



FUTSAL.



PLAYING FUTSAL – GETTING STARTED

PLAYING FUTSAL - GETTING STARTED

As Futsal is still a relatively new sport in England you may find difficulties in finding an appropriately sized court or are unable to access proper Futsal goals. But try not to be put-off by this; in essence Futsal is a simple game that at a recreational level can be played anywhere. There are five core components that contribute towards making Futsal the game that it is; and these are the five minimum criteria for establishing a game of Futsal:

1. Futsal Pitch Markings
(either permanently through tape or just by temporarily marking the pitch with flat disc markers)
2. Futsal Ball
3. Futsal Goals
4. Laws of the game
5. Hard Surface

FUTSAL PITCH

Ideally the game should be played indoors in any appropriately sized school or community sports hall. At a recreational level we would suggest that the minimum pitch size is 25m x 15m with a run-off around the pitch of 2m. The floor surface should be wooden or a suitable synthetic floor that is smooth and flat. Pitch markings can be laid down with tape but are not necessary for recreational/social futsal.

Although we would recommend playing the game indoors, at an introductory stage there is no harm in playing outdoors as long as the surface is hard and firm, for example a MUGA or tennis court.

At a youth and recreational level you can ultimately adapt whatever facilities that you have available to you to at least get a feel for the game. But the closer the facilities are to the required specifications for the game, the more authentic your practices and matches will become and the more likely your players will be to reap the benefits that Futsal has to offer.

