



# FAST FORWARD WITH FUTSAL

THE FA'S FUTSAL STRATEGY 2018-24



# UNITE THE GAME, INSPIRE THE NATION

Six words encapsulate The FA's vision – what it wants to achieve. But words are meaningless unless day-to-day action brings them to life.

This document exemplifies The FA's vision coming to life – in this case around Futsal, the exciting small-sided indoor format played by almost every country around the world.

The FA introduced Futsal to England in 2003, but now is the time to embrace it fully and make it the nation's indoor game of choice for young players.

## Why? Because Futsal is:

- A high-quality, exciting and enjoyable format of the game that enables The FA to reach into every part of the community. It is FOR ALL.
- Proven to contribute – technically and tactically – to the development of better, more skilful players.
- A tangible way to combat drop-out rates, particularly among young people in the winter, when the weather and its effect on outdoor pitches is a barrier to continuous involvement.
- Potentially set for significant growth in England – evidenced by its ongoing growth around the world.
- A great format to get people into football for the first time, retain them – and encourage them back if they've dropped-out.
- A great game in its own right but also a key talent development tool.

Futsal is played between two teams of five players each, one of whom is the goalkeeper. Unlimited substitutions are permitted. Unlike other forms of small-sided football, it is played on a hard court surface delineated by lines. There are no walls or boards. Futsal is also played with a specific ball – it is harder and has a low bounce. Collectively, the surface, ball, and laws of the game encourage close control, running with the ball, dribbling and passing in small spaces. The laws have been laid down by FIFA, the world football governing body. Futsal is the only format of small-sided football recognised and endorsed by FIFA. It is now established and being developed widely in Europe and around the world. There are now international Futsal competitions for clubs, such as the UEFA Futsal Champions League as well as national competitions, e.g. UEFA Euro Futsal Championships, a FIFA Futsal World Cup and UEFA Womens Futsal Euro.



## OUR VISION

To make Futsal The FA's – and the nation's – indoor game of choice for young players.

## OUR MISSION

To ensure every young player experiences Futsal as part of their development.

## CONTENTS

### 3 OUR FUTSAL VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

### 4-5 FOREWORDS

- DAN ASHWORTH, FA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
- MICHAEL SKUBALA, ENGLAND FUTSAL HEAD COACH

### 6-25 OUR FIVE PRIORITIES

- 8-9 1. CREATE A HIGH-IMPACT IDENTITY FOR FUTSAL IN ENGLAND
- 10-13 2. DRIVE PARTICIPATION
- 16-18 3. ESTABLISH COMPETITION AND PLAYER PATHWAYS
- 20-21 4. CREATE A SPECIALIST FUTSAL WORKFORCE
- 22-25 5. BUILD THE BEDROCK FOR SUCCESSFUL ENGLAND FUTSAL TEAMS

### 14-15 FUTSAL – THE FACTS

### 26 FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

## OUR TARGETS

By 2024, in the categories shown, we will have:

- 1. PARTICIPATION:** 150,000 Futsal players participating regularly across both genders and all ages;
- 2. WORKFORCE:** 15,000 FA-qualified Futsal coaches at FA Level 2 and UEFA 'B' (currently 900);
- 3. FACILITIES:** A defined network of Futsal facilities, covering every County FA;
- 4. INTERNATIONAL:**
  - An England men's Futsal team in the top 20 of the FIFA world rankings (currently 54th);
  - An England women's Futsal team.

Until now The FA has not actively counted Futsal participation. We estimate around 10,000 dedicated Futsal players participate regularly in England. However, indications show that substantially more participate in Futsal as part of a wider football experience and development pathway.



## ‘IT’S TIME FOR ENGLISH FOOTBALL TO BENEFIT FROM FUTSAL’

From personal experience, there are many factors which go into broadening football’s appeal to young people. From that base, there are additional factors which ultimately create stronger national teams at every level.

These factors vary from country to country. But there’s no doubt that some of the countries around the world who have embraced Futsal have witnessed its benefits first-hand. It’s become a really popular entry point into the game for youngsters in many places. From there, the close control and skills they have developed through Futsal can, in time, see a rise in standards at international level. This applies as much to countries with a deep football culture, such as Spain, to relative newcomers on the world stage, such as Iran.

For those countries it is now seen as part of an embedded player development tool and we are now about to see extensive development in England.

