

TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1764

Zurich, 9 August 2021

SG/dch

Futsal Laws of the Game 2021/22

Dear Sir or Madam,

FIFA is pleased to inform you that the Futsal Laws of the Game have been updated and approved by the FIFA Council, incorporating certain futsal-specific changes while also bringing the Laws into line with a number of modifications recently made in football and beach soccer. Please find enclosed both an overview of the main amendments and the full Futsal Laws of the Game 2021/22. The full Futsal Laws of the Game 2021/22 are also available at www.fifa.com.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dominic Chielens, Refereeing Manager, at the FIFA Refereeing Subdivision (refereeing@fifa.org).

Yours faithfully,

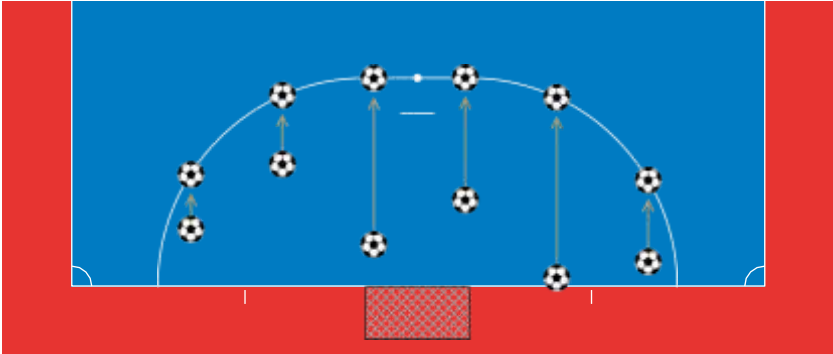
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Fatma Samoura
Secretary General

cc: - FIFA Council
- Confederations

Main amendments in the Futsal Laws of the Game 2021/22	
LAW 1 – The Pitch	<p>9. The goals The goalposts and crossbar of both goals must be the same shape, which must be square, rectangular, round, elliptical or a hybrid of these options.</p> <p>10. Goal movement If a defending-team player deliberately moves or overturns their own goal and it makes contact with the ball, a penalty kick is awarded to the opposing team and the offending player must be cautioned or, if the offence denied the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity, sent off.</p> <p>If an attacking-team player moves or overturns the opponents' goal accidentally or deliberately, a goal must not be allowed, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if it was accidental, the match is restarted with a dropped ball; • if it was deliberate and the goal made contact with the ball, a direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team and the player must be cautioned; • if it was deliberate and the goal did not make contact with the ball, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team and the player must be cautioned.
LAW 4 – The Players' Equipment	<p>4. Other equipment</p> <p>Knee and arm protectors Where knee and arm protectors are worn, they must be the same colour as the main colour of the shirt sleeve (arm protectors) or the shorts/trousers (knee protectors), and cannot protrude excessively.</p> <p>When it is not possible to match these colours, black or white protectors may be used with shirt sleeves/shorts (or trousers, where applicable) of any colour. When protectors that do not match the shirt sleeves/shorts (or trousers) are used, all such protectors must be the same colour (black or white).</p>
LAW 5 – The Referees	<p>2. Decisions of the referees The referees may not change a restart decision on realising it is incorrect or on the advice of another match official if play has restarted or the referees have signalled to confirm the end of the first or second period (including extra time) and left the pitch and its vicinity after the timekeeper has sounded the acoustic signal, or the match has been abandoned.</p> <p>3. Powers and duties The referees: (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stop play if (...) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a penalty kick has been awarded and the injured player will be the goalkeeper.
LAW 6 – The Other Match Officials	<p>2. Powers and duties The timekeeper: ensures that the duration of the match complies with the provisions of Law 7 by: (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restarting the chronometer after play has been correctly resumed following a kick-in, a goal clearance, a corner kick, a kick-off, a free kick, a penalty kick or a dropped ball; • stopping the chronometer after a goal has been scored, after a penalty kick or a free kick has been awarded, or after a player has been injured; • stopping the chronometer whenever the referees signal to them to do so;
LAW 7 – The Duration of the Match	<p>2. Ending the periods of play Either kick is considered completed (...)</p> <p>If a defending-team player commits an offence before the kick is completed, the referees continue the game by ordering a retake or awarding a further DFKSAF or penalty kick as appropriate, in line with the Futsal Laws of the Game.</p>