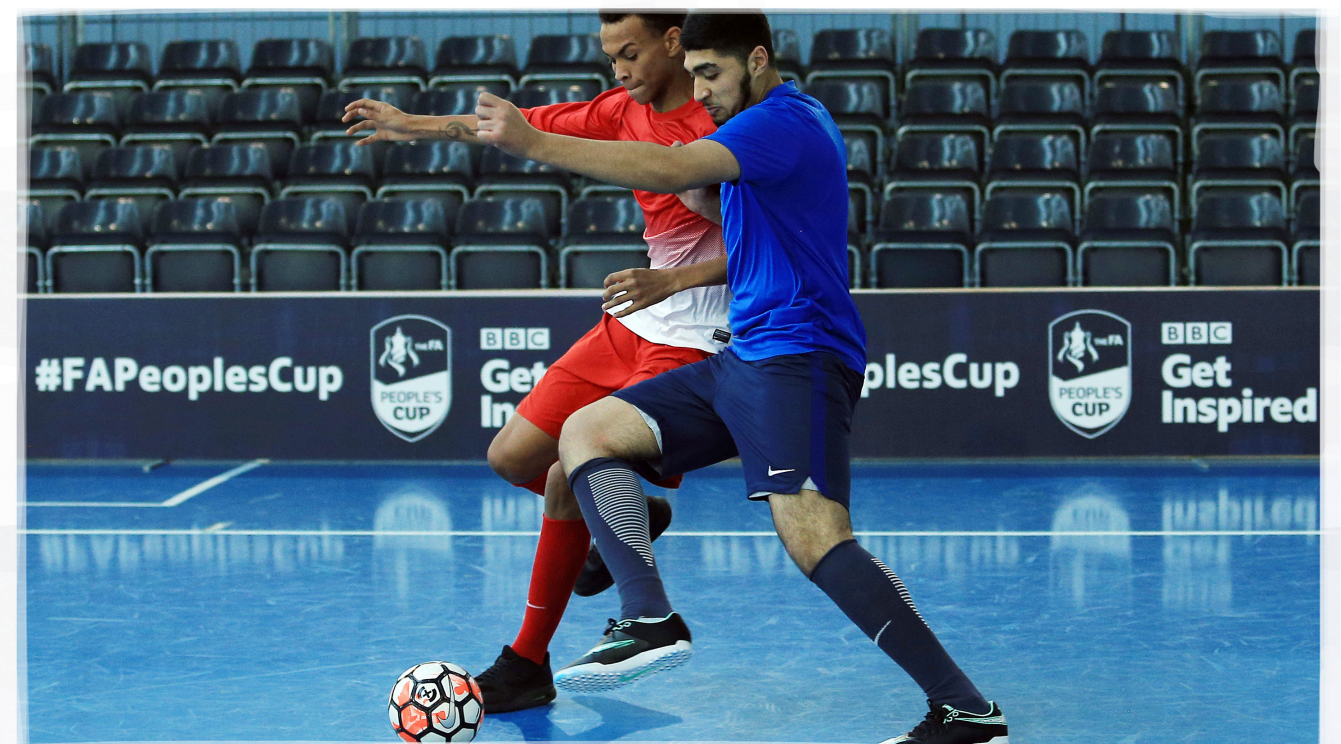
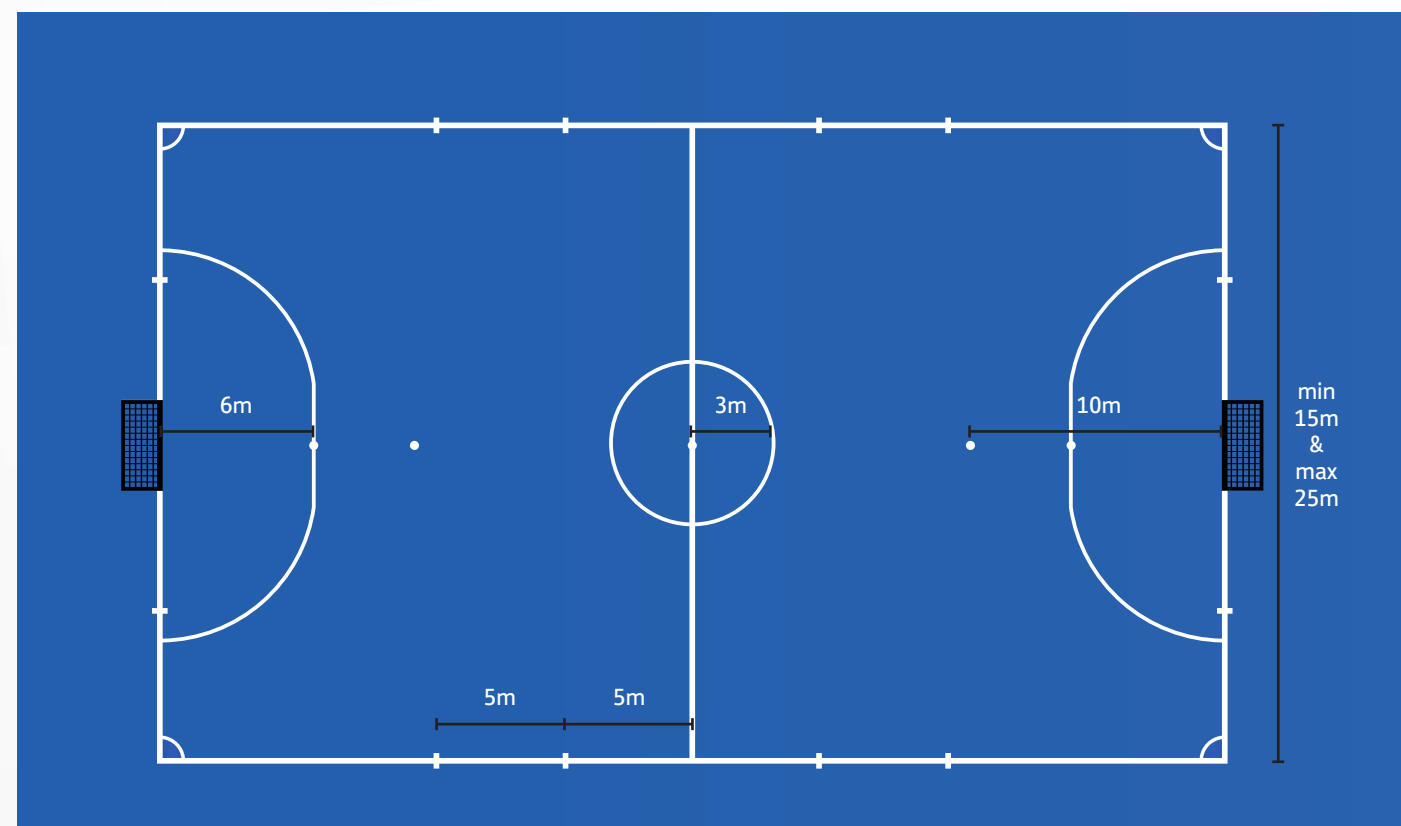
FUTSAL EQUIPMENT

Futsal goals are 3m x 2m in dimension and plastic or pop up goals can be purchased as well as the stronger metal goals. Futsal goals are very similar to hockey or handball goals, and these alternatives could be used if you are struggling to access proper Futsal goals. As with any forms of football, do make sure that the goals are safe and secure before you start playing. There are a number of retailers of Futsal goals online from whom you can purchase these goals.