For the first time, Futsal has been embedded in The FA’s latest National Game Strategy (2018-21) – the plan which sets the course for countrywide football development in the next few years. Futsal’s now one of the four defined ‘participation pathways’ for the game. This means it is front and centre as a vehicle to get people into football, retain them – and attract back those who have dropped out.

At international level, it is also a key element in the ‘England DNA’ we have developed – a philosophy which covers how we want all our national teams to play. It also covers how we want the game to be coached, so that coaches throughout the country – particularly those who coach young players – feel connected to the top level of the game. Training coaches in Futsal specifics is part of our plan.

For young players themselves, it’s no surprise Futsal is becoming increasingly popular. Lots of touches of the ball, constant involvement in the game and a chance to develop and/or show-off skills. What’s not to like?

So I’m really looking forward to the planned growth of Futsal in England. We want to bring its undoubted benefits to individual players, communities – and the nation.

**Dan Ashworth**  
FA Technical Director



## ‘EMBRACING FUTSAL IS THE PERFECT FIT FOR THE FA’



Providing safe and enjoyable ways to participate in football is at the heart of The FA’s work. In addition, we want to bring the game to everyone. No-one should experience any barriers – whether real or perceived – to getting into the game, staying in it – or coming back to it.

Futsal fulfils all these criteria. This makes it a perfect fit for The FA. We have monitored Futsal’s progress in other countries and seen the positive effect it has had on players’ technical and tactical ability.

Equally important, we have seen the enthusiasm – here and overseas – with which players’ of all ability levels have greeted the game in its own right. That’s particularly true of young players, as the game is fast-paced and encourages skills.

We believe there are three key factors that will enable us to fulfil our Futsal vision:

- **Leadership:** In a similar way to the women’s and girls’ game, we have an opportunity to fashion Futsal’s future and take responsibility for every aspect of its development.
- **Investment:** We have allocated a defined budget to accelerate Futsal’s growth;
- **Partnership:** The role of the County FA network is fundamental if Futsal is to progress. That’s in addition to partnerships we must form with other football bodies, as well as with key stakeholders in the private and public sectors.

It is one of the key areas on which County FAs’ performance will be tracked. Participation targets and future direction of travel for Futsal have been agreed with every County FA, as well as targets for training Futsal-specific coaches and referees.

In short, this means we are no longer talking about Futsal becoming a key component of the game in England – we’re going to make it happen.

In the future, I hope people will look back at 2018 as the year Futsal in England really kicked-off – and kicked-on.

**Michael Skubala**  
England Head Coach – Futsal

## OUR FIVE PRIORITIES

If Futsal is to reach its undoubted potential its growth must be planned. For example, there's no point in attracting lots of players if we don't have enough coaches and referees or places to play.

With planning in mind, and to achieve our vision and key objectives for the game, we have identified five priority areas which need our attention:

- Create a high-impact identity for Futsal in England;
- Drive participation;
- Establish competition and player pathways;
- Create a specialist Futsal workforce;
- Build the bedrock for successful England Futsal teams.

As you'll see, all the priorities have an individual goal and contain several focus areas. The key, as with any successful strategy, is to ensure all our interdependent work is co-ordinated.

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"As a little boy in Argentina, I played Futsal on the streets and for my club. It was tremendous fun, and it really helped me become who I am today."

**Lionel Messi**  
Barcelona and Argentina



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"Futsal can play a key part in our strategy to grow the women's and girls' game – developing the players of tomorrow. We also believe Futsal can play a major role in the growth of schools' football at primary and secondary levels, to boost participation and improve players technically. More than anything, it's another good football choice for young girls."

**Sue Campbell**  
FA Director of Women's  
Football

## PRIORITY 1

# CREATE A HIGH-IMPACT IDENTITY FOR FUTSAL IN ENGLAND

**GOAL:** To define a position for Futsal across the English football landscape and raise its awareness, particularly among young people.

If Futsal is to become 'the nation's indoor game of choice for young players', it must become a credible game in its own right.

To achieve this, we must establish a distinct identity for the game, alongside explaining Futsal and its numerous benefits. Our promotion of Futsal needs to engage the general public – particularly young players – but also emphasise to those within football the positive role of Futsal as a player development tool.

The FA operates several influential communications channels of its own. We intend to make better use of these to spearhead our promotion of the game.