<p>LAW 8 – The Start and Restart of Play</p>	<p>2. Dropped ball</p> <p>Procedure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ball is dropped for one player of the team that last touched the ball at the position of the ball when play was stopped or where it last touched a player, an outside agent or a match official, unless this was in the defending team’s penalty area and the last team to touch the ball was the attacking team. In that case, the ball is dropped for one of the attacking team’s players on the penalty-area line at the point nearest to the position of the ball when play was stopped or to where it last touched a player, an outside agent or a match official, following an imaginary line parallel to the touchline (as illustrated below).  <p>(...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ball is in play when it touches the pitch, whereupon any player (from either team) may play the ball.
<p>LAW 10 – Determining the Outcome of a Match</p>	<p>3. Kicks from the penalty mark</p> <p>A player who has been sent off during the match is not permitted to take part; warnings and cautions issued during the match are not carried forward into kicks from the penalty mark.</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>During kicks from the penalty mark</p> <p>(...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the goalkeeper commits an offence and, as a result, the kick is retaken, the goalkeeper is warned for the first offence and cautioned for any subsequent offence(s). If the kicker is penalised for an offence committed after the referees have signalled for the kick to be taken, that kick is recorded as missed and the kicker is cautioned. If both the goalkeeper and the kicker commit an offence at the same time, the kick is recorded as missed and the kicker is cautioned.
<p>LAW 12 – Fouls and Misconduct</p>	<p>1. Direct free kick</p> <p>A direct free kick is also awarded if a player commits any of the following offences:</p> <p>(...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> biting or spitting at someone on the team lists or a match official throwing/kicking an object at the ball, an opponent or a match official, making contact with the ball with a held object, or deliberately moving the goal such that the goal makes contact with the ball <p>Handling the ball</p> <p>For the purpose of determining handball offences, the upper boundary of the arm is in line with the bottom of the armpit.</p> <p>Not every touch of a player’s hand/arm with the ball is an offence.</p> <p>It is an offence if a player:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, for example moving the hand/arm towards the ball. touches the ball with their hand/arm when it has made their body unnaturally bigger. A player is considered to have made their body unnaturally bigger when the position of their hand/arm is not a

