

# FA National Futsal Leagues

Season 2009 - 10

New Club  
Application Pack





## **Futsal – The world’s fastest growing indoor sport.**

Futsal is the format of Small Sided Football that is recognised and supported by FIFA and UEFA with World and European Championships for clubs and National Teams

It is a five a side game, normally played on a slightly larger pitch with hockey sized goals and a size 4 ball with a reduced bounce. It is played to touchlines and all players are free to enter the penalty area and play the ball over head height. As a small sided game, players are constantly placed in situations where they must receive or play whilst under pressure or in confined spaces. Futsal places considerable demand on technique, movement, tactical awareness and fitness.

The differences to our traditional versions of Small Sided Football are the absence of rebound boards and some slight amendments in the laws that favour skilful, creative play above the physical contact that tends to be a feature of English five a side. It’s just not possible to squash an opponent against the boards in Futsal!

### ***Why is the FA Interested in Futsal?***

The FA views Futsal as a high quality format of a small sided game.

- Many Countries that we admire for the technical skills of their players use Futsal as an aspect of youth development. Ball retention, quick and skilful play, tactical awareness – all are promoted in Futsal
- Fairplay – The Laws of the game and an accumulated fouls rule discourages teams from being overly physical or disputing the decisions of the two referees.
- Exit routes – Futsal can offer some very exciting opportunities to its participants that are not available in traditional five a side. There is an FA Futsal Cup, UEFA Futsal Cup and International representation in European and World Competitions available to talented teams and players.

### ***How is the FA supporting the development of the game in England?***

The FA has been developing an integrated Futsal programme for the past five years and has initiated:

- An England Futsal Team
- The FA National Futsal Leagues
- The FA Futsal Cup
- Participation of English Club Teams in the UEFA Futsal Cup
- England Team competes in the UEFA European and FIFA World Championships.
- The FA National Youth Futsal Festival
- Futsal is being played widely in schools across the country
- The BUCS National University Futsal Championships
- FA Futsal Coaching & Refereeing Courses



## The FA National Futsal Leagues

The FA National Futsal Leagues were established in 2007/08 to provide an elite Futsal competition for the best teams in the country to regularly play against each other. The aims and intentions of creating these Futsal leagues were to:

- Increase & improve the quality of Futsal players and clubs in England
- Increase the awareness of Futsal across the country
- Provide an incentive through high level competitive games to retain players in Futsal
- To provide a pool of talented players to support the England national team

The FA National Futsal Leagues are comprised of a structure of three regional leagues: Southern, Midlands and Northern leagues. With Futsal still being an amateur game in England, playing matches in regional leagues is the most appropriate structure for the game in its current state of development.

The top two teams from each of these three regional leagues progress to The FA National Futsal Leagues Grand Play-Off. These six clubs compete during an exciting weekend of Futsal to determine The FA National Futsal League Champion, with the winning team becoming the English representative in the UEFA Futsal Cup.

### ***FA National Futsal League Development***

With Futsal still very much in a development phase in England, The FA are keen to continue to raise the standards and quality of all aspects of the game: from the grassroots up to the elite level. This means that The FA look for the support of the FA National Futsal League clubs to help in proactively improving the quality of Futsal. For this reason The FA are working with the country's leading Futsal clubs to instigate a three-year development programme to enhance the National Futsal Leagues and the club structures within them.

During the 2009-10 season, teams within the FA National Futsal Leagues will be encouraged to start considering and adopting a more club-based approach to their structures. This means that the leading teams through the next season will need to start:

- Appointing nominated volunteers into key positions and functions within the club (e.g. chairman, club secretary, treasurer, marketing officer, fundraising officer etc)
- Considering financial sustainability
- Producing a 3 year Club Development Plan

The Club Development Plan will outline the key actions and programmes that the club will instigate over the next three years to begin to establish a structure that can support an elite Futsal club. These plans will look to implement:

- ❖ Coaching development



- ❖ Player development & training programmes
- ❖ Talent identification plans
- ❖ Establishing links with the local community & creating reserve / junior teams to feed into the top team
- ❖ Marketing & promotion of Futsal into the local community to attract a fan-base
- ❖ Development of sponsorship & investment plans

The FA will support clubs in delivering these plans and will potentially identify those clubs with the best and most realistic plans to part-fund the realisation of the club development plans over a three-year development cycle.

Any new club wishing to join the FA National Futsal Leagues should be prepared and willing to initiate a programme of development over the next three years in order to improve the sustainability, quality and professionalism of Futsal at the highest level in this country.

