

Futsal is Preferred Over Turf-based Indoor Soccer



Fútbol Sala, or more concisely Futsal, is Preferred over Turf-based Soccer Indoors; Here's why:

Many South Americans and Europeans grow up playing futsal in school gymnasiums, on the streets (street soccer), and in common areas between structures in the favelas of Brazil. North Americans (sadly behind the rest of the world in association football, a.k.a. soccer, by about 100 years) frequently grow up playing soccer outdoors, infrequently indoors, and rarely playing futsal. For some reason in the USA a fascination has grown for playing indoors on green fuzzy surfaces similar to grass. Worse is the addition of sideboards to play the ball off of. In contrast, the rest of the world plays soccer on smooth surfaces indoors with low bounce soccer balls, i.e. futsal balls, within boundary lines – not off walls. Based on this popularity, FIFA defines an indoor version of association football to be played on smooth surfaces within touchlines and goals lines. From a safety perspective the indoor game that uses sideboards adds additional possibilities of injuries to players from colliding into walls, often by being pushed into walls, and then teaches bad habits to soccer players who lose control of the ball but are rewarded by the ball bouncing off of a wall back to them.



Clearly, futsal is the better sport to play because there are a number of reasons to play futsal as the rest of the world does and as the Johnson Legacy Center wisely has created for the city of Huntsville:

1. Futsal, defined by FIFA, is played around the world – not like other forms of indoor soccer on turf played only in North America.
2. Futsal is just enough different to make it more valuable than simply continuing to play soccer indoors on turf in a warehouse. Futsal has only a few different rules to learn but *much* to gain from its distinct spirit.
3. The weighted futsal ball allows playing very precisely on smooth futsal courts allowing players to hone their skills without interruption from bare spots and ant hills common on outdoor grass fields. Upon return to outdoor soccer, players with futsal experience have a clearer vision of what they should be doing, despite the bare spots and ant hills.

4. Why do American players expect the field to be green and fuzzy? It does not have to be green. Futsal's fields of play are often other colors, like blue, again clarifying that it is not simply the outdoor game being played indoors.
5. The smooth playing surfaces in futsal games are safer than turf fields. There are much less ankle and knee injuries in futsal than in indoor games on turf because of the smooth futsal court surface that allows feet to turn in place when player bodies and legs twist - turf does not.
6. The poured floors in the Johnson Legacy Center are softer than wooden basketball courts. Additionally, the JLC courts are clearly lined per FIFA specifications and do not use or get confused with basketball lines because there are NO BASKETBALL LINES in the JLC.
7. Walls are not part of futsal games. In other indoor soccer games players run into walls, even get pushed into walls sometimes, and can be injured. Soccer players do not wear pads as hockey players do, so there is a real chance of wall collision injuries.
8. Walled games lead to bad habits after a player loses control of the ball and it bouncing off of a wall back to the player or a teammate, rewarding the player for lack of ball control.
9. Futsal is played within the confines of touchlines and goal lines therefore safer than playing off of walls and better for maintaining ball control skills.
10. Teams of only four field players plus a goalkeeper make all players continuously active, with each player getting 2 to 3 times as many touches on the ball as when playing soccer.
11. Futsal is also played under the clear awareness from a scoreboard operator who displays the score, the time remaining per half and team fouls, which is part of standard futsal. NFL ensures all competitive games have a scoreboard and a scoreboard operator.



CONCLUSION: After 90+ years of futsal and nine futsal world cups, futsal is clearly the world standard indoor version of association football. Playing indoors on turf and off of walls is a unique sport of North America, not a global standard and, unfortunately, with more chances of player injury than futsal. **Futsal is the best choice.**