## FOCUS AREAS

1. IMPROVE VISIBILITY, PARTICULARLY ONLINE
2. INCREASE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROFILE
3. EMBRACE BEST PRACTICE
4. CREATE PARTNERSHIPS WITH LIKE-MINDED ORGANISATIONS



"During my childhood in Portugal, all we played was Futsal. The small playing area helped me improve my close control, and whenever I played Futsal I felt free. If it wasn't for Futsal, I wouldn't be the player I am today."

**Cristiano Ronaldo**  
Juventus and Portugal



## 1. IMPROVE VISIBILITY, PARTICULARLY ONLINE

We will:

- Launch a national campaign to drive Futsal participation;
- Produce marketing assets for other stakeholders to promote the game;
- Improve coverage of Futsal through all FA-owned digital channels;
- Explore opportunities for live-streaming of key matches on FA or partner channels.

## 2. INCREASE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROFILE

We will:

- Proactively market England Futsal national team matches and the teams themselves;
- Explore opportunities to host UEFA/FIFA events and tournaments.

## 3. EMBRACE BEST PRACTICE

We will:

- Learn from other countries' successful Futsal experiences – from technical and participation standpoints.

## 4. CREATE PARTNERSHIPS WITH LIKE-MINDED ORGANISATIONS

We will:

- Work with key partners and stakeholders to help them develop Futsal opportunities;
- Support these third parties to ensure every player has the correct, engaging experience of the game.

## PRIORITY 2

# DRIVE PARTICIPATION

**GOAL:** To attract new players and retain existing ones.

The FA alone cannot encourage people to take up Futsal. This has to be done with key partners – those already close to The FA and those in the private sector.

In particular, the 50 County FAs have a crucial role. They are uniquely-placed as strategic partners to co-ordinate the various football bodies in the regions they serve and collectively create a robust national Futsal delivery network.

To aid this process, The FA needs to centrally profile current and potential Futsal participants.

### FOCUS AREAS

1. TRACK CURRENT PARTICIPATION NUMBERS AND DRIVERS
2. EMBED FUTSAL IN THE FA'S SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL
3. ESTABLISH FUTSAL AS A CORE OFFERING OF GRASSROOTS CLUBS
4. MAXIMISE THE ROLE OF FA-FUNDED COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
5. EMPOWER COUNTY FAs TO CO-ORDINATE FUTSAL GROWTH
6. HARNESS THE POSITIVE POWER OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR
7. IMPROVE THE QUALITY, QUANTITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF FACILITIES TO PLAY FUTSAL



"I suggest that all youth football players start playing Futsal as it can improve their football performance dramatically. The athlete becomes more agile and they think quicker due to the dynamism Futsal brings."

**Rosana dos Santos Augusto**  
Brazilian women's international player



## 1. TRACK CURRENT PARTICIPATION NUMBERS AND DRIVERS

We will:

- Build an accurate picture of current Futsal participation and player profiles. This will be done by tracking players through our Player Registration system;
- Disseminate the information and insight we gain to help all providers build effectively market Futsal.

## 2. EMBED FUTSAL IN THE FA'S SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL

We will:

- For the first time, make Futsal a key feature of our new schools' football offering. This will entail working closely with:
  - The Youth Sport Trust;
  - English Schools' FA (ESFA), Independent Schools' FA (ISFA);
  - Premier League and English Football League (EFL) community teams, linked to their member clubs who work in schools.

## 3. ESTABLISH FUTSAL AS A CORE OFFERING OF GRASSROOTS CLUBS

We will:

- Support as many grassroots clubs as possible to embrace Futsal as part of their all-round offering, leading to multi-format seasons;
- Encourage those grassroots clubs who offer Futsal to achieve the FA Charter Standard for quality football provision, based on a skilled Futsal workforce.

## DRIVE PARTICIPATION continued...

### 4. MAXIMISE THE ROLE OF FA-FUNDED COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

We will:

- Given their key role, we will work in close partnership with FA-funded colleges and universities to:
  - Create a strong pathway linked directly to National League Futsal Clubs;
  - Provide a skilled workforce to deliver Futsal in surrounding communities.
- Create and embed more Futsal regional talent centres.

