

GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES 2010/2011

LAW 1 – THE PITCH

Pitch surface

Matches must be played on flat surfaces, according to the rules of the competition.

Artificial turf

The use of artificial turf is not permitted in competition matches between representative teams of member associations affiliated to FIFA or International club competition matches.

Pitch markings

It is not permissible to mark the pitch with broken lines.

If a player makes unauthorized marks on the pitch, he/she must be cautioned for unsporting behavior. If the referees notice this being done during the match, they must stop play if they cannot apply the advantage, caution the offending player for unsporting behavior and order play to be restarted with an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick).

An attempt should be made to use only the lines stipulated in Law 1 to mark the pitch, but since futsal is usually played in halls equipped for various sports, lines other than those used for football must be accepted, provided that they do not confuse the players and referees.

No lines or markings are allowed within 5 m (16 ft) of the second penalty mark and inside the penalty area to indicate the distance that the defending goalkeeper must retreat while a kick from the second penalty mark is being taken.

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Goals

If the crossbar becomes displaced or broken, play is stopped until it has been repaired or replaced in position. If it is not possible to repair the crossbar, the match must be abandoned. The use of the rope to replace the crossbar is not permitted. If the crossbar can be repaired, the match is restarted with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the penalty area, in which case one of the referees drops the ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped.

Safety

The competition rules state the distance that must exist between the boundary lines of the pitch (touch lines and goal lines) and the barriers separating the spectators, but always in such a way as to protect the participants' safety.

Advertising on the pitch

If the competition rules do not prohibit it, advertising on the floor of the pitch is permitted, provided that it does not confuse the players or referees and it enables the boundary lines stipulated in the Futsal Laws of the Game to be seen.

Advertising on the goal nets

If the competition rules do not prohibit it, advertising on the goal nets is permitted, provided that it does not confuse the players or referees.

Advertising in the technical areas

If the competition rules do not prohibit it, advertising on the floor of the technical areas is permitted, provided that it does not confuse the occupants of said area, the third referee or the referees.

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LAW 2 – THE BALL

Additional balls

Additional balls may be placed around the pitch for use during a match provided that they meet the requirements of Law 2 and their use is under the control of the referees.

Extra balls on the pitch

If an extra ball enters the pitch while the ball is in play, the referees must stop the match only if the extra ball interferes with play. Play must be restarted with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the penalty area, in which case one of the referees drops the ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped.

If an extra ball enters the pitch while the ball is in play without interfering with play, referees must have it removed at the earliest possible opportunity.

Burst or defective ball

If the ball bursts or becomes defective after striking one of the goalposts or the crossbar and enters the goal, the referees award the goal.

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LAW 3 – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Substitution procedure

- A substitution may be made during play or during a stoppage in play, except during a time-out
- The player being substituted does not need to obtain the referees' permission to leave the pitch
- The referees do not need to authorize the substitute to enter the pitch
- Before entering the pitch, the substitute waits for the player he/she is replacing to leave the pitch
- The player being substituted is required to leave the pitch via his/her own team's substitution zone, except if he/she is already outside the pitch with the referees' permission or for the reasons provided in Laws 3 or 4
- Permission to proceed with a substitution may be refused under certain circumstances, e.g. if the substitute does not have his/her equipment in order
- A substitute who has not completed the substitution procedure by setting foot on the pitch via his/her substitution zone cannot restart play by taking a kick-in, corner kick, etc. until he/she completes the substitution procedure
- If a player who is about to be replaced refuses to leave the pitch, the substitution cannot be made
- If a substitution is made during the half-time interval or before any of the periods of extra time, the substitute may enter the pitch via the substitution zone after informing the third referee or the referee, if there is no third referee

Extra person on the pitch

Outside agents

Anyone not indicated on the list of players before the start of the match as a player or substitute or who is not a team official is deemed to be an outside agent.

If an outside agent enters the pitch:

- the referees must stop play (although not immediately if the outside agent does not interfere with play)
- the referees must have him/her removed from the pitch and its immediate surroundings

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- if the referees stop the match, they must restart play with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the penalty area, in which case one of the referees drops the ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped

Team officials

If a team official enters the pitch:

- the referees must stop play (although not immediately if the team official does not interfere with play or if the advantage can be applied)
- the referees must have him/her removed from the pitch and if his/her behavior is irresponsible, the referees must expel him/her from the pitch and its immediate surroundings
- if the referees stop the match, they must restart play with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the penalty area, in which case one of the referees drops the ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped

Players sent off

If a sent-off player enters the pitch:

- the referees must stop play, although not immediately if the sent-off player does not interfere with play or if the advantage can be applied
- the referees must have him/her removed from the pitch and its immediate surroundings
- if the referees stop the match, they must restart play with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the penalty area, in which case one of the referees drops the ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped

Player outside the pitch

If, after leaving the pitch to correct unauthorized equipment or kit, to be treated for an injury or bleeding, because he/she has blood on his/her kit or for any other reason with the referees' permission, a player re-enters the pitch without the referees' permission, the referees must:

- stop play, although not immediately if they can apply the advantage
- caution the player for entering the pitch without permission
- order the player to leave the pitch if necessary (e.g. infringement of Law 4)

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if the referees stop play, it must be restarted:

- with an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick) if there is no other infringement
- in accordance with Law 12 if the player also infringes this Law

If a player who is outside the pitch with the referees' permission and who has not been substituted re-enters the pitch without the permission of the referees or the third referee and furthermore commits another cautionable infringement, the referees send him/her off for a double caution, e.g. the player enters without the permission of the referees or the third referee and trips an opponent in a reckless manner. If this infringement is committed with excessive force, the player is sent-off directly.

If the referee stops play, it must be restarted in accordance with Law 12.

If a player accidentally crosses one of the boundary lines of the pitch, he/she is not deemed to have committed an infringement. If a player leaves the pitch as part of a playing movement, he/she is not deemed to have committed an infringement.

Substitutes

If a substitute enters the pitch by infringing the substitution procedure or causes his/her team to be playing with an extra player, the referees, assisted by the assistant referees, must adhere to the following guidelines:

- stop play, although not immediately if the advantage can be applied
- caution him/her for unsporting behavior if his/her team plays with an extra player or for infringing the substitution procedure if the substitution was not made correctly
- send him/her off if he/she denied the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity. The number of players on his/her team is reduced if the offence consists of an infringement of the substitution procedure but is not reduced if his/her team is playing with an extra player
- the substitute must leave the pitch at the first stoppage in the match if he/she has not left before, either to complete the substitution procedure, if the infringement was for this reason, or to move to the technical area, if his/her team was playing with an extra player
- if they apply the advantage, stop play once the substitute's team is in possession of the ball and restart it with an indirect free kick for the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)

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- If they apply the advantage and stop play because the opposing team commits an infringement or because the ball leaves the pitch, they must restart play with an indirect free kick to the opponents of the substitute's team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick). If necessary, they also take the disciplinary action corresponding to the infringement committed by the opponents of the substitute's team
- If they apply the advantage and another player of the substitute's team commits an infringement punishable by a direct free kick or penalty kick, they sanction the substitute's team with a direct free kick (see Law 13 – Position of free kick) or penalty kick. If necessary, they also take the disciplinary action corresponding to the infringement committed
- If they apply the advantage and the substitute does not follow the substitution procedure and commits an infringement punishable by a direct free kick or penalty kick, they sanction the substitute's team with a direct free kick (see Law 13 – Position of free kick) or penalty kick. If necessary, they also take disciplinary action corresponding to the infringement committed
- If they apply the advantage and the substitute's team plays with an extra player, and his/her player commits an infringement punishable by a direct free kick or penalty kick, they sanction this player's team with an indirect free kick from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick). If necessary, they also take the disciplinary action corresponding to the infringement committed

If a named substitute replaces a player before the start of a match without the team officials informing the match officials, the referees, assisted by the assistant referees, must adhere to the following guidelines:

- stop play (although not immediately if the advantage can be applied)
- they do not caution him/her, but he/she must leave the pitch at the first stoppage in the match to complete the substitution procedure, i.e. enter via his/her team's substitution zone
- if they apply the advantage, stop play once the substitute's team is in possession of the ball and restart it with an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)
- if they apply the advantage and stop play because the opposing team commits an infringement or because the ball leaves the pitch, they must restart play with an indirect free kick to the opponents of the substitute's team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick). If necessary, they also take the disciplinary action corresponding to the infringement committed by the opponents of the substitute's team.

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- If they apply the advantage and the substitute or another player of his/her team commits an infringement punishable with a direct free kick (see Law 13 – Position of free kick), they must sanction his/her team with a direct free kick or penalty kick. If necessary, they also take the disciplinary action corresponding to the infringement committed

If a substitute commits a sending-off offence before entering the pitch, the number of player in his/her team is not reduced and another substitute or the player he/she was going to replace may enter the pitch.

Authorized departure from the pitch

In addition to a normal substitution, a player may leave the pitch without the referees' permission in the following situations:

- as part of a playing movement where by he/she immediately returns to the pitch, i.e. to play the ball or place himself/herself in an advantageous position by dribbling past an opponent. However, it is not permitted to leave the pitch and pass behind one of the goals before re-entering the pitch with the aim of deceiving the opponents; if he/she does, the referees stop play if they cannot apply the advantage. If they stop play, they must restart it with an indirect free kick from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick). The player is cautioned for leaving the pitch without the referees' permission.
- due to injury. The player needs the permission of the referees or the third referee to re-enter the pitch if he/she has not been substituted. If he/she is suffering from a bleeding wound, the bleeding must have stopped before he/she re-enters the pitch and he/she must be checked by the referees or the third referee
- to correct or put back on his/her equipment. The player needs the referees' permission to re-enter the pitch if he/she has not been substituted, and the referees or the third referee must check his/her equipment before he/she returns to the match

Unauthorized departure from the pitch

If a player leaves the pitch without the referees' permission and for reasons not permitted in the Futsal Laws of the Game, the timekeeper or the third referee

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sounds the acoustic signal to inform the referees if the advantage cannot be applied. If it is necessary to stop play, the referees sanction the offending player's team with an indirect free kick from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick). The player is cautioned for deliberately leaving the pitch without the referees' permission.

Minimum number of players

Although a match may not start if either team consists of fewer than three players, the minimum number of players, including players and substitutes, required for a match is left to the discretion of member association.

A match may not continue if there are fewer than three players in either of the teams.

If a team has fewer than three players because one or more players has deliberately left the pitch, the referees are not obliged to stop the match immediately and the advantage may be applied. In such cases, the referees must not restart the match after play has been stopped if a team does not have the minimum number of three players.

Injured players

If there are injured players, the referees must adhere to the following guidelines:

- allow the match to continue until the ball goes out of play if a player is, in the opinion of the referees, only slightly injured
- play is stopped if, in the opinion of the referees, a player is seriously injured
- after questioning the injured player, the referees may authorize one, or at most two doctors, to enter the pitch to assess the injury and arrange the player's safe and swift removal from the pitch
- stretcher-bearers should only enter the pitch with a stretcher following a signal from the referee
- the referees must ensure that the injured player is carried off the pitch safely and swiftly
- a player is not allowed to receive treatment on the pitch, unless the seriousness of the injury requires it

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- any player bleeding from a wound must leave the pitch and may not return until the referees are satisfied that the bleeding is stopped (the third referee may check this, but the referees must authorize his/her entry, if he/she has not been substituted). A player is not allowed to wear clothing with blood on it.
- as soon as the referees have authorized the doctors to enter the pitch, the player must leave the pitch, either on a stretcher or on foot. If a player does not comply, he/she must be cautioned for delaying the restart of play. Play is not restarted until said player has left the pitch.
- An injured player may leave the pitch from a place other than the substitution zone. He/She may do so from any line that marks the pitch boundaries
- An injured player may be substituted, but the substitute must enter via the substitution zone once the injured player has left the pitch
- If he/she has not been substituted, a player who was injured may return to the pitch only after the match has restarted
- If he/she has not been substituted, an injured player may re-enter the pitch when the ball is in play, but only from the touch line. When the ball is out of play, he/she may enter the pitch from any boundary line (goal line and touch line)
- Only the referees may allow an injured player who has not been substituted to return to the pitch, whether the ball is in play or not. He/She is not permitted to enter if the ball is in play and if play is developing through the area in which he/she is located.
- The referees may give permission for an injured player to return to the pitch if the third referee verifies that the player is ready
- If play has not otherwise been stopped for another reason, or if an injury suffered by a player is not the result of an infringement of the Futsal Laws of the Game, the referees must stop play and restart it with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the penalty area, in which case one of the referees drops the ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped
- Once the referees have decided to issue a card to a player who is injured and has to leave the pitch for treatment, the referees must issue the card before the player leaves the pitch
- They do not issue a card to an injured player when he/she is receiving treatment, but once he/she has returned and before play has been restarted. If the player has to leave the pitch on a stretcher, they issue the card before he/she leaves the pitch

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- The third referee assists the referees with the enforcement of permissions to enter the pitch granted to substitutes replacing injured players or players who were injured

Exceptions to this ruling are to be made only when:

- A goalkeeper is injured
- A goalkeeper and any other player have collided and need immediate attention
- Players from the same team have collided and need immediate attention
- A serious injury has occurred, e.g. swallowed tongue, concussion, broken leg, broken arm, etc.