### ***Format & Structure of the 2009/10 Season***

As part of the development programme of the FA National Futsal Leagues, the format for the next season is changing.

- ***League Numbers:*** Each league will consist of no more than eight clubs for 2009/10 season.
- ***Home & Away Fixtures:*** in the first two seasons all fixtures were staged at a central venue at the expense of The FA. For the 2009/10 season clubs will be required to identify a home venue(s) that they will use for all matches during the impending season. Each club will be required to coordinate and organise home match-days in accordance with the standards and requirements expected of The FA National Futsal Leagues. Clubs will be allowed to share their home venue with other neighbouring clubs if required.
- ***Home Venues:*** Clubs will be required to identify their intended home venue(s) in the attached application form. The venue(s) must conform to the requirements as stated within *The FA National Futsal League Venue Specification*. The FA will spot-check each club's home venue to ensure that it meets the required standard. During the season random checks will take place on match days to ensure the quality of the match day delivery is of the standard expected.
- ***Referees & Match Officials:*** The FA will appoint and pay for all match officials involved in FA National Futsal League matches.
- ***Season Duration:*** The 2009/10 season will start in January 2010 with the aim of finishing in July 2010. The fixture dates are listed below with The FA confirming the exact fixture list in September 2009. Fixtures will be played on a Sunday at anytime between 11am and 7pm (at the discretion of the home club). Fixtures can be played outside of these parameters only upon joint agreement between the two clubs and The FA.
- ***Funding:*** All aspects associated with playing the matches will be funded by the clubs, except for the match officials. The FA will provide all FA National Futsal League clubs with a **'one-off'**



parachute payment of up to £1000 for the season 2009/10 to help support the venue costs. Similar payments in future years will not be forthcoming: clubs will have been expected to have established funding and sustainability plans.

- **Relegation:** The bottom team from each league will be forced to contest their place in the FA National Futsal Leagues by entering the *Promotional Play-Offs*. New clubs wishing to join the FA National Futsal Leagues will be entered into the Promotional Play-Offs. The winner of these Play-Offs will play in the FA National Futsal Leagues the next season.
- **Prize Money:** The winners of each National Futsal League along with the overall National Champion (winner of the Grand Play-Offs) typically receive prize money. The amount of prize money being awarded for the 2009/10 season is still to be confirmed by The FA.

### ***FA National Futsal League Fixture Dates***

<b>January 2010</b>	
10 <sup>th</sup> January	FA National Futsal Leagues Game 1
17 <sup>th</sup> January	FA National Futsal Leagues Game 2
31 <sup>st</sup> January	FA National Futsal Leagues Game 3
<b>February 2010</b>	
14 <sup>th</sup> February	FA National Futsal Leagues Game 4
21 <sup>st</sup> February	FA National Futsal Leagues Game 5
28 <sup>th</sup> February	FA National Futsal Leagues Game 6
<b>March 2010</b>	
14 <sup>th</sup> March	FA National Futsal Leagues Game 7
21 <sup>st</sup> March	FA National Futsal Leagues Game 8
<b>April 2010</b>	
18 <sup>th</sup> April	FA National Futsal Leagues Game 9
25 <sup>th</sup> April	FA National Futsal Leagues Game 10
<b>May 2010</b>	
9 <sup>th</sup> May	FA National Futsal Leagues Game 11
16 <sup>th</sup> May	FA National Futsal Leagues Game 12
<b>June 2010</b>	
6 <sup>th</sup> June	FA National Futsal Leagues Game 13
13 <sup>th</sup> June	FA National Futsal Leagues Game 14
<b>July 2010</b>	
10 & 11 <sup>th</sup> July	FA National Futsal League Grand Play-Off Finals

### ***FA National Futsal League Rules***

A copy of the Laws which will apply to this competition are attached to this document – Appendix 1. These Laws cover issues around registration of players, teams, transfers of players, team bond, and disciplinary procedures. Please study these Laws carefully as they may have an impact on your decision to apply for admittance to the League.



**Please Note:** These Laws are the 2008/09 season version and are subject to amendment prior to the start of the 2009/10 season.

### ***FA National Futsal League Administration***

In previous season's the three FA National Futsal Leagues have had their own individual League Committee's to oversee the organisation and running of each respective league. For the 2009/10 season the three League Committee's will be disbanded and replaced by one centralised FA National Futsal League Committee.

