

## The First Year Was Successful

Well, it has happened. The first year of North Alabama *FUTSAL*'s existence is behind us. And it was a great first year. Not only was this league first conceived in 2013, it also played its first season in 2013. From drafting a Constitution & By-laws for the national sanctioning organization, USFF, to the formation of teams, scheduling seasons' games and awarding championship t-shirts to the winners while playing under a newly written set of League Rules. Two winter sessions were played during the winter season and one session was played in the summer season by design. Much was accomplished in North Alabama *FUTSAL*'s first year. And by design the same number of seasons and sessions will be played in the second and subsequent years. This is because ... futsal is what you play between fall and spring outdoor soccer seasons!

*Good News!*

In the first year eleven teams played futsal in the North Alabama *FUTSAL* league. This was not a huge quantity, but it was a start. Nonetheless, those who played greatly enjoyed it. There were both youth and adult teams, male and female players. On Friday evenings and sometimes on Tuesday evenings, games were played in The Launch Pad volleyball facility on Jordan Lane, in Ed White Middle School's basketball gym on Sparkman Drive, and in Providence Elementary School's basketball gym off of Old Monrovia Road in Huntsville. We'll continue playing at The Launch Pad and at Providence Elementary School but will no longer play at Ed White Middle School since it closed. We continue to look for good locations to play until there is a permanent futsal pitch built. More on this in the section on facilities for futsal.

Read more in articles by local media:

[WAAY TV Article](#)

[Madison Weekly News Article](#)



## Inside this Issue:

The First Year Was Successful .....	page 1
An Adult Player's Experience Playing Futsal .....	page 1
A Coach's Perspective on Playing Futsal .....	<a href="#">page 2</a>
Facilities for Futsal .....	<a href="#">page 2</a>
Current Sponsors .....	<a href="#">page 3</a>
Upcoming Events .....	<a href="#">page 3</a>
Champions, Tournaments .....	<a href="#">page 4</a>
The Rules Corner .....	<a href="#">page 4</a>
North Alabama <i>FUTSAL</i> 's Logo .....	<a href="#">page 4</a>

## A Player's Experience Playing Futsal

I learned about North Alabama *FUTSAL* following the first winter session from my friend and fellow soccer player Rodger Maxwell while discussing what the winter indoor options were. I wasn't sure at first because there had been other indoor soccer venues that have come and gone. I was looking for one that was permanent and was good. Rodger told me that North Alabama *FUTSAL* was playing on a spacious court with a smooth, cushioned surface. So I decided to play and I joined the team Rodger played on named Bro-kin-toe in the second session of the winter season as this team was dividing into two teams and needed players. Rodger said he had enjoyed playing with Bro-kin-toe. While the first time I played I thought "I got to get into better shape!" I continued playing because it was a great opportunity to work on ball control that is required by playing in close quarters.



So playing futsal in the winter was great. It gave me the opportunity to continue playing between fall and spring soccer seasons. After the winter season ended, I created a team to play in the summer season which was in June in July. I formed my own team just to add another team to the league and to make it more interesting. We had fun. I plan to register my team again in the next winter season.

-- Written by Richard Ellis, Adult Player

## A Coach's Perspective on Playing Futsal

I discovered the North Alabama *FUTSAL* league from a flyer distributed at one of my son's local league games. I had managed a U11 indoor winter league team in Arlington, VA, and when we moved to Huntsville, I was interested, and so was my son, in continuing to play soccer over the winter season. I had not heard of futsal before, but we thought we would give it a try.



I managed to form a group of about 20 U12 boys made up of players from both HFC and United (which I think is first!) We mixed the players up each week and played games as teams which were 'classic rivals', such as Man U vs Liverpool and Inter Milan vs AC Milan.

As everyone was new to futsal, there were obviously some nuances to the rules that we were unfamiliar with. But after guidance from the referees and North Alabama *FUTSAL*'s director the players soon picked up the rules and games were fast, furious and fun.

Hailing from a European country with a strong soccer tradition, but whose national team has recently and consistently under performed in international tournaments, the national Football Association is taking a serious look at futsal as a means to improve player skills. [Read the article here.](#) It has been recognized that countries with a strong futsal tradition produce skillful and technical players. So what better opportunity do the young players of Huntsville have to develop ball control, quick thinking, passing, dribbling, balance and concentration than by playing futsal this winter? We certainly shall be.