Refreshments

The referees allow player to take refreshments during time-outs or during a stoppage in a match, but only outside the pitch, so that it does not become wet. It is not permitted to throw bags containing liquids or any other receptacle containing liquid on to the pitch.

Players sent off

- If a player who commits an infringement is sent off for a second caution or directly after the advantage has been applied and his/her team concedes a goal after the application of the advantage before he/she is sent off, the number of player in his/her team is not reduced, as the infringement was committed before the goal was scored
- If, during the interval or before the start of one of the period of extra time, a player commits a sending-off offence, his/her team starts the next half or period of extra time with one player fewer

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LAW 4 – THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

Basic equipment

Colors:

- If the jerseys of the two goalkeepers are the same color and neither has another jersey to change into, the referee allows play to begin

If a player loses his/her footwear accidentally and immediately plays the ball and scores a goal, there is no infringement and the goal is awarded because he/she lost his/her footwear by accident.

Other equipment

A player may use equipment other than the basic equipment, provided that its sole purpose is to protect him/her physically and it poses no danger to him/her or any other player.

All items of clothing or equipment must be inspected by the referees and determined not to be dangerous.

Modern protective equipment, such as headgear, facemasks, and knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight padded material are not considered dangerous and are therefore permitted.

Sport spectacles are permitted if they pose no danger to the players.

If an item of clothing or equipment that has been inspected at the start of a match and determined not to be dangerous becomes dangerous or is used in a dangerous manner during the match, its use must no longer be allowed.

The use of radio communications systems between players and/or technical staff is not permitted.

Jewellery

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All items of jewellery (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are strictly forbidden and must be removed by the players and substitutes before the start of the match. Using tape to cover jewellery is not acceptable.

Referees and assistant referees are also prohibited from wearing jewellery (except for the referee, who is permitted to wear a watch or similar device to time the match if the timekeeper is absent).

Numbering of the players

The competition rules must stipulate the numbering of the players, which is normally from 1 to 15, with number 1 reserved for a goalkeeper.

The organizers must bear in mind that it is impossible for referees to signal numbers greater than 15.

The number of each player must be visible on his/her back and be distinguishable from the main color of the shirt. The competition rules must determine the size of the numbers and whether they are mandatory, as was as their size on other items of the players' basic equipment.

Disciplinary Sanctions

Before the match begins, players and substitutes must be checked to ensure that they are not wearing any unauthorized clothing or jewellery. The third referee makes a second visual check of the substitutes before they enter the pitch. If a player is discovered to be wearing unauthorized clothing or jewellery during play, the referees must:

- inform the player that the item in question must be removed
- order the player to leave the pitch at the next stoppage if he/she is unable or unwilling to comply
- caution the player if he/she willfully refuses to comply or, having been told to remove the item, is discovered to wearing the item again

If play is stopped to caution the player, an indirect free kick must be awarded to the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick).

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LAW 5 – THE REFEREES

Powers and duties

Futsal is a competitive sport, and referees must understand that physical contact between the players is normal and an acceptable part of the game.

Nevertheless, if the players do not respect the Futsal Laws of the Game and the principles of sportsmanship, i.e. fair play, the referees must take the appropriate action to ensure that they are respected.

The referees must suspend the match if, in their opinion, the lighting is inadequate due to failure of some kind. If the failure cannot be repaired, the referee abandons the match.

If an object thrown by a spectator hits a match official, a player or a team officials, the referee may allow the match to continue, suspend play or abandon the match, depending on the severity of the incident. He/She must, in all cases, report the incident(s) to the appropriate authorities.

The referees have the power to caution or send off players during the half-time interval and after the match has finished as well as during extra time and kicks from the penalty mark, since disciplinary decisions remain under the jurisdiction at these times.

If one of the referees is temporarily incapacitated for any reason, play may continue under the supervision of the other referee and the assistant referees until the ball next goes out of play.

Advantage

The referees may play advantage whenever an infringement or offence occurs and the Futsal Laws of the Game do not explicitly prohibit the advantage from being applied. For example, it is permitted at a goal clearance with attacking players inside the penalty area if the goalkeeper wishes to take the clearance quickly; however, it is not permitted when a kick-in is taken incorrectly.

The advantage is not permitted for infringements of the four-second rule, unless the infringement is committed by the goalkeeper in controlling the ball when it is

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already in play in his/her own half of the pitch, and if he/she loses possession of the ball. In the remaining cases: free kicks, kick-ins, goal clearances and corner kicks, the referees cannot apply the advantage.

The referees should consider the following circumstances in deciding whether to apply the advantage or stop play:

- the severity of the offence: if the infringement warrants an expulsion, the referees must stop play and send off the player unless there is an opportunity to score a goal
- the position where the offence was committed: the closer to the opposing goal, the more effective it can be
- the chances of an immediate, promising attack
- the infringement committed must not be a team's sixth or greater accumulated foul, unless there is an opportunity to score a goal
- the atmosphere of the match

The decision to penalize the original offense must be taken within a few seconds, but it is not possible to go back if the corresponding signal has not previously been given or a new passage of play has been allowed.

If the offence warrants a caution, it must be issued at the next stoppage. However, unless there is a clear advantage, it is recommended that the referees stop play and caution the player immediately. If the caution is not issued at the next stoppage, it cannot be shown later.

If an infringement requires play to be restarted with an indirect free kick, the referees must apply the advantage to ensure that play flows, provided that this does not lead to any retaliation and is not prejudicial to the team against which the offence was committed.

More than one offense occurring at the same time

- Offenses committed by two or more players from the same team:
 - the referees must punish the most serious offence
 - play must be restarted according to the most serious offence committed
 - notwithstanding the above two paragraphs, the referees caution or send off the players in accordance with the infringements committed or do not take any disciplinary action

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- if the offenses committed are punishable by a direct free kick, the referees order the corresponding accumulated fouls to be recorded
- Offenses committed by players from different teams:
 - the referees stop the match, as they cannot apply the advantage, and restart play with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the penalty area, in which case one of the referees drops the ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped
 - notwithstanding the above paragraph, the referees caution or send off the players in accordance with the infringements committed or do not take any disciplinary action
 - if the offences committed are punishable by a direct free kick, the referees order the corresponding accumulated fouls to be recorded.

- in which case one of the referees drops the ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped

External interference

The referees stop play if a spectator blows a whistle and they consider that this action interferes with play, e.g. if a player picks up the ball with his/her hands. If play is stopped, it must be restarted with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the penalty area, in which case one of the referees drops the ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped.

Four-second count when the ball is in play

Each time that a team's goalkeeper is in possession of the ball while it is in play and in his/her own half of the pitch, one of the referees just visibly perform the four-second count.

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Restart of play

The referees especially ensure that restarts of play are carried out quickly and do not allow play not to be restarted immediately for tactical reasons after a temporary stoppage (kick-in, goal clearance, corner kick or free kick). In these cases, the four-second count starts and it is not necessary to use the whistle. In cases where the restart does not allow the four-second count (kick-off or penalty kick), the player or players who delay it are cautioned.

Persons holding balls are permitted to position themselves around the pitch to facilitate restarts and the development of play.

Positioning with ball in play

Recommendations

- The play should be between the referee and the second referee
- The referees should use a wide diagonal system
- Staying outside the touch line makes it easier to keep the play and the other referee within the referee's field of vision
- The referee nearest to the play should be within the other referee's field of vision
- One of the referees should be close enough to see play without interfering with it
- The referees only enter the pitch to obtain a better view of the play
- "What needs to be seen" is not always in the vicinity of the ball. The referees should also pay attention to:
 - aggressive individual player confrontations off the ball
 - possible offenses in the penalty area towards which play is heading
 - offences occurring after the ball is played away

General positioning during the match

One of the referees must be in line with the second-last opponent or the ball if it is nearer the goal line than the second-last opponent. The referees must always face the pitch.

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Goalkeeper releasing the ball

One of the referees must take a position in line with the edge of the penalty area and check that the goalkeeper does not touch the ball with his/her hands outside the penalty area, while also timing the number of seconds he/she is in possession of the ball.

Once the goalkeeper has released the ball, the referee must take a suitable position for controlling the match.

“Goal – no goal” situations

When a goal has been scored and there is no doubt about the decision, the referee and the second referee must make eye contact and the referee nearest to the timekeeper’s table must approach the timekeeper and the third referee, to whom he/she communicates the number of the player who scored the goal with the mandatory signal.

If a goal has been scored but the ball appears to still be in play, the referee who is nearest blows his/her whistle to attract the attention of the other referee and then the referee nearest to the timekeeper’s table approaches the timekeeper and the third referee, to whom he/she communicates the number of the player who scored the goal with the mandatory signal.

Positioning in ball out of play situations

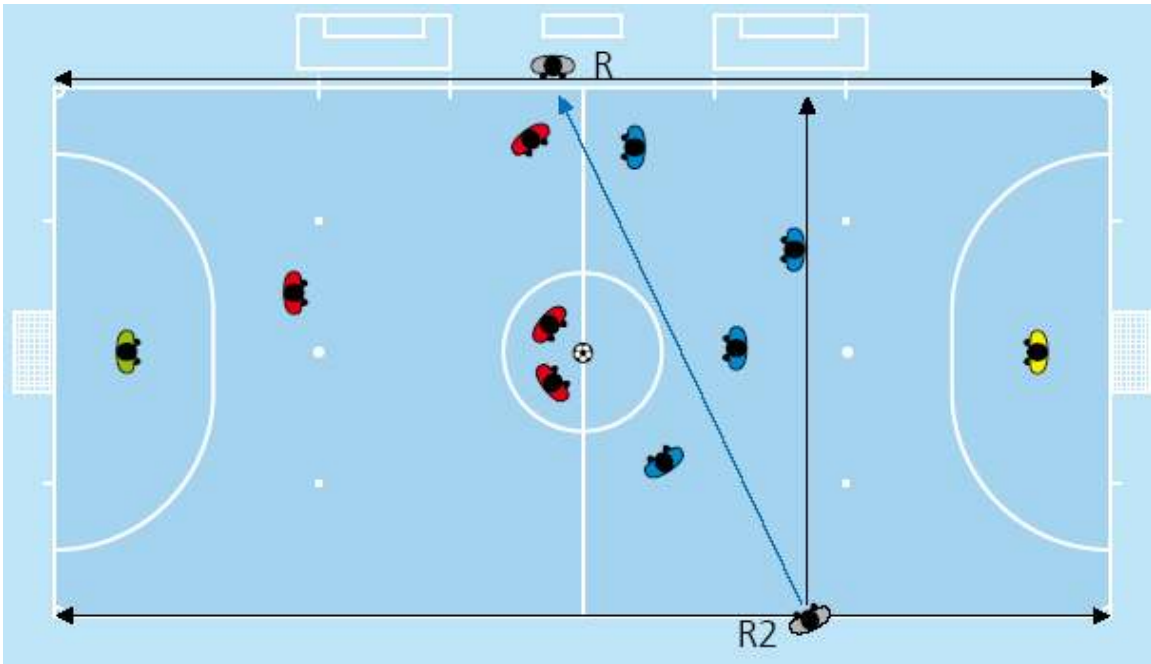
The best position is one from which the referee can make the right decision. All recommendations about positioning are based on probabilities and must be adjusted using specific information about the teams, the players and events in the match up to that point.

The positions suggest in the following graphics are basic; some are recommended to referees and other are mandatory. The reference to a “zone” is intended to emphasize that every recommended position is actually an area within which the referee is most likely to optimize his/her effectiveness. The zone may be larger, smaller or differently shaped depending on the circumstances.

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1. Positioning – kick-off (mandatory)

At the start of the match, the referee situated on the touch line where the substitution zone is located must be in line with the halfway line to check that the kick-off is taken in accordance with the established procedure. The second referee must be in line with the second-last defender of the team that is not taking the kick-off.