### 5. EMPOWER COUNTY FAs TO CO-ORDINATE FUTSAL GROWTH

We will:

- Actively support County FAs to form clear and interlinked Futsal delivery networks in their region, bringing together various parties, including:
  - Professional clubs, National League Futsal Clubs, Youth Football and Futsal Leagues, colleges and universities and FA Charter Standard Clubs.
- Encourage County FAs to run Futsal competitions as a key delivery mechanism;
- Ensure County FAs offer and deliver Futsal-specific coaching and refereeing qualifications.

### 6. HARNESS AND DEVELOP A WIDER NETWORK OF FUTSAL PROVISION

We will:

- Proactively influence all networks football providers to deliver a regulated quality Futsal offer. Such providers could include:
  - Schools' PE and sport providers, small-sided-football and leisure operators to facilitate The FA indoor game of choice for young players.



### 7. IMPROVE THE QUALITY, QUANTITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF FACILITIES TO PLAY FUTSAL

We will:

- Ensure Futsal-specific facilities are embedded in strategic facility planning throughout the country, with clear guidance on what is required;
- Embed the need for Futsal-playing facilities in the Local Football Facilities Plans (LFFPs) being compiled by all 330 Local Authorities in England;
- Work with Sport England to include Futsal considerations in future sports facility planning;
- Work with allied sports (e.g. handball, netball, basketball) to ensure multi-use of similar spaces/facilities;
- Crucially, focus on facilities for Primary Schools, given The FA's overall strategy for the development of football in England advocates Futsal being introduced for 5–11-year old children in the DNA and beyond.

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**"No time plus no space equals better skills. Futsal is our national laboratory of improvisation."**

**Dr Emilio Miranda**

**Professor of Soccer at University of Sao Paulo, Brazil**

# FUTSAL—THE FACTS

## WHERE DID IT ALL START?

The origin of Futsal can be traced back to Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1930. That's when Juan Carlos Ceriani devised a five-a-side version of soccer for youth competition in YMCAs. The game was played on basketball-sized courts, indoors and out, without the use of side walls.

We know that Futsal was played in England in that era, as the 1936 picture below of the Hornsey YMCA in North London testifies. So the game does have some roots in this country.

## WHAT'S FUTSAL'S INTERNATIONAL REACH?

Futsal is played in more than 170 countries across FIFA's 211 member associations. It's estimated over 60 million people play Futsal globally<sup>1</sup>. This equates to around 20% of the number of people playing football worldwide (300 million<sup>1</sup>).

This has grown from an 11.33% percentage in a decade<sup>2</sup>.

Futsal is the automatic game of choice in Brazil, played

from the youngest age to the oldest by males and females. Significant numbers of registered Futsal players exist in countries such as Japan, Holland and indeed Italy, where there appear to be more registered Futsal clubs than football clubs.

<sup>1</sup>FIFA Member Associations' survey 2016.

<sup>2</sup>FIFA 'Big Count' survey 2006 (when global football participation was estimated at 265 million).

## WHAT'S ITS PARTICIPATION POTENTIAL IN ENGLAND?

Using a European example, the 20% global participation figure is true of Spain. If that percentage is replicated in England – and only among the 4.4 million adults playing every week – it would result in 885,000 Futsal players.

Widen that to the total 11.4 million football-playing population (from age five onwards, whatever the frequency) and 20% equals almost 2.3 million potential Futsal players.



Futsal is not without its heritage in England. Here's an 'indoor' football game being played at the Hornsey YMCA in 1936 on a hard surface within a defined-by-lines area: the basics of Futsal. (Pic: Getty Images)



## WHAT'S THE CURRENT FUTSAL LANDSCAPE IN ENGLAND?

There are currently 574 registered Futsal teams (77 female, 394 male, 103 mixed) in England.

However the scale of Futsal is much bigger than the registered teams. That's because Futsal is played by numerous youth football leagues across the country, but participation numbers at this level are not yet recorded.

At adult level, there is a Futsal competition structure which encompasses:

- A Super League and National League comprising more than 70 teams;
- An FA Futsal Cup.

For talented players coming through the competition structure, Futsal offers a pathway to play for England in FIFA and UEFA competitions. In addition, a national women's league is starting this year with 16 teams.

## HOW MANY SPECIALIST FUTSAL COACHES AND REFEREES ARE THERE NOW IN ENGLAND?

**Coaches:** An FA Level 1 Futsal coaching qualification was introduced in 2009 and a Level 2 qualification in 2013. There are currently:

- 12,771 FA Level 1 Futsal coaches;
- Between 1,500 and 3,000 coaches taking Futsal-specific Level 1 qualifications each year;
- 770 FA Level 2 Futsal coaches. Some 200 coaches take Futsal-specific Level 2 qualifications each year;
- 130 UEFA 'B' Level Futsal coaches.

