



# 2022 Competition Rules

Effective December 8, 2021



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## **RULE 100 INTRODUCTION**

**Section 1** The US Youth Soccer Futsal National Championships Competition Rules provided within apply to the 2022 US Youth Soccer Futsal National Championships only. Except as otherwise provided within, the FIFA Futsal 2021-2022 Laws of the Game, as modified by US Youth Soccer shall apply.

**Section 2** The 2022 US Youth Soccer Futsal National Championships details are as follows:

**2.1 Location – Oklahoma City, OK**

**2.2 Dates – February 25-27, 2022**

**2.3 Age Groups – 13u – 17u Boys and Girls**

## **RULE 101 ADMINISTRATION**

**Section 1** There shall be a Futsal National Championships Committee. The Committee is responsible for the entire administration of the Futsal National Championships, subject to review by the Board of Directors.

**Section 2** The Futsal National Championships Committee reserves the right to make all decisions concerning the Championships competition, keeping in mind the safety and welfare of the players, coaches, referees, administrators, and spectators as well as the best interests of US Youth Soccer and the US Youth Soccer Futsal National Championships.

**Section 3** The event Committee shall determine any matter not provided for in the US Youth Soccer Futsal National Championships competition and has the authority to modify any rules, protocols or guidelines as deemed necessary in order to ensure the safe and orderly progression of the competition. Any such decision of the Futsal National Championships Committee is final and not subject to appeal.

## **RULE 102 CONCUSSION PROTOCOL**

US Youth Soccer concussion procedures and protocols in place, as well as any state or local laws regarding concussions shall be adhered to.

## **RULE 103 TEAM PARTICIPATION**

Depending on a team's state participation, it may be subject to eligibility constraints for the Futsal National Championships. See Rule 301 for team eligibility requirements.

## **RULE 104 MATCH MANIPULATION**

Teams failing to compete in the spirit of the competition or are involved in the manipulation of a match result are subject to forfeiture and disqualification from the Futsal National Championships.

- If failing to compete is observed and confirmed, the competition authority representative will give notice to the offending team or teams.
- If corrective action is not taken, the team or teams will be subject to disqualification.



## **RULE 200 DISCIPLINE**

**Section 1** Players ejected or team officials dismissed from a match shall be automatically suspended for the next match. No substitution shall be permitted for a player who has been sent off during a match. The Futsal National Championships Committee will review all such dismissals and may impose additional penalties, suspensions or other punishment depending on the circumstances and severity of the infraction.

**Section 2** Players ejected from a match may continue to sit in the technical/bench area unless removed by the referee for inappropriate behavior after they have been ejected. If a player is removed from the technical/bench area they must be accompanied by a credentialed team official.

**Section 3** Players who are serving a disciplinary suspension may sit on the team bench for their next game while dressed in street clothes. If additional disciplinary situations occur in which a suspended player is involved, the Futsal National Championships Committee will impose additional penalties, suspensions or other punishment to be served either during the event or the next immediate state Futsal event.

**Section 4** Any team official dismissed must leave the vicinity of the field before the match will be restarted. The team official may not have any contact with the team until completion of the match and the referees have left the court.

**Section 5** Team officials serving a disciplinary suspension may attend team activities during the suspension as a spectator only. No communication with players or team management is permitted during the suspension. A dismissed team official that is rostered to more than one team in the competition shall serve their suspension during scheduled match(es) of the team with which the ejection occurred. Any violations will result in additional sanctions being imposed by the Futsal National Championships Committee, including but not limited to, additional suspensions and/or recommendations to the State Association.

**Section 6** If a player or team official is dismissed from their team's last match, the imposed sanctions will be served during the next Futsal event at either the State, Regional or National level.

## **RULE 201 MEMBER PASSES**

All rostered players and team officials must possess a printed current and valid US Youth Soccer member pass with a recent face on, passport style photograph. Member passes may be verified against the official event roster before the start of the competition. Electronic member passes may be utilized if approved by the Futsal National Championships Chair or Tournament Director with printed member passes being provided as soon as possible.



## **RULE 202 RULES OF COMPETITION**

The FIFA Futsal 2021-2022 Laws of the Game will be applied for the USYS Futsal National Championships with the following exceptions:

1. Match Duration- all matches will have 2- 20 minute running time halves. Stop time will applied only during the last 2 minutes of matches with a 4-goal or less differential, or to address significant injuries (at the discretion of the referee or event staff)
2. There will be two futsal-certified referees assigned to each game plus a trained scorekeeper or third referee to perform scorekeeper duties.