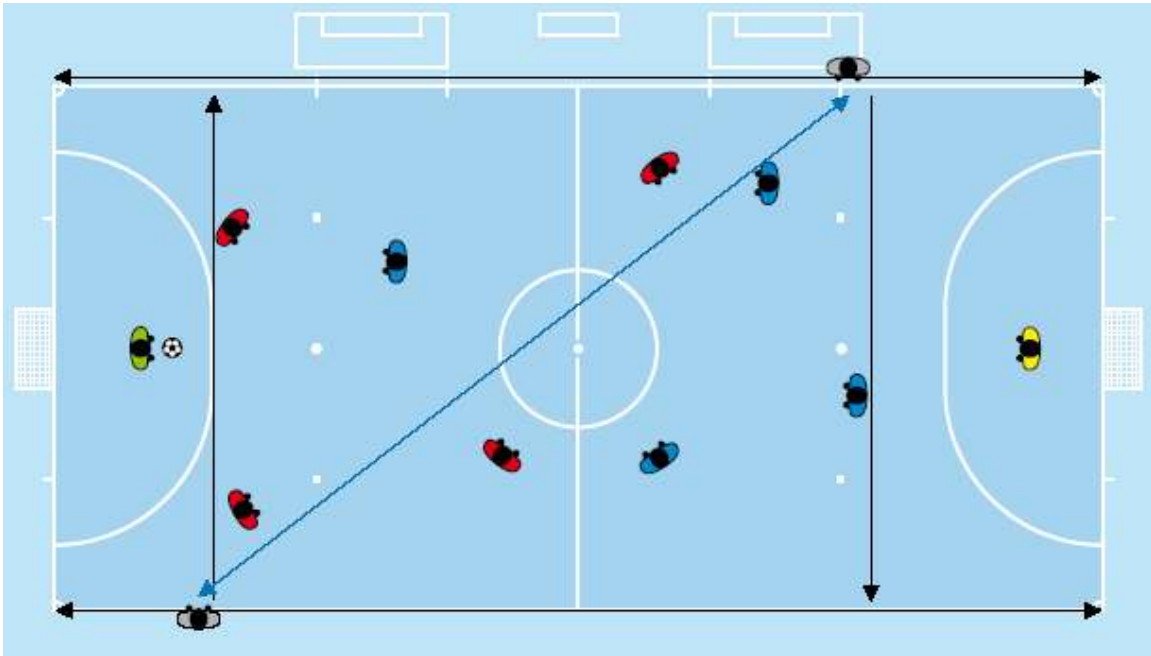


2. Positioning – goal clearance

1. One of the referees must check first if the ball is inside the penalty area:
 - If the ball is not placed correctly, the referee may start the four-second count if if/she considers that the goalkeeper was ready to take the goal clearance or is delaying picking up the ball in his/her hands for tactical reasons
2. Once the ball is inside the penalty area, one of the referees must take a position in line with the edge of the penalty area to check that the ball leaves the penalty area (ball in play) and that the attackers are outside. He/She then performs the four-second count, irrespective of whether he/she has started in accordance with the previous point.

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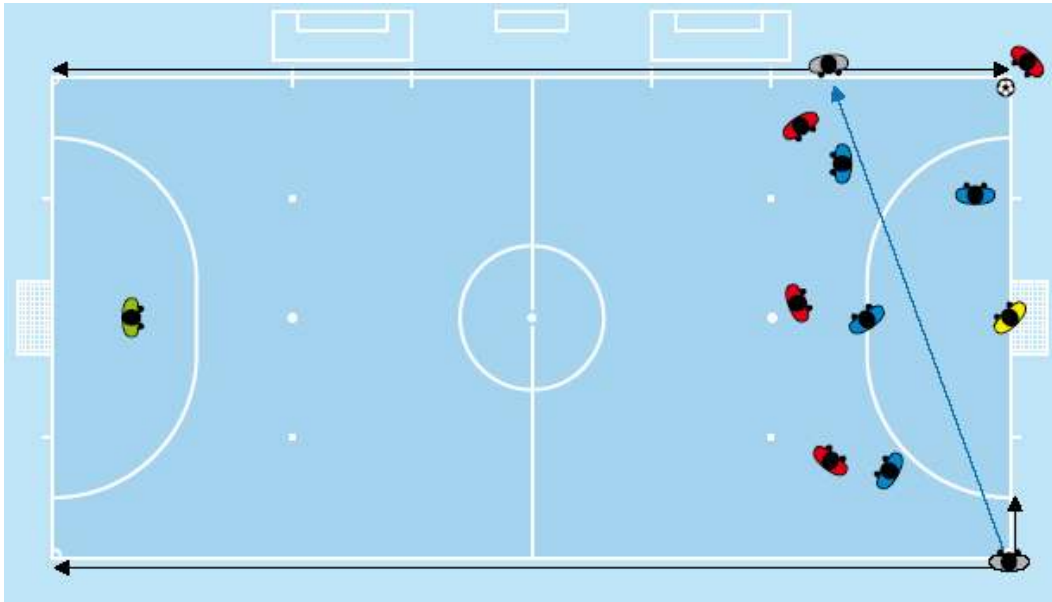
3. Finally, the referee who is supervising the goal clearance must take a suitable position for controlling the match, which is a priority in any case.



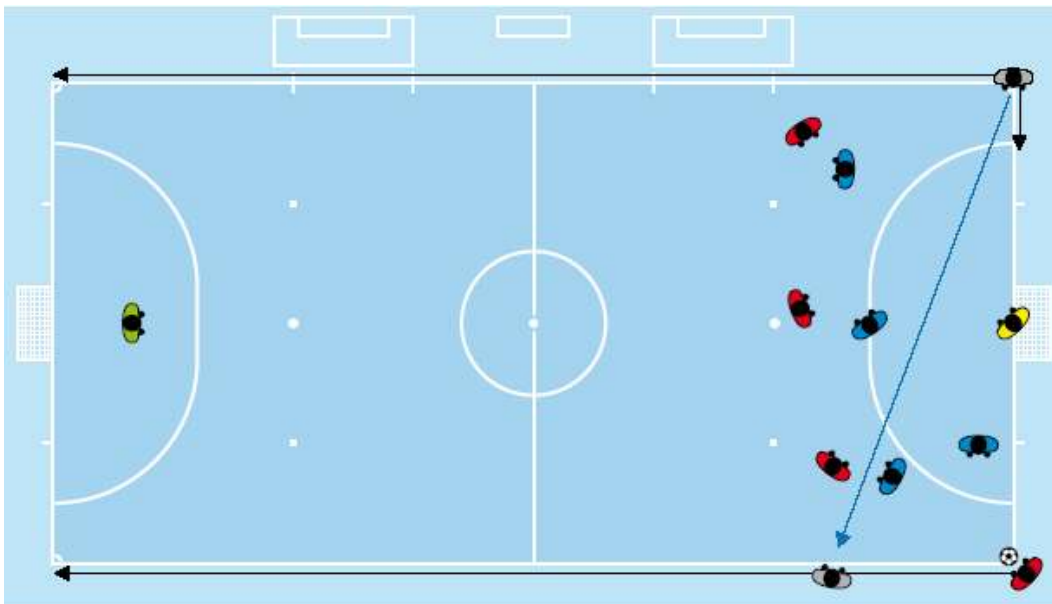
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3. Positioning – corner kick (mandatory) (1)

During a corner kick, the referee nearest to the place where it is to be taken takes a position on the touch line at a distance of approximately 5 m (16 ft) from the corner arc. From this position he/she must check that the ball is properly placed inside the corner arc and that the defenders have retreated 5 m (16 ft). The referee furthest from the place where the corner kick is to be taken takes a position behind the corner arc in line with the goal line. From this position he/she watches the ball and the behavior of the players.



4. Positioning – corner kick (mandatory) (2)



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5. Positioning – free kick (1)

During a free kick, the referee who is nearest takes a position in line with the place from where the kick is to be taken and checks that the ball is properly placed, as well as watching the players for encroachment while the kick is being taken. The referee furthest from the place from where the kick is to be taken must take a position in line with the second-last opponent or the goal line, which is a priority in any case. Both referees must be ready to follow the trajectory of the ball and run along the touch line towards the corner arc if a direct free kick is taken towards the goal and they are not in line with the goal line.

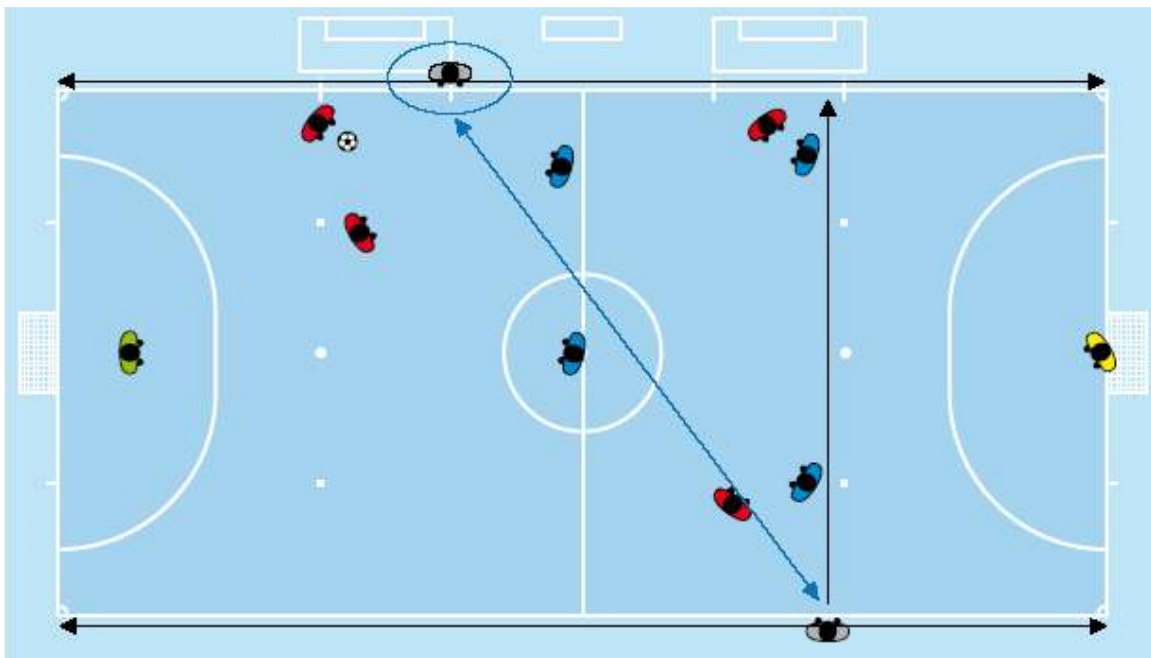


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6. Positioning – free kick (2)