-- Written by Matt Knight, Coach of youth teams

## Facilities for Futsal

North Alabama *FUTSAL* was created by two soccer referees who stopped waiting on "someone else" to create a futsal league and instead created it themselves. The decision was made at that time to rent facilities and not build one. Building was beyond the management and investment capabilities of the league founders. Historically, since the game of futsal was originally

designed to be played in basketball gyms and has subsequently been played often in basketball gyms in many countries, North Alabama *FUTSAL* planned to rent basketball gyms. There are many of them around the area in schools and in city recreation centers. But they are almost entirely used for basketball and sometimes volleyball. Following a tip from Joey Flanders at the Fern Bell Park Recreation Center, it was discovered that there are a few school gyms not being used on Friday nights. This is how the Ed White Middle School gym was found available to rent. In the summer, the Providence Elementary School gym was used.

Roller skating rinks were also considered a possibility, initially. But low ceilings with fragile lighting and speakers systems made owners unwilling to rent their rinks for playing futsal. Ron Parmley, owner of Roller Time Skating Rink, suggested the building on Jordan Lane where the Rocket City Volleyball Club (RCVC) plays. The owners of The Launch Pad, where RCVC plays, were willing to rent to North Alabama *FUTSAL*. This turned out to be a fantastic place to play in both size and surface. Using all three volleyball courts allowed playing futsal in a spacious 60 by 110 feet. And the surface was slightly cushioned, which was an unexpected bonus. Also, the owners of The Launch Pad, Rose Magers-Powell and Harry Powell, were very nice to work with.



I thank both Joey Flanders and Ron Parmley for the leads to the facilities we have been using thus far. But this is all of the facilities currently available at affordable prices. Madison City Recreation Center gyms, Madison City School gyms and YMCA gyms are too expensive and mostly unavailable. Playing futsal is not cheap and facility cost is why. If anyone knows of a potential location to play futsal, please share the information. It will need to have air conditioning, bathrooms, and a smooth surface to play on, but not bare concrete.

There are several rumored permanent futsal facilities being built or to be built. Some people have been waiting on such facilities. But not the founders of North Alabama *FUTSAL*. The league started before construction on these rumored facilities completed or even began because we

wanted to play futsal now and because we wanted to show what the demand is for playing futsal. The latter will hopefully encourage the rumored futsal facility constructions to be completed. One such facility that is close to being completed is a roller hockey rink in Madison at Insanity Complex. It is planned for dual use and indoor soccer is that the second use. Another facility still in design is to be built in Huntsville possibly near John Hunt Park. It is to have six or eight basketball gyms lined also for a pair of volleyball courts each. The designer also has the information on how to line a futsal court over and around the basketball and volleyball courts. I trust this will be done, which will provide several futsal courts in one location. It has also been rumored that a destination sport complex with hotels and shopping will be built in west Madison. But that is a long way off, at best.



In conclusion, facilities for playing futsal are hard to find and are costly. The building of permanent futsal courts are still months or years away. In the interim, we will enjoy what we can get and be happy that we have what we have. But with that said, I soooooo look forward to courts built originally for playing futsal.

-- Written by Darrell Schmidt, President of North Alabama *FUTSAL*

### Current Sponsors

Several sponsors helped the league start financially and for that are much appreciated. Current sponsors are:

- Noble Harber, EdwardJones in Madison
- Chapala Mexican Restaurant in Madison
- Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant in Madison
- ColorXpress in Madison
- Soccer U.S.A, Inc. in Huntsville



More sponsors will help offset the costs to teams to play. If you know of a company who would like to be a sponsor and have their company name advertised numerous places, please have them view [the sponsor page](#) and contact North Alabama *FUTSAL* to discuss. Contact info at:

[http://www.nafutsal.org/index\\_files/Page12354.htm](http://www.nafutsal.org/index_files/Page12354.htm)

### Upcoming Events

Detailed plans are being made for this coming winter season and it's shaping up nicely. The following list of events are planned for this fall and winter, which contain several important dates, e.g. dates when teams begin the registration process for the winter season. Please note them in your calendars.

