affected by a technicality or foul immediately to improve the flow of the game.
- d) The referee's decision is final.

SECTION 3- CONDUCT OF SPECTATORS, PARENTS, PLAYERS, & COACHES

1) The Referee

- a) SASC reserves the right to impose sanctions including removal from premises and termination of a team from the Futsal season based upon referee/official abuse from coaches, players, or spectators.
- b) Any physical contact with a referee will result in immediate game abandonment, forfeiture of game of offending team, and immediate league ejection for remainder of Futsal season.
- c) Referee will provide 1 warning to coach if verbal abuse occurs.
 - i. Coach will let parents know that they have been warned.

- ii. 2nd offense is immediate termination of game with forfeit of offending team

2) Spectator Conduct

- a) Spectators are not to address the referee FOR ANY REASON.
 - i. Any concerns over referee quality, match safety, or any other match issue should be addressed to the staff in a professional and respectful way.
 - ii. All decisions made by the staff are final.
- b) Spectators may not address the opposing team FOR ANY REASON.
- c) Spectators may cheer on their child, spouse, or friend and encourage them;
 - i. disrespectful gestures, unsportsmanlike conduct, or inappropriate/derogatory speech will not be tolerated.

SASC reserves the right to remove any player, parent, spectator, or coach who violates any of the above rules,, the spirit of the game of Futsal, or continues to be problematic to players, coaches, or referees, for any term deemed proper by the staff.

SASC Reserves the right to edit, change, update, and interpret the rules stated above at its discretion. All decisions of the staff are considered final.