The FA National Futsal Leagues

Venue Specifications 2011/12

1) Introduction

The FA have produced this document to assist FA National Futsal League clubs identify a home venue(s) that fulfils The FAs requirements and expectations. Ideally each club will identify a venue that can facilitate and support the club's future growth and development as the awareness and appeal of Futsal expands in this country. Realistically however, The FA understands that this will not be feasible for all National Futsal League clubs to identify such a facility in the short-term. Subsequently, this Venue Specifications document provides the basic minimum requirements for an FA National Futsal League club to host games during the 2011-12 season, but also provides the desired aspirational requirements for a venue in the long-term.

The 'desired requirements' are only provided to offer guidance to clubs, and there is currently no agreed timeframe from when these requirements will become mandatory for FA National Futsal League clubs. If and when these 'desired requirements' are to be enforced, clubs will be given appropriate notice as to their implementation. They are only included to assist clubs long-term facility planning. For the 2011-12 season clubs must adhere to the 'basic requirements' stated in this document.

2) Venue Inspection

The FA National Futsal League clubs will be requested to identify their home venue(s) prior to the start of the 2011-12 season. The FA will inform the clubs as to the deadline for submitting their home venues.

Once the club has identified and informed The FA of their home venue(s), a representative of The FA will inspect the facility to ensure that it meets the basic requirements as outlined within this document.

During the season random venue checks will also be carried out by The FA on match-days to ensure that the quality of match-day provision is in line with the FAs requirements.

3) Venue Sharing

The FA accepts that it may not be possible for each FA National Futsal League club to find their own home venue that meets the FAs basic requirements, particularly in the short-term. In such

circumstances it is acceptable for clubs to share a facility and to jointly use it as their home venue. In such scenarios the clubs involved would need to take joint responsibility in coordinating with the venue to ensure that it meets the basic FA requirements on match-days, and to ensure that there is no overlapping or 'double-booking' of games.

4) Match Times & Dates

The 2011-12 season will start in October 2011 with it finishing in June 2012. The fixture dates will be confirmed by The FA with clubs being provided as much notice as possible. Fixtures will be played on a Sunday at anytime from between 11am and finishing at 7pm (kick off times are 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.

5) Futsal Pitch Dimensions

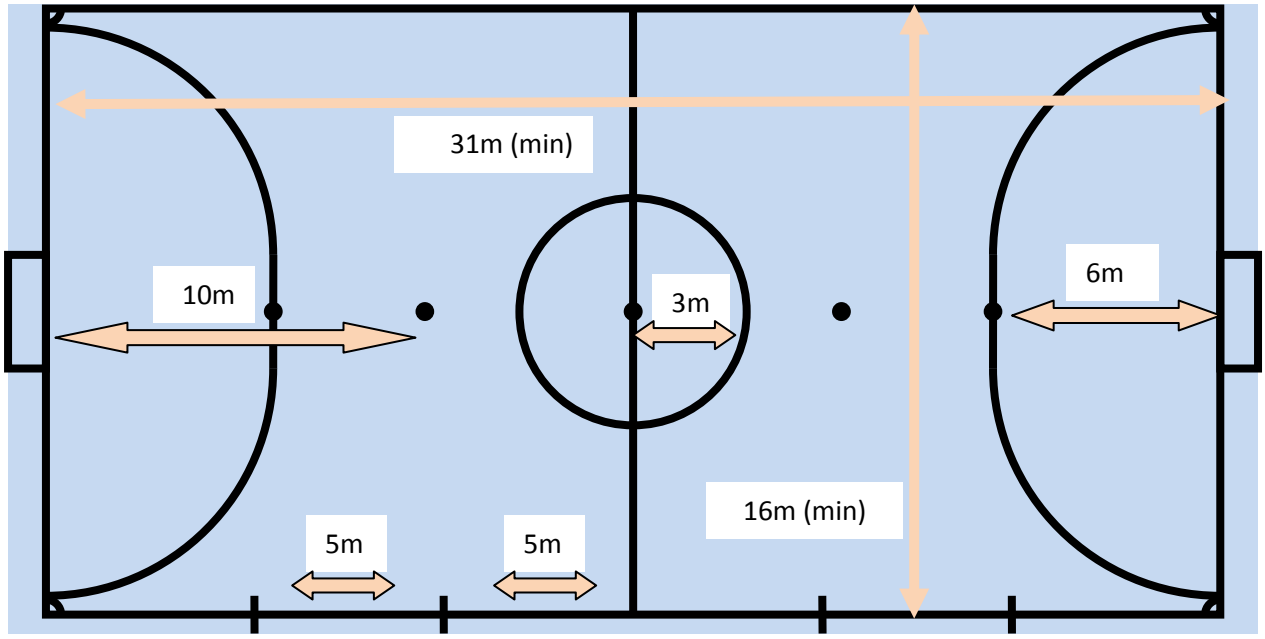
FA National Futsal League venues must conform to the following guidance on Futsal pitch and sports hall dimensions:

