What’s in this document?

• The main differences between futsal and outdoor football.
• All the differences from the official FIFA futsal rules.
• Reminder of some of the main futsal rules.

For all things that are not explicitly stated here, official FIFA rules shall be applied.

Differences from outdoor football

• **No intentional contact is allowed, i.e. no tackles or charges.**
• **All acrobatic play is forbidden,** e.g. no high legs, bicycle kicks, etc.
• No offside.
• The equivalent of the throw-in is the kick-in; essentially an indirect free kick with the ball stationary on the sideline.
• The equivalent of the goal kick is the goal clearance (see below);
• If a player is sent off (red card) his team will play for **2 minutes** with one player less. After the 2 minutes are elapsed (or early if a goal is scored by the opposite team) the player cannot play again but he can be replaced by a substitute.
• **The goalie is not also a normal player:**
  - When he is inside his own half of the pitch the goalie has 4 seconds to play the ball, i.e. even with his feet inside or outside of the penalty area.
  - When he is outside his own half of the pitch the goalie becomes a normal player.
  - For the goalie to play the ball in his own half a second time after the goal clearance (**even with his feet**) the ball must, at least once, either touch an opponent or cross the halfway line, or after a throw-in.
  - In addition to above rules the goalie may not take the ball with the hands when this is passed back to him intentionally from a teammate (same as in outdoor football).

Differences from official FIFA Futsal Rules

• The accumulated fouls bonus is 4 instead of 5.
• For each match there will be one main referee and an assistant referee.
• For practical reasons the captain is only one, and remains so for the entire game, even if he is not one of the five players on the pitch.
• When the ball touches the ceiling or the basketball board it is out of play. Play shall be restarted with either a kick-in (ceiling) or a corner or goal clearance (basketball board).

Number of players

• A team may play a maximum of 5 players at any one time and may make use of a maximum of 7 others as substitutes.
• The match shall be abandoned (either forfeit for the team with sufficient players or a draw) if:
  - at the start of the match the minimum number of players per team is less than 3;

Note: For reasons of readability the masculine form was chosen in this text, nevertheless, the information refers to both genders.
- in the event of players sent off, fewer than 3 players are left in either of the teams.

**Substitutions**

- Unlimited number of flying substitutions are permitted, to be performed as follows:
  - only from the touchline, and within 5 meters from the halfway line;
  - permission from the referee is not needed unless the player to be substituted is the goalkeeper;
  - a substitute may enter the field only after the player being replaced has left it;
  - a substitute must enter the field from the same place as the player coming off.
- An incorrectly executed flying substitution is a cautionable offence.

**Free kicks, corners, kick-in**

- During the execution of a direct or indirect free kick, players of the opposing team shall not approach within 5 meters of the ball until it is in play.
- This distance is 3 meters for corner kick and kick-in.
- A goal may not be scored directly from a kick-in but it may be scored from a corner kick.
- If the kick is not carried out within 4 seconds from the time the player concerned has taken possession of the ball, the referees shall award:
  - in case of a free kick: an indirect free kick to opposing team;
  - in case of a corner: an indirect free kick from the corner, to the opposing team;
  - in case of a kick-in: kick-in to the opposing team.
- for free kicks, the attacking team has the right to ask for the 5 meter distance. In this case, the referee must whistle before the free kick may be taken (otherwise, if the distance is not asked, the free kick may be taken without waiting for the referee’s whistle).
- Indirect free kicks for the attacking team assigned for offenses inside the defending team’s penalty area shall be taken from the 6 m line at the place nearest to where the infringement occurred (see fig.).

![Diagram](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

**Goal Clearance**

- The goalkeeper throws (i.e. with his hands) the ball outside the penalty area (even in the other midfield), from anywhere inside the penalty area within 4 seconds of being ready to do so.
- If the ball is in play and the goalkeeper touches the ball again before it has touched another player: an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.
• A goal may not be scored directly from a goal clearance.

Direct free kicks

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

• kicks or attempts to kick an opponent;
• trips an opponent (i.e. throwing or attempting to throw him by using the legs or by stopping in front of or behind him);
• jumps at an opponent;
• charges an opponent (also with the shoulder);
• strikes or attempts to strike an opponent;
• pushes an opponent;
• tackles an opponent;
• holds an opponent;
• spits at an opponent;
• handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area);
• Sliding in an attempt to play the ball while an opponent is playing it or is about to play it (sliding tackle) is forbidden, except for the goalkeeper in his own penalty area, provided that he does not endanger the safety of an opponent. However, if someone slides to keep the ball in play, block a ball going into the goal, to score, etc., in a manner deemed not to be dangerous by the ref, such will be permitted.

