

The FA Futsal Cup



Guidance for Local Qualifying Leagues

INTRODUCTION

The following guidance document helps to explain the structure of the competition for the 2014-15 season and details how County FA's, FA Futsal Fives

Leagues, Leisure and small sided providers support it going forward.

THE FA FUTSAL CUP FORMAT

The FA Futsal Cup for season 2014-15 will adopt the following format:

Men's: Local Qualifying leagues – Regional Finals – National Qualifiers – Mini Leagues – National Finals
 Women's: Local Qualifying leagues – National Qualifiers – National Finals

The FA Futsal Cup will remain an adult (16yrs+) competition for men and women and all league providers and teams involved in the tournament must be affiliated to The FA (or County FAs).

THE FA FUTSAL CUP FORMAT 2014-15

1. Local Qualifying Leagues

Men's = August to start of November

Women's = August to January

Men's and Women's Leagues that wish to be considered as a qualifying league for the FA Futsal Cup must register with The FA by 31st August 2014. Qualifying leagues must adhere to the outlined criteria below in terms of operating standards to ensure participants are offered a good experience in the competition.

Leagues will be the only qualifying format (one-off qualifiers will not be permitted) and the leagues must have a minimum number of six teams. **No players registered to play in this season's FA National Futsal League will be permitted to play for a club in the Local stages (unless they have been transferred).**

2. Regional Qualifiers

Men's = 29/ 30 November

This round will consist of a series of central venue one-day qualifying groups. Each group will consist of 8 - 10 teams that will play at a central venue organised and funded by The FA. The Regional Qualifiers will be made up of the following for the male competition:

- Winners of the Local Qualifying Leagues

The winners from the local qualifying leagues for the female competition will go directly to the National qualifiers.

3. National Qualifiers (Men only)

Men's = 13 / 14 December

Women's = TBC

This round will consist of six one day central venue qualifying groups. The central venue will be organised and funded by The FA. The National Qualifiers will be made up of the following:

- The winners from the Regional Qualifiers
- All FA National Futsal League clubs (Division 1 and 2)

4. Mini - Leagues (Men only)

Men's = January to end of March

This round will consist of six groups of four teams, with each club in the group playing each other in a home and away league format. Clubs will be required to organise their home matches and cover the costs of hiring their venues for these fixtures. Matches will be required to take place as follows:

11th January 2015
 18th January 2015
 25th January 2015
 22nd February 2015
 1st March 2015
 15th March 2015

The 24 clubs that make up this stage of the competition will come from the top four clubs from each of the National Qualifiers

5. National Finals (Male & Female = TBC June)

The Finals will be played at a central venue over an entire weekend with non-stop back-to-back action across 3 pitches. 12 male teams and 8 female teams (numbers to be confirmed) will play to determine the Cup Winners.

OPERATING CRITERIA

Outlined below are the key criteria for the FA Futsal Cup Qualifying Leagues:

- Providers establish local qualifying leagues involving a minimum of 6 teams
- League must play over a period of time (e.g. consecutive weeks rather than a one day competition)

- Male & female qualifying leagues can be run
- Standardised rules
- FA Futsal Cup branded league
- Team data shared with The FA
- Winning teams progress to the Regional Qualifiers

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.

NOTE = this qualification structure is dependent on the number of entries into the competition that we receive and is liable to change according to the number of clubs involved.

Providers that run Qualifying Leagues are able to retain all team payments and fees.

At the conclusion of the Qualifying Leagues, the emphasis will obviously be on the providers to work with the teams to retain them in their league programme. We would hope and expect league providers to continue to run the league with the same teams to continue to offer local Futsal participation opportunities.

If your organisation would be interested in supporting the running of FA Futsal Cup Qualifying Leagues, then please complete and return the Expression of Interest Form by the **31st August 2014**

BENEFITS OF THE FA FUTSAL CUP

We hope that as a provider you see the benefits and advantages for your organisation being involved in the FA Futsal Cup 2015. However, listed below are just some of the potential opportunities that your organisation could benefit from by being involved in this competition:

- The FA helps you to set-up and establish a new league or to promote your existing league
- These new leagues help to provide the players with an experience of playing on a regular basis at your sites and potentially making it easier to retain them on an ongoing basis.
- You retain all income from these leagues
- It helps you to create a closer working relationship with local County FAs
- You can benefit from the marketing, publicity and exposure from the competition
- It potentially increases the local awareness of your leagues within the local community
- This is a free competition for you to be part of as a league organiser
- It is a tournament that adds further value to your current league programmes
- It potentially rewards teams that are committed to playing in your league programme, and may encourage new teams to join your leagues.
- The competitions bring to life your relationship with The FA to your customers

THE FA FUTSAL CUP TIMEFRAME

Outlined below are the timeframes for the key areas of delivery for The FA Futsal Cup:

- August 2014 Expression of Interest forms submitted for supporting a Qualifying League
- September 2014 The FA confirms locations of Qualifying Leagues and provides guidance and marketing resources to support these leagues
- September 2014 to 7th November 2014 The Qualifying Leagues for both the Men's and Women's sections of The FA Futsal Cup are operational.
- November 2014 Eight Regional Qualifiers
- December 2014 Six National Qualifiers
- January to March 2015 Mini Leagues (Men only)
- TBC National Qualifiers (Women only)
- June 2015 National Finals

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Outlined below is additional information that might help to answer any further queries that you may have regarding the FA Futsal Cup.

- i. **Rules & Affiliation:** Any provider wishing to get involved in the FA Futsal Cup must be fully affiliated to either The FA or their respective County FA. The FA Futsal Cup qualifying leagues must be run in line with

the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game. Each game must have an FA qualified referee, and where possible this referee should have attained the FA Futsal Conversion qualification.

- ii. **E- Marketing:** Local qualifying leagues for the FA Futsal Cup must be fully branded 'FA Futsal Cup' by the providers involved. E- Marketing resources will be provided to the providers by The FA.
- iii. **Ownership of Team Data:** Team and player information, data and contact details in the FA Futsal Cup belongs to The FA to use in line with the competition. This data is shared with the relevant provider. At the end of the FA Futsal Cup Local Qualifying leagues the provider must provide The FA with key data and information relating to the running of the league (e.g. number of participants, number of teams etc).
- iv. **Updates:** The provider will be required to provide regular updates and images to The FA during the local qualifying league so that it can be added to The FA website and social network pages to help promote and raise interest in the competition.

NEXT STEPS

If you are interested in registering to run a local qualifying league then you will need to complete and return the necessary registration forms by the following dates at the latest:

31st August 2014

These registration forms should be submitted to Stephen.Brown@TheFA.com