

Winter 2020 Newsletter



Bringing Real Futsal to North Alabama

Volume 7, Issue 2, December 2020

Thanks go to the league's Gold Level Sponsor:



Year 2020

2020 was not like any other year in recent memory, as we all know. For the North Alabama *FUTSAL* League, it was supposed to be the year that the league expanded from conducting only two seasons per year, i.e., winters and summers, to four seasons per year, including two winter sessions. This newsletter tells the story of what occurred in 2020 and what follows.

1st SPRING Futsal Season

It was with great excitement that in North Alabama *FUTSAL*'s eight year a first ever spring season was planned and started. But it was immediately shut down by State of Alabama's Shelter at Home Order intended to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. We did not even get a picture of the participants! The plan was to meet only one hour weekly for a small amount of low pressure coaching and playing futsal for players who wanted to improve their skills more rapidly than by playing soccer only.



8th annual SUMMER Futsal Season

With new guidance on minimizing the spread of the coronavirus, a competitive futsal season was conducted for adults this summer in the gym at James Clemens High School in Madison. Five talented teams began enjoying playing high-level futsal in June. We played about half of the season when a spike in the coronavirus pandemic (across Alabama – not in the league) led us to decide to cancel the remaining games to be safe.



More pictures from this summer are on the Photos page at www.nafutsal.com/Photo-Albums.

Johnson Legacy Center's Grand Opening

After 18 months of construction the Johnson Legacy Center (JLC) opened in August containing two, FIFA compliant, *real* futsal courts! On JLC's new sport floor there are only futsal courts and volleyball courts. There are no basketball courts with their 3-point lines that often are confused with the boundary lines of futsal penalty areas. These new futsal courts are very clear. The volleyball courts are hardly noticeable while playing futsal. Nice!



On August 15 the City of Huntsville Parks & Recreation held a grand opening with numerous city dignitaries and adult futsal teams playing an exhibition game. This is the start of a great asset that will be the envy of many surrounding cities.



1st FALL Futsal Season

Three times' a charm! Finally, with much learning by all we successfully conducted a fall futsal academy in September and October while the coronavirus pandemic continued. There was a group of 8 and 9 year old youth who received futsal specific coaching and played much futsal packed in just one hour per week. It was great! Annually, it is expected the fall season is the time to prepare for the competitive winter season.

Futsal Academies Fall/Winter:



FALL/WINTER 10U CO-ED FUTSAL ACADEMY



WINTER 12U BOYS FUTSAL ACADEMY

Additionally, in the league’s 8th year of existence the youth activities were sanctioned by U.S. Youth Futsal (USYF) while the adult activities remained under U.S. Futsal Federation (USFF).



8th annual WINTER Futsal Season

Winter futsal season started in November and will continue through January 2021. Youth divisions 10U, 12U, 17U, and one adult division are playing futsal this winter. As it has always been winter is the season with most participation. Below is a new adult team:



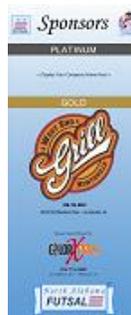
NEW ADULT TEAM, TAESETY WARRIORS

Sponsors

The following companies were sponsors of North Alabama *FUTSAL* during the winter season:

- West End Grill, Huntsville, AL – Gold Level
- ColorXpress, Madison, AL – Bronze Level

Please show your appreciation by visiting these sponsors’ businesses. Additional sponsors will help offset the costs to teams to play futsal in the league. If you know of a company who would like to have their company name displayed as a sponsor during North Alabama *FUTSAL* activities, have them view the Sponsorship page at www.nafutsal.com/More/Sponsorship and/or contact North Alabama *FUTSAL* to discuss. See the [Contact Us](#) page.



Planned Annual Events

- **SPRING FUTSAL ACADEMY** for the serious youth football player wanting to rapidly improve their skills and optionally pickup games for adult players, except spring 2021 to allow time to bring the coronavirus under control in our city.
- **SUMMER FUTSAL SEASON** of competitive games for adult teams and futsal academies for youth players
- **FALL FUTSAL ACADEMY** for the serious youth football player wanting to rapidly improve their skills plus preparation for the most highly competitive winter season and optionally pickup games for adult players
- **WINTER FUTSAL SEASON:** Most understand futsal is played in the winter. Yes. While it is enjoyed that there is much enthusiasm in the winters and winters will likely continue to see the most participation, hopes are that in time players, parents, coaches and managers will understand the huge value of playing futsal for both a football player’s development and for the electrifying game of futsal and participate all year round.

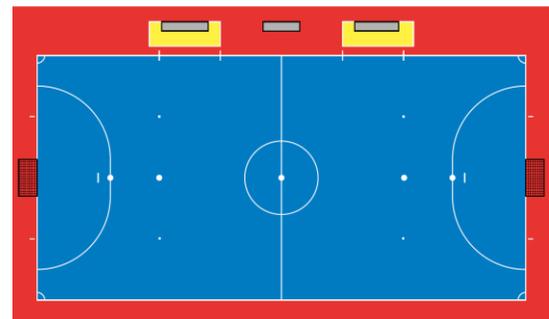
Upcoming Spring/Summer Events

- 4/19/2021 – Registration begins
- 5/2/2021 – Early Bird Special pricing ends
- 5/23/2021 – Team registration ends
- 6/1/2021 – Games begin for youth academies
- 6/6/2021 – Games begin for adult divisions
- 7/31/2021 – Season ends

Most current & complete calendar may be viewed at www.nafutsal.com/More/Calendar

Did You Know?

Shape, size and details of futsal courts are defined by FIFA, Federation Internationale de Football Association, as having goal lines and touchlines separated at a maximum of 20 meters by 40 meters, similar but not identical to soccer pitches. See below.



Yellow areas are the technical areas. Pairs of white dashed lines in front of the technical areas define pathways for substituting. There are penalty areas but not goal areas. There are additional penalty marks at 10 meters in addition to the first penalty marks at 6 meters from goal lines. There is no “D” next to penalty areas as is the case on soccer fields. Instead there are small marks to indicate the spacing of players during the taking of penalty kicks.