

The FA 
FUTSAL.

**Charter Standard Leagues
Youth Futsal Development Fund**
Guidance Notes



What is the CSL Youth Futsal Development Fund?

The FA are looking to work with youth leagues and clubs to increase the opportunities for young people to play Futsal in England as part of a mixed and varied playing programme. The Youth Futsal Development Fund aims to assist youth leagues in providing Futsal within their competition and playing programmes during the season by providing funding to overcome potentially difficult initial set-up barriers. The Fund is only available for Charter Standard Leagues, and is not intended to cover all of the costs for leagues to deliver Futsal, but The FA hopes the Fund can go some way to help with initial one-off costs (e.g. Futsal goals, line-markings, coaching courses etc).

Why Futsal?

Over recent years The FA have been advocating the need for young players to be playing a variety of small sided formats of the game with 11-a-side football being introduced at older age groups. The FA Youth Development Review and the FA Future Game coaching strategy recognises the importance of small sided games in supporting not only the technical development of young players, but also their overall enjoyment of the game.

Futsal is a more technical and skilful variation of 5-a-side football, typically played indoors in sportshalls with pitch markings and hockey sized goals and a smaller heavier ball. Futsal is played across the world and is recognised for playing an integral role in the development of world class football players that we admire for their technical brilliance; players such as Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar, Xavi and Iniesta to name but a few that grew up playing Futsal.

The FA has been introducing Futsal to England for the past ten years and is keen to encourage youth leagues and clubs to integrate the game within their playing and coaching programmes. As well as the technical merits of Futsal, there are also the practical considerations and benefits for taking children indoors during our cold winters that see many outdoor games cancelled. On top of all of this, the most important factor is the kids really enjoy this format of the game!

To find out more about Futsal and how leagues and clubs can begin to factor it in as part of a varied seasonal playing programme at the youth age groups, The FA have produced a series of Youth Futsal Guidance documents on **TheFA.com**



What does the Youth League need to deliver?

The Youth Futsal Development Fund is only applicable to youth leagues with Charter Standard League status, not for individual clubs to access. The intention is to support leagues in coordinating and offering Futsal provision that encourages many (if not all) of their clubs to embrace and play the game.

There are minimal pre-set requirements as to how the youth league delivers Futsal as part of this fund. Leagues are encouraged to integrate Futsal into their competition structures in line with the recommendations and requirements of the FA Youth Development Review. It could take the form of a series of development games prior to a mini-competition for the younger age groups, or for the older age groups it could be a mid-winter break from their outdoor 11-a-side league to play a separate indoor Futsal league over a number of weeks. Ultimately it is down to the league to consider the needs and wishes of their clubs.

- The league does not need to offer Futsal across every age-group, although it is worth considering over the long-term to ensure young people that enjoy this format of the game continue to get the opportunity to play it.
- We encourage leagues to consider introducing Futsal to both boys and girl's leagues.

- Futsal can be offered at any point across the season, it does not necessarily have to be winter provision. Although offering Futsal during the winter period may help avoid ongoing weeks where young players are not able to play football outdoors due to waterlogged and frozen pitches.
- To be eligible for funding, the league needs to develop a programme that offers a period in the season of regular Futsal (we won't fund one-off competitions or tournaments).
- The league needs to consider how best to deliver the Futsal programme so that the players can benefit technically from playing this format of the game. Ensure that you consider supporting the clubs with specific Futsal coach education (work with your County FA to run Futsal coaching courses or CPD sessions); using Futsal qualified referees where required (consult with your County FA); ensuring that you retain the key principles and ethos of the game (e.g. using Futsal balls and goals, playing to pitch markings, playing indoors on appropriate hard floor surfaces).
- The league should also consider discussing with their County FA how their Futsal programme can align with The FA National Youth Futsal Festival, with teams from your league potentially getting the opportunity to progress to County Festivals and beyond into the National Festival stages.



What will The FA Fund?

The FA will not cover all of the costs for running the league's Futsal provision. It is expected that the league and clubs will cover the general running costs, such as venue hire and referee fees. The FA's contribution should be seen as a one-off grant payment, and so the league needs to demonstrate how it intends to sustain the running of the provision beyond the first season; and club's covering venue hire and referee fees is an important step to sustainability.

The FA's contribution should be seen as essential set-up costs that enable the Futsal provision to start successfully and to be continued in to future seasons. Outlined below are some suggestions of what FA funding might be used towards, these are just ideas and is not a definitive list:

- Metal Futsal Goals
- Futsal balls
- FA Futsal Referee Conversion courses
- Futsal Coach Education and Futsal coaching workshops for clubs within the league
- Venue hire for Futsal coaching or refereeing workshops / courses
- Adapting a sports-hall by adding Futsal line-markings

What won't The FA Fund?

The FA through this Fund will not look to award grants for the following:

- Stand-alone one-off tournaments and competitions (unless there has been some regular ongoing Futsal provision over a period of time leading up to this competition).
- Trophies and medals
- Venue hire fees (with the exception of coaching / refereeing courses)
- Referee fees
- Outdoor Futsal on grass or 3G surfaces
- Metal Futsal Goals for every club

How much Funding can the League Apply for?

There is no upper limit as to how much funding a Charter Standard Youth League can apply for, as The FA recognises that the size and scale of each league's ambition to deliver Futsal to their clubs will vary greatly. The FA will review each application on merit, and determine whether the funding request is justifiable, realistic and clearly needed to deliver the project.

On average it would be expected that most funding applications would be £3,000 or less. But that is not to say The FA will not fund more than this level for larger projects that can evidence the need for further investment.

It should be noted that this funding to the youth league is a one-off to help initiate Futsal within the league's provision. Further applications from the league in future years will not be accepted, even for provision in different age-groups.



How does the Youth League Apply for Funding?

The FA will only receive applications from Charter Standard Youth Leagues, applications from other leagues or clubs will not be accepted. Applications will only be accepted for provision up to and including the Under 16 age group.

- **Step 1:** Include details of the Futsal provision within your CS League Development Plan
- **Step 2:** Complete the short funding application form providing details of your plans
- **Step 3:** Discuss the application with your County FA and ask them to complete the section of the application form requesting their support.
- **Step 4:** Submit the application form to The FA.
- **Step 5:** The FA reviews the application and informs the league whether you have been successful.

Within the funding application form the league will be required to provide details of the Futsal provision that you intend to deliver, the budget to deliver the project and a clear plan of how the league intends to sustain or grow the Futsal provision into the second season.

What are the Timeframes to Apply for Funding?

Charter Standard Youth Leagues can apply for funding at two points during the year:

- **Deadline 1:** Applications to be received by Friday 2nd May 2014
- **Deadline 2:** Applications to be received by Monday 1st September 2014

The FA will review all applications and provide a decision to the leagues within 6 weeks of the deadline.

What are the Monitoring & Evaluation Requirements?

Leagues that are successful in their application for funding will be required to complete and return a short monitoring and evaluation form to The FA at the end of the season. This is a mandatory condition of receiving the funding and helps The FA to evaluate the effectiveness of our investment.

This short M&E process will require the following information:

- Brief details of what was actually delivered.
- The number of teams and players involved in the project
- The number of coaches and referees benefitting from Futsal education courses
- How the league intends to sustain or expand their Futsal provision

