

JUNIOR FUTSAL RULES

Last Updated: August 2022

All rules are as per the official FIFA Futsal – Laws of the Game document with some minor amendments. In many cases, these amendments have been made to help increase the flow of the game. Please read on for clarification of these as they apply to the competitions at Loftus.

Matches

- All matches are scheduled in a 30 min block at Loftus, and need to conclude within that allocated time frame.
- Games run on a continuous clock format and allow two halves of 15 minutes and a one minute interval for change over at Loftus.
- A match will commence at the scheduled time, and teams need to be ready to play prior to their fixture time.
- A goal per minute will be awarded to the team waiting for the other team to be ready to play for tardiness.
- Teams are considered ready when;
 - The full first and surnames have been marked or added to the score sheet,
 - There is a minimum of 4 players inclusive of the goalkeeper.
- Teams need to have uniforms consisting of matching numbered shirts (within the first 3 weeks of the competition)
- Bibs will be made available upon a colour clash and the team wearing bibs will have kick off.
- The player designated as goalkeeper will wear a particular-coloured bib to distinguish them from outfield players. This bib can be changed with teammates if they wish to change goalkeeper.

Rules of the game:

- ALL RULES are to be based on the decision of the referee and are final.
- There is to be no exclamation or objection to decisions made by the referee. Repeated argument is considered dissent and a yellow card offence.
- Captain's rule:
A captain/designated parent may attempt to query any concerns prior a match or at the end of the match with the referee, upon the referee's discretion to discuss the query.
- No decision needs to be validated or explained at any time during the match to ensure the game can continue safely with a referee's full attention.
- Foul Language:
In the interest of the social environment and consideration of other patrons, swearing has a zero tolerance and a yellow card may be issued immediately for repeated foul language.

Body Contact:

- Pressing shoulder to shoulder is accepted when attempting to muscle and tackle or protect the ball among players.
- Body checking the player with no attempt to challenge the ball is not allowed.
- Raising an arm either bent or straight as an extending protrusion of the body is not allowed.
- Holding or physically pushing on a player to gain position is not allowed.

Tackling:

- Tackling from behind is not allowed.
- Tackling from the side or front on is acceptable when the challenge is to the ball.
- If contact has occurred and was deemed a disadvantage to the play a free kick is awarded.

- If the foul does not prohibit the flow of the game the advantage may be played.
- If the foul is deemed intentional a free kick will awarded and may incur a caution and a card.
- Slide tackles are not allowed by a field player.
- No sliding to tackle the ball,
- The only sliding challenge is permitted by the goalkeeper within the penalty circle.

Goalkeeper:

- The goalkeeper may only use their hands inside the penalty circle.
- The goalkeeper IS permitted out of their goal circle.
- A free kick is awarded if the goal keeper uses their hands outside the penalty circle. Ongoing incidents which are deemed to be deliberate by the referee will instead be awarded a penalty kick.
- The goalkeeper is not permitted to throw the ball over the halfway line of the pitch after a "dead ball" (when the ball goes out of play). If the keeper has instead saved the ball, they are permitted to throw it over the halfway line.
- The goalkeeper is permitted to place the ball down and kick the ball, however the goalkeeper is not permitted to drop kick the ball.

Pass back:

- After returning the ball into play, the goalkeeper may directly receive the ball from a player and only use their feet or body but not their hands.
- The goalkeeper is not allowed to use their hands after the ball has been played to them by a teammate at any time.

Field of play:

- The field of play is marked by the blue perimeter lines. The goal circle is indicated by the yellow semi-circle located in front of the goals.

Returning the ball into play:

- The ball must be returned into active play within 5 seconds of it being positioned to play.
- The ball is to be kicked in from the blue side line.
- Kick in from the side is an indirect kick and a goal cannot be scored.
- Corners are direct and a goal can be scored.
- Kickoff is direct and a goal can be scored.
- A goalkeeper returning the ball to play from being out of bounds is indirect and cannot score a goal.
- Penalty kicks are to be taken 1 step from the spot.
- The goalkeeper must keep their feet on the goal line and if they move off the line before the kick has been taken it may be taken again if the goal is not scored.

Defending the ball:

- When defending the ball from a spot kick, a player must be 3 meters from the ball.
- There will be only 1 player defending ball from a kick in, corner ball or free kick, unless the referee has discretion and requires a penalty or direct free kick in the 2nd penalty circle.
- All other defending players must be 3 meters from the ball.

- The defending team may have a wall of multiple players only from kick off.

Substitutions:

- Subs can interchange without limit and can be made only during a stoppage in play as indicated by the referee.
- This includes the goalkeeper changing positions with a field player.
- Subs must wait on the side of their goalkeeper and remain off the court at all times.

Fouls:

- Dissent – being argumentative and questioning the authority via decision of the official/the referee.
- Aggressive behavior – displayed towards any individual
- Foul language and inappropriate conduct – ZERO TOLERANCE
- Body contact – playing the player and not challenging the ball
- Hand ball – purposely handling the ball to seek an advantage. A handball is generally determined to have occurred when the hand is extended from the body. If a ball hits a player's hand while by their sides, this is considered 'ball to hand' and play will continue at the referee's discretion.
- Dangerous play – attempting to challenge the ball in a manner that is deemed unsafe.
- Tackles whereby a player's foot is above shoulder height will incur a foul call.
- A player going for a contested header should not header the ball at a point lower than shoulder height or a foul will be awarded to the opposition team.

Infringements, Cards and Suspensions:

- Yellow cards are to be issued when the referee has either cautioned a player or a foul committed and deemed intentional.
- Yellow cards will incur 2 minute removal of that player without substitution.
- Yellow cards are accumulative within the season.
- Incurring 2 yellow cards within a match will result in a red card being issued.
- Incurring 5 yellow cards within a season may incur suspension at management's discretion.
- Red cards are issued upon receiving the second yellow card or a foul committed is deemed grievous.
- Red cards result with the immediate removal of that player without substitution and may result in a suspension of the following scheduled match.
- Red cards issued are accumulative within the season and multiple cards will be reviewed for further suspension.

For further information, please contact the Sports Manager on 9227 6526, or at loftussports@belgravialeisure.com.au