**Referees:** There are currently 291 referees who have taken Futsal-specific refereeing qualifications.

## WHY IS FUTSAL CONSIDERED SO GOOD FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PLAYERS?

Mainly because it's all-action and everyone's involved all the time.

For example, in an average 40-minute Futsal contest an outfield player will touch the ball roughly every 29 seconds, or 80 touches. This is compared to a 90-minute outdoor game where it's only around 30-40 touches. That is more than double in only half the time. (Source: FIFA)

In England, 90% of National Futsal League players surveyed agreed that Futsal helps you be a better footballer, mainly due to the technical aspects and demands of the game, i.e. you need to be quicker, and have improved ball control, use of space and fitness.

And if you need more evidence, just take a look at some of the players quoted on these pages.

## WHICH COUNTRIES LEAD THE FUTSAL WORLD RANKINGS?

2018 FIFA WORLD RANKINGS FUTSAL – MEN	
No.	Country
1	Brazil
2	Spain
3	Russia
4	Portugal
5	Argentina
6	Iran
54	England

The current top six FIFA Futsal world rankings are alongside.

We have included Iran in sixth place as the game is hugely popular there – there are 30 professional leagues!

No FIFA rankings yet exist for the women's game, but there is a Women's UEFA Futsal Euros and World Futsal Tournament, although it is not sanctioned and organised by FIFA. It

was first played in 2010 and has been played six times in total. Brazil has won all six tournaments to date. There is no England women's Futsal team – yet!

### PRIORITY 3

## ESTABLISH COMPETITION AND PLAYER PATHWAYS

**GOAL:** *To build a joined-up competition and player pathway to help players fulfil their potential.*

For it to become the nation's indoor game of choice for young players, it is vital that the 'Futsal journey' starts early. Our target 'startpoint' group is 5–15-year-olds, in line with best practice overseas and FIFA technical guidance.

This doesn't mean making a choice between traditional football and Futsal – far from it. Our aim is to embed Futsal as a playing and competition pathway for boys and girls up to the age of 16. Then, if they wish, they can decide to specialise in the format of the game they enjoy most.

Alongside the player pathway, it will be important to connect various regional competitions to a structured national Futsal league format. By doing this, irrespective of location, talented players will have a route to the top of the game – ultimately improving our England Futsal teams.

Various programmes will support achieving our targets, which are set out below. Alongside these programmes, we will fund additional research and insight so we continually improve and fine-tune our coaching pathways and overall coach education quality.



"Football and Futsal have a lot in common... There are different tactics and moves, but there is the same essence of mastering the ball, combining and making quick decisions."

**Andres Iniesta**  
Ex-Barcelona and Spain



### FOCUS AREAS

1. ENCOURAGE YOUTH LEAGUES TO TAKE A WINTER BREAK AND OFFER FUTSAL
2. REVIEW COMPETITIONS TO BETTER LINK GRASSROOTS TO ELITE
3. EVOLVE THE NATIONAL LEAGUE STRUCTURE TO BETTER SUPPORT ENGLAND TEAMS
4. LAUNCH A SHORT, HIGH-IMPACT FUTSAL COMPETITION TO RAISE PROFILE
5. EMBED FUTSAL IN THE WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' COMPETITION/PLAYER PATHWAYS

### 1. ENCOURAGE YOUTH LEAGUES TO TAKE A WINTER BREAK AND OFFER FUTSAL

We will:

- Work to make a winter break the norm for youth participation;
- Encourage playing Futsal during this winter break to sustain participation and development.



"You just get more everything – touches, shots, goals, saves."

"Movement has to be better, you have to be creative. It's massively helped in my 11-a-side games."

**Futsal National League player**

## ESTABLISH COMPETITION AND PLAYER PATHWAYS continued...

### 2. REVIEW COMPETITIONS TO BETTER LINK GRASSROOTS TO ELITE

We will:

- Look to streamline the access for players into existing Futsal competitions (e.g. those run by English schools, AoC, ISFA, BUCS and the EFL Trust);
- Establish regional Futsal Leagues from under-13 to under-18.

