

North Texas State Soccer Association, Inc.
Policy on Rules of Play for Futsal

1.1 ASSOCIATIONS AND PLAYING FACILITY

A Member Association or playing facility interested in offering Futsal must first submit an application to and receive approval from North Texas State Soccer Association.

1.2 REGISTRATIONS

1.2.1 Registered Players

1. Only registered Futsal players' resident within a Member Association's boundaries shall be permitted to play in competitions under the auspices of the Member Association.
2. Only registered Futsal players shall be permitted to play in competitions under the auspices of an affiliated facility. An affiliated facility may register players without regard for the location of the player's residency within the North Texas State Soccer Association boundaries.
3. A Member Association or facility, which allows the use of unregistered Futsal players in sanctioned play, shall be subject to forfeiture of its Futsal sanctioning.

1.2.2 Adult Registrations

1. Each Futsal player shall be a registered United States Soccer Federation player and shall register through North Texas State Soccer Association.
2. Each player and/or coach shall register by paying the appropriate fees and shall register on the required form(s) and obtain an **NTSSA** issued Futsal I.D. card.
3. **Futsal I. D. Cards:**
 - a. The **NTSSA** approved player/coach Futsal I.D. card will be issued at the time of registration by the State or the duly appointed representative.
 - b. The Futsal I.D. card shall be valid from the time issued until the end of the current soccer year.
 - c. Member Associations and affiliated facilities offering Futsal will require all players to present proof of age when they apply for any Futsal I.D. card.

Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, board of health records, passport, alien registration cards issued by the immigration and naturalization service attesting to age, certification of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency or a valid state drivers license. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.

4. Futsal Insurance

Each player shall pay the insurance fee at the time of registration. Players Futsal I.D. card shall serve as verification of insurance coverage.

5. Member Association - Recreational Play

A **NTSSA** Member Association may only offer Futsal within the scope of a recreational program subject to all recreational outdoor soccer.

6. A youth player may only be registered on one **NTSSA** Member Association sanctioned Futsal team at any given time.

A youth player may register on as many Futsal affiliated facility teams as he may choose so long as these teams do not play each other in any competitions.

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7. Age Grouping for Play

19U

16U

14U

12U

10U

8U

6U **Age three (3) is the minimum age to play futsal.

The age of a player for the purpose of league play shall be the player's age on December 31 of the current soccer year. The current soccer year begins on September 1 and ends August 31 of the following year. If allowed by the Member Association playing rules, players who meet the minimum age will be eligible to play

8. Since Futsal soccer is a separate **USSF** affiliate, players of two (2) or more outdoor teams may combine without affecting their eligibility for State Cup play.
9. Previously registered (outdoor) youth players, playing Futsal for a specific team or coach, may not transfer to that outdoor team or any outdoor team coached by that individual after the team's first indoor game has been played for the remainder of the current soccer year and all of the following soccer year, unless the player transfer is approved by the player's home Member Association.
 - a. Any Futsal team formed with the intent of recruiting for the formation of a competitive outdoor team will be found in violation of the **NTSSA** recruiting rules and will be disbanded. Anyone found guilty of a recruiting violation shall be suspended from all soccer activities for a period of not less than one (1) year. Every Futsal player and parent will be required to sign an acknowledgment of this rule.
 - b. Any coach, assistant coach, trainer or team representative, found giving skills lessons or camps to players under the name of Futsal with the intent of forming a competitive outdoor team, will be found guilty of recruiting violations and shall be suspended for a period of not less than one (1) year. Any team formed by this method shall be disbanded.

1.3 RULES

1.3.1 Laws of the Game

All Futsal play shall be played in accordance with the "**Futsal Laws of the Game**", published by the United States Futsal Federation.

1. No player may be placed on a roster without a valid **NTSSA** approved Futsal I.D. card.
2. No player may play in any sanctioned **NTSSA** Futsal play without furnishing a valid state approved Futsal I.D. card to the referee. The I.D. cards and rosters will be verified by the referee each game.
3. The referee shall retain all cards of players who receive a red card. The player I.D. card shall be turned into the Member Association A&D (or in the case of a facility, into the **NTSSA** A&D) along with the referee misconduct report within seventy-two (72) hours of the misconduct.

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4. Failure of any official to file a misconduct report on an ejection and to furnish appropriate player I.D. cards with the report shall result in that official not being allowed to officiate any NTSSA Futsal games for a period of one (1) week.

1.4 MISCONDUCT

All Member Associations and sanctioned facilities are charged with the responsibility of seeing that this rule is distributed to every youth and senior player, every coach, team manager, league administrator and referee. It is intended that each player will make known these contents to his or her parents and spectators.