Size	Basic	Desired
Futsal Pitch Size	31m x 16m minimum 42m x 25m maximum	33m x 18m minimum 42m x 25m maximum
Pitch Size including Run-off	35m x 19m minimum 48m x 31m maximum	37m x 22m minimum 48m x 31m maximum

When selecting a venue, please ensure that there is also appropriate run-off around the pitch. A minimum run-off of 2 metres is required, with 3 metres being desirable.

6) Futsal Pitch Markings

Outlined in the diagram below are the pitch markings that are necessary for FA National Futsal League matches.



It is appreciated that there are few facilities in the country with only Futsal markings visible on the court. For most courts they are used by a variety of different sports, and subsequently numerous lines and markings will appear on the court. In such cases, the Futsal markings must be easily visible and be all the same colour for ease of identification.

7) Futsal Playing Surface

The playing surface for FA National Futsal League games shall be wooden, rubber or polymeric. Matches shall not be played on tarmac, concrete or artificial turf (Astroturf).

8) Futsal Goals

The size of Futsal goals are 3m x 2m, with a depth of 0.8m at the crossbar level and 1m at the base. The use of socketed Futsal goals is desirable. These systems are fitted into permanently-installed sockets in the playing surface, which are covered by a flush access panel when not in use. Portable goals must only be used when they are firmly and properly fixed or anchored.

Futsal goals used in the FA National Futsal Leagues shall be constructed out of aluminium / metal. Inflatable Futsal goals will not be permitted in National League games.

9) Changing Rooms

FA National Futsal League venues should have a minimum of 3 changing rooms: one for each team and one for the match officials.

- Team Changing Rooms: the two team changing areas should accommodate a minimum of 12 people and include showers.

- Match Officials Changing Room: this should accommodate a minimum of four people and include showers.

It would be desirable for the two team changing rooms to include a massage table.

In exceptional circumstances, The FA may consider on a case-by-case basis the requirement for a changing room for match officials.

10) Match Day Layout

An adequate number of benches or seating must be provided for both teams. For each team seating or benches should be provided to accommodate a minimum of ten people. The benches should be placed either side of the half-way line in front of each team's respective substitution zone.

In between the two team benches will be provided a timekeepers table and two chairs for the timekeeper and third referee.

11) Scoreboard

It would be desirable for each FA National Futsal League venue to have an electronic scoreboard that can display the score, time and team fouls. An indicative cost of such a scoreboard is £375.

However, it is appreciated for the 2011-12 season that it may not be possible for all venues to be equipped with an electronic scoreboard. In such cases, the club must provide as a basic requirement a manual display for the score and team fouls.

12) Spectator Provision

It would be extremely desirable for FA National Futsal League venues to have some spectator viewing provision to help encourage the development and fan-base for each FA National Futsal League club. Although strongly encouraged, for the 2011-12 season The FA appreciates and understands that this may not be possible for all FA National Futsal League clubs.

If there is no spectator provision at a venue, then the home club must ensure that spectators are not allowed on to pitchside and potentially causing a health and safety risk. The visiting club must also be informed prior to the game that there will be no spectator provision.

If the venue provides spectator viewing opportunities, it is the home club's responsibility to consider all health and safety implications and implement measures accordingly. Ensure that players have at least a 2 metre run-off from the pitch, and that there is clear delineation from this run-off area to the spectator area. If there are areas of the venue that spectators are prohibited from watching the game from, then ensure that spectators are informed and that it is managed appropriately during the game.

13) Other Considerations

This section addresses other aspects that may not have been detailed in the other sections. These other considerations are 'desirable' rather than a 'basic requirement' for The FA National Futsal Leagues.

- ***Car Parking:*** it would be desirable for the venue to have on-site parking to accommodate the teams, officials and spectators.

- ***Refreshments / Cafeteria:*** it would be desirable for the venue to provide refreshments, particularly if there are spectator viewing facilities.

- ***Audio Capabilities:*** it would be desirable for the venue to be able to provide audio provision for music and microphone commentary during the games.