On behalf of The FA National Futsal League Committee, responsibility for the day-to-day running of the FA National Futsal Leagues is delegated to:

<b>Southern League</b>	Amateur Football Alliance
<b>Midlands League</b>	Shropshire County FA
<b>Northern League</b>	Sheffield and Hallamshire County FA



## Application Process

If your Futsal club wishes to apply to join The FA National Futsal Leagues and believes that they are of a sufficient standard to compete at this level, then please take time to complete the attached application form and return to The FA by **7<sup>th</sup> August 2009**.

The FA wishes to have a maximum of eight teams competing in each of the three FA National Futsal Leagues for the 2009/10 season, currently the Leagues have the following number of teams:

- North = 7 teams
- Midlands = 6 teams
- South = 9 teams

For both the **North** and **Midlands** Leagues there is a shortage of teams currently playing. This means that none of the existing clubs competing in these two leagues will be relegated. If there are more applications for new teams to join these two respective leagues than there are available spaces, then these new teams will compete against each other in a *Promotional Play-Off* to determine the teams that gain the spaces in the North & Midlands National Futsal Leagues.

In the **South** National Futsal League, there are currently more clubs in the league than are currently desired for the 2009/10 season. This will result in the two bottom clubs in the Southern League being entered into a *Promotional Play-Off* alongside any new clubs that have applied to join this league to contest the one available space in next year's South National Futsal League.

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Clubs are invited to apply for consideration to join The FA National Futsal Leagues for the 2009/10 season. Applications will be weighed against the following criteria, and new clubs should demonstrate to the best of their abilities in their application how they meet these criteria:

1. The club has been playing Futsal for at least one season.
2. The club has played competitive Futsal preferably in a league and can demonstrate success
3. You have a club structure (e.g. Reserves, Junior teams etc) or are willing to develop such a club structure.
4. Your club has appropriate financial sustainability
5. Your club has access to a venue that meets the FA National Futsal League Venue Specifications

Please provide any appropriate supporting evidence to accompany your application form.

Applications from new clubs wishing to join The FA National Futsal Leagues must be received by The FA before: **7<sup>th</sup> August 2009**

Applications should be emailed to: Ellie Blok at [Ellie.Blok@TheFA.com](mailto:Ellie.Blok@TheFA.com) or posted to:

The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO BOX 1966, London, SW1P 9EQ



**Please note:**

- An application does not necessarily mean that your team will be eligible to play in an FA National Futsal League *Promotional Play-Off* if one is taking place for your desired National League. The FA National Futsal League Committee will first judge the merits of your club's application, and only if your club is considered to be of a suitable standard to meet the high demands of the FA National Futsal Leagues will your club be invited to compete in the *Promotional Play-Offs*.
- The FA National League that you apply for may not necessarily be the League that you are entered in or considered for. The FA National Futsal League Committee will consider geographic locations of club's home venues in deciding which league that they are put forward in to.

**The decision of The FA National Futsal League Committee is final. No appeals will be received.**



## FA National Futsal Leagues 2009-10 Season New Club Application Form

<b>Club Name</b>		
Club Contact Name		
Position at Club		
Contact Address		
Contact Phone Numbers	Home:	Mobile:
Contact Email Address		
Preferred League to Join	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>MIDLANDS</b>
		<b>SOUTH</b>

Name & address of home venue(s)		
Does this venue(s) meet the required facility specifications for the National Futsal Leagues?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Will you be able to host your home fixtures out of this venue(s)?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Does this venue(s) have the necessary Futsal pitch markings?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Does the venue(s) meet the basic Futsal pitch size requirements (including run-off) – 35m x 18m?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
What is the surface type of your venue(s)	<b>Wooden</b>	<b>Rubber</b>
		<b>Polymeric</b>
	<b>Other (please detail):</b>	
Does the venue(s) have metal / aluminium Futsal goals?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Does the venue(s) have 3 changing rooms?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>

How long has your club been playing Futsal?	
Has your club had any regular Futsal competition (e.g. local	



leagues, tournaments)? If so please provide information & outline any success you have had	
Did your club enter the FA Futsal Cup 2009 competition?	YES / NO
Does your club have a bank account?	YES / NO
Does your club have appropriate public liability insurance?	YES / NO

How many players are currently registered to your club?	
Does your club have a coach? If so please provide information (e.g. qualifications, experience etc)	
Does your club have a physio?	YES / NO
Do you have any other volunteers supporting the club (e.g. Chairman, Club Secretary, Treasurer etc)?	

