

Spring 2020 Newsletter



Bringing Real Futsal to North Alabama

Volume 7, Issue 1, March 2020

Thanks go to the league's Gold Level Sponsor:



7 Winter Futsal Seasons & Counting

Seven great winter futsal seasons in a row. This winter season youth and adults again enjoyed playing the fast paced, high scoring, exciting game of futsal. The youth, grouped into divisions called the Rumba (ages 11-13) division and Tango (ages 14-15) division, competed with standings kept and division winners awarded. The much experienced adults also competed for division title in the 'Champions Division'. Winning teams are shown below.



Left to right, top to bottom:
RCUSC Wildcats '05G team,
CI Madison Blaze '07B team,
The Expendables adult team.

These and many more pictures from this winter are on the Photos page at www.nafutsal.com/Photo-Albums.

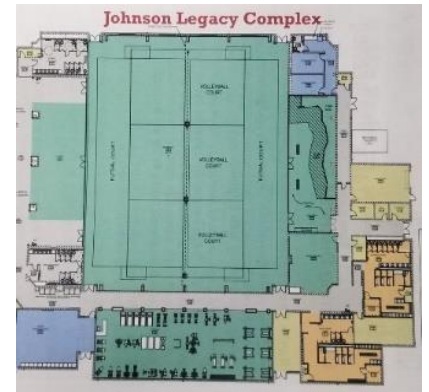
A "First" for the North Alabama *FUTSAL* League happened this season and it was the playing of several *inter-league* futsal games. After working out the legal and logistic details, three NAFL teams played three AYSO Region 498 Indoor Season futsal teams. More of this must be done for futsal to grow locally.

Also, this winter season was slightly challenged by less time and less basketball gyms to use. Because of when Thanksgiving fell on the calendar in 2019, youth divisions did not begin playing until the first weekend in December. The league had access to one less gym because of the renovation ongoing in the "new" gym at the former Johnson High School. The league has used as high as five different gyms in past winter seasons. But this winter the league used only the gyms at Providence Elementary School, Huntsville, and James Clemens High School, Madison. This was only temporary.



New Venue for Futsal

This summer it is expected the league will start playing games in the newly renovated Johnson Legacy Complex, previously known as the "New" Gym at the former J.O. Johnson High School. See article on AL.com at <https://www.al.com/alabama/2019/01/multi-million-dollar-johnson-gym-renovation-to-be-completed-in-huntsville-in-2020.html>. After renovations have been completed, it will contain two futsal courts at the standard 2:1 ratio of length to width (international futsal courts are 40 by 20 meters) on new cushiony poured floors with permanently painted futsal lines! **How exciting is that!?** Only volleyball courts will co-exist with the futsal courts - no basketball courts with their 3-point lines that often are confused with the boundary lines of futsal penalty areas. It's going to be great and it's going to be a showpiece for futsal in Alabama and the southeast.



Nonetheless, all teams played their best this past winter season and benefitted by getting lots of touches on the ball as well as having lots of fun. Thanks is due to the coaches, team captains, referees, referee assignor, parents, sponsors and those who volunteered to help with daily setup and teardown that made the futsal games a success.

Spring Season Plans

This spring, for the first time ever, a concise youth futsal academy is being organized to be conducted on top of spring soccer season but with minimal conflict with soccer. The great value of playing futsal is now realized in this city, so now is the time for the league to advance from just two seasons per year (winter, summer) to a full four seasons per year (winter, spring, summer, fall) as it should be.

Summer Season Plans

This summer, plans are in place for another youth futsal academy of multiple ages and an adult futsal season of games. Registration for the summer season starts in April and concludes late May. Games will begin early June. Based on experience and continued player interest, expectations are for the adult teams to continue to compete in one or two divisions this summer and for youth participation to grow. Plans are to conduct multiple youth divisions of futsal academies this summer with a small amount of futsal-specific *coaching* and a large amount of *playing* the game of futsal. Summers should be for just playing lots of futsal as a break from so much soccer. The summer season is primarily in June and July.



5/3/2020 – Last Day for Early Bird Discounts (10% discount on team fee)

5/24/2020 – Summer Season **Team Registration Deadline**

6/1/2020 – Adult Divisions Futsal **Games Begin!**

6/8/2020 – Youth Divisions Futsal **Games Begin!**

Most current & complete calendar may be viewed at www.nafutsal.com/More/Calendar



Venues for this Summer Futsal Season

Youth participants will play futsal in the gym at the Optimist Recreation Center. Adult participants will start playing in the newly renovated Johnson Legacy Center, if ready. Otherwise, adults will play again at Oakwood University until the Johnson Legacy Center opens. Adult games will be on Mondays and/or Wednesdays. Youth are scheduled to play on Mondays and Thursdays.

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 North Alabama *FUTSAL* activities, have them view the Sponsorship page at www.nafutsal.com/More/Sponsorship and/or contact North Alabama *FUTSAL* to discuss. See the [Contact Us](#) page.

Upcoming Events

Some important dates to plan for:

- 3/6/2020 – **Spring Futsal Academy** for youth **Begins**
- 3/31&4/1/2020 – **FREE** Spring Break Futsal Camp for youth, 12-2:00 PM each day
- 4/20/2020 – Summer Futsal Season **Registration Opens**
- 4/22/2020 – **Player & Team Registration and Q&A under the pavilion by Merrimack field 14 (on Ivy Avenue) from 7:30 - 8:30 PM**

The Rules Corner

Futsal has a distinct category of fouls called **Accumulate Fouls** in addition to soccer's penal (direct free kick) and non-penal (indirect free kick) fouls. While both soccer and futsal discipline individual players for Persistent Infringement, i.e. a player repeatedly fouling opposing players, a caution/yellow card, futsal also tracks *team* penal fouls per half and responds to increased quantities of *team* fouls. Once a team has reached five penal fouls in a half, any subsequent penal foul by the team is not restarted from the spot of the foul but, instead, restarted from the second penalty spot and without a wall. There is the infrequent exception when a foul is committed closer to the goal line than the second penalty spot, but the fact that the restart is most often moved *from* the spot of the foul *to* the second penalty spot and that no defensive wall may be formed – only the goal keeper may be between the kicker and the goal – sends a strong message to offending players that they should not foul so much; they should not foul anymore in the current half. The foul count resets at halftime. The spirit of futsal is to play precisely - not physically. Too many fouls by a team is unacceptable and a kick from the second penalty mark is the punishment.



Typically more fouls are called in futsal than in soccer partly because of the concept of Accumulated Fouls in futsal. Here's why more fouls are called:

- For safety reasons. The floors are hard, walls of gyms are close to the courts and often there are metal bleachers immediately off court.
- Futsal is about playing with precision. It is not about playing physically.
- Players *want* fouls called & counted because they know their opponents will ease up and play less aggressive starting with five fouls by their team.