

Spring 2017 Newsletter



Bringing Real Futsal to North Alabama

Volume 4, Issue 1, March 2017

Thanks go to the league's Gold Level Sponsor:



The Fourth Winter Futsal Season was (H)UUUGE !

This winter season was huge with 28 teams playing 99 games during the season and post-season tournament. Adult teams split into upper and lower divisions; 15 youth teams played in four divisions from U11 thru U16; 7 different basketball gyms were used in Huntsville and Madison. This was the biggest winter season thus far.

Congratulations to the **RCUDA Madison 03 Boys** team, shown below, for winning their division consisting of 6 teams. They also won the 3-game Challenge during this winter's **Dixie Defrost Futsal Tournament**. Other youth divisions played this winter but didn't compete for winners. They benefitted by getting lots of touches on the ball as well as having lots of fun.



Congratulations to teams **The Expendables** and **BS&T**, shown below, for coming out on top of the Champions Division and Division I, respectively. Each adult division played six games round-robin, played semi-finals and then a Final and a 3rd Place Match. The Expendables also won the adult division in the **Dixie Defrost Futsal Tournament** this winter.



Summer 2017 Futsal Season Outlook



Based on recent rapid growth in interest, expectations are for ten adult teams split into upper and lower competitive divisions to complete this summer. Further expectations, based on recent youth participation but an appreciation of summertime vacation plans, are for growth in youth team participation. It's looking probable to have some youth teams participate in a skills camp manner with futsal scrimmages to cap off the sessions. This growth could easily exceed the availability of gyms to play in. We must soon find or build a facility for futsal *first*, a facility that has basketball and volleyball as secondary sports. Wouldn't that be great? (Nothing negative here about basketball and volleyball – just basketball courts are often smaller than optimal when used for futsal.)

Venues for the next Summer Futsal Season

This past winter the league used seven gyms for the youth and adult futsal games. Games were played in gyms at the Academy for Academics and Arts, at James Clemens High School, at Liberty Middle School, at Oakwood University, at Providence Elementary School, at Richard Showers Recreation Center and at St. John Paul II Catholic High School. At the moment of publishing this newsletter, adult teams will be playing at Oakwood University on Monday and Wednesday nights. Location of youth games are TBD. Regardless, typically a team would play once a week.

Second Annual Dixie Defrost Futsal Tournament



The Second Annual Dixie Defrost Futsal Tournament was conducted on January 21 and 22, 2017. Numerous teams competed and several teams were crowned victors. If you did not participate, then it was your lose. Playing in a futsal tournament is absolutely the greatest fun. Kids love it! See tournament results in this newsletter opening



USFF S.E. Regional Futsal Tournament

This year's USFF S.E. Regional Futsal Tournament was played in February in Charleston, SC, again. But this time it grew in quantity of teams to need two separate consecutive weekends, one for youth and one for adult teams. Nationals will be in San Jose, CA, again this summer, in July.



North Alabama *FUTSAL* League President, Darrell Schmidt, attended the nationals in San Jose last year as a futsal referee. It was a great learning experience being part of top notch futsal games in the San Jose convention center which housed nine futsal courts under a single roof. Three concurrent tournaments, from youth teams to international adult teams, were played and took four days to complete. For a sample of this tournament, view the MLF Final Videos on Facebook.com/NAFutsal. If you ever have an opportunity to be part of regionals or nationals, you should jump on it. You will learn a lot.

Sponsors

The following companies were sponsors of North Alabama *FUTSAL* during the winter season:

West End Grill, Huntsville, AL – Gold Level

ColorXpress, Madison, AL – Bronze Level



Please show your appreciation by visiting these sponsors' businesses. Additional sponsors will help offset the costs to teams to play futsal in the league. If you know of a company who would like to have their company name displayed as a sponsor during all North Alabama *FUTSAL* activities, have them view the [Sponsorship Opportunities Page](#) on www.nafutsal.org and/or contact N. A. *FUTSAL* to discuss. See [Contact Us Page](#).

Upcoming Events

Some important dates to plan for:

4/10/2017 – Summer Futsal Season Registration Opens

4/11/2017 – Youth Team Coaches/Managers & Adult Team Captains Meeting at Sam & Greg's Pizzeria, Madison, 7:00pm

4/30/2017 – Last Day for Early Bird Discounts (10% discount on team fee, 50% discount on individual player registration fee)

5/14/2017 – Summer Season **Team Registration Deadline**

5/31/2017 – Adult Divisions Futsal **Games Begin**

6/TBD/2017 – Youth Divisions Futsal **Games Begin**

All calendar entries can be viewed at

www.nafutsal.org/index_files/Calendar.htm

The Rules Corner

The rules of futsal and soccer in regard to what **goalkeepers** may and may not do are similar, but not identical. There are three Indirect Free Kick type of fouls that goalkeepers might commit that differ between futsal and soccer. Let's examine each in turn to ensure a soccer goalkeeper, who is new to futsal, knows what he/she may and may not do.



Soccer's controlling the ball with hands for more than six seconds.

Futsal is stricter. Futsal has a similar restriction on goalkeepers, but the time is **only four seconds** – not six seconds. Additionally, futsal limits goalkeepers to four seconds controlling the ball with hands **AND FEET**, i.e., goalkeepers must completely give up possession of the ball by throwing, passing or shooting the ball within four seconds. While controlling the ball with hands is obviously limited to only in his/her own penalty area, controlling the ball with feet is inside and outside his/her penalty area but **only in the defensive half of the court**. This is a little like basketball's 10 second rule. It is inherent in both futsal and basketball to be strongly attacking games – not games that allow a lot of play in the defensive half of the courts. But since futsal goalkeepers spend the greatest majority of their time in front of their goals in the defensive halves of courts, this limit of 4 seconds **feels like it is all of the time**. But if a goalkeeper enters the attacking half of a court, he/she may play the ball with feet for more than four seconds while remaining in the attacking half. This is sometimes done when a team is behind, is desperate to score and chooses to risk playing their goalkeeper as part of the attack instead of guarding their own goal.

Soccer's playing the ball with hands again after releasing the ball from hands before touching another player.

This is not a foul in futsal. A futsal goalkeeper may place the ball on the court and pick it back up. But remember, goalkeepers must finish playing the ball and throw, pass or shoot within 4 seconds. So no unfair advantage is being gained by putting the ball down and picking it back up if the goalkeeper finishes playing the ball within 4 seconds..

Soccer's passback rule.

This rule also applies in futsal. But once a goalkeeper has played the ball once, an addition rule is **he/she may not play the ball again with hands OR FEET until the ball has either been touched by an opponent or goes out of play**. In other words, goalkeepers get only one turn to play the ball while his/her team maintains uninterrupted possession of the ball. "Uninterrupted" here means no play or touch by the team's opponent. Sadly many field players do not understand or cannot keep up with this and never pass the ball back to their goalkeepers. Here are some examples when goalkeepers **MAY** play the ball and playing a passback with feet is allowed:

- After a field player "steals" the ball from an opponent
- After a Goal Clearance by the opposing team's goalkeeper
- After a Kick-in by a field player or by any player on the opposing team
- But never immediately after the goalkeeper has played the ball.

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