Do you currently have a club structure (e.g. reserve teams, links with junior clubs etc)? Please provide information	
If not, are you prepared to establish a club structure?	YES / NO
How do you intend to develop your club over the next 3 yrs? (Please provide headline aims & plans)	
How is the club currently funded?	



What financial plans are in place to support the development of the club?	
How will the club develop awareness of Futsal and spectators within the local community?	

Any further information to support your application as to why The FA should include your club in the FA National Futsal Leagues	
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Once completed please return to Ellie Blok at The FA:

[Ellie.Blok@TheFA.com](mailto:Ellie.Blok@TheFA.com)

The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO BOX 1966, London, SW1P 9EQ

Closing Date for Applications is: **7<sup>th</sup> August 2009**



## APPENDIX 1

### STANDARD CODE OF RULES

#### 1 - NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

This Competition shall be designated the F.A. Futsal League (*a sponsorship title can be incorporated*). The competition shall be constituted of three leagues called the FA Futsal League - South, FA Futsal League – North, and FA Futsal League – Midlands.

All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be determined by the Football Association.

This Competition shall be sanctioned by the Football Association. The Competition, all Clubs and players, and other persons, shall be subject to the Rules and Regulations of the Football Association.

#### 2 - ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

- (i) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition be made in writing to the Secretary
- (ii) The Annual Subscription/Entry Fee shall be £ 25.00 per Club payable as specified in each year.
- (iii) Each Club shall within 21 days of election pay a Deposit of £100.00, which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.
- (iv) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee/Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid.
- (v) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing when specified of its County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season together with details of any other information required by the Competition.

#### 3 - OFFICERS

The Officers of the Competition shall be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Registration Secretary and a minimum of two Club Representatives to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. (*N.B.* Auditors are not Officers).

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Registration Secretary and Referees Secretary shall be appointed by The Football Association and/or the County Football Association who is administering the League.

#### 4 - MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

- (i) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers and a minimum of two members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting (Nominations to be given at such Meeting). Other Members shall be co-opted if required. The Management Committee shall meet as often as is necessary.



(ii) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers and shall be addressed to the Secretary.

## **5 - POWERS OF MANAGEMENT**

(i) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary.

(ii) Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one vote thereat, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such Member or to the Club so represented.

In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

(iii) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules. Except where these Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty and club, Club Official (limited to Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer) or player alleged to be in breach of a Competition rule must be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the Management Committee. Financial penalties can only be imposed if included within the set penalties for breaches of Competition Rules. All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate Association.

(iv) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within seven days.

(v) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.

(vi) A Club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition, shall be liable to be fined or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(vii) All fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification.

Clubs, Officials or individuals committing a breach of this Rule will incur such penalties as the Management Committee may impose.

## **6 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

(A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 31 January in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted -

- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) To consider any business arising there from.
- (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of



- Accounts.
- (iv) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).
  - (v) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
  - (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
  - (vii) Appointment of Auditors.
  - (viii) Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
  - (ix) Fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of playing season.

(B) A copy of the *duly audited/verified* Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen days prior to the meeting, and to the Football Association.

(C) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than 14 days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.

(D) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded.

(E) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting.

## 7 - AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

The Chairman and the Secretary of each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the Application for Membership for the coming season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

"We, A, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman) and  
B \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (Secretary) of the  
\_\_\_\_\_ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the  
Rules and Regulations of the F.A. Futsal League Competition and do hereby agree for and on  
behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into Membership, to conform to those Rules  
and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management  
Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16."

## 8 - QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

(i) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules are permitted in this Competition subject to the conditions of the Management Committee.

(ii) A registered playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-

Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the (Registrations) Secretary by 12 noon on the Friday prior to playing and whose completed registration counterfoil has been received by the Club prior to playing or permission granted from the Management Committee.

Registration forms may also be submitted to the (Registrations) Secretary by e-mail or by facsimile machine prior to the player playing.

(iii) 14 Registration forms per Club will be permitted free of charge



Additional Registrations will be charged at £ 3.00 per player – there will be no limit on the number of registered players

(iv) It shall be a breach of Rule for a player to:-

(a) Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred.

(b) Having signed for one Club in the Competition, sign for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.

(c) Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

(v) The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to rule 16) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated conduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered with.

(Note: Action under clause (v) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any case be subject to an Appeal to The Football Association. For the purpose of this rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)

(vi) Subject to The Football Association Rules dealing with players without a written contract when a player desires a transfer, the Club the player wishes to transfer to shall submit a transfer form to the (*Registrations*) Secretary accompanied by a fee of £ 5.00

In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.