### 3. EVOLVE THE NATIONAL LEAGUE STRUCTURE TO BETTER SUPPORT ENGLAND TEAMS

We will:

- Ensure coaches who have taken FA/UEFA Futsal qualifications work with the best English Futsal talent;
- Review the existing structure of the National Futsal League;
- Enhance its quality to produce more talented players for potential England selection.

### 4. LAUNCH A SHORT, HIGH-IMPACT FUTSAL COMPETITION TO RAISE PROFILE

We will:

- Learn from best practice in other sports and run a high-profile, short Futsal tournament to showcase the game;
- Ensure the tournament links to the competition pathway.

### 5. EMBED FUTSAL IN THE WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' COMPETITION/PLAYER PATHWAYS

We will:

- Use Futsal as a key component to help the women's and girls' game double participation by 2020 – and continue its growth.
- Embed Futsal in The FA Women's Super League (FAWSL) academies.



## PRIORITY 4

# CREATE A SPECIALIST FUTSAL WORKFORCE

**Goal:** To have a diverse workforce in place to grow Futsal participation and radiate quality.

Whatever the football format, getting specialist coaches in place is always crucial. Not only do they improve player quality, but in Futsal, they are key to introducing players.

A National Futsal League survey revealed that 20% of players came to the game because of a coach.

The FA already runs specialist courses for Futsal coaching and there has been good organic growth in take-up. We now need to accelerate this take-up to keep pace with our ambitions.

To coach Futsal effectively, you must:

- Be Futsal-qualified, not just football-qualified;
- Have the ability to bring out specific Futsal skills and techniques;
- Tangibly improve the player experience and development.

Alongside coaches, we also need to grow our cohort of specialist Futsal match officials, as the game has different Laws.

The good news is there are healthy opportunities to build the Futsal workforce and ensure its diversity so we reach all parts of the community. A particular opportunity exists by investing in training within our existing FA College and University Football Hubs.

## FOCUS AREAS:

1. **PROMOTE FUTSAL COACHING COURSES TO EXISTING LICENSED FA COACHES**
2. **ENCOURAGE TEACHERS TO TAKE AN FA FUTSAL COACHING COURSE**
3. **INCREASE THE NUMBER AND QUALITY OF FUTSAL REFEREES**

## 1. PROMOTE FUTSAL COACHING COURSES TO EXISTING LICENSED FA COACHES

We will:

- Proactively contact existing FA-licensed coaches who have not yet taken a Futsal coaching course to do so;
- At the top level, continue to upskill Academy coaches to ensure a high-quality Futsal offering within the Elite Player Performance Plan (EPPP);
- Ensure any FA Charter Standard club offering Futsal has a Futsal-qualified coach(es);
- Include an introductory Futsal coaching component in all FA entry point coaching qualifications.

## 2. ENCOURAGE TEACHERS TO TAKE AN FA FUTSAL COACHING COURSE

We will:

- Explore embedding a basic FA Futsal coaching course in teacher training courses – particularly for prospective primary school teachers;
- Offer a bespoke, introductory FA Futsal coaching course to existing teachers, again focused on primary schools. Aimed at all teachers, not just sports ones.

## 3. INCREASE THE NUMBER AND QUALITY OF FUTSAL REFEREES

We will:

- Encourage existing FA-qualified referees to take a specialist FA Futsal refereeing course;
- Create an entry-level FA Futsal refereeing course for grassroots club officials to officiate within junior Futsal leagues.



## PRIORITY 5

# BUILD THE BEDROCK FOR SUCCESSFUL ENGLAND FUTSAL TEAMS

**Goal:** To put the environment and infrastructure in place leading to success for England Futsal teams in major international tournaments.

Witnessing England Futsal teams making an impact on the international stage is a long-term objective. It will only happen as a result of successfully achieving the other priorities this strategy sets out.

However, as the focus areas below show, we can start getting the basics in place now. That way, when our other plans are flourishing, we'll be well-placed for them to bear fruit at international level.

Right now, the England men's Futsal team is ranked 54 in the world – and we don't have an England women's Futsal team. So there is much to do.



"Futsal is a great game in itself and an excellent development tool for young players to transfer the skills they learn to football. It's fast, end-to-end and with lots of opportunity to get touches of a ball, which players of all ages love."