In order to play a game that truly resembles Futsal you will need a proper Futsal ball, as these are smaller and denser than a normal football. The Futsal ball is an essential component, and if neglected in favour of a normal 11-a-side football the essence and nature of the game will substantially be altered. Futsal ball's can be purchased online and most big sports brands make Futsal balls; there are also Futsal specific brands that make good quality balls. The FA recommends that players aged under 12 years of age use a size 3 ball if possible and players aged 13 years and above a size 4 ball.

FUTSAL REFEREES

At elite levels of the game, three referees and a timekeeper are required to officiate a Futsal match. At a recreational level this is not essential but the job of effectively refereeing a game and managing the time can be challenging for one person to do on their own. County FAs run Futsal refereeing courses, and if you are having difficulties identify a suitably qualified Futsal referee speaking to your County FA could prove helpful.



FUTSAL LAWS OF THE GAME

The official Laws of Futsal are available to download from the FIFA website (www.FIFA.com), but outlined below are an abridged version to provide a simple introduction to the principles of Futsal, and to assist in differentiating the game from other versions of 5-a-side football.

THE PITCH

- Futsal is played on a marked pitch and the ball can go out of play

HEAD HEIGHT

- There are no height restrictions

SUBSTITUTIONS

- Up to 12 players can be used in one match and there is no limit on how long a player must stay on or off the pitch. Players must enter and leave the field of play from in from the substitution gates.

KICK IN

- In order to restart the game after a ball has gone out of play the ball is kicked back into play from the touchline and from corners. The ball must be placed stationary on the touchline and the feet of the player taking the kick-in must not cross the line.

THE FOUR SECOND RULE

- For kick-ins, free kicks, goal clearances and corner kicks the player in possession of the ball has 4 seconds to restart play which the referee will count with their fingers in the air. If play isn't restarted within four seconds possession is surrendered to the opposing team. The goalkeeper is not allowed to control the ball for more than 4 seconds in his/ her own half.

THE FIVE METRE RULE

- Players are required to keep 5m from the player in possession of the ball on free kicks, corners, goal clearances, kick-ins and penalties.

GOALKEEPERS

- Goalkeepers are allowed to come out of and players are allowed to go into the penalty area.
- A restart from the goalkeeper must be thrown out, but the goalkeeper can use their feet to distribute the ball from open play.

BACK PASSES

- Once the goalkeeper has played the ball he/she cannot touch the ball again unless an opposition player has touched the ball or if the goalkeeper receives the ball in the opponents half.

RED CARDS

- If a player is sent off then the team to which the player belongs must remain with 4 players until either two minutes have passed, or the opposition have scored a goal.

ACCUMULATED FOULS

- Each team will be allowed to give away 5 direct free kicks in each half of the game, then on the sixth foul a direct kick will be awarded to the opposing team and the defending team is not allowed to position any players (other than the goalkeeper) between the ball and the goal. The kick may be taken from the 10m mark or, if the foul was committed closer to the goal than the 10m mark, then the kick may be taken from the position where the foul took place.

DURATION

- Matches are played with a stopping clock (real-time) whereby the clock will be stopped whenever the ball goes out of play or when there is a stoppage in the game.
- Futsal games consist of 2 halves of 20 minutes.

TIMEOUTS

- Each team is permitted one timeout of 60 seconds each half.

GUIDANCE FOR ORGANISING A FUTSAL COMPETITION

This guide intends to provide the key points to consider when organising a one-day Futsal festival/tournament or a Futsal league that spans weeks or months. It is not an exhaustive list of actions that need to be undertaken, as every event and league will have slightly different requirements, but it should at least provide an outline for the event organiser.

SIZE OF THE FUTSAL TOURNAMENT OR LEAGUE

The number of teams entering the tournament or league has a significant impact upon determining other factors related to organising the event, such as the size of the facility, number of referees, format of the tournament etc. So initially the organiser needs to consider the desired number of teams that they would wish to take part in the event.

The size of the facility that you plan to use, particularly in regards to the number of pitches that are available, will often give you a good gauge of the maximum number of teams that you can include in the event. It is worth noting that too many teams quickly makes a one-day Futsal tournament unworkable; spending time looking at the structure of the Festival and how the format of the fixtures will be managed will help in deciding the optimum number of teams to be involved.

In general, if you only have one pitch at your disposal for the day then 8 – 10 teams will be the maximum number in most cases for a one-day event. However, for a league the organiser can be a little more flexible over the number of teams that participate.