(vii) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 31<sup>st</sup> July

(viii) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the (*Registrations*) Secretary.  
Registrations are valid for one Season only.

(ix) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players may have the points gained in the match deducted from its total and may be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(x) The Management Committee in exceptional circumstances may, at its discretion, award any points deducted from a Club under this Rule to the opponents in the match in question, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

**Note** – From the start of 2009 a Club should include a minimum of 4 (four) players qualified to represent England at International level in its squad. All Players must be qualified in accordance with the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players.



## **9 - CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME**

(i) Every Club must register the colour of its first and second choice of shirts and shorts with the Secretary who shall decide as to their suitability (Replica Kits must not be worn)

Goalkeepers may wear tracksuit bottoms but must wear colours which distinguish them from other players and the referee.

No player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the away team shall make the change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off will be dealt with by the Management Committee

Shirts must be numbered.

(ii) Any Club wishing to change its name and/or colours must obtain permission from its affiliated County Association and from the Management Committee.

## **10 - PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY/TIMES OF KICK-OFF/POSTPONEMENTS.**

All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws for Futsal as determined by FIFA

In addition the following are relevant:-

(i) Fixtures are deemed to be accepted unless objections are received by the Secretary within a specified time. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match or play at their selected venue with the consent of the Secretary under the conditions as imposed.

All Venues to be approved by the FA with a minimum pitch size for this League of 33m by 18m.

(ii) The times of kick-off shall be fixed by the Management Committee. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time may be fined a sum not exceeding £ 100.00, or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine. There will be a warm-up time prior to kick off where a late arrival will mean forfeit of this time. A Team not in attendance after 15 minutes of the kick-off time may have their game cancelled and the matter referred to the Management Committee under the provisions of the following -

All matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to inflict a fine, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals.

Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture must, without delay, give notice to the Secretary.

Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable.

In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee.

The Management Committee shall review all matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct



of one team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponents and/or take what other action they may deem necessary. In cases where a match is abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club members, the Management Committee shall take such action as they consider appropriate. Such action is subject to any disciplinary action taken by the appropriate organising Affiliated Association.

(iii) The half time interval shall be of five minutes duration.

## **11 - REPORTING RESULTS**

(i) The Secretary must receive the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner. Failure to do so will incur a fine and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.

(ii) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. The Management Committee shall have power to take such action as they deem suitable against a Club which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information.

## **12 - DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP**

(i) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn match. The teams gaining the highest number of points at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points the Club with the best goal difference shall be adjudged the winners. In the event of goal difference being equal the Club scoring the most goals shall be adjudged the winners. If the records of the Clubs remain identical a play-off match shall be played with provision for extra time and penalties, if necessary, to determine the winners.

(ii) In the event of a team not completing 75% of its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting team shall be expunged from the Competition table.

## **13 - REFEREES**

Match Officials for all matches shall be appointed centrally by the Football Association

The Match Fee for Match Officials, as determined by the Management Committee and Football Association, will be payable by the Competition.

All Clubs will be required to contribute as set sum to Match Officials Fees/Expenses as determined by the Management Committee.

## **14 - CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB**

(i) After 31<sup>st</sup> July in the current Season a Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing by 1<sup>st</sup> September each Season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £ 250.00

(ii) In the event of a Member Club which is an un-incorporated association withdrawing and/or disbanding it shall be immediately liable to discharge all its financial and other obligations to the Competition.



In the event that any such obligation remains undischarged after a period of twenty-one (21) days then such obligation shall be met by the then current Club Members, excluding those under the statutory school leaving age. Until a Member's pro rata obligation is discharged in full the Member shall not be allowed to participate in the Competition, which may apply to the Club's Parent County Association for a suspension order.

## **15 - PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS**

(i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding on all parties subject to Rule 16.

(ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match.

(iii) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have lodged the protest or complaint within three days of the issue occurring and also deposited with the Secretary a sum of £ 25.00. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

(iv) All parties to a protest or complaint must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement when the protest or complaint is being heard and must have received at least seven days notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the submission. .

## **16 - BOARD OF APPEAL**

Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the Competition, a Club, Official or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of the Football Association, including a fee of £ 50.00 for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual or Special General Meeting unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

## **17 - EXCLUSION OF CLUBS & MEMBERS**

(i) At the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting called for the purpose, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further membership which must be supported by (more than) two thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.

(ii) At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds (2/3rds) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.