#### October 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- 10/7/2014 (Tue) – Adult Team Captains Meeting
- 10/14/2014 (Tue) – Youth Team Managers Meeting
- 10/21/2014 (Tue) – Adult Team Payment Deadline
- 10/30/2014 (Thu) – Youth Team Payment Deadline

NOTE: The Captains and Managers Meetings are when deposits are paid to reserve a spot to play in the upcoming season.

#### November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

- 11/4/2014 (Tue) – Adult Winter Season Begins
- 11/14/2014 (Fri) – Youth Winter Season Begins

#### December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- 12/20/2014 (Sat) – East Limestone H.S. Futsal Tourney

The following are possibilities, but don't hold your breath:

- 10/14/2014 (Tue) – Tentative Youth Tourney Registration
- 10/21/2014 (Tue) – Tentative Youth Tourney Payment Deadline
- 10/23/2014 (Thu) – Tentative Futsal Referee Re-certification
- 10/25/2014 (Sat) – Tentative Youth Futsal Tourney. Location TBD
- 11/11/2014 (Tue) – Tentative Youth Futsal Player Camp. Location TBD
- 12/29/2014 (Mon) – Tentative Youth Futsal Player Camp at YMCA

## Champions, Tournaments



Each session of North Alabama *FUTSAL* is completed by announcing division champions. [League rules](#) define how a team becomes a champion. This year's champions were the youth team INTER Huntsville and the adult team Bro-kin-toe in the winter and the adult team The Expendables in the summer. In addition to being #1 within a division in the league, the southeast region has an annual futsal tournament hosting both youth and adult (amateur) teams. And there is a national futsal tournament each year hosting both youth and adult also. An article on this year's national tournament can be found on [the US Futsal blog](#). There is much competition to be had by first playing in the North Alabama *FUTSAL* league.

### The Rules Corner

It sounds simple. "Replace throw-ins with kick-ins." So why do the referees repeatedly blow their whistles while players take kick-ins? Perhaps it's a lack of understanding by players of the "correct" procedure for taking kick-ins per the laws of the game. You can be assured the referees know the "correct" procedure. So let's review.

At the exact moment the player takes a kick-in, the kicker:

- has one foot on the touchline or on the floor outside the court
- kicks the ball, which is stationary, either from the point where it left the court or on the floor outside it at a distance no greater than 25 cm (10 inches) from that point
- delivers the ball within four seconds of being ready to do so (the referee judges when the kicker is "ready")

So what could go wrong? Here's what could go wrong:

- the non-kicking foot, the plant foot, is on the court – not outside the court or on the touchline
- the ball is rolling significantly or is not on the touchline or within 10 inches of the touchline
- the kicker takes longer than 4 seconds to kick the ball (A good referee will give an audible identifying when he/she believes the kicker is ready and start counting.)

The first mistake above is the mistake that surprises players the most. This is hard to understand since throw-ins in soccer must also be taken while keeping feet on the touchline or outside the pitch. Soccer players should know this. So what often happens in futsal is a player goes to kick the ball along the touchline to his/her left and kicks the ball with the left foot. This leaves the right foot to plant to the right of the other foot and ON the court. The same mistake happens when a player goes to kick the ball along the touchline to his/her right. So here's the trick: When kicking the ball to the left, use your right foot. When kicking the ball to the right, use your left foot. This keeps the plant foot off of the court.

Please don't take kick-ins for granted. You have to do them right. Basically, they are just like throw-ins except for two things: (1) the ball is delivered into play via foot instead of hands and (2) one foot must be on the floor – not two – while delivering the ball back into play. Everything afterwards are the same. So the kicker may not be the next player to play the ball. And the ball may not travel untouched by anyone directly into a goal and count. It must touch a player first, any player. The goalkeeper on the team of the player taking the kick-in may not handle the ball immediately following a kick-in.

Please understand these requirements and limitations on kick-ins, do them right, and have a great time the next time you play futsal.



### North Alabama *FUTSAL*'s Logo

As a final note, the first logo for North Alabama *FUTSAL* served its purpose. A brand was established and recognized by all. Now that logo is maturing. Look at the modified logo below. It looks like it grew wings! Woo hoo! But keep watching as it grows more in the near future.