GUIDANCE FOR ORGANISING A FUTSAL COMPETITION

COMMUNICATION

Once teams have been recruited, the event organiser needs to liaise with the teams prior to the event or prior to the start of the league season ensuring that they have all the information that they need to help them prepare properly for it. Information such as: the tournament rules, the format and fixtures, the kit that they will be expected to bring, the location of the venue, time of arrival, any costs, and any registration forms. If it is a league then the organiser should ideally look to contact the teams prior to each match to ensure that they are aware of their match details.

FA AFFILIATION

The event organiser should contact their local County FA prior to the tournament or league to discuss the need for appropriately affiliating the event with them.

VENUE & EQUIPMENT

The choice of venue is very important to ensure a successful event, especially when accommodating a number of teams. Futsal should be played at an indoor sports hall, preferably with a wooden or rubber/synthetic floor. Futsal should not be played on grass and not on artificial-turf either. The pitch should ideally have a 2 metre run-off around the perimeter of the pitch.

At a tournament depending on the age of the participants that you are catering for you may need to consider the length of time that players are not-on-court in-between games. Young players may get restless if there are long gaps in between their matches. For similar reasons, it would be beneficial (although not always possible) to have an area such as a café for the teams to wait in-between games, particularly if there is not a spectator viewing area.

The event organiser will need to consider whether the venue has the necessary Futsal goals, and if not then how these will be obtained. It would also be advantageous if there was an electronic scoreboard that could be used for the matches, but this is not essential.



RULES FOR THE EVENT

Prior to the event it is important to pay some consideration to the rules that you intend to follow during the league or tournament. These need to be finalised and circulated to the teams and the referees before the event or before the start of the season so that all parties have time to understand how the tournament or league will be played.

Where possible, stick to the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game, but you may need to modify them in order to fit the specific circumstances of your event, particularly in a one-day Futsal tournament.

Common rule changes for a one-day tournament or festival are:

- **Match Duration:** frequently the games are shortened and played on a non-stopping clock in order to fit all games into the allotted schedule.
- **Timeouts:** in order to keep games running to time then frequently timeouts are either reduced (one per team for entire game) or removed entirely.

- **Accumulated Fouls:** if the duration of the game has been reduced then the number of accumulated fouls that can be conceded before a penalty is given is often reduced in order to make this more relevant and appropriate.

The event organiser should also consider other elements that are specific to your tournament or league such as disciplinary action taken following a sending off (particularly in a league scenario), and what happens if there is a draw at the end of a knock-out game, or if teams are on equal points at the end of a group stage. For a league you should also consider elements such as teams failing to turn-up or cancelling at the last minute.

GUIDANCE FOR ORGANISING A FUTSAL COMPETITION

STAFFING & ORGANISATION

For a **one-day festival** or event it is advisable to appoint a Tournament Director to oversee the running of the tournament. This individual will have the following duties:

- Make sure matches are running on time and to schedule
- Be the point-of-contact for all team managers
- Organise the referees
- Make any official ruling decisions (e.g. consider any dismissals)

It would also be advisable to appoint a Results Coordinator, who collects the scores and results from the referee and assists the Tournament Director in ensuring that the event runs smoothly.

For a **league** it may not be necessary to have a league organiser to attend every game, unless the format of the competition requires it. However, a League Secretary should be appointed to liaise with teams and referees before and after the games to ensure that everything is running smoothly. The League Secretary will be responsible for:

- Creating a fixture list
- Regular communication with teams regarding fixtures
- Organising referees
- Collecting match results and formulating a league table
- Managing disciplinary issues

REFEREES

In official Futsal matches there are two referees to officiate the match, a third referee to manage the benches and to keep count of the team-fouls and a timekeeper. The event organiser may decide it is unnecessary to have so many match officials. It is suggested that there is at least one referee and a timekeeper who will also keep count of team-fouls during the match.

The event organiser should also take into account the need to rest match officials during the course of a one-day tournament, rather than repeatedly be called upon to officiate games. This can obviously lead to exhaustion for the referees resulting in poorer decisions being made.

The event organiser will need to organise the referees in advance of the tournament or league, ensuring that they are able to attend and that relevant communications have been sent to them (e.g. time of arrival, matches to be refereed, teams taking part etc).

INNOVATION & CREATIVITY

When initially embarking on organising your first Futsal tournament or league there will inevitably be issues that arise that you may not have encountered before, particularly in comparison to 11-a-side football. Be creative and innovative in your solutions and try not to let problems deter you.