Indirect free kicks

An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper commits any of the following four offences:

• controls the ball with his hands or feet in his own half of the pitch for more than four seconds;
• after playing the ball, he touches it again in his own half of the pitch after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate without an opponent playing or touching it;
• touches the ball with his hands inside his own penalty area after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate;
• touches the ball with his hands inside his own penalty area after he has received it directly from a kick-in by a team-mate;

An indirect free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if, in the opinion of the referees, a player:

• plays in a dangerous manner in the presence of an opponent;
• impedes the progress of an opponent;
• prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands;

Penalty kicks
• A penalty kick is awarded against a team that commits any of the offences for which a direct free kick is awarded, inside its own penalty area and while the ball is in play.

• Before the penalty kick is taken the referees must confirm that the goalkeeper is on the goal line between the goalposts and facing the kicker.

**Accumulated fouls (new rule)**

• are those penalized with a direct free kick or penalty kick
• the accumulated fouls committed by each team in each period (half time) are recorded
• the referees may allow play to continue by applying the advantage if the team has not previously committed four accumulated fouls and the opposing team is not denied a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity
• if they apply the advantage, the referees indicate an accumulated foul to the timekeeper and second referee as soon as the ball is out of play
• if extra time is played, accumulated fouls from the second period continue to accumulate during extra time
• at the Half time the fouls counter is reset to zero.

**Accumulated fouls: 10 meters penalty kick**

• If a player commits his team’s fifth (or higher) accumulated foul in the opposing team’s half or in his own half in the area bordered by the halfway line and an imaginary line parallel to the halfway line passing through the second penalty mark, the free kick is taken from the second penalty mark (10 meters).
• The location of the second penalty mark is made 10 m from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them.
• If a player commits his team’s fifth (or higher) accumulated foul in his own half of the pitch between the imaginary 10 m line and the goal line but outside the penalty area, the attacking team decides whether to take it from the second penalty mark or the place where the infringement occurred
• Beginning with the fifth accumulated foul, additional time is allowed to take a direct free kick at the end of each half or at the end of each period of extra time.

**Accumulated fouls: 10 meters penalty kick - Execution**

• The player who shoots the free kick has to be identified by their opponents and the referees.
• The goalkeeper must remain in his own penalty area at least 5 m from the ball;
• Shooter’s teammates cannot form a barrier to prevent the shot.
• Moreover, all the players, with the exception of the shooter and the defending goalkeeper must position itself:
  o within the playground;
  o outside the penalty area;

*Note: For reasons of readability the masculine form was chosen in this text, nevertheless, the information refers to both genders.*
- behind the line of the ball;
- at least 5 meters from the ball.

- The shooter must kick the ball with the intention of scoring a goal, and the latter is in play as soon as it is kicked and moved forward. With the exception of the defending goalkeeper and the shooter, no other player may touch the ball before it has been touched by the defending goalkeeper, was bounced from the posts or the crossbar or is out of the deadlock.

**RED card**

A player shall be cautioned with a blue card if in the opinion of the referees, he:

- he intentionally impedes a goal-scoring opportunity;
- is guilty of serous foul play;
- is guilty of violent conduct;
- uses foul or abusive language;
- he persistently infringes the laws of the game;
- he is guilty of ungentlemanly conduct.

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**Yellow card**

The yellow card is used to communicate that a player or substitute has been cautioned.

A player is cautioned if he commits any of the following seven offences:

- Unsporting behavior
- Dissent by word or action
- Persistent infringement of the Futsal Laws of the Game
- Delaying the restart of play
- Failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or kick-in (defending players)
- Entering or re-entering the pitch without the referees’ permission or in contravention of the substitution procedure
- Deliberately leaving the pitch without the referees’ permission

A substitute is cautioned if he commits any of the following four infringements:

- Unsporting behavior
- Dissent by word or action
- Delaying the restart of play
- Entering the pitch in contravention of the substitution procedure