1.4.1 Ejections

1. Ejection One Week Suspension
2. Ejection for Fighting (one on one) Two Week Suspension
3. Ejection for Fighting (more than two people involved) Suspended – pending NTSSA
Disciplinary Hearing
4. Any player receiving three (3) ejections during the soccer year will be suspended for a period of three (3) months from the date of the third ejection. A suspension imposed by NTSSA shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations after proper notification.

1.4.2 Fines

Ejection - \$10

**All fines must be paid within thirty (30) days of infraction, to the Member Association or North Texas State Soccer Association for affiliated facilities. Any player failing to remit the appropriate fees will not be allowed to register on any NTSSA Futsal or indoor team until all fees are paid.

1.4.3 Authority

1. All members and participants in youth and adult soccer, whether it be outdoor soccer, indoor soccer or Futsal, within the jurisdiction of the NTSSA, have requested to participate in our programs. Therefore, these participants have agreed to abide by the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of NTSSA, Member Associations, Affiliated Playing Facilities, as well as those of the United States Soccer Federation, United States Youth Soccer Association, United States Adult Soccer Association and the United States Futsal Federation. The NTSSA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws provide that it has jurisdiction over all Member Association, playing facilities, players, coaches, team managers, administrators, and referees who choose to affiliate.
2. All Member Associations and affiliated facilities are directed to inform the NTSSA A&D Committee on every player/coach/assistant coach cautioned or ejected and on referee's reports of serious misconduct by spectators and/or parents.
3. Matters concerning misconduct and appeals shall rest with the State A&D Committee for the facilities, and with Member Associations for their Futsal play.
4. Any misconduct by a coach justifying a report by a referee or any other person shall be directed to the State A&D Committee for the facilities and to local Member Associations A&D Committee for their Futsal play. The appropriate Committee will determine the extent of the punishment to be taken. The Committee will make its decision based entirely upon the written reports before it, including that of the affected coach, should he or she submit a report. Hearings will not be held by the Committee, unless it chooses to call one of its own volition

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5. A coach whose conduct is not considered to be exemplary to his or her players, parents, and spectators will be firmly dealt with by the appropriate authority.
6. All game suspensions must be reported to the state. The **NTSSA** A&D Committee will determine the extent of additional punishment, if any, in addition to that already prescribed.
7. The **NTSSA** A&D Committee will issue its decision based entirely upon the official's reports and any other written reports before it, including that of the affected player, should he or she submit a report. A hearing will not be held by the Committee unless it chooses to call one of its own volition.
8. **Extreme Violent Conduct**
The State A&D Committee will extend severe punishment to those players, coaches, assistant coaches guilty of extreme violent conduct toward any person or property after being ejected from a Futsal match.

1.4.4 Misconduct of Spectators

Each team (youth and adult) in **NTSSA** is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. Therefore, the coach/assistant coach/team manager is expected to control his or her spectators. If he or she is unable to do so, the State will take appropriate actions toward the identifiable unruly spectator, or, if unidentifiable, toward the team itself.

1.4.5 Misconduct and Punishment of Teams

1. The **NTSSA** will not hesitate to deny teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players within its jurisdiction the privilege of further participation in all or selected futsal activities within its jurisdiction for repeated offenses and for serious offenses considered to bring the game in disrepute. A probation period and/or other sanctions may be rendered to teams, coaches, managers, team representatives or players for violation of this rule.
2. The **NTSSA** does hold the team and coach jointly responsible for the conduct of his or her players, parents, and spectators.

1.4.6 Misconduct Toward Referees

NTSSA Rule 3.11.7 **Misconduct Toward Referees** and Rule 3.11.8 **Misconduct of Referees** shall apply to all Futsal activities.

1.4.7 Appellate Procedures

NTSSA Rule 3.11.9 **Appellate Procedures** shall apply to all Futsal activities.

1.4.8 Records

The **NTSSA** A&D Committee will maintain a permanent file of all reports sent to it and the action taken. When any one person or team shows a trend toward numerous misconduct reports, the Committee will contact such person or team for the purpose of warning or may call such person or team before it.

1.4.9 Member Association/Facility to Comply

When any Member Association or a member thereof, or an affiliated facility fails to send in reports as required by this rule, **NTSSA** will take any action it considers proper, including a fine, not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500). Repeated violation by a Member Association or affiliated facility can result in such association/facility being declared not in good standing.

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1.4.10 Game Protests

1. There are only two acceptable causes for the protesting of a game after it has been played. They are:
 - a. A team knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible or suspended player.
 - b. There has been an obvious error made in the application of the Futsal Laws of the Game that directly affects the outcome of the match, and the referee admits it.
2. No protests can even be entertained if they are based on judgment decisions made by the referee during play. The Futsal Laws of the Game clearly state in Law V (Referees) that . . .”A referee shall be appointed to officiate each game . . . his decision on points of fact connected with the play shall be final, so far as result of the game is concerned”. A game cannot be protested because one coach, or both for that matter, thinks the referee was incompetent. This is a matter to handle through the State Referee committee.