For example, if you are looking to establish a winter youth Futsal league then it may be unrealistic to expect all teams to have a home venue, so perhaps you consider an alternative format for your league where you use one or two central venues for all teams in the league to play their games from. The venue costs are calculated beforehand and factored in to the league entry fee that each club needs to pay at the start of the competition so that all clubs share the costs.

Also consider partnership working, particularly at the youth age groups where most youth football clubs have some form of relationship with their local school that is more than likely to have a sports-hall that could be suitable for playing Futsal that they might be prepared to offer to the club or league at the weekend's or evenings for less cost than the local leisure centre.



EXAMPLE TOURNAMENT FIXTURE SCHEDULE

Outlined below is an example of how a one-day festival or tournament could be coordinated for **8 teams** using **one pitch**. This example is based around organising the 8 teams into 2 groups, and during the group stages playing one period of 10mins and in the knock-out stages playing 2 halves of 10mins.

MATCH	TIME	GROUP	TEAM
1	10.40	A	A v B
2	10.45	C	C v D
3	11.00	P	P v Q
4	11.14	R	R v S
5	11.30	A	A v C
6	11.45	B	B v D
7	12.00	P	P v R
8	12.15	Q	Q v S
9	12.30	A	A v D
10	12.45	B	B v C
11	13.00	P	P v S
12	13.15	Q	Q v R

MATCH	TIME	GROUP	TEAM
13	13.45	SF	GROUP A WINNER v GROUP B RUNNERS UP
14	14.30	SF	GROUP A WINNER v GROUP B RUNNERS UP

MATCH	TIME	GROUP	TEAM
15	15.15	FINAL	WINNER MATCH 13 v WINNER MATCH 14

CASE STUDIES AND EXAMPLES OF YOUTH FUTSAL

INTRODUCTION

Following the recent County FA futsal consultation events we have put together a short document comprising of various examples of good practise that may be useful for County FA staff. The examples are a mix of initiatives both delivered directly by the County FA and delivered by external partners but supported by the County FA.

DERBY FUTSAL LEAGUE (DFLFUTSAL)

- Started with one off summer festivals during close season to gauge interest and need for a league in the city.
- League committee formed from FA Charter standard club officials, FA National Futsal League Club official and FIFA Futsal Referee.
- Interest in Futsal through officials playing the game, coaching and coach education.
- Multiple venues in use – Leesbrook School (1 Court (unmarked) and Goals), University of Derby (2 youth courts (unmarked) and goals, 1 adult show court (marked) with goals), Derby Arena – 2/3 marked courts and goals.

- Support from the County FA to develop SCOR(Y) and affiliation/sanctioning process – similar to Chesterfield Futsal League above.
- Support also provided around affiliation of clubs and insurance through SportsGuard – Start up grant offered in first season to support this.
- Clubs will be playing BI/Tri – weekly dependent on numbers in each age category. They are looking to deliver U8,U10, U12, U14 and U16 boys and girls
- Full league programme launching September 2017.



CASE STUDIES AND EXAMPLES OF YOUTH FUTSAL

CASE STUDY 2: DURHAM COUNTY FA & GATESHEAD SCHOOLS FA

- Established in 2012-13 season
 - Started as one off Futsal tournaments which have now evolved into CVL across the whole borough
 - U12, U14 and U16 boys catered for
 - Now delivered across 2 CVL sites (one east and one west of the borough)
 - 8 of the 10 Gateshead SFA member schools involved
 - Funding support Durham FA, ESFA and Gateshead SFA have allowed them to put 10 sets of goals into member schools over the past 5 years
 - 192 boys played in the competition last academic year
 - Durham FA deliver a County Futsal Finals for the winners of Gateshead SFA and Chester le Street/Washington SFA who run a similar programme (also set up in 2012-13 with Durham FA Support)
 - Gateshead SFA programme supported by a sponsor – The Education Network
- Programme expanded in 2017-18 to include U18 boys and U12 girls
 - Host schools have supported young leaders with funding for the FA Futsal Referees course meaning games are officiated by qualified futsal referees
 - Futsal is now embedded in the curriculum at one host school (Heworth Grange) and is a larger participation programme than their football programme
 - Players signposted to local futsal clubs and Heworth Grange post 16 Futsal Academy in partnership with Northumbria University and Durham Futsal Club resulting in several players now playing in The FA National Futsal League 2017-18 and involved in the England U19 camps
 - In July 2017 the secretary of Gateshead SFA submitted a proposal to Durham County Schools FA to expand the futsal programme into other districts which was well received