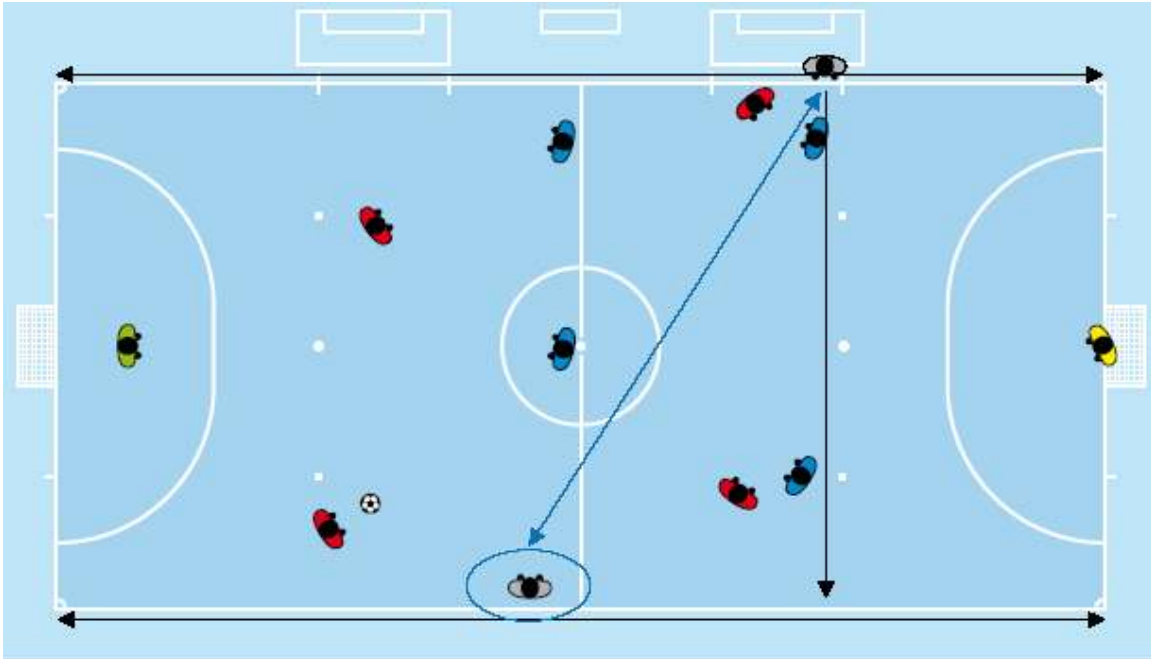


7. Positioning – free kick (3)



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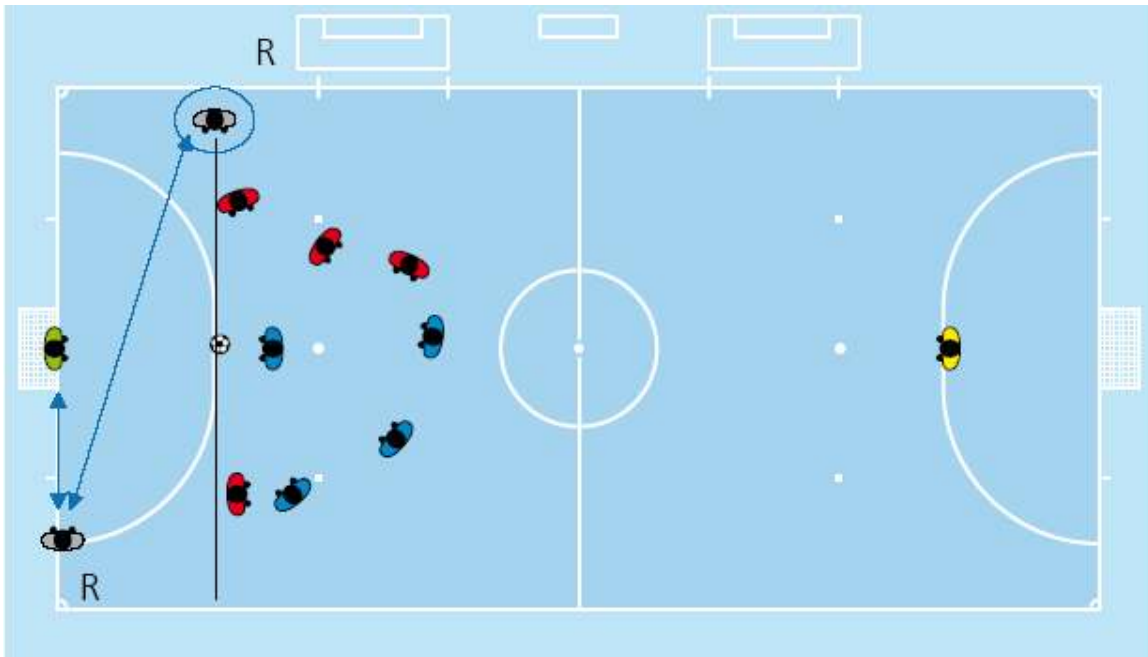
8. Positioning – free kick (4)



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9. Positioning – penalty kick (mandatory)

One of the referees is positioned in line with the penalty mark at an approximate distance of 5 m (16 ft) and checks that the ball is properly placed, identifies the kicker and watches the players for encroachment while the kick is being taken. He/She does not order the kick to be taken until he/she has checked that the position of all the players is correct and is assisted by the other referee if necessary. The other referee must be positioned at the intersection of the goal line and the penalty area. If the goalkeeper advances from the goal line before the kick has been taken and a goal is not scored, the referee blows his/her whistle to order the penalty kick to be retaken.



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10. Positioning – kicks from the second penalty mark (mandatory)

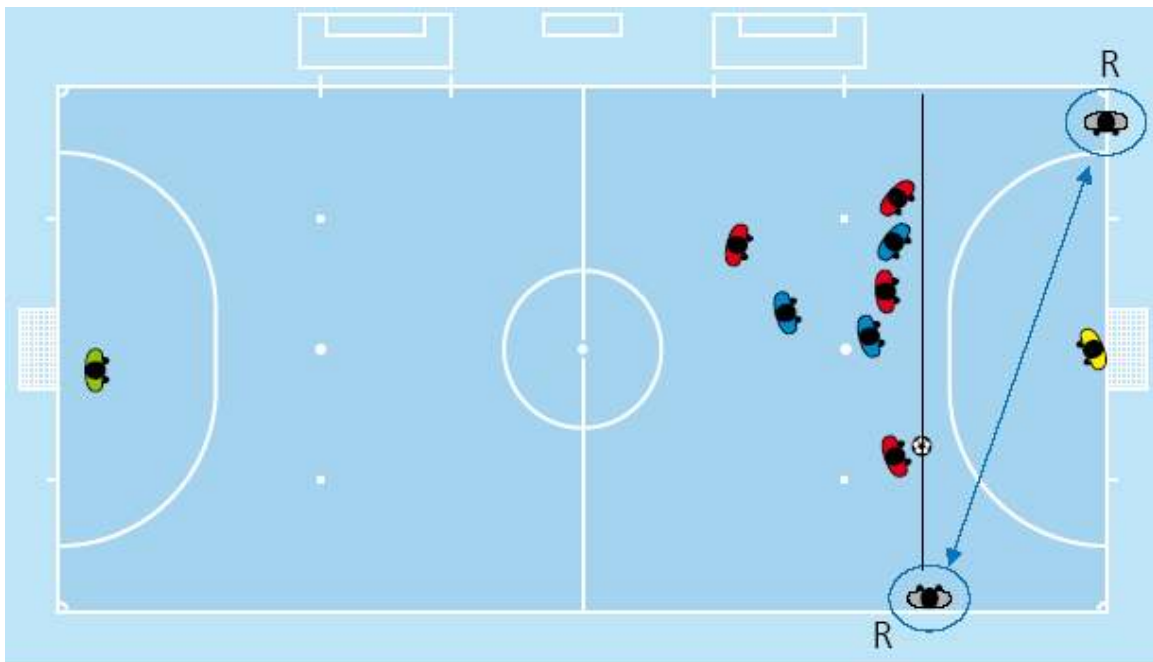
One of the referees is positioned in line with the second penalty mark at an approximate distance of 5 m (16 ft) and checks that the ball is properly placed, identifies the kicker and watches the players for encroachment while the kick is being taken. He/She does not order the kick to be taken until he/she has checked that the position of all the players is correct and is assisted by the other referee if necessary. The other referee must be positioned at the intersection of the goal line and the penalty area and checks whether the ball enters the goal.



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11. Positioning – free kicks beginning with the sixth accumulated foul (mandatory) (1)

One of the referees is positioned in line with the position of the ball at an approximate distance of 5 m (16 ft), if possible, checks that the ball is properly placed, identifies the kicker and watches the players for encroachment while the kick is being taken. He/She does not order the kick to be taken until he/she has checked that the position of all the players is correct and is assisted by the other referee. The other referee must be positioned at the intersection of the goal line and the penalty area and checks whether the ball enters the goal.

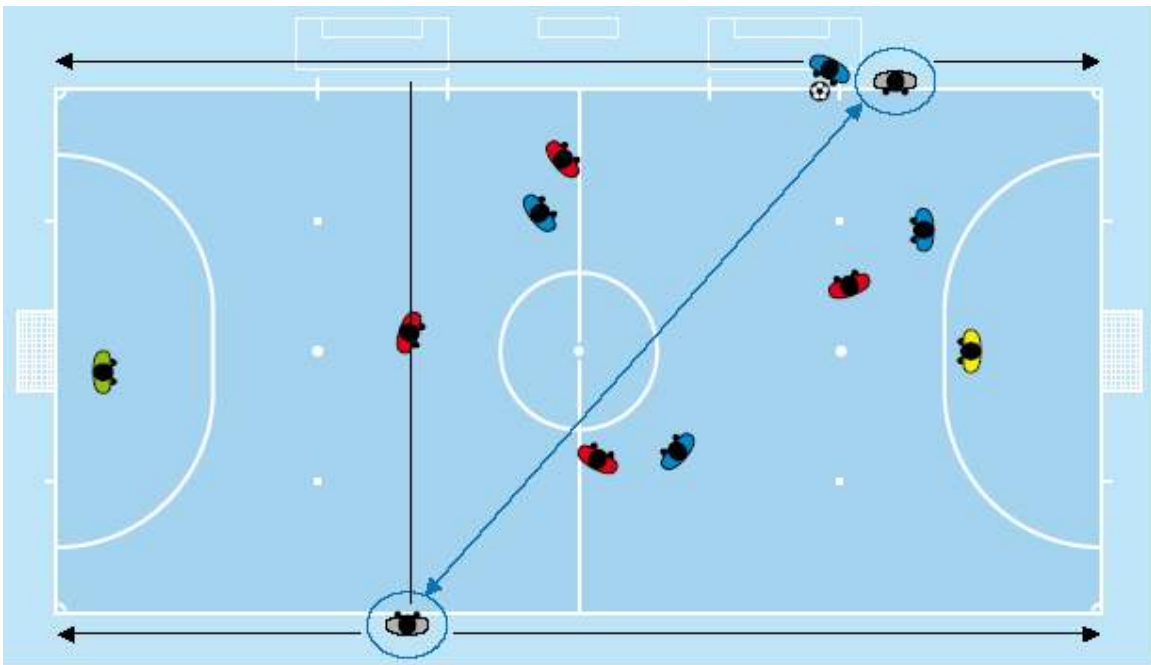


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12. Positioning – free kicks beginning with the sixth accumulated foul (mandatory) (2)

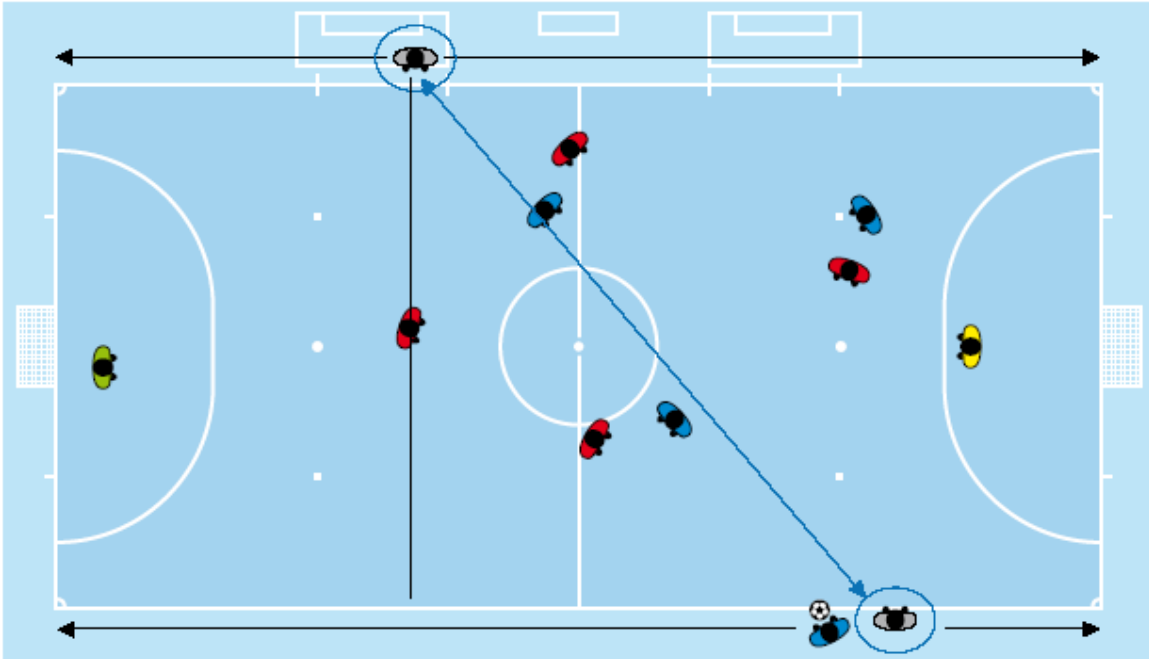


13. Positioning – kick-in (1)

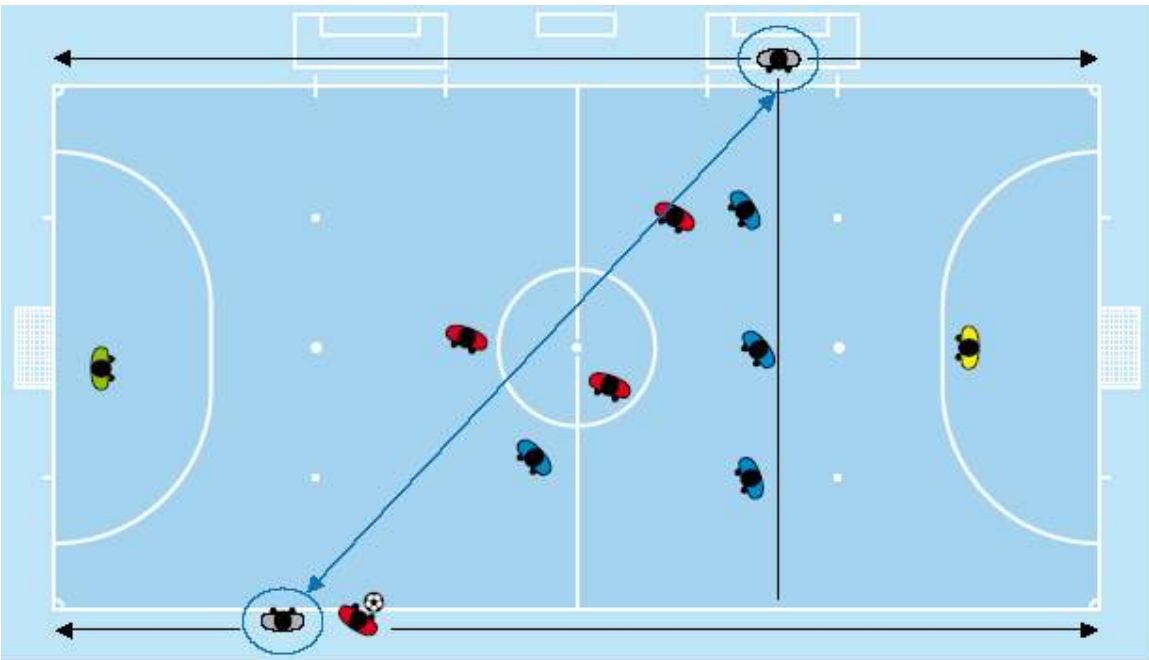


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14. Positioning – kick-in (2)

