

# Spring 2019 Newsletter



Bringing Real Futsal to North Alabama

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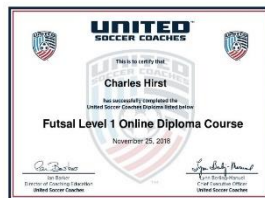
Thanks go to the league's Gold Level Sponsor:



## The Sixth Winter Futsal Season was one of Greatness and Newness

This winter was North Alabama *FUTSAL*'s 6<sup>th</sup> winter season, a league that specializes in only futsal and now has clearly shown its track record in being the premier futsal league in the area. Preseason, pickup games, practices and new futsal player clinics were offered in preparation for the season. A new and modern website, [www.nafutsal.COM](http://www.nafutsal.COM), was rolled out and included new and bigger discounts in registration for the subsequent winter season and tournament. But most exciting was the league's promotion that led to three more coaches of youth teams in the league completing the United Soccer Coaches online Level 1 Futsal Coaching Diploma Course this season. This will continue to increase the caliber of futsal play in the league.

This winter's season ran from November 2018 through January 2019 and consisted of a youth middle school age division of teams and an adult division of teams playing games in the gyms at Providence Elementary School, James Clemens High School and the former J.O. Johnson High School (see more on this below). Teams competed and used the schedule, results and standings kept on the league's new website at [www.nafutsal.com](http://www.nafutsal.com). Division winners, shown below, were awarded t-shirts with graphics and lettering indicating their winning status. The winning adult team, in what's called the 'Champions Division', also had their name added to the perpetual trophy, which is kept at league sponsor West End Grill. Drop in anytime to see it in their foyer. West End Grill is located at 6610 Old Madison Pike near Bridge Street.



RCUSC Wildcats '06G  
12-14U