(iii) Any official or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a player or players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) and (B) of this Rule.

## **18 - TROPHY:- LEGAL OWNERS/CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER/AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED/AWARDS.**

(i) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a Trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the sanctioning Association may decide.

(ii) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy:-

“We A \_\_\_\_\_ and B \_\_\_\_\_, the Chairman and Secretary of \_\_\_\_\_ FC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of \_\_\_\_\_ Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before \_\_\_\_\_. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.”

(ii) At the close of each Competition awards may be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

## **19 - SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting.

The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.

At least 14 days notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings.

## **20 - ALTERATION TO RULES**

Alterations shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by \_\_\_\_\_ in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by \_\_\_\_\_ and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by \_\_\_\_\_. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if \_\_\_\_\_ [a majority] of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.



A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association \_\_\_\_\_ days prior to the date of the meeting.

Any alterations or additions decided upon at any meeting shall not become operative until the approval of the Association issuing sanction shall have been obtained.

## **21 - RULES BINDING ON CLUBS**

Each Member Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing Rules and agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee subject to Rule 16. Each Member Club must abide by any issued Football Association Code of Conduct

## **22 - FINANCE**

(i) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.

(ii) All expenditure in excess of £ 250.00 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.

(iii) The financial year of the Competition will end on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

(iv) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be *audited/verified* annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

## **23 – DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS**

To be dealt with in accordance with the agreed FA Futsal League Disciplinary Regulations.



## THE FA FUTSAL LEAGUE DISCIPLINARY RULES & REGULATIONS

(a) The FA Futsal League will be governed in accordance with The Rules and Regulations of the Football Association. Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws for Futsal, as determined by FIFA.

(b) The competition shall be sanctioned by the Football Association. The competition, all clubs, players and any other participants shall be subject to the Rules and Regulations of the Football Association.

(c) Unless outlined within these Regulations, all matters of discipline will be dealt with in line with the Memorandum of Procedures for County Football Associations detailed within The Football Association Rules and Regulations

(c) The Football Association is responsible for all disciplinary matters concerning this competition. Administration of the discipline process may be delegated to a County Football Association which has been appointed as the Futsal League organiser on behalf of the Football Association. .

(d) All cautions will be reported to the appropriate Association and will be placed on the record of the participant.

(e). Dismissals and accumulation of cautions:

Suspensions for dismissals and accumulation of cautions will be imposed automatically and any suspensions imposed will be from ALL football.

(f) Schedule of punishments for dismissals.

The following schedule of punishments will be applied to any dismissal and accumulation of cautions together with an administration fee in force for FA discipline at the time (currently £8)

Serious cases of misconduct, such as spitting at a Match Official, will result in an additional misconduct charge being issued. For details see (h)

i	Receiving a second caution in the same match	1 match suspension
ii	A player who is dismissed from the field of play for denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by physical means or by handling the ball.	1 match suspension
iii	using offensive or insulting or abusive language/gestures	2 match suspension and £15 fine
iv	violent conduct, serious foul play or spitting at an opponent or any other person	3 match suspension and £20 fine
v	Accumulation of 5 Cautions in any Competition	1 match suspension
vi	Accumulation of 10 cautions in any Competition	2 match suspension
vii	Accumulation of 15 cautions	Charge for misconduct

(g) Any match suspensions received during the League phase of the competition will be continued into the National Play Offs of the competition.



(h) A charge of Misconduct under FA Rules may be brought against any participant deemed to be guilty of inappropriate conduct. A charge of Misconduct will be administered in accordance with the Football Association Disciplinary Procedures.

- i) A Disciplinary Commission, managed by the appropriate Association, shall determine the case.
- ii) The Disciplinary Commission will review such cases within a 14 day period from the date of the incident (prior to the club's next competitive match within the competition).
- iii) The Commission may request an official statement from the relevant club, officials or persons to be used as supporting information, but no personnel from the club will be invited to attend the Disciplinary Commission's meeting.
- iv) The club will be informed of the Disciplinary Commission's decision immediately following the Commission.
- v) Any sanction imposed by the Disciplinary Commission will be match based unless the Commission deem the matter serious enough to impose a period of suspension.
- vi) Any sanction imposed for a misconduct charge will be from playing in any form of football and not just from playing in FUTSAL
- vii) The participant has a right of appeal to the Football Association within 14 days of the written decision.
- viii) Any appeal will be heard in accordance with FA appeals procedures laid down in the Rules of The Football Association.