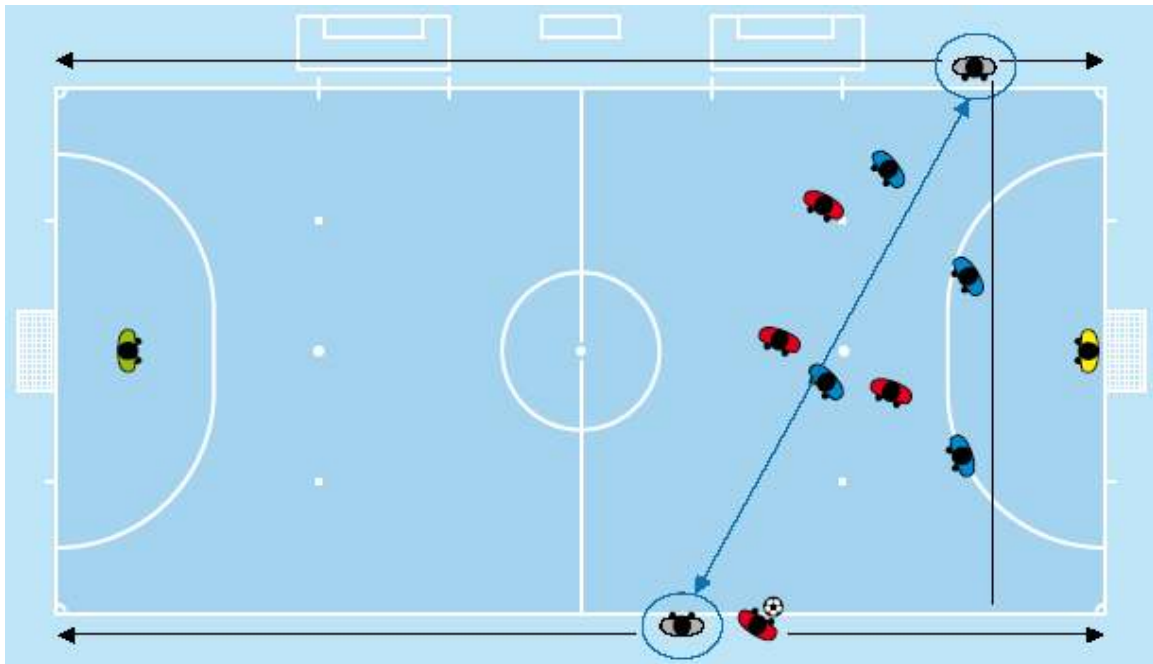


15. Positioning – kick-in (3)



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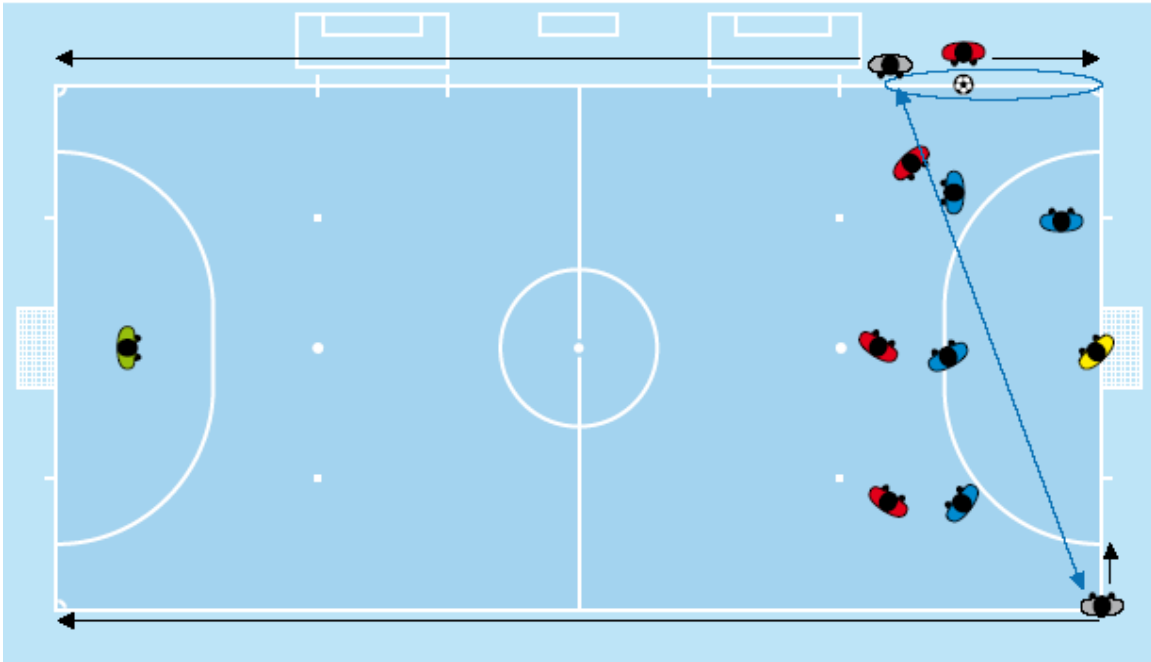
16. Positioning – kick-in (4)



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17. Positioning – kick-in (mandatory) (5)

During a kick-in close to the corner arc in favor of the attacking team, the referee nearest to the place from where it is to be taken remains at an approximate distance of 5 m (16 ft). From this position he/she checks that the kick-in is taken in accordance with the procedure and that the defenders have retreated 5 m (16 ft) from the touch line. The referee furthest from the place where the kick-in is to be taken takes a position behind the corner arc in line with the goal line. From this position he/she watches the ball and the behavior of the players.



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18. Positioning – kicks from the penalty mark to determine the winner of a match or home-and-away (mandatory)

The referee must be positioned on the goal line approximately 2 m (6 ft) from the goal. His/Her main duty is to check if the ball crosses the line and whether the goalkeeper advances from the line:

- When it is clear that the ball has crossed the goal line, the referee must make eye contact with the second referee to check that no infringement has been committed

The second referee must be situated in line with the penalty mark at an approximate distance of 3 m (9 ft) to check that the ball and the goalkeeper of the team of the kicker are correctly positioned.

The third referee must be situated in the center circle to control the remaining players of both teams.

The timekeeper must be positioned at the timekeeper's table and checks that the players excluded from taking the penalty kicks and the team officials behave correctly.

All the referees make a note of the penalty kicks taken and the numbers of the players who took them.



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Use of whistle

The use of the whistle is mandatory for:

- Kick-offs:
 - To start play (1st and 2nd half and 1st and 2nd half of extra time, if necessary)
 - To restart play after a goal
- Stopping play:
 - For a free kick or penalty kick
 - If the match is suspended or abandoned or to confirm the timekeeper's acoustic signal when he/she ends the period of play, or on completion of the trajectory of the ball if it is headed towards one of the goals once the period has ended
- Restarting play for:
 - Free kicks
 - Kicks from the second penalty mark
 - Free kicks without a wall beginning with the sixth accumulated foul
 - Penalty kicks
- Restarting play after it has been stopped due to:
 - The issue of a caution or sending-off for misconduct
 - Injury to one or more players

The use of the whistle is not needed to:

- Stop play for:
 - A goal clearance, corner kick or kick-in (it is mandatory if the situation is unclear)
 - A goal (it is mandatory if the ball has not clearly entered the goal)
- Restart play from:
 - A free kick if the distance of 5 m (16 ft) has not been requested or the opposing team to the kicker has not committed six accumulated fouls or for a goal clearance, corner kick or kick-in.

The whistle may not be used to:

- Restart play with a dropped ball

A whistle which is used too frequently will have less impact when it is needed. When the team taking a free kick, kick-in or corner kick requests the required distance or the correct positioning of the opposing players during a goal clearance, the referees will clearly inform the players that play cannot be restarted until after the whistle. If in these cases the player restarts play before the referees' whistle, the player is cautioned for delaying the restart of play.

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If during play one of the referees sounds his/her whistle by mistake, the referees must stop the match if they consider this action to interfere with play. If the referees stop the match, they must restart play with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the penalty area, in which case one of the referees drops the ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped. If the sound of the whistle does not interfere with play, the referees give clear signals to play on.

Body language

Body language is a tool that the referees use to:

- Help themselves control the match
- Show authority and self-control

Body language is not:

- An explanation of a decision

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LAW 6 – THE ASSISTANT REFEREES

Duties and responsibilities –

The third referee and the timekeeper help the referees to control the match in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game. They also assist the referees in all other matters involving the running of the match at the request and under the direction of the referees. This commonly includes such matters as:

- Inspecting the pitch, the balls used and players' equipment
- Determining if problems with equipment or bleeding have been resolved
- Monitoring the substitution procedure
- Maintaining back-up records of time, goals, accumulated fouls and misconduct

Positioning of the assistant referees and teamwork

1. Kick-off

The third referee is situated at the timekeeper's table and checks that the substitutes, officials and other persons are correctly positioned.

The Timekeeper is situated at the timekeeper's table and check that the kick-off is taken correctly.

2. General positioning during the match

The third referee checks that substitutes, officials and other persons are in the correct position. To do so he/she may move along the touch line, if necessary, but without entering the pitch.

The timekeeper is positioned at the timekeeper's table and ensures that the chronometer is stopped and started in accordance with the development of play.

3. Substitutions

The third referee checks that the substitutes' equipment is correct and that the substitutions are made correctly. To do so he/she may move along the touch line, if necessary, but without entering the pitch.

4. Kicks from the penalty mark

The third referee must be positioned in the half of the pitch where the penalty kicks are not being taken, together with the eligible players. From this position he/she observes the players' behavior and checks that no player takes another penalty kick before the other eligible players in his/her team has done so.

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The timekeeper is positioned at the timekeeper's table and records all the goals scored.

Assistant referee signals (mandatory)

The assistant referees must give the signals for a team's fifth accumulated foul and a request for a time-out, indicating with their arms the bench of the team that has committed its fifth accumulated foul or requested the time-out.

Acoustic Signal

The acoustic signal is an essential signal in a match to be used only when necessary in order to gain the attention of the referee.

Signals when the acoustic signal is mandatory:

- End of the periods of play
- Notice of a request for a time-out
- Notice of the end of a time-out
- Communication of the fifth accumulated foul by a team
- Notice of incorrect behavior by substitutes or team officials
- Notice of an incorrect substitution
- Notice of a disciplinary error committed by referees
- Notice of external interference

If during a match the timekeeper sounds the acoustic signal by mistake, the referees must stop the match if they consider this action to interfere with play. If the referees stop the match, they must restart play with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the penalty area, in which case one of the referees drops the ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped. If the sound of the acoustic signal does not interfere with play, the referees give clear signals to play on.

If a team that has committed four accumulated fouls commits another one and the referees decide to apply the advantage, the third referee places the signal for the fifth accumulated foul in the correct place on the timekeeper's table.

However, if that team commits a new accumulated foul before the ball is out of play, the assistant referee must sound the acoustic signal, unless the opposing team to the one that committed the foul has an obvious goalscoring opportunity.

Chronometer

If the chronometer does not work properly, the assistant referees inform the referees of this fact. The timekeeper must continue timing the match using a

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manual chronometer. In such a situation, they invite an official from each team in order to inform them of the real match time.

If, after a stoppage in play, the timekeeper forgets to start the chronometer, the referee order the time that was not counted to be added on.

After restarts, the chronometer is started as follows:

- Kick-off: after the ball is kicked towards the opponents' half of the pitch, in accordance with the procedure
- Goal clearance: after the goalkeeper releases the ball from his/her hands and the ball leaves the penalty area, in accordance with the procedure.
- Corner kick: after the ball is kicked and moves, in accordance with the procedure
- Kick-in: after the ball enters the pitch after being kicked, in accordance with the procedure
- Direct free kick outside the penalty area: after the ball is kicked, in accordance with the procedure
- Indirect free kick outside the penalty area to either of the teams or taken by the attacking team from the penalty area line: after the ball is kicked, in accordance with the procedure
- Direct or indirect free kick inside the penalty areas to the defending team: after the ball is kicked and leaves the penalty area, in accordance with the procedure
- Penalty kick: after the ball is kicked forward, in accordance with the procedure
- Direct free kick after the fifth accumulated foul: after the ball is kicked with the intention of scoring a goal, in accordance with the procedure
- Dropped ball: after the ball is released from the hands of one of the referees and touches the pitch, in accordance with the procedure.



