

# LAWS OF THE GAME



Welcome to the City of Gardena Youth Futsal League. We are looking forward to a fun and exciting season. When involved in our youth sports programs please remember that you are participating in a recreational league and there may be some variations to other leagues and organizations. Please read over the information listed below and utilize it as a guide for our Youth Futsal Program:

- Game score will not be kept in our TK-K and 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade divisions. (No Playoffs or Championship games for TK-K and 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade divisions)
- Game score and league standings will only be recorded in our 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade divisions.
- The season will be comprised of a six-game schedule, with playoffs and a championship game in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade divisions.
- Our coaches are a combination of recreation staff along with community volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering contact our Youth Sports Coordinator.
- Coaches will be responsible for setting practice days and times (keep in mind these are volunteer coaches, with responsibilities outside of coaching as well) and schedules may change.
- Games will be played on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The complete game schedule will be provided prior to the start of the season.
- We have zero tolerance for negative and threatening comments or negative behavior towards staff, coaches, referees, or players. If you have a disagreement regarding a referee's call, please speak to us after the game. Spectators will be asked to leave the facility and the game will be stopped until the spectator in question leaves the facility.

Always remember that collectively we must all do our part to ensure the success of the program. This game is for the children and played by your children. Positive cheering for all teams is encouraged.

# **LAWS OF THE GAME**

## **COMPETITION**

Official City of Gardena Youth Futsal Rules and Regulations as stated under the Laws of the Game will be enforced.

## **LAW 1- THE PITCH**

The surface of the pitch must be flat and smooth. Dangerous surfaces for players, team officials and match officials are not permitted. The pitch must be rectangular and marked with continuous lines. Only the lines indicated in Law 1 are to be marked on the pitch. Depending on age groups, where a multipurpose ball is used, other lines are permitted provided that they are a different color and clearly distinguishable from the futsal lines.

## **LAW 2- THE BALL**

A size 4 soccer ball will be used for the 3<sup>rd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> grade division and a size 5 soccer ball will be used in the 5<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> grade division of the City of Gardena Recreation Youth Futsal League. The TK-K and 1<sup>st</sup>– 2<sup>nd</sup> grade divisions will use a size 3 ball.

## **LAW 3- THE PLAYERS**

**Number of players:** A match is played by two teams, each with a maximum of three (3) field players and one (1) goalkeeper. A match may not start or resume if either team has fewer than three (3) players. If a team has fewer than three (3) players because one or more players has deliberately left the pitch, the referees are not obliged to stop play and the advantage may be played, but the match must not resume after the ball has gone out of play if a team does not have the minimum number of three (3) players. All players are allowed to warm up at the same time, but should respect the other team and stay on their half of the pitch.

### **The Goalkeeper**

- May receive a kick-in directly.
- May kick the ball directly over the half-way line.
- May score directly with his feet during the run of play.
- May not punt or drop-kick the ball. (Ball must settle to the ground or be touched first, no "air" under the ball when kicked.)
- May throw the ball directly across the half-way line. A ball thrown directly into the opposing goal results in a goal clearance for the opposing team. \*See Goal Clearance Law 8.
- May only touch/receive the ball once per team possession.
- Goalkeeper (GK) cannot throw the ball into the opponent's penalty arc.

## **LAW 4- THE PLAYERS EQUIPMENT**

Non-dangerous protective equipment, such as headgear, facemasks, and knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight padded material is permitted. Goalkeepers may wear caps or sport spectacles. All items of jewelry that may become tangled (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are forbidden and must be removed prior to start of play. Using tape to cover jewelry is not permitted.

## **LAW 5- THE REFEREES**

The Referee: Oversees all in-game activities. One referee will be assigned to each match. Games may be officiated by Recreation staff. Referees will have at least one whistle and red and yellow cards. Referees will have the authority to act against coaches who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and warn them, caution them, or send them off from the pitch.

Recreation staff will be responsible for keeping score.

## **LAW 6- THE OTHER MATCH OFFICIALS**

Recreation staff will be responsible for keeping score and addressing any situations that may arise outside of the pitch. Recreation staff will also be responsible for submitting scores to the Youth Sports Coordinator. Other duties include: provide any relevant information regarding the match to the referee, submitting a report of the match to the Youth Sports Coordinator, and assisting the referee as needed.

## **LAW 7- THE DURATION OF THE MATCH**

<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>TIME OF MATCH</b>
TK-K	Four (4) 5-minute quarters, 2-minute halftime
1 <sup>st</sup> grade – 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	Four (4) 6-minute quarters, 3-minute halftime
3 <sup>rd</sup> grade – 4 <sup>th</sup> grade	Two (2) 16-minute halves, 4-minute halftime
5 <sup>th</sup> grade – 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	Two (2) 18-minute halves, 5-minute halftime

## **LAW 8- THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY**

**Kickoffs:** All players, except the player taking the kickoff, must be in their own half of the pitch. The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves. A goal may be scored directly against the opponent from the kickoff. Tapped balls are not in play – the ball must move forward.

