

Spring 2016 Newsletter



Bringing Real Futsal to North Alabama

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Thanks go to the league's Gold Level Sponsor:

The Third Winter Futsal Season Was Explosive!

It's very exciting times. People are now understanding both the fun and the value of the game of futsal as well as its ability to stand as a sport in its own right. The North Alabama *FUTSAL* League's youth participation tripled this winter along with the adult division growing by 50%. The league has now played a total of seven sessions of games, conducted a youth futsal player camp, an adult futsal player clinic, and several futsal referee clinics, all of which enjoyed by over 200 youth players, over 230 adult players, and over 30 futsal coaches and referees! Weekly team standings led to announcing division winners. This winter the 1st Annual Dixie Defrost Futsal Tournament was conducted locally and one adult team traveled to Charleston, SC, to participate in the S. E. Regional Futsal Championship. Congratulations to all.

This winter league games were played in the gyms at Central United Methodist Church in Decatur and at Providence Elementary School, Oakwood University, and Johnson High School in Huntsville. North Alabama *FUTSAL* is now active in three cities, Huntsville, Madison and Decatur, and is expanding into other cities. Cullman is working on creating a youth futsal club, which will be the first in the state! Birmingham has started an adult futsal league. Futsal is definitely catching on.

Pictures of the teams that have played in the North Alabama *FUTSAL* League are on the league's website, <http://www.nafutsal.org>.



Futsal Venues

North Alabama *FUTSAL* has enjoyed using gyms in Huntsville at Ed White Middle School, at The Launch Pad (home of Rocket City Volleyball Club), at Providence Elementary School, Oakwood University, and Johnson High School, in Madison at Liberty Middle School and in Decatur at Central United Methodist Church. The league will continue to rent/adapt basketball gyms in cities of north Alabama while permanent futsal courts are being built. Yes, there ARE such being planned to be built in the near future. A replacement for the Joe Davis Stadium in Huntsville is currently being planned

and will have futsal courts marked concentric with basketball courts. The Madison Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2025 states the need for at least two futsal courts in a multiple-purpose indoor recreation building. There's talk about an indoor facility in Cullman. So today the participants in the North Alabama *FUTSAL* League are the pioneers of much more to come.

About Futsal

Futsal is a fast paced version of soccer played on smooth surfaces with small sided teams. The action is non-stop and high scoring, encouraging exciting individual and team play that thrills spectators. It is one of the world's fastest growing sports, and it is now taking off in Huntsville and the surrounding areas.

Futsal, short for futbol de sala, first gained popularity rapidly throughout South America, particularly in Brazil, and is now played throughout Europe, North and Central America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia – in every country considered to be a soccer power.

Great soccer superstars such as Pele, Robinho, Zidane, Ronaldino, Falcao, Ronaldo and Messi grew up playing futsal and credit it with developing their acquired skills.

Benefits of Playing Futsal



- Develops better ball control and technical skill
- Develops better possession, more precise passing and shooting
- Develops quick reflexes and decision making skills
- Small courts help develop offensive and defensive skills.
- Small spaces result in proper timing of runs to create space for the attack
- All of the above are transferrable to the outdoor game

About North Alabama *FUTSAL*

Based on values of safety, excellence, player development, passion and enjoyment, North Alabama *FUTSAL* is a sport league dedicated to the growth of the game of futsal in the cities of north Alabama. It began in Huntsville by organizing seasons of futsal games for both youth and adult teams, hosting futsal referee clinics, and conducting futsal player camps. Plans are to expand to do the same in other cities in north Alabama in addition to hosting futsal tournaments and futsal coach clinics soon. Our ultimate goal is to establish futsal as its own sport

and, through the benefits to players from playing futsal, see great improvement in individual skills of soccer players from north Alabama and their reputation across Alabama.

Options for Playing Futsal

- With existing facilities, teams and schedules, North Alabama *FUTSAL* can provide referees for your games.
- With only a facility, North Alabama *FUTSAL* can help form your teams, create schedules, provide referees, maintain standings and provide awards to the winners or participants.
- With nothing more than players with their player gear (uniforms, shinguards, shoes), North Alabama *FUTSAL* can provide everything else.

Summer 2016 Season Plans

This coming summer season should be equally exciting because of the following planned activities:

- Youth summer league games on Saturday mornings at Richard Showers and Fern Bell Recreation Centers in Huntsville
- Additional youth summer league games possibly in Decatur and Cullman
- A new futsal player clinic for youth in Huntsville in May
- Adult summer league games on Wednesday evenings at Oakwood University in Huntsville with the return of the Golden Boot Award and the addition of the Golden Glove Award

Sponsors

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

- *Gold Level* -

West End Grill, Huntsville, AL

- *Bronze Level* -

ColorXpress, Madison, AL



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:

4/11/2016 – Summer Season Futsal Team Registration Opens

4/12/2016 – Mandatory Team Captains/Managers Meeting at Fern Bell Recreation Center at 6:00 PM

4/30/2016 – Last Day for Early Bird Discounts (10% discount on team fees and 50% discount on new player registration fees)

5/15/2016 – Summer Futsal Season **Registration Deadline**

5/21/2016 – Youth Futsal Player Clinic - Free to registered players

5/25/2016 – End of Late Registration – with 15% late fee!

6/1/2016 – Adult Division Futsal **Games Begin**

6/4/2016 – Youth Division Futsal **Games Begin**

All calendar entries can be viewed at

www.nafutsal.org/index_files/Calendar.htm

The Rules Corner

Futsal adds a restriction upon the goalkeeper similar to and in addition to the “pass back” rule. Once a futsal goalkeeper plays the ball, he/she may not play it again within the defensive half of the court until it has been touched by an opponent or goes out of play. A second play by a goalkeeper results in an indirect free kick by the opponent.

Goalkeepers readily learn this rule. But field players struggle with it. Field players need to understand this restriction and learn how to play within the legal bounds of it. For example, after receiving a pass from the goalkeeper the ball should not be passed back to the goalkeeper. A second play by the goalkeeper would give an IFK to the opponent. That’s easy. But in the quick back and forth action of futsal, when MAY a field player pass the ball to his/her own goalkeeper. Here are some examples of when:

- 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
- After “stealing” the ball from an opponent



Here are some examples of when a field player may NOT pass the ball to his/her own goalkeeper:

- After a Goal Clearance by the his/her own goalkeeper
- After a Kick-in by the his/her own goalkeeper
- After the goalkeeper legally plays the ball following a passback, i.e. one must not pass the ball back to the goalkeeper a second time.

Knowing when one may pass the ball to one’s own goalkeeper is very important for a team to play to a team’s maximum ability.