CASE STUDY 3: DEVON FA

THE FIRST FUTSAL FIVES LEAGUE IN DEVON

- Launched Oct 2012 at new facility
- Utilised to prioritise Futsal
- Central venue for 1hr commitment
- Trained Coordinator always on site for high standards
- Aligned to fit other adult leagues
- No slide tackles to discourage violent conduct
- Social, recreational offer

RECRUITMENT

- GiFO Programme – Free Kit
- On site exit route from JP
- FE & HE work in city
- Tied in with launch of new facility – sole football provider on offer on site
- Social Media & Media Partner productions
- Entry to FA Futsal Cup

REPLICATING THIS ACROSS DEVON

- Established partners selected to deliver from:
 - Remote FDO Facility managers on FF sites
 - FitC Trusts @ Pro Clubs
 - FE & HE SDO staff
- Hosted at Futsal-ready Facilities
- Officer support to access SSFDF for launch
- Strong brand identity for consistent offer
- Access to County Finals

MAINTAINING CONSISTENCY

- SLA for each provider
 - Minimal profit reinvested into league
- Quarterly Submission Deadlines to DCFA
- Full-Time
- League Administrative Package
- Accessible Kit & Trophy Packages & Goals
- Centralising Futsal in each area at the best facility available

TEAM CASE STUDY – FURIA ROJA

- Core played together at University - socially
- Sunday nights convenient
- Guaranteed organisation & consistency
- Cheaper than other SSF offers
- Competitive but in a good spirit
- Suitable step between NL & Uni
- Flexible, approachable League Coordinators

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

- Added competition:
 - County Tournaments
 - League Charity events
 - Champions League
- Publicity in the county – what is it?
- Introduce Futsal in more JP sessions
- Offer introductory events to existing SSF
- Encourage players to take up CPD courses

Contact Howard Shaddick:

howard.shaddick@devonfa.com

CASE STUDY 4: NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FA

CURRENT LEAGUES (ALL ADULT)

- FA Futsal Fives – Kettering
 - Season 19 – over 4 years
 - 8 teams per season
- Northants Women's Futsal League – Kettering
 - Season 9 – over 3 years
 - 8 teams per season
- Northants Premier Futsal League – Northampton
 - Season 3 – just over 12 months
 - 4 / 5 clubs

FUTSAL LEAGUE COORDINATOR ROLE

- Recruit & retain teams
- Be first point of contact for teams
- Attend all league nights
- Ensure teams get a quality service
- Update Full-Time website
- Lots of problem solving on the night!

- 8 teams to regional youth futsal qualifiers who have each played a minimum of 5 matches to qualify
- Affiliate 32 new youth futsal teams (U10, U12, U14, U16 boys & girls) – target 4 per age group
- Football club-based activity, complimented by local futsal clubs

NORTHANTS GIRLS FUTSAL LEAGUE

- Monthly events – festival format
- 4 age groups
- £15 per team (NWAGFL cover short-fall)
- Came as a result of excellent feedback from clubs at qualifying events for regional youth futsal festival
- Great partnership work between FDO & League
- Boys Futsal – aiming for a similar scheme

Contact Stuart Smith:
stuart.smith@northantsfa.com



CASE STUDY 5: CHESTERFIELD FUTSAL LEAGUE (@FUTSAL_CFL)

- Launched in January 2016 following the construction of a new Sports Centre (Queens Park Leisure Centre) – Indoor Sports Hall with two youth courts marked out and with goals.
- League committee established from FA Charter Standard Club Officials from around the district – working collaboratively amongst clubs to develop players.
- Interest in Futsal was born out of a few individuals learning about the game through our Coach Education programme.
- Worked with County FA to establish a version of SCOR(Y) which would work for the Youth League.
- Work undertaken to affiliate and sanction the league fully. Currently affiliated under a slot system to allow flexibility of clubs/teams entering. Look for clubs to affiliate their Futsal team separately to ensure we can count the number of teams playing.
- Insurance covered through SportsGuard – County FA have provided a start-up grant to help cover this for the first season.

- Clubs play where possible on a bi-weekly basis to ensure players are not being attracted away from their football commitments.
- For the start of the 17/18 season – they are engaging with 35 teams from across 15 different clubs (approx. 250-300 Players) split across U8, U10, U12 and U14 Boys categories.
- Have trialled Open Age matches in a friendly capacity for parents and coaches.