**Gareth Southgate**  
England Manager



## FOCUS AREAS

1. EMBED FUTSAL IN THE TALENT AND GRASSROOTS PATHWAYS FOR YOUNG PLAYERS
2. SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENGLAND FUTSAL TEAMS
3. ESTABLISH A COMPETITIVE ENGLAND WOMEN'S FUTSAL TEAM
4. FURTHER RESEARCH THE CONTRIBUTION FUTSAL CAN MAKE TO PLAYER DEVELOPMENT
5. MAKE FUTSAL A RECOGNISED PROGRESSION FOR PLAYERS EXITING CLUB ACADEMIES
6. BUILD 'DUAL CAREER' OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELITE FUTSAL PLAYERS
7. COMMERCIALISE THE SPORT

### 1. EMBED FUTSAL IN THE GRASSROOTS AND TALENT PATHWAYS FOR YOUNG PLAYERS

We will:

- Integrate Futsal into the existing grassroots football pathway for all young players;
- Work with the Premier League to upskill Academy coaches to ensure a high-quality Futsal offering within the Elite Player Performance Plan (EPPP).

### 2. SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENGLAND FUTSAL TEAMS

We will:

- Place the running of England Futsal teams under The FA Technical Department;
- Make this move so our international Futsal teams are resourced in line with the minimum operating standards of other England teams.

## **BUILD THE BEDROCK FOR SUCCESSFUL ENGLAND FUTSAL TEAMS continued...**

### **3. ESTABLISH A COMPETITIVE ENGLAND WOMEN'S FUTSAL TEAM**

We will:

- Ensure there are distinct women's Futsal domestic competitions – i.e. not add-ons to the 11 a-side game. This will breed specialist Futsal talent to form the basis of a national team;
- Field our first England women's Futsal team, to compete in the 2021 UEFA Women's Futsal Championships, drawing players from the women's/girls' clubs we help establish, where we have embedded Futsal-specific coaching.

### **4. FURTHER RESEARCH THE CONTRIBUTION FUTSAL CAN MAKE TO PLAYER DEVELOPMENT**

We will:

- Agree research partnerships within the Higher Education sector to form one core research programme;
- Constantly apply insights from this research programme to enhance player development.

### **5. MAKE FUTSAL A RECOGNISED PROGRESSION FOR PLAYERS EXITING CLUB ACADEMIES**

We will:

- Give talented players who leave professional club academies an alternative pathway to staying in the game at an elite level – and the potential to represent their country;

### **6. BUILD 'DUAL CAREER' OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELITE FUTSAL PLAYERS**

We will:

- Learn from the successful model of the women's game as it transitioned from an amateur sport;
- Embrace opportunities emanating from the Advance Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence;
- Base our work on Futsal remaining amateur for now, and therefore build a range of related career opportunities so elite players can still devote time to improving their Futsal skills and performance.



## **7. COMMERCIALISE THE SPORT**

We will:

- Look to create a commercial proposition behind the game, to drive broadcast and sponsorship revenues;
- Research best-practice overseas to ensure our plans are professional and sustainable;
- In parallel, use projected and actual commercial revenue to explore a salary structure for the long-term development of the elite club level(s) of Futsal in England.

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**"Futsal has been so important for me – improving my tactical and technical ability. I've become more aware and make quicker decisions in tighter areas. So when going back to football I was more comfortable receiving the ball. When I was released by a pro club many years ago, Futsal has certainly accelerated my learning in all areas and opened up the opportunity again for me to get a pro football contract."**

**Max Kilman**

**Senior Futsal International (26 caps) and now professional footballer at Wolverhampton Wanderers**

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

### For world Futsal:

[www.FIFA.com/futsal](http://www.FIFA.com/futsal)

### For European Futsal:

[www.uefa.com/futsal](http://www.uefa.com/futsal)

### For Futsal in England:

- National teams:

[www.TheFA.com/england/england-futsal](http://www.TheFA.com/england/england-futsal)

- The domestic game:

[www.TheFA.com/get-involved/player/futsal](http://www.TheFA.com/get-involved/player/futsal)

To contact The FA for more information about Futsal: [Futsal@TheFA.com](mailto:Futsal@TheFA.com)

Alternatively, contact your local County FA. A full list of County FA contacts is available at:

[www.TheFA.com/about-football-association/who-we-are/county-fas](http://www.TheFA.com/about-football-association/who-we-are/county-fas)



"The emphasis is on improvisation, creativity and technique."

Alistair Magowan

BBC Football Writer





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