	<p>consequence of, or justifiable by, the player's body movement for that specific situation. By having their hand/arm in such a position, the player takes a risk of their hand/arm being hit by the ball and being penalised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scores in the opponents' goal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ directly from their hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper; ○ immediately after the ball has touched their hand/arm, even if accidental. <p>If a goal is not scored immediately after a player accidentally touches the ball with their hand/arm, play should be continued, provided that the hand/arm did not make the player's body unnaturally bigger.</p> <p>2. Indirect free kick An indirect free kick is awarded if a player: (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • initiates a deliberate trick for the ball to be passed (including from a free kick) to the goalkeeper with the head, chest, knee, etc. to circumvent the Law, whether or not the goalkeeper touches the ball with the hands; the goalkeeper is penalised if responsible for initiating the deliberate trick; (...) <p>An indirect free kick is also awarded if a goalkeeper commits any of the following offences: (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • touches the ball with the hands or arms inside their own penalty area after it has been deliberately kicked to the goalkeeper by a team-mate (including from a kick-in); <p>3. Disciplinary action Players and substitutes</p> <p>Delaying the restart of play to show a card Once (...) administered, unless the non-offending team takes a quick free kick, has a clear goalscoring opportunity and the referees have not started the disciplinary sanction procedure. The sanction is administered at the next stoppage; if the offence was denying the opposing team an obvious goalscoring opportunity, the player is cautioned; if the offence interfered with or stopped a promising attack, the player is not cautioned.</p> <p>Advantage If the referees (...) next out of play. However, if the offence was denying the opposing team an obvious goalscoring opportunity, the player is cautioned for unsporting behaviour; if the offence was interfering with or stopping a promising attack, the player is not cautioned.</p> <p>Cautionable offences</p> <p>Cautions for unsporting behaviour There are different (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stops a ball going into the goal by a handball offence when the goal is guarded by the goalkeeper; (...) • initiates a deliberate trick for the ball to be passed (including from a free kick) to the goalkeeper with the head, chest, knee, etc. to circumvent the Law, whether or not the goalkeeper touches the ball with the hands; the goalkeeper is cautioned if responsible for initiating the deliberate trick; <p>Denying a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity (DOGSO) If a goalkeeper denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity by a handball offence outside the penalty area when their goal is unguarded or only guarded by an outfield defending-team player behind the goalkeeper, the goalkeeper is considered guilty of a sending-off offence.</p> <p>If the number of attacking-team players is the same as or greater than the number of defending-team players (except the goalkeeper) when the goal is not guarded by the goalkeeper and other criteria for DOGSO are met, this can be considered a DOGSO situation.</p> <p>4. Restart of play after fouls and misconduct</p>
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	<p>Even if a substitute, a sent-off player or a team official commits a direct-free-kick offence, this counts as an accumulated foul against their team. (...) If the referees stop play for an offence committed by a player, inside or outside the pitch, against an outside agent, play is restarted with a dropped ball, unless a free kick is awarded for leaving the pitch without the referees' permission.</p>
<p>LAW 13 – Free Kicks</p>	<p>5. Direct free kick beginning with the sixth accumulated foul by each team in each period (DFKSAF)</p> <p>Procedure (...) *A player's position at a restart is determined by the position of their feet or any part of their body which is touching the pitch (see Futsal Terms).</p> <p>Offences and sanctions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If, before the ball is in play (...) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the defending goalkeeper commits an offence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if the ball enters the goal, a goal is awarded; - if the ball misses the goal or rebounds from the crossbar or goalpost(s), the kick is only retaken if the goalkeeper's offence clearly impacted on the kicker; - if the ball is prevented from entering the goal by the goalkeeper, the kick is retaken. If the goalkeeper's offence results in the kick being retaken, the goalkeeper is warned for the first offence in the game and cautioned for any subsequent offence(s) in the game. • a team-mate of the defending goalkeeper commits an offence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ if the ball enters the goal, a goal is awarded; ○ if the ball does not enter the goal, the kick is retaken; the offender is warned for the first offence in the game and cautioned for any subsequent offence(s) in the game. • a player of both teams commits an offence, the kick is retaken unless a player commits a more serious offence (e.g. illegal feinting); the offenders are warned for the first offence in the game and cautioned for any subsequent offence(s) in the game. • both the defending goalkeeper and the kicker commit an offence at the same time, the kicker is cautioned and play restarts with an indirect free kick to the defending team.
<p>LAW 14 – The Penalty Kick</p>	<p>2. Offences and sanctions If, before the ball is in play (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the defending goalkeeper commits an offence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ if the ball enters the goal, a goal is awarded; ○ if the ball misses the goal or rebounds from the crossbar or goalpost(s), the kick is only retaken if the goalkeeper's offence clearly impacted on the kicker; ○ if the ball is prevented from entering the goal by the goalkeeper, the kick is retaken. If the goalkeeper's offence results in the kick being retaken, the goalkeeper is warned for the first offence in the game and cautioned for any subsequent offence(s) in the game. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a team-mate of the defending goalkeeper commits an offence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ if the ball enters the goal, a goal is awarded; ○ if the ball does not enter the goal, the kick is retaken. • both the defending goalkeeper and the kicker commit an offence at the same time, the kicker is cautioned and play restarts with an indirect free kick to the defending team.

<p>LAW 15 – The Kick-In</p>	<p>1. Procedure At the moment of delivering the ball: (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> only the kicker may be off the pitch (except as otherwise provided for in the Futsal Laws of the Game – see the section on authorised departure from the pitch within the Interpretation and Recommendations part of the Practical Guidelines for Futsal Referees and Other Match Officials); <p>(...) If the kick-in is taken and then, after it has been in play, the ball goes off the pitch over the same touchline where it was taken without touching any other player, a kick-in is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the point where the previous kick-in went off the pitch.</p> <p>2. Offences and sanctions For any other offence, including if a kick-in is not taken within four seconds, a kick-in is awarded to the opposing team.</p>
<p>LAW 16 – The Goal Clearance</p>	<p>2. Offences and sanctions If the goal clearance is not taken within four seconds, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team.</p>
<p>LAW 17 – The Corner Kick</p>	<p>1. Procedure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the moment when the ball is put into play, only the kicker may be off the pitch (except as otherwise provided for in the Futsal Laws of the Game – see the section on authorised departure from the pitch within the Interpretation and Recommendations part of the Practical Guidelines for Futsal Referees and Other Match Officials). <p>2. Offences and sanctions For any other offence, including if a corner kick is not taken within four seconds or from the corner area, a goal clearance is awarded to the opposing team.</p>
<p>Changes affecting more than one Law</p>	<p>Laws 4, 5 and 12; Interpretation and Recommendations; Futsal Terms</p> <p>Non-violent inappropriate behaviour To allow some non-violent inappropriate behaviour to be considered “offensive, insulting or abusive” and result in a sending-off, “action(s)/acting” replace “gesture(s)/gesturing” in the relevant descriptions.</p>