

Spring 2018 Newsletter



Bringing Real Futsal to North Alabama

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Thanks go to the league's Gold Level Sponsor:



The Fifth Winter Futsal Season was the Best Winter Season Yet !

But first, note there were several events in the fall. Two adult teams played a Super Cup game; two local referees travelled to participate in the Indianapolis Mayor's International Futsal Cup; a Fall Break futsal camp was held. Two new futsal player clinics were conducted.

When the winter season kicked off, it consisted of 25 youth and adult teams playing 100 games on Fridays, Sundays and Wednesdays, November through January, plus the annual tournament. Three youth divisions (U11, U13, U15 teams) and two adult divisions (upper and lower) competed. Five basketball gyms were modified and used to play futsal in Huntsville and Madison.

Congratulations to division winners pictured below. All teams played their best and benefitted by getting lots of touches on the ball as well as having lots of fun.



Huntsville Goal Diggers
U11 Open Division Winner



RCUSC Wildcats
U13 Open Division Winner



RCUSC Revolution
U15 Boys Division Winner



FC Ballers
Adult Division I Winner



Red Devils
Adult Champions Division Winner

Third Annual Dixie Defrost Futsal Tournament

The 3rd annual Dixie Defrost Futsal Tournament was conducted on January 20 and 21, 2018, with youth and adult teams completing. Shown below are the division winners. Congratulations to all!



If you did not participate, then you missed out. Playing in a futsal tournament is absolutely the greatest fun. Kids love it!



AYSO United Blue
U12 Open Division Winner
Dixie Defrost Futsal Tournament 2018



The A-Team
Adult Open Division Winner
Dixie Defrost Futsal Tournament

Spring/Summer Season Plans

Plans are in place for another youth futsal camp during Spring Break late March. Registration for the summer season starts in April and concludes late May. Games will begin at the end of May. Based on experience and continued player interest, expectations are for the adult teams to continue to compete in multiple divisions this summer and for youth participation to grow. Plans are to conduct high school and middle school age futsal academies this summer with a small amount of futsal-specific coaching and a large amount of *playing* the game of futsal. The summer season is primarily in June and July, but the youth will begin on May 31st.



Venues for this Summer Futsal Season

This summer adult teams will play again at Oakwood University on Monday and Wednesday nights. Youth will play at Goldsmith Schiffman Gym on Tuesday evenings and at Richard Showers Recreation Center on Thursday nights, but just once a week. This past winter the league

used five gyms for the youth and adult futsal games: gyms at the Academy for Academics and Arts, at James Clemens High School, at Providence Elementary School, at Richard Showers Recreation Center and at the former Johnson High School. This amount of gym use could soon exceed the availability of gyms to play in. We must soon find or build a facility for futsal *first*, with 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.)

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 Opportunities](#) page on www.nafutsal.org and/or contact North Alabama FUTSAL to discuss. See the [Contact Us](#) page.

Upcoming Events

Some important dates to plan for:

- 3/27&29/2018 – Spring Break Futsal Camp for youth, 5:30 PM
- 4/16/2018 – Summer Futsal Season Registration Opens
- 4/18/2018 – Youth Team Coaches/Managers & Adult Team Captains Meeting at Merrimack Soccer Central, 6:00 PM
- 4/29/2018 – Last Day for Early Bird Discounts (20% discount on team fee)

5/20/2018 – Summer Season Team Registration Deadline

5/31/2018 – Youth Divisions Futsal **Games Begin!**

6/4/2018 – Adult Divisions Futsal **Games Begin!**

All calendar entries can be viewed at www.nafutsal.org/index_files/Calendar.htm



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 fully on the court – not on the touchline or outside the court
- the ball is rolling significantly or is not on the touchline or within 10 inches of the touchline (The ball may wiggle a little because of the seams on it's surface.)
- 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 much more fun the next time you play futsal.

