

Fall 2017 Newsletter



Bringing Real Futsal to North Alabama

Volume 4, Issue 2, September 2017

Thanks go to the league's Gold Level Sponsor:



The Fourth Summer Futsal Season was the Biggest Summer Yet!

The 2017 summer season was bigger than previous summers with the creation of a high school division and the increase in number of adult teams again. The league just keeps on growing and growing. Two high school teams joined together in an academy to learn and play futsal at Richard Showers Recreation Center on Thursday evenings. They benefitted from both getting lots of touches on the ball this summer as well as learning details of futsal. They first learned the few rules differences (from soccer) and then were coached on several futsal-specific skills, some of which can be used in soccer too. They scrimmaged weekly and had a great time.

The quantity of adult futsal teams grew to two divisions this past winter and started promotion & relegation prior to the summer season. The upper division, the Champions Division, and the next lower down division, Division I, played futsal in the Oakwood University's gym on Mondays and Wednesday evenings leading to top teams per division. Players received Golden Boot and Golden Glove awards in another fun summer futsal season. Winning teams and recipients of Golden Boot and Golden Glove awards are shown below.



New High School and Middle School Divisions

It's exciting news to hear of the formation of a high school division this summer because that adds more options for youth players to play futsal. A middle school division is currently being defined for inclusion in the upcoming winter futsal season. So now club teams may play in a particular age division, e.g. U12 Boys or U14 Girls, high school teams may play with players ranging from U16 to U19, and middle school teams may play with players ranging from U13 to U15. Club teams may even decide to play in the middle or high school divisions if their team ages are between 12 and 18 years old. And with recent AHSAA player eligibility rules changes, a school team may play 6 players on a single futsal team supplemented by friends and/or siblings while their coaches coach them outside of soccer season – just limited to a maximum of 2 hours/week per 6 players. Futsal games only take about an hour to play. But if a school is not under AHSAA, e.g. the Huntsville City Schools' middle schools, there are no restrictions and many more possibilities exist.

Fall/Winter Season Plans

Plans are being made for a futsal camp during Fall Break in October. Registration for the winter season will finish late October and games will begin in November. Games will be played again in the gyms at James Clemens High School, Providence Elementary School, Richard Showers Recreation Center and others mostly on weekend nights and afternoons, but possibly on a week night. Watch www.facebook.com/nafutsal along with the Calendar and Registration pages on www.nafutsal.org for the latest and full details. Subscribe to the North Alabama *FUTSAL* Mailing List to receive announcements in your inbox.

Venues for Playing Futsal

The North Alabama *FUTSAL* League has been growing rapidly over its first few years. Soon there may not be enough gyms to play futsal for the number of teams wanting to play. We need to continue to look for a way to build or acquire a permanent futsal facility. It will probably require help from a number of sources, so think how you can help.



The Expendables
Summer 2017 Champions Division Winner



Wiz KhaFFA
Summer 2017 Division I Winner



Daniel Segowitz
Golden Boot Award, Champions Div.



Kyle Eider
Golden Glove Award, Champions Div.



Gabriel Odinska
Golden Boot Award, Division I



Nathaniel Haynes
Golden Glove Award, Division I

Pictures of many of the teams that have played in the league are on the Pictures page at <http://www.nafutsal.org/>.

Third Annual Dixie Defrost Futsal Tournament

First year's tournament was great. Second year's tournament was bigger and added an adult division. This growth plus the addition of the new High School and Middle School divisions, the third annual Dixie Defrost Futsal Tournament, to be held on January 20 & 21, 2018, will be the best yet. Add this to your plans for the culmination of the winter futsal season.



USFF S.E. Regional Futsal Tournament

The biggest futsal event in the southeast is the annual USFF Southeast Regional Futsal Championship. It has been held in Charleston, SC, for a number of years. There has been discussions about hosting this tournament in the Huntsville area. But the next tournament, at least, it will be in Charleston, SC, again, a beautiful place to visit. Many youth and adult teams ascend upon Charleston annually to compete on regulation futsal courts at two facilities over the course of two weekends. This is an option for any futsal team in our area to consider traveling to and competing in.



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 and summer seasons:

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 the [Contact Us](#) page.

Upcoming Events

Some important dates to plan for:

9/25/2017 – Winter Futsal Season Registration Opens
9/26/2017 – **Adult Team Captains Meeting at 7:00pm at Merrimack Soccer Central meeting room. MANDATORY!**
10/3&5/2017 – **FREE** Fall Break Futsal Camp for high school and middle school age players, 5:30-8:30pm, at Richard Showers Recreation Center

10/9/2017 – **Last Day for Early Bird Discounts - Adult Teams** (20% discount on team fee if all players individually registered also)

10/9/2017 – Winter Futsal Season **Youth Registration Starts**

10/10/2017 – **Youth Team Managers Meeting at 7:00pm.**

Location TBA.

10/22/2017 – **Adult Team Registration Deadline**

10/22/2017 – **Last Day for Early Bird Discounts - Youth Teams** (20% discount on team fee if all players individually registered also)

10/27/2017 – **FREE** Adult New Futsal Player Clinic, 8:00-9:00pm, in the Providence Elementary School gym.

11/3/2017 – **Youth Team Registration Deadline**

11/3/2017 – **Adult Divisions Futsal Games Begin**

11/3/2017 – **FREE** Youth New Futsal Player Clinic, 7:00-8:00pm, in the Academy of Academics & Arts gym.

11/10&17/2017 – **Youth Divisions Futsal Games Begin**

All calendar entries can be viewed at

www.nafutsal.org/index_files/Calendar.htm



The Coach's Corner

Everyone knows kick-ins replace soccer throw-ins in futsal. That's all. Not really! A few details should be known about performing kick-ins legally correct and tactically advantageous. Like how players retrieve the ball for throw-ins in soccer using their hands, players should retrieve the ball with their hands for kick-ins for several reasons:

1. It's what players are used to, so nothing new to learn.
2. It's actually slower to retrieve the ball and place it still on the line for a kick-in using only feet.
3. Using hands to place the ball on the line for a kick-in dependably makes the ball still, avoiding hearing the whistle from the referee because the ball was not still before the kick-in.
4. Keeping hands or fingers on top of the ball while choosing the direction to kick the ball back into play keeps one's choice of direction mostly unknown until the kick is taken.

More on that last reason: When a player places the ball on the touchline for a kick-in, stands up, backs away from the ball and starts his/her approach toward the ball to kick it, the player tells everyone the direction of the kick, including his/her opponents. Instead, staying bent over the ball with one hand keeping the ball still until the moment the kick is taken both prevents the opponent from knowing where the ball will be kicked and almost always avoids a whistle from the referee for the ball not being still.



Search YouTube for national and international futsal games and watch them. You will see kick-ins like this. The Greats do it. So should you.