**Kick-ins:** are indirect. The ball must be placed on or no more than 10 inches behind the line and the kick must be taken within four seconds. The kicker's non-kicking foot must be on the line.

**Goal Clearances:** are taken when the ball wholly crosses the goal line after being touched last by the attacking team. The goalkeeper must use his hands to roll, bounce or throw the ball from anywhere inside the penalty area to outside the penalty area.

**Corner Kicks:** No corner kicks.

**Free Kicks:** may be indirect or direct. The ball must be stopped completely before the kick may be taken. A “wall” of players may not be set during the free kick.

**Penalty Kicks:** are taken from the penalty spot and must be shot at goal by a clearly identified kicker. Defenders may not be nearer to the ball than four feet and must be behind an imaginary line running from touchline to touchline even with the penalty spot.

**Distance:** For all of the above, except goal clearances, opponents may not be closer to the ball than four feet.

**Dead Ball:** Play will stop, and the ball will be considered dead when the ball is in the goal area. The goalie must then either pick up the ball or kick the ball back in play.

## **LAW 9- THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY**

### **Ball Out of Play**

The ball is out of play when:

- It has wholly passed over the goal line or touchline on the ground or in the air
- Play has been stopped by the referee
- It touches a match referee, remains on the field of play and:
  - a team starts a promising attack or
  - the ball goes directly into the goal or
  - the team in possession of the ball changes

In all these cases, play is restarted with a dropped ball.

## **Ball in Play**

The ball is in play at all other times when it touches a match referee and when it rebounds off a goalpost, crossbar and remains on the field of play.

## **LAW 10- DETERMINING THE OUTCOME OF A MATCH**

In the event of a tie and at the end of extra time, both teams will take three kicks. Extra time shall be two (2) five-minute periods. Score is not kept in the TK-K and 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade divisions.

## **LAW 11- OFFSIDE**

There is no offside in futsal.

## **LAW 12- FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

ABSOLUTELY NO SLIDE TACKLING OR LEAVING YOUR FEET FOR ANY REASON!!

**Heading:** Heading is not permitted.

Players may not touch the ball with their hands or arms, except for the goalkeepers in the goalie area. The goalkeeper has the same restrictions on handling the ball as any other player outside the goalie area. \*See Attachment A.

## **LAW 13- FREE KICKS**

### **Types of Free Kicks**

Direct and indirect free kicks are awarded to the opposing team of a player, substitute, substituted or sent-off player, or team official guilty of an offense. A direct free kick means that the free kick can be taken as a direct shot. An indirect free kick means that another player has to touch the ball before it can be taken as a shot on goal.

### **Indirect Free Kick Signal**

The referee indicates an indirect free kick by raising the arm above the head; this signal is maintained until the kick has been taken and the ball touches another player, goes out of play or it is clear that a goal cannot be scored directly.

An indirect free kick must be retaken if the referee fails to signal that the kick is indirect and the ball is kicked directly into the goal.

### **Ball Enters the Goal**

- if a direct free kick is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a goal is awarded

- if an indirect free kick is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a goal kick is awarded

### **Procedure**

All free kicks are taken from the place where the offense occurred, except:

- indirect free kicks to the attacking team for an offense inside the opponents' goal area are taken from the nearest point on the goal area line which runs parallel to the goal line
- free kicks to the defending team in their goal area may be taken from anywhere in that area
- free kicks for offences involving a player entering, re-entering or leaving the field of play without permission are taken from the position of the ball when play was stopped. However, if a player commits an offence off the field of play, play is restarted with a free kick taken on the boundary line nearest to where the offense occurred; for direct free kick offences a penalty kick is awarded if this is within the offender's penalty area where the Law designates another position (see Laws 3, 11, 12).

### **The Ball:**

- Must be stationary and the kicker must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves

Until the ball is in play all opponents must remain:

- Outside the penalty area for free kicks inside the opponents' penalty area

A free kick can be taken by lifting the ball with a foot or both feet simultaneously.

Feinting to take a free kick to confuse opponents is permitted as part of futsal.

If a player, while correctly taking a free kick, deliberately kicks the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again but not in a careless or reckless manner or using excessive force, the referee allows play to continue.

### **Offenses and Sanctions**

If, when a free kick is taken, an opponent is closer to the ball than the required distance, the kick is retaken unless the advantage can be applied; but if a player takes a free kick quickly the referee allows play to continue. However, an opponent who deliberately prevents a free kick being taken quickly must be cautioned for delaying the restart of play.

If, when a free kick is taken, an attacking team player is less than 1 m (1 yd) from a 'wall' formed by three or more defending team players, an indirect free kick is awarded.

If, when a free kick is taken quickly by the defending team from inside its penalty area, any opponents are inside the penalty area because they did not have time to leave, the referee allows play to continue. If an opponent who is in the penalty area when the free kick is taken or enters the penalty area before the ball is in play, touches or challenges for the ball before it is in play, the free kick is retaken.

If, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball again before it has touched another player an indirect free kick is awarded; if the kicker commits a handball offence:

- A direct free kick is awarded
- A penalty kick is awarded if the offence occurred inside the kicker's penalty area unless the kicker was the goalkeeper in which case an indirect free kick is awarded

### **LAW 14- THE PENALTY KICK**

A penalty kick is awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offense inside their own penalty area or off the pitch as part of play as outlined in Law 12. A goal may be scored from a penalty kick.

### **LAW 15- THE KICK-IN**

A kick-in is awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball when the of the ball passes over the touchline (sideline) on the floor or in the air, or when the ball hits the ceiling while in play. A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-in. If the ball enters the opponents' goal, a clearance kick is awarded. The ball must be put into play within four seconds. 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, it is retaken by the opposing team from the same location where the original kick-in was taken. If a player, while correctly taking a kick-in, deliberately kicks the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again, but not in a careless or reckless manner or using excessive force, the referees allow play to continue. The kicker must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player.

### **LAW 16- THE GOAL CLEARANCE**

- The ball is thrown or released from any point within the penalty area by the goalkeeper of the defending team
- The ball is in play when it is thrown or released and clearly moves
- The ball must be put into play within four seconds of the team being ready to put the ball into play or the referee signaling that the team is ready to put the ball in play
- Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is put in play

### **LAW 17- THE CORNER KICK**

Corner kicks are not in play in any division of play.



## **ADDITIONAL RULES**

- No goalkeeper in the TK-K Division.
- Goalkeeper in all other divisions of play must wear a different color pinny jersey than the outfield players.
- There is no overtime in regular season matches.
- We will NOT be switching benches between halves.
- Coaches time outs are not allowed. Referee will stop play in the event of an injury.

### **3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade and 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Divisions Only:**

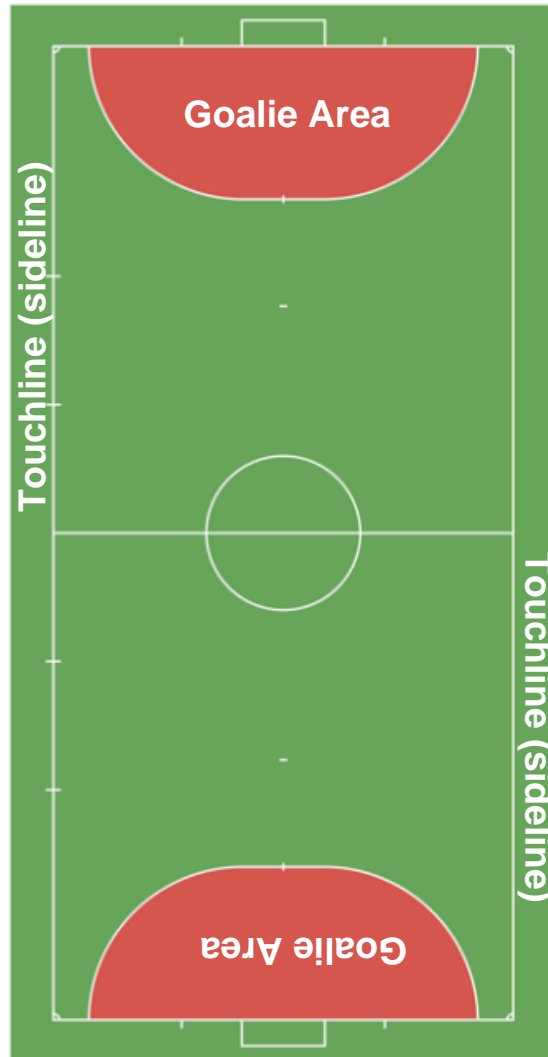
- Coaches must ensure that all players play a minimum of four minutes in the second half in all 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade divisions.
- **Yellow Card / Caution:** The offending player is shown a yellow card. If a player earns two yellow cards in a match, they are shown a red card.
- **Red Card / Ejection:** The offending team plays down for two minutes unless scored upon before the two-minute penalty expires. The offending player or coach serves a minimum one match suspension.

**City of Gardena Youth Sports Leagues will follow all LA County Department of Public Health Guidelines.**

Please do not send your child to any youth sports activities if they are experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19. Symptoms of Covid-19 include fever or chills, new cough (not from asthma or allergies), difficulty breathing, fatigue, runny or stuffy nose, diarrhea, vomiting, body aches, headache-especially with a fever, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell. Please contact the Youth Sports Coordinator if your child tests positive for Covid-19 during the sports season.

**For further information please call the Youth Sports Coordinator at (310) 217-9537.**

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**THE FUTSAL COURT (PITCH) of PLAY**



**Futsal Pitch Locations:**

Bell Park, 14708 South Halldale Avenue, Gardena, CA, 90247

Freeman Park, 2100 West 154<sup>th</sup> Place, Gardena, CA, 90249

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