

NAV Futsal Rules Simplified

- 25 minute periods
- x2 halves
- 4 outfield players + 1 goalkeeper
- No offsides

1. Fouls

Futsal is not considered a full-contact sport. Players may collide into one another in 50-50 challenges, but players can not initiate off-the-ball contact. Most common fouls in futsal are tripping, grabbing, shielding, obstruction, and other instances where two players come together without 100% intent to play the ball.

2. Accumulation

Each half, both teams have 5 fouls to give. After they accumulate their fifth foul, the opposing team has a direct free kick from the second penalty spot. The total number of accumulated fouls resets each period.

3. Time Limit

Each re-start has a 4 second time limit. Referees use their hands in a full arm motion to count the time down. After 4 seconds, if a player has not restarted the ball the referee will blow the whistle and signify that possession needs to change. If a player enters the containing line before the ball is played, the team that kicked the ball will get to re-take the kick.

4. Restarting the ball

When the ball goes out on the touchline...

The ball is restarted by being kicked in. Players will grab the ball, place the ball on the line, (the ball needs to almost be still) and kick it in when they're ready (with-in the 4 second time limit.)

4b. Containing Line

When a player is restarting the ball from the touchline, the opposing players need to be behind the containing line. The containing line is represented by black dash marks that run the length of the court.

Opposing players must be about 3 yds away from the kicker. Opposing players can be in the containing line, further down the court, (as long as they're about 3 yds away) If a player enters the containing line before the ball is played, the team that kicked the ball will get to re-take the kick.

When the ball goes out over the goal-line...

The goalkeeper can throw the ball back in to play. He only needs to be within the penalty area. This is considered a Goal Clearance. The goal clearance can be thrown anywhere on the court. All goal clearances are indirect.

5. Substitutions

Teams have unlimited substitutions in all periods of the game. Players can enter on the fly, which means there does not have to be a stoppage in play. More so in futsal than in soccer, it is imperative that the exiting player is off the court before the incoming player comes on the court.

5a. Substitution Zone

There is a bracket marked in black tape next to the touchline. This signifies the substitution zone. Players who are about to enter the game can only enter the game through this zone. The penalty for this infraction is a drop-ball for the opposing goalkeeper.

6. Time Outs

Both teams have one, 30 second time out for each period. Time outs do not rollover to the next period should your team decide to not use the time out. Players can signify a timeout by telling the referee or making their hands into a T shape.

7. Pinnies

Players that are standing on the sidelines should have pinnies on to signify that they are not in the game. When a player is substituted off the field, the player coming on, will give the exiting player the colored shirt so it is clear for officials and opposing players who is a live player and who is not.

8. Bookings

The same two cards are used in Futsal that are used in Soccer. The ramifications for teams are different. If someone is shown a yellow card, they need to be substituted off the field for 2 minutes. They can be replaced. If a red card is shown, the team will need to play down for 5 minutes. After 5 minutes, the team will be able to play at full strength again. (The player who was ejected, will not be able to return.)

8a Soft Red: A soft red card is when a player accumulates 2 yellows for plays where they intend to play the ball, but ended up committing a foul. The player will be ejected from the game, but they will not be suspended for further games.

8b Hard Red: If a player is sent off with a straight red or booked with a yellow card twice for unsporting conduct, the player will be ejected from the game and a league sanction will follow. Teams will follow 'Section 8 booking' rules.

9. Miscellaneous:

- If a ball hits the ceiling, the opposing team will have an indirect free kick from the spot that the ball hit the ceiling.
- All free kicks are indirect except kicks taken from either penalty spot.