Time-out



Fifth accumulated foul

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LAW 7 – THE DURATION OF THE MATCH

Half-time interval

The referees allow an interval between the two halves if a player of one of the teams request one, even if the captains of both teams have asked not to have an interval.

Extra time

If extra time is played, there is no interval between the two periods. The teams simply change halves of the pitch and the substitutes and team officials change technical areas.

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LAW 8 – THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY

Kick-off

- The referees do not have to request the confirmation of the goalkeepers or any other player before ordering the kick-off to be taken

Dropped ball

- Any player may challenge for the ball (including the goalkeeper)
- There is no minimum or maximum number of players for contesting a dropped ball
- The referees cannot decide who may or may not contest a dropped ball
- There is no required distance to be respected by the players, unless the opponent is blocked and the dropped ball cannot be taken
- It is not necessary for a team to contest a dropped ball
- If an infringement is committed by a player before the ball is in play but after one of the referees has released it from his/her hands, the referee retakes the dropped ball after taking the corresponding disciplinary action.

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LAW 9 – THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

The ball inside the pitch touches one of the referees

If, when the ball is in play, it touches one of the referees who is temporarily on the pitch, play continues because the referees are part of the match.

If, when the ball is in play, it touches one of the assistant referees who is temporarily on the pitch, the referees stop play and restart it with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the penalty area, in which case one of the referees drops the ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped.

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LAW 10 – THE METHOD OF SCORING

Goal scored while a person not participating in the match is on the pitch

If, after a goal is scored, the referees realize, before play restarts, that another person was on the pitch at the time that the goal was scored:

- they must disallow the goal if:
 - the other person was an outside agent or official from one of the teams and interfered with play
 - the other person was a player, substitute, sent-off player or official of the team that scored the goal
- they must allow the goal if:
 - the other person was an outside agent and did not interfere with play
 - the other person was a player, substitute, sent-off player or official of the team that conceded the goal

No goal

If one of the referees signal a goal before the ball has passed wholly over the goal line and immediately realizes his/her error, play is restarted with a dropped ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped.

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LAW 11 – OFFSIDE

There is no offside in futsal.

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LAW 12 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Basic requirements for a foul

The following conditions must be met for an offense to be considered a foul:

- it must be committed by a player or substitute who has not correctly followed the substitution procedure
- it must occur on the pitch
- it must occur while the ball is in play

If the referees stop play due to an offence committed outside the pitch (while the ball is in play) and it has not been committed by a player who left the pitch without the referees' permission in order to do so, play must be restarted with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the penalty area, in which case one of the referees must drop the ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped.

It is not a foul when two or more players challenge for the ball at the same time with an opponent, if the challenge is legal.

Careless, reckless, using excessive force

“Careless” means that the player has shown a lack of attention or consideration when making a challenge or that he/she acted without precaution:

- no further disciplinary sanction is needed if a foul is judged to be careless

“Reckless” means that the player has acted with complete disregard for the danger to, or consequences for, his/her opponent:

- a player who plays in a reckless manner must be cautioned

“Using excessive force” means that the player has far exceeded the necessary use of force and is in danger of injuring his/her opponent:

- a player who uses excessive force must be sent off

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Charging an opponent

The act of charging is a challenge for space using physical contact within playing distance of the ball without using arms or elbows.

It is an offence to charge an opponent:

- in a careless manner
- in a reckless manner
- using excessive force

Holding an opponent

Holding an opponent includes the act of preventing him/her from moving past or around using the hands, the arms or the body.

Referees must make an early intervention and deal firmly with holding offenses, especially inside the penalty area and then corner kicks, kick-ins or free kicks are being taken.

To deal with these situations, the referees must:

- warn any player holding an opponent before the ball is in play
- caution the player if the holding continues before the ball is in play
- award a direct free kick or penalty kick and caution the player if it happens once the ball is in play

If a defender starts holding an attacker outside the penalty area and continues holding him/her inside the penalty area, the referees must award a penalty kick.

Disciplinary sanctions

- A caution for unsporting behavior must be issued when a player holds an opponent to prevent him/her gaining possession of the ball or taking up an advantageous position
- A player must be sent off if he/she denies an obvious goalscoring opportunity by holding an opponent
- No further disciplinary action must be taken in other situations of holding an opponent

Restart of play

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- Direct free kick from the position where the offence occurred (see Law 13 – Position of free kick) or a penalty kick if the offense occurred inside the penalty area.

Handling the ball

Handling the ball involves a deliberate act of a player making contact with the ball with his/her hand or arm. The referees must take the following into consideration:

- movement of the hand towards the ball (not the ball towards the hand)
- the distance between the opponent and the ball (unexpected ball)
- the position of the hand does not necessarily mean that there is an infringement (holding it away from the body does not imply intent)
- touching the ball with an object held in the hand (clothing, shinguard, etc.) counts as deliberately handling the ball
- hitting the ball with a thrown object (a boot, shinguard, etc.) counts as deliberately handling the ball

Disciplinary sanctions

There are circumstances when a caution for unsporting behavior is required when a player deliberately handles the ball, e.g. when a player:

- deliberately and blatantly handles the ball to prevent an opponent gaining possession
- attempts to score a goal by deliberately handling the ball
- pretends to be playing the ball with one part of his/her body when he/she is really doing so with his/her hand in order to deceive the referees
- tries to prevent a goal or deny a goalscoring opportunity with his/her hand when the goalkeeper is not inside his/her penalty area, and fails in his/her attempt

A player is sent off, however, if he/she prevents a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball. This punishment arises not from the act of the player deliberately handling the ball but from the unacceptable and unfair intervention that prevented a goal from being scored.

Restart of play

- Direct free kick from the position where the offense occurred (see Law 13 – Position of free kick) or penalty kick

Outside his/her own penalty area, the goalkeeper has the same restriction on handling the ball as does any other player. Inside his/her own penalty area, the

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goalkeeper cannot be guilty of a handling offence incurring a direct free kick. He/She can, however, be guilty of several offences that incur an indirect free kick.

Offences committed by goalkeepers

A goalkeeper is considered to be in control of the ball:

- while the ball is between his/her hands or between his/her hand and any surface (e.g. ground, own body)
- while holding the ball with his/her outstretched open hand
- while in the act of bouncing it on the ground or tossing it into the air

When a goalkeeper has gained possession of the ball with this/her hands, he/she cannot be challenged by an opponent.

Possession of the ball includes the goalkeeper controlling the ball.

A goalkeeper is not permitted to touch the ball inside his/her own half of the pitch in the following circumstances:

- if he/she is in possession of the ball in his/her own half of the pitch for more than four seconds, whether
 - with his/her hands inside his/her penalty area
 - with his/her feet in his/her own half of the pitch
 - with his/her hands inside his/her own penalty area and with his/her feet in his/her own half of the pitch

In all these cases, the referees nearest to the goalkeeper must publicly make the four-second count

- if, after playing the ball, he/she touches it again in his/her own half of the pitch after it has been deliberately kicked to him/her by a team-mate without an opponent playing or touching it
 - the goalkeeper is considered to be in control of the ball by touching it with any part of his/her body, except if the ball accidentally rebounds off him/her
- if he/she touches the ball with his/her hands inside his/her own penalty area after it has been kicked to him/her by a team-mate
- if he/she touches the ball with his/her hands inside his/her own penalty area after he/she has received it directly from a kick-in by a team-mate.

Restart of play

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- Indirect free kick from the position where the offense occurred (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)

Offenses committed against goalkeepers

- it is an offense to prevent a goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his/her hands, e.g. when he/she bounces it
- Playing the ball or attempting to do so when the goalkeeper is holding it in the palm of his/her hand
- a player must be punished for playing in a dangerous manner if he/she kicks or attempts to kick the ball when the goalkeeper is in the process of releasing it
- it is an offense to restrict the movement of the goalkeeper by unfairly impeding him/her, e.g. at the taking of a corner kick.
- An attacker coming into physical contact with a goalkeeper inside the latter's own penalty area does not imply that any infringement has been committed, except if the attacker jumps at, charges or pushes the goalkeeper in a careless or reckless manner or using excessive force.

Restart of play

- Indirect free kick from the position where the offence occurred (see Law 13 – Position of free kick), except if the attacker jumped at, charged or pushed the goalkeeper in a careless or reckless manner or using excessive force, in which case the referees, irrespective of the disciplinary action that they take, must restart play with a direct free kick from the position where the offense occurred(see Law 13 – Position of free kick)

Playing in a dangerous manner

Playing in a dangerous manner is defined as any action that, while trying to play the ball, threatens injury to an opposing player or himself/herself. It is committed with an opponent nearby and prevents the opponent from playing the ball for fear of injuring himself/herself or the other player.

A scissors or bicycle kick per permissible provided that, in the opinion of the referees, it is not dangerous to an opponent.

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Playing in a dangerous manner involves no physical contact between the players. If there is physical contact, the action becomes an offence punishable with a direct free kick or penalty kick. In the case of physical contact, the referees should carefully consider the likelihood that at the very least misconduct has also been committed.

Disciplinary sanctions

- If a player plays in a dangerous manner in a “normal” challenge, the referees should not take any disciplinary action. If the action is made with obvious risk of injury, the referees should caution the player for making a reckless challenge on an opponent
- If a player denies an obvious goalscoring opportunity by playing in a dangerous manner, the referees should send off the player

Restart of play

- Indirect free kick from the position where the offense occurred (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)
- If there is contact, a different offence has been committed, punishable by a direct free kick or penalty kick, or if the referees consider that the challenge was made in a careless or reckless manner or using excessive force, a different offence has been committed, punishable by a direct free kick or a penalty kick

Impeding the progress of an opponent

Impeding the progress of an opponent means moving into the path of the opponent to obstruct, block, slow down or force a change of direction by an opponent when the ball is not within playing distance of either player.

All players have a right to their position on the pitch, being in the way of an opponent is not the same thing as moving into the way of an opponent.

Shielding the ball is permitted. A player who places himself/herself between an opponent and the ball for tactical reasons has not committed an offence as long as the ball is kept within playing distance and the player does not hold off the opponent with his/her arms or body.

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Delaying the restart of play to issue a card

Once the referees have decided to issue a card, whether to caution or send off a player or substitute, play must not be restarted until the sanction has been administered.

Cautions for unsporting behavior

There are different circumstances when a player must be cautioned for unsporting behavior, e.g. if a player:

- commits in a reckless manner one of the seven offences that incur a direct free kick
- commits a foul for the tactical purpose of interfering with or breaking up a promising attack
- holds an opponent for the tactical purpose of pulling the opponent away from the ball or preventing the opponent from getting to the ball
- handles the ball to prevent an opponent gaining possession or developing an attack (other than the goalkeeper inside his/her own penalty area)
- handles the ball in an attempt to score a goal (irrespective of whether or not the attempt is successful)
- handles the ball while pretending to play it with another part of his/her body in an attempt to deceive the referees
- tries to prevent a goal or deny a goalscoring opportunity with his/her hand when the goalkeeper is not inside his/her penalty area, and fails in his/her attempt
- attempts to deceive the referees by feinting injury or pretending to have been fouled (simulation)
- changes places with the goalkeeper during play without the referees' permission
- acts in a manner which shows a lack of respect for the game
- plays the ball when he/she is walking off the pitch after being granted permission to leave the pitch
- verbally distracts an opponent during play or at a restart
- makes unauthorized marks on the pitch
- uses a deliberate trick while the ball is in play to pass the ball to his/her own goalkeeper with his/her head, chest, knee, etc. in order to circumvent Law 12, irrespective of whether the goalkeeper touches the ball with his/her hands or

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not. The offence is committed by the player in attempting to circumvent both the letter and the spirit of Law 12 and play is restarted with an indirect free kick

Celebration of a goal

While it is permissible for a player to demonstrate his/her joy when a goal has been scored, the celebration must not be excessive.

Reasonable celebrations are allowed, but the practice of choreographed celebrations is not to be encouraged when it results in excessive time-wasting and referees are instructed to intervene in such cases.

A player must be cautioned if:

- in the opinion of the referees, he/she makes gestures which are provocative, derisory or inflammatory
- he/she climbs onto a perimeter fence to celebrate a goal being scored
- he/she removes his/her shirt or cover his/her head with his/her shirt, even if he/she has the same one on underneath
- he/she covers his/her head or face with a mask or other similar item

Leaving the pitch to celebrate a goal is permitted, but it is essential that players return to the pitch as soon as possible.

Showing dissent by word or action

A player or substitute who is guilty of dissent by protesting (verbally or non-verbally) against the decisions of the referees or assistant referees must be cautioned.

The captain of a team has no special status or privileges under the Futsal Laws of the Game but he/she has a degree of responsibility for the behavior of his/her team.

Any player or substitute who attacks a match official or is guilty of using offensive, rude or obscene gestures or language must be sent off.

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Delaying the restart of play

Referees must caution players who delay the restart of play by tactics such as:

- taking a free kick from the wrong position with the sole intention of forcing the referees to order a retake
- kicking the ball away or carrying it away with the hands after the referees have stopped play
- delaying their departure from the pitch after the medical staff come on to assess an injury they have suffered
- provoking a confrontation by deliberately touching the ball after the referees have stopped play

Simulation

Any player that tries to fool the referees by feinting injury or pretending to have suffered an offence will be guilty of simulation and will be punished for unsporting behavior. If the match is stopped as a result of this infringement, play is restarted with an indirect free kick from the position where the offence was committed (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)

Persistent infringement

Referees should be alert at all times to players who persistently infringe the Futsal Laws of the Game. In particular, they must be aware that, even if a player commits a number of different offences, he/she must still be cautioned for persistently infringing the Futsal Laws of the Game.

There is no specific number of infringements which constitutes “persistence” or the presence of a pattern – this is entirely a matter of judgment and must be determined in the context of effective game management.

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Serious foul play

A player is guilty of serious foul play if he/she uses excessive force or brutality against an opponent when challenging for the ball when it is in play. A tackle that endangers the safety of an opponent must be sanctioned as serious foul play.

Any player who lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, from the side or from behind using one or both legs, with excessive force and endangering the safety of an opponent is guilty of serious foul play.

Advantage should not be applied in situations involving serious foul play unless there is a clear subsequent opportunity to score a goal. The referees send off the player guilty of serious foul play when the ball is next out of play.

A player who is guilty of serious foul play should be sent off and play is restarted with a direct free kick from the position where the offence occurred (see Law 13 – Position of free kick) or a penalty kick (if the offence occurred inside the offender's penalty area).

Violent Conduct

A player is guilty of violent conduct if excessive force or brutality is used against an opponent without either of them challenging for the ball.

He/She is also guilty of violent conduct if he/she uses excessive force or brutality against a team-mate, spectator, the referees or assistant referees or any other person.

Violent conduct may occur on or off the pitch or outside its boundaries, whether the ball is in play or not.

Advantage should not be applied in situations involving violent conduct unless there is a clear subsequent opportunity to score a goal. The referees send off the player guilty of violent conduct when the ball is next out of play.

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Referees are reminded that violent conduct often leads to mass confrontation; therefore they must try to avert this with strict intervention.

A player or substitute who is guilty of violent conduct must be sent off.

Restart of play

- if the ball is out of play, play is restarted according to the previous decision
- if the ball is in play and the offence occurred outside the pitch:
 - if the player is outside the pitch after leaving it in a manner authorized by the Futsal Laws of the Game and commits an infringement, play is restarted with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the penalty area, in which case one of the referees drops the ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped
 - if the player leaves the pitch to commit the offence, play is restart with an indirect free kick from the position in which the ball was located when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)
- if the ball is in play and a player commits an offence outside the pitch:
 - against an opponent:
 - play is restarted with a direct free kick from the position where the offence occurred (see Law 13 – Position of free kick) or a penalty kick (if offence inside the offending player's own penalty area)
 - against a team-mate:
 - play is restarted with an indirect free kick from the position where the offence occurred (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)
 - against a substitute:
 - play is restarted with an indirect free kick **to the team of the player who committed the violent conduct** from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick), as the illegal entry of the substitute was the first offence committed
 - against the referees:
 - play is restarted with an indirect free kick from the position where the offence occurred (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)
 - against another person:
 - play is restarted with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the penalty area, in which case one of the referees drops the ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped
- If the ball is in play and a substitute or team official commits an offence outside the pitch:
 - against another person:

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- play is restarted with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the penalty area, in which case one of the referees drops the ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped

Offence where an object is thrown

If, while the ball is in play, a player or substitute throws an object or a ball at an opponent or any other person in a reckless manner, the referees stop play if they cannot apply the advantage and caution the player or substitute.

If while the ball is in play, a player or substitute throws an object or a ball at an opponent or any other person with excessive force, the referees stop play if they cannot apply the advantage to allow an obvious goalscoring opportunity to ensue and send off the player or substitute for violent conduct.

Restart of play

- If a player standing inside his/her own penalty area throws an object or a ball at an opponent standing outside the penalty area, the referees restart play with a direct free kick to the opposing team taken from the position where the object struck or would have struck the opponent (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)
- If a player standing outside his/her own penalty area throws an object or a ball at an opponent standing inside the penalty area, the referees restart play with a penalty kick to the opposing team
- If a player standing inside the pitch throws an object or a ball at any person standing outside the pitch, the referees restart play with an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick); the player is considered to have left the pitch without the referees' permission and for a reason not authorized in the Futsal Laws of the Game
- If a player standing outside the pitch throws an object or a ball at an opponent standing inside the pitch, the referees restart play with a direct free kick to the opposing team from the position where the object struck or would have struck the opponent or with a penalty kick (if inside the offending player's own penalty area)
- If a substitute standing outside the pitch throws an object or a ball at an opponent standing inside the pitch, the referees restart play with an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was

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stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick); the substitute is considered to have entered the pitch without the referees' permission and without following the substitution procedure

- If a substitute standing inside the pitch, causing his/her team to have an extra player, throws an object or a ball at any person standing inside or outside the pitch, the referees restart play with an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick); the substitute is considered to have entered the pitch without the referees' permission
- If a substitute who has infringed the substitution procedure throws an object or the ball at any person standing inside or outside the pitch, he/she is treated as if he/she were a player
- If a team official standing inside or outside the pitch throws an object or a ball at any person standing inside or outside the pitch, the referees restart play with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the penalty area, in which case one of the referees drops the ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped

Offences where an object is throw at the ball

Of a player other than one of the goalkeepers throws an object or a ball at the ball:

- if the ball is in play and the object strikes the ball, the referees must stop play and caution him/her for unsporting behavior or send him/her off if by doing so he/she denied a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity. They restart play with a direct free kick to the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick) or a penalty kick if the ball was inside the offending team's penalty area
- if the ball is in play and the object does not strike the ball, the referees must stop play if they cannot apply the advantage and caution him/her for unsporting behavior. They restart play with an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)

If one of the two goalkeepers throws an object or a ball at the ball:

- if the ball is in play and the object strikes the ball inside the goalkeeper's penalty area, the referees must stop play and caution him/her for unsporting behavior. They restart play with an indirect free kick to the opposing team

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from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)

- if the ball is in play and the object strikes the ball outside the goalkeeper's penalty area, the referees must stop play and caution him/her for unsporting behavior or send him/her off if by doing so he/she denied a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity. They restart play with a direct free kick to the opposing team from the position of the ball with play was stopped
- if the ball is in play and the object does not strike the ball, the referees must stop play if they cannot apply the advantage and caution him/her for unsporting behavior. They restart play with an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)

If a player, including the two goalkeepers, directs an object at the ball with a part of his/her body other than his/her hands:

- if the ball is in play and the object strikes the ball, the referees must stop play and caution him/her for unsporting behavior. They restart play with an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)
- if the ball is in play and the object does not strike the ball, the referees must stop play if they cannot apply the advantage and caution him/her for unsporting behavior. They restart play with an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)

If a substitute infringing the substitution procedure but not causing his/her team to play with an extra player throws an object at the ball:

- if the ball is in play and the object strikes the ball, the referees must stop play and either send him/her off for a double caution, the first caution for entering the pitch without following the substitution procedure and the second for unsporting behavior, or send him/her off directly if by doing so he/she denied a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity. They restart play with a direct free kick to the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick) or a penalty kick if the ball was inside the substitute's penalty area
- if the ball is in play and the object does not strike the ball, the referees must stop play if they cannot apply the advantage and send him/her off for a double caution, the first caution for entering the pitch without following the substitution procedure and the second for unsporting behavior. They restart play with an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)

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If a substitute infringing the substitution procedure but not causing his/her team to be playing with an extra player directs an object at the ball with a part of his/her body other than his/her hands:

- if the ball is in play and the object strikes the ball, the referees must stop play and either send him/her off for a double caution, the first caution is for entering the pitch without following the substitution procedure and the second for unsporting behavior, or send him/her off directly if by doing so he/she denied a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity. They restart play with an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)
- if the ball is in play and the object does not strike the ball, the referees must stop play if they cannot apply the advantage and send him/her off for a double caution, the first caution for entering the pitch without following the substitution procedure and the second for unsporting behavior. They restart play with an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)

If a substitute throws an object at the ball, thus causing his/her team to be playing with an extra player:

- if the ball is in play and the object strikes the ball, the referees must stop play and either send him/her off for a double caution, both for unsporting behavior, the first caution for entering the pitch without the referees' permission and the second for throwing the object, or send him/her off directly if by doing so he/she denied a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity. They restart play with an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)
- if the ball is in play and the object does not strike the ball, the referees must stop play if they cannot apply the advantage and send him/her off for a double caution, both for unsporting behavior, the first caution for entering the pitch without the referees' permission and the second for throwing the object. They restart play with an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)

If a substitute directs an object at the ball with a part of his/her body other than his/her hands, thus causing his/her team to be playing with an extra player:

- if the ball is in play and the object strikes the ball, the referees must stop play and either send him/her off for a double caution, both for unsporting behavior, the first caution for entering the pitch without the referees' permission and the second for directing the object, or send him off directly if by doing so he/she

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denied a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity. They restart play with an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)

- if the ball is in play and the object does not strike the ball, the referees must stop play if they cannot apply the advantage and send him/her off for a double caution, both for unsporting behavior, the first caution for entering the pitch without the referees' permission and the second for throwing the object. They restart play with an indirect free kick to opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)

If a team official directs an object at the ball with any part of his/her body:

- if the ball is in play and the object strikes the ball, the referees must stop play and expel him/her from the technical area and its surrounds. Play is restarted with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the penalty area, in which case one of the referees drops the ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped
- if the ball is in play and the object does not strike the ball, the referees must stop play and if they cannot apply the advantage and expel him/her from the technical area and its surrounds. Play is restarted with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the penalty area, in which case one of the referees drops the ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped

If the ball is not in play and a player throws an object at the ball, the referees caution him/her for unsporting behavior. Play is restarted in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game.

If the ball is not in play and a substitute throws an object at the ball, whether he/she causes his/her team to be playing with an extra player or not, the referees send him/her off for a double caution, both for unsporting behavior, the first caution for entering the pitch without the referees' permission and the second for throwing the object.

If the ball is not in play and a team official throws an object at the ball, the referees expel him/her from the technical area and its surrounds.

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Denying a goal or a goalscoring opportunity

There are two sending-off offences that deal with denying an opponent an obvious opportunity to score a goal. It is not necessary for the offence to occur inside the penalty area.

If the referees apply the advantage during an obvious goalscoring opportunity and a goal is scored directly, despite the opponent handling the ball deliberately, the player cannot be sent off but he/she may still be cautioned.

If the referees apply the advantage during an obvious goalscoring opportunity and a goal is scored directly, despite the opponent committing a foul, the player cannot be sent off for the foul but he may still be cautioned or sent off if the action in itself warrants a caution or sending-off.

Referees should consider the following circumstances when deciding whether to send off a player for denying a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity

- the distance between the offence and the goal
- the likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball
- the direction of the play
- the location and number of defenders
- the offence which denies an opponent an obvious goalscoring opportunity may be an offence that incurs a direct free kick or an indirect free kick
- if infringement is committed by a substitute, he/she must always be sent off

If a player attempts to prevent a goal by deliberately handling the ball after a restart of play in which it is not possible to score a goal directly, he/she is not sent off, but is cautioned for unsporting behavior. His/Her team is penalized by a direct free kick or a penalty kick.

If a substitute enters the pitch with the aim of denying a goal or a goalscoring opportunity, he/she is sent off whether or not he/she achieves his/her objective.

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LAW 13 – FREE KICKS

Procedure

- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves
- 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. However, if in the opinion of the referees the feinting is considered an act of unsporting behavior, the player must be cautioned
- If a player, while correctly taking a free kick, intentionally kicks the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again but neither in a careless nor a reckless manner nor using excessive force, the referees must allow play to continue
- An indirect free kick must be retaken if the referees fail to raise their arms to indicate that the kick is indirect and the ball is kicked directly into the goal. The initial indirect free kick is not nullified by the referees' mistake
- If, as part of a playing movement, a goalkeeper ends up outside his/her goal or he/she or any other player end up outside the pitch, the opposing team may take a direct free kick quickly, provided that they have not committed their sixth accumulated foul
- If the ball bursts after hitting one of the goalposts or the crossbar and does not enter the goal, the referees do not order the free kick to be retaken; they stop play and restart it with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when it burst (see Law 8 – Dropped ball)
- If the player taking a direct free kick, beginning with a team's sixth accumulated foul, kicks the ball forward to enable a team-mate to strike at goal, the referees stop play if they cannot apply the advantage and restart it with an indirect free kick from the place where the kicker's team-mate touched the ball (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)
- If the referees order a free kick to be retaken, the new free kick can be taken by any player and does not have to be taken by the player who did so originally
- If a player takes a direct or indirect free kick before the referees give the signal for it to be taken and before a team's sixth accumulated foul, provided that the team taking the kick has requested their opponents to respect the required distance, the referees stop play if they cannot apply the advantage, order the free kick to be retaken and caution the player
- If a player takes a direct free kick before the referees give the signal for it to be taken, beginning with a team's sixth accumulated foul, they order the free kick to be retaken and caution him/her

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- If a period of play is extended to allow a direct free kick to be taken, beginning with the sixth accumulated foul, and the ball hits one of the goalposts of the crossbar or the goalkeeper before crossing the goal line between the goalposts and the crossbar, the referees award a goal
- If a period of play is extended to allow a direct free kick to be taken, beginning with the sixth accumulated foul, the referees allow the defending goalkeeper to be replaced by an outfield player or an eligible substitute, although in the latter case the substitution procedure must be followed

Distance

If a player decides to take a free kick quickly and an opponent who is less than 5 m (16 ft) from the ball intercepts it, the referees must allow play to continue.

If a player decides to take a free kick quickly and an opponent who is near the ball deliberately prevents him/her from taking the kick, the referees must caution the opponent for delaying the restart of play.

If, when a free kick is taken by the defending team from inside its own penalty area, one or more opponents remain inside the penalty area because the defender decided to take the kick quickly and the opponents did not have time to leave the penalty area, the referees must allow play to continue if the ball leaves the penalty area directly without touching another player.

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Infringements beginning with the sixth accumulated foul after the whistle and before the ball is in play

Infringements	Outcome of the kick	
	Goal	No goal
Attacking player	Free kick is retaken	Indirect free kick
Kicker does not shoot at goal	—	Indirect free kick
Kick by unidentified player	Indirect free kick	Indirect free kick
Defending player	Goal	Free kick is retaken
By both teams	Free kick is retaken	Free kick is retaken

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LAW 14 – THE PENALTY KICK

Procedure

- Feinting in the run-up to take a penalty kick to confuse opponents is permitted as part of futsal. However, feinting to kick the ball once the player has completed his/her run-up is considered an infringement of Law 14 and an act of unsporting behavior for which the player must be cautioned
- Feinting to take a penalty kick to confuse opponents is permitted as part of futsal. However, if in the opinion of the referees the feinting is considered an act of unsporting behavior, the player must be cautioned
- If the ball bursts after hitting one of the goalposts or the crossbar and enters the goal, the referees award the goal
- If the ball bursts after hitting one of the goalposts or the crossbar and does not enter the goal, the referees do not order the penalty kick to be retaken but stop play, which is restarted with a dropped ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when it burst
- If the player taking the penalty kick kicks the ball forward to enable a teammate to shoot at goal, the referees allow the goal if the procedure for the penalty kick stipulated in Law 14 was observed
- If the referees order the penalty kick to be retaken, the new penalty kick can be taken by any player and does not have to be taken by the player who did so originally
- If the kicker takes the penalty kick before the referees give the signal, they order the penalty kick to be retaken and caution him/her
- If a period of play is extended to allow a penalty kick to be taken and the ball hits one of the goalposts or the crossbar or the goalkeeper before crossing the goal line between the goalposts and the crossbar, the referees award a goal
- If a period of play is extended to allow a penalty kick to be taken, the referees allow the defending goalkeeper to be replaced by an outfield player or an eligible substitute, although in the latter case the substitution procedure must be followed

Preparing for the penalty kick

The referees must confirm the following requirements before the penalty kick is taken:

- the kicker is identified
- the ball is properly placed on the penalty mark

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- the goalkeeper is on the goal line between the goalposts and facing the kicker
- the team-mates of the kicker are:
 - outside the penalty area
 - 5 m (16 ft) from the ball
 - behind the ball

Infringements – after the whistle and before the ball is in play

Infringements	Outcome of the kick	
	Goal	No goal
Attacking player	Penalty is retaken	Indirect free kick
Kicker kicks backwards	Indirect free kick	Indirect free kick
Kick by unidentified player	Indirect free kick	Indirect free kick
Defending player	Goal	Penalty is retaken
By both teams	Penalty is retaken	Penalty is retaken

If an attacker or defender commits an infringement on an opposing player before the ball is in play, but after one of the referees has given the order to take the kick, they allow the kick to be taken. If a goal is scored and the infringement was committed by the defending team, the award the goal; if the infringement was committed by the attacking team, they order the penalty kick to be retaken. If not goal is scored and the infringement was committed by the defending team, the order the penalty kick to be retaken; if the infringement was committed by the kicker's team, they penalize his team with an indirect free kick from the place where the infringement was committed (see Law 13 – Position of free kick). Furthermore, the referees take the appropriate disciplinary action.

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LAW 15 – THE KICK-IN

Procedure – infringements

Referees are reminded that opponents may be no closer than 5 m (16 ft) from the point at which the kick-in is to be taken. Where necessary, the referees must warn any player within this distance before the kick-in is taken and caution the player if he/she subsequently fails to retreat to the correct distance. Play is restarted with a kick-in, and the four-second count begins again if it has already started.

If a player, while correctly taking a kick-in, intentionally kicks the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again but neither in a careless nor a reckless manner nor using excessive force, the referees must allow play to continue.

If the ball enters the opponents' goal directly from a kick-in, the referees must award a goal clearance. If the ball enters the taker's own goal directly from a kick-in, the referees must award a corner kick.

If the ball does not enter the pitch, the team retakes the kick-in from the same position, provided that the kick-in was taken in accordance with the correct procedure, but the four-second count continues from where it stopped once the team taking the kick-in is ready to retake it. If it was not taken in accordance with the correct procedure, a player from the opposing team must take it.

If a goalkeeper, as part of a playing movement, ends up outside his/her goal or he/she or any other player end up outside the pitch, the opposing team may take the kick-in quickly.

If a kick-in is taken incorrectly, the referees may not apply the advantage even if the ball goes directly to an opponent, but order a player from the opposing team to retake it.

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LAW 16 – GOAL CLEARANCE

Procedure – infringements

If an opponent enters the penalty area or is still in it before the ball is in play and is fouled by a defender, the goal clearance is retaken and the defender may be cautioned or sent off depending on the nature of the offence.

If, when a goal clearance is taken by the goalkeeper, one or more opponents are still inside the penalty area because the goalkeeper decided to take the clearance quickly and the opponents did not have time to leave the area, the referees must allow play to continue if the ball leaves the penalty area directly without touching another player.

If the goalkeeper, while correctly taking a goal clearance, intentionally throws the ball at an opponent located outside the penalty area but neither in a careless nor a reckless manner nor using excessive force, the referees must allow play to continue.

If, when taking the goal clearance, the goalkeeper does not release the ball from inside his/her penalty area, the referees order the goal clearance to be retaken, although the foul second count continues from where it was stopped once the goalkeeper is ready to retake it.

It is not necessary for the goalkeeper to have the ball in his/her hands before the referees begin the four-second count.

If a goalkeeper who has taken a goal clearance correctly intentionally touches the ball with his hand after it has left the penalty area before another player has touched it, the referees, in addition to awarding a direct free kick to the opposing team, may take disciplinary action against him/her in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game

If the goalkeeper takes the goal clearance with his/her foot, the referees will issue a warning and order him/her to take it with his/her hand, but the four second count continues from where it was stopped once the goalkeeper is ready to retake it.

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If a goalkeeper, as part of a playing movement, ends up outside his/her goal or he/she or any other player end up outside the pitch, the opposing goalkeeper may take a goal clearance quickly.

If the goalkeeper takes a goal clearance and the ball crosses his/her goal line without first leaving the penalty area, the referees order the goal clearance to be retaken, but the four-second count continues from where it was stopped once the goalkeeper is ready to retake it.

If, when taking a goal clearance, the ball hits one of the referees inside the penalty area without first leaving the area and enters into play, the referees take no action.

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LAW 17 – THE CORNER KICK

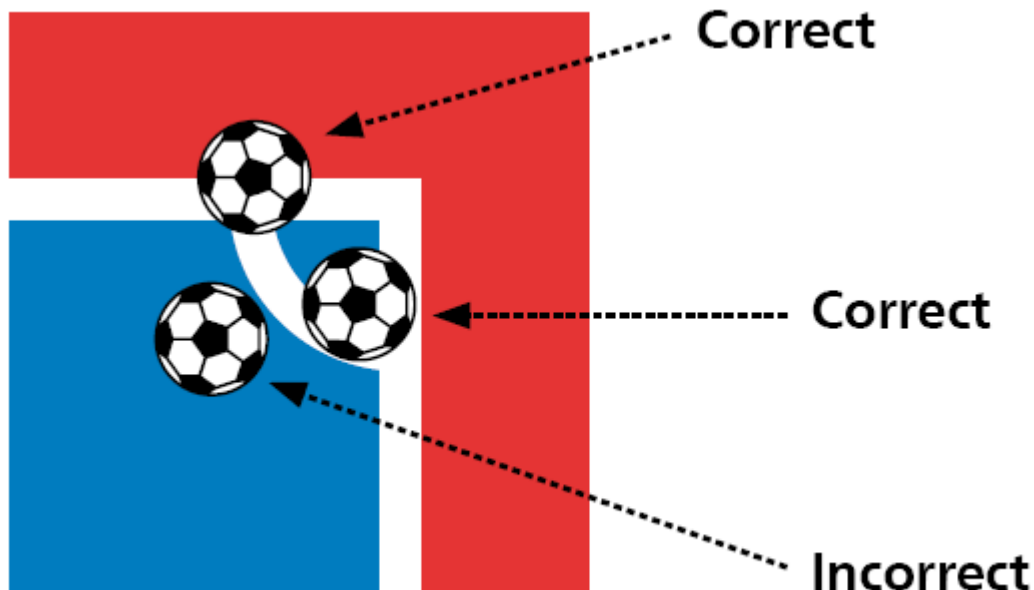
Procedures – infringements

Referees are reminded that opponents must remain at least 5 m (16 ft) from the corner arc until the ball is in play. Where necessary, the referees must warn any player within this distance before the corner is taken and caution the player if he/she subsequently fails to retreat the correct distance.

If a player, while correctly taking a corner, intentionally kicks the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again but neither in a careless nor a reckless manner nor using excessive force, the referees must allow play to continue.

The ball must be placed inside the corner arc and is in play when it is kicked, therefore the ball does not need to leave the corner arc to be in play.

If a goalkeeper, as part of a playing movement, ends up outside his/her goal or he/she or any other player end up outside the pitch, the opposing team may take the corner quickly.



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PROCEDURES TO DETERMINE THE WINNER OF A MATCH OR HOME-AND-AWAY

Extra time

Procedure

- The two periods of extra time are not part of the match
- Players or substitutes may be cautioned or sent off during the two periods of extra time
- Accumulated fouls during the periods of extra time are added to those from the second half of the match
- During the periods of extra time the teams are not entitled to time-outs, even if they have not used their time-out corresponding to the second half of the match

Kicks from the penalty mark

Procedure

- The kicks from the penalty mark are not part of the match
- The penalty area where the kicks from the penalty mark are being taken may be changed only if the goal or the playing surface becomes unusable or for safety reasons
- Once all eligible players have taken a kick from the penalty mark, the same sequence does not have to be followed as in the first round of kicks
- Each team is responsible for selecting the players to take kicks from the penalty mark from among the players and substitutes and the order in which they will take the kicks and must inform the third referee before the kicks are taken.
- With the exception of the goalkeeper, once the kicks from the penalty mark have started, an injured player may not be replaced by an ineligible player, if there are any
- **If the goalkeeper is sent off during the kicks from the penalty mark, he/she may be replaced by an eligible player, but not by another goalkeeper if he/she was excluded from taking the kick from the penalty mark**
- A player or substitute may be cautioned or sent off during the taking of kicks from the penalty mark
- The referee must not abandon the series of kicks from the penalty mark if a team is reduced to fewer than three players during the taking of kicks from the penalty mark

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- If a player is injured or sent off during the taking of kicks from the penalty mark and the team has one player fewer, the referees should not reduce the number of players taking kicks for the other team
- An equal number of players from each team is required only at the start of the taking of kicks from the penalty mark
- If the ball hits one of the goalposts or the crossbar or the goalkeeper before crossing the goal line between the goalposts and under the crossbar, the referees allow the goal
- If the ball burst or become defective after striking one of the goalposts or the crossbar and enters the goal, the referees allow the goal
- If the ball bursts or becomes defective after hitting one of the goalposts or the crossbar and does not enter the goal, the referees do not order the penalty kick to be retaken and deem the penalty kick to have been taken
- If the competition rules require kicks from the penalty mark to determine the winner of a match or home-and-away and the teams refuse to do so, the referees report the incident to the relevant authorities
- If, before the penalty kicks start, one or more eligible players leave the pitch or refuse to take the penalty kicks once these have started and are not injured, the referees abandon the taking of kicks from the penalty mark and inform the relevant authorities
- During the taking of the penalty kicks, the referees do not allow cameras or other media on the pitch.