## **RULE 203 TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE**

**Section 1** Group Stages, teams will be divided into “groups” within their proper age group. Gameplay will be “round robin” style within the Group stages. **Ties in group stage matches will stand.**

**Section 2** Knockout Stages, games that end in a tie will enter into overtime periods per the FIFA Futsal 2021-22 Laws of the Game

**Section 3** Overtime, during a 3 minute rest period, there will be a coin-toss to determine possession followed by kick-off; overtime will consist of 2-5 minute halves played to completion (i.e., there is no “Golden Goal” provision; 1-minute halftime (teams switch benches). If the score remains tied at the end of overtime, the winner will be determined by kicks from the Penalty Mark.

**Section 4** Kicks from the Penalty Mark, if needed at the conclusion of the second overtime period, all players and substitutes are eligible to take kicks from the penalty mark, except those players who, when the match or extra time finishes, are injured or have been sent off. Kicks from the penalty mark will be administered per FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game to determine a winner of the match.

## **RULE 204 ROSTER SIZE**

**Section 1** Roster minimum size is 8 players and roster maximum size is 14.

**Section 2** There is no limit to the number of coaches/team officials to a team roster. However only three (3) can be in the team technical/bench area at a specific match, referenced in Rule 213.

**Section 3** All players can enter and exit the court at any time except during a timeout, from their substitution zone. Substitutions shall be unlimited and can be made in accordance with FIFA Futsal Laws of the game.

## **RULE 205 MATCH BALLS**

The Futsal National Championships will provide all match balls for competition.

## **RULE 206 FORFEITS**

**Section 1** During group play, a team must forfeit any match where they fall below the required minimum number of three (3) players.



**Section 2** A team forfeiting a match for any other reason will result in all of their group matches being declared a forfeit.

**Section 3** Forfeited matches will be reported as a 4-0 loss for scoring purposes. In circumstances where forfeited matches are involved in the determination of team advancement (i.e. tie breakers), all tie breaking criteria involving goal differential or fewest goals allowed will be determined on a per match average, rounded to the nearest whole number, excluding the results of the forfeited match.

**Section 4** During knockout rounds, a team forfeiting a match will result in the opponent advancing.

**Section 5** Forfeited matches will not be replayed.

## **RULE 207 SCORING METHOD**

**Section 1** Teams earn points as follows: Three (3) points for a win (including forfeits, which are considered a 4-0 win), one (1) point for a tie and zero (0) points for a loss.

**Section 2** Ties at the end of regulation time in group stage will stand as final.

**Section 3** Team standings are determined by the accumulation of points in qualifying matches.

## **RULE 208 TIE BREAKERS**

**Section 1** (Used when all teams played the same number of group matches)

If multiple teams in the same group are tied based on points earned, each team's placement will be determined by the following criteria:

1. Winner in head-to-head competition. (This criterion is not used if more than two teams are tied).
2. Winner of most games.
3. Highest goal difference (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum differential of four (4) goals difference per match (excluding forfeit wins).
4. Fewest goals allowed. The team with the fewest total goals allowed advances (excluding forfeits).
5. Most Goals For per match, maximum of four (4), excluding forfeits.
6. Kicks from the Penalty Mark.
7. If additional steps are required to ensure the safe conclusion of the competition are needed, those decisions will be communicated to all affected teams before they are implemented.

**Section 2** If additional steps are required to ensure the conclusion of the competition are needed, the Futsal National Championships Committee and Tournament Director will communicate those steps to all affected teams before they are implemented.

**Note:** If more than two (2) teams are tied, the sequence above will be followed until a team is eliminated/advanced. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence at tiebreaker criteria #2 above until the tie is broken. In a situation where three teams remain tied, a draw between tied teams will be conducted by the Futsal National Championships Committee and Tournament Director to determine an order of contest between tied teams. The first team drawn will receive the bye; the next team drawn will be the home team against the remaining team in the first round of penalty kicks. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in penalty kicks to determine the team that advances. The bye team will be the home team.

## **RULE 209 UNIFORMS**

**Section 1** Each team must have two (2) uniform sets, one light color and one dark color, available at each game. The home team (listed first in the schedule) is required to wear their light color jersey.



- The away team (listed second in the schedule) is required to wear their dark color jersey.
- It is recommended that teams wear light color socks when wearing the light jersey, and dark color socks when wearing the dark jersey.
- The same color shorts can be utilized for both uniforms.
- Teams are required to bring both uniforms to all matches.

**Section 2** If, in the opinion of the referee, there is a color conflict, the home team must change. The referee's decision is final. Failure to abide by the referee's decision to change may result in the team forfeiting the game.

**Section 3** Any material on or covering player socks must be the same color as the part of the sock it covers (this applies to all materials and not just tape).

**Section 4** Undershorts and/or tights must be the same color as the main color of the shorts. All members of the team must wear the same color. Enforcement is at the discretion of the referee.

**Section 5** Uniform numbers must be a minimum of six (6) inches in size. Each field player must have a number permanently affixed to the back of their jersey which must be clearly visible. Duplicate and/or taped numbers are not permitted. Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players and referees. Numbered jerseys for goalkeepers are required.

## **RULE 210 MARKINGS AND LOGOS**

**Section 1** At the Futsal National Championships, a player or team official participating in a match or associated activity may only have on the uniforms or outerwear of the player or team officials the following; a name, logo, or other identifying mark of a youth soccer organization that is US Youth Soccer, a State Association or other member of US Youth Soccer, a member of a State Association, or an organization that is a member of an organization that is a member of a State Association. A name, logo, or other identifying mark of any other youth soccer organization must be removed, replaced, or covered before the player or team official may continue to remain at the game or associated activity and participate.

**Section 2** If a player or team official chooses to not remove a name, logo, or other identifying mark of any other youth soccer organization, it must be completely covered by another patch. Covering non-complaint marks with tape is not permitted.

## **RULE 211 GRACE PERIOD**

A minimum of three (3) players constitutes a team. Teams not ready to play at the scheduled start time of any match shall be granted a 10-minute grace period. The match may be forfeited if a team is not at the match field and prepared to play after the grace period expires. All situations in which a team is not ready to play will be assessed by the Futsal National Championships Committee and Tournament Director. If unusual or extenuating circumstances exist, the grace period may be extended before declaring the match a forfeit.

## **RULE 212 TECHNICAL/BENCH AREA**

Players and team officials will be located in the technical/bench area on one side of the field. A maximum of three (3) team officials (i.e., coach, assistant coach, manager, or trainer) may be in the technical/bench area. Team officials must wear the Bench Pass provided by the Futsal National Championships around their neck to be permitted on the team sideline. No coaching is allowed from other than the technical/bench area.



## **RULE 213 TEAM OR CLUB TRAINERS**

A team may use their own Athletic Trainer as one of their three (3) credentialed team officials. However, the competition Athletic Trainers are primary to any team or club trainers when dealing and reporting an injury to the Tournament Director.

## **RULE 214 SPECTATORS**

- a) The actions of spectators (parents, relatives and/or other individuals) who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team are the responsibility of the credentialed team officials appearing on the roster.
- b) The spectator area will be defined by the Nation Committee and/or Tournament Director based on facility accommodations. Spectators may not enter the Technical Areas or other area designated as Restricted.
- c) Technical instruction from any part of the spectator area, or provocative or unsportsmanlike behavior by any spectator may result in their removal from the facility. Any spectator asked to leave by a competition official must immediately depart the playing court area and remain out of sight and sound of the match until the teams have departed the court and are no longer the responsibility of the referee.
- d) Whistles, air horns, megaphones, artificial noisemakers and/or similar devices are prohibited at the Futsal National Championships.

## **RULE 215 DELAYED OR UNFINISHED MATCHES**

If circumstances cause play to be suspended or otherwise affect the scheduled progression of the competition, the Futsal National Championships Committee and Tournament Director have the authority to make decisions and/or modifications to match length, starting times, locations or any other criteria deemed necessary in order to ensure the safe and orderly progression of the competition. Decisions of the Futsal National Championships Committee and Tournament Director are final and not subject to appeal.

Options available include, but are not limited to and not in this order, the following:

- a) Match lengths may be reduced.
- b) If the start of play was delayed and a match which requires a winner to advance in the competition is tied at the conclusion of the second half, overtime periods may be eliminated, and the match will proceed directly to penalty kicks. This decision will be communicated before the match starts.
- c) If play is stopped or suspended at any time *before* first half concludes and cannot be resumed after a reasonable delay, as determined by the Futsal National Championships Committee and Tournament Director, the match will be replayed in its entirety.
- d) If play is stopped or suspended at any time *after* first half concludes and cannot be resumed as determined, the score stands, and the match will be deemed as complete. If the match is tied and requires a winner to advance in the competition, the Futsal National Championships Committee and Tournament Director will determine the safest method to determine the advancing team.
- e) Matches that have no bearing on advancement out of group play may be cancelled.
- f) If additional steps are needed to ensure the safe and orderly progression of the competition, reasonable efforts will be made to communicate those decisions to a rostered team official before they are implemented.





## **RULE 300 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

**Section 1.** The US Youth Soccer Futsal National Championship is intended for properly registered and rostered players in accordance with the rules of US Youth Soccer (Policy on Players and Playing Rules, 201 and 209) and, if applicable, the State Association at the beginning of the State’s qualifying event for that age and gender. Players that register with a state association after the beginning of the state qualifying event or have other unusual circumstances may submit a request for a waiver to the USYS Futsal National Championship Committee.

**Section 2.** A player may be rostered to only one team participating in the USYS Futsal National Championships.

**Section 3** State Associations shall confirm the eligibility of each player to be rostered on a team participating in the USYS Futsal National Championship. A State Association must comply with any roster or player eligibility rule(s) established within the US Youth Soccer Futsal National Championships Policy, the US Youth Soccer Policy on Players and Playing Rules, the US Youth Soccer Futsal National Championship Rules or any other official document relating to the USYS Futsal National Championships.

**Section 4.** A team that is found guilty for any reason of having an ineligible player on its roster or using an ineligible player forfeits each game involving the ineligible player.

**Section 5.** A player who has been suspended may play after the player’s term of suspension has expired.

**Section 6.** Roster changes, including the addition or removal of players or coaches and other team management may be made up until 24 hours before the team’s first scheduled kick-off.

## **RULE 301 TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

The USYS Futsal National Championships shall be open to any team whose players are registered with US Youth Soccer through a State Association if the team is in compliance with all of the following requirements:

1. The team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered youth players (as defined by US Youth Soccer).
2. The team must be in good standing with its State Association, must not be under sanction by their State Association or US Youth Soccer, and must be in compliance with, and have not violated any of the bylaws and policies of their State Association or US Youth Soccer.
3. In order for its teams to compete in the USYS Futsal National Championships, a State Association *may* hold a qualifying event of its choosing (tournament or other event) in order to identify the team(s) advancing to the USYS Futsal National Championships.
4. A State Association may reserve spots for qualifying teams if the event or competition that determines the qualifiers concludes after the published application deadline for the USYS Futsal National Championships.

The State Association reserving the spot per the above guarantees a team to fill said spot and assumes full responsibility for payment of all associated fees at the stated deadline.



## **RULE 400 PROTESTS AND APPEALS**

**Section 1** All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest concerning the Futsal National Championships, shall be referred to the Futsal National Championships Committee.

**Section 2** (a) To be valid and eligible for consideration at the Futsal National Championships, each protest:

- 1) must be orally lodged by a team official listed on the team roster involved in the match with the referee and with the opposing coach at the game site before entering the court or leaving the court, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section; and
- 2) must be filed with the Futsal National Championships Committee within 2-hours after the completion of the match being protested, accompanied by:
  - a) a cash fee in the amount of \$300.00;
  - b) one (1) electronic or two (2) written copies of the protest, which must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged; and
  - c) one (1) electronic or two (2) written copies of any information to be presented by witnesses.

(b) Any protest relating to the court, goal posts, bars, or other appurtenances of the match shall be entertained only if a written objection has been lodged with the referee and the opposing coach prior to the start of the match, or during the match if the issue occurs after the start of the match.

(c) The Chair of the Futsal National Championships Committee shall immediately, upon receipt of the protest, notify the team against which the protest is made and shall provide a copy of the protest and all particulars to that team, which will then have the right to defend its case, with or without witnesses.

**Section 3** (a) An appeal of a decision may be appealed as provided by Article XVII of the US Youth Soccer Bylaws. Any such appeal must be filed within 2 hours of receiving the decision:

- 1) if a decision of the Futsal National Championships Committee, with the Chair of that Committee who shall immediately notify the Board of Directors.
- (b) Each appeal filed under subsection (a) of this section must be accompanied by:
  - 1) a cash fee in the amount of \$300.00; and
  - 2) one (1) electronic or two (2) written copies of the appeal.

**Section 4** Any party to a protest or appeal shall be accorded the right to be assisted in the presentation of the party's case at the protest or appeal proceeding.

**Section 5** A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the Futsal National Championships is not sufficient grounds for a protest or appeal. Violators may expect appropriate action by US Youth Soccer.

**Section 6** A protest or appeal of a decision or the judgement of referees will not be heard. A protest may be lodged for a misapplication of the Laws of the Game by the Referee which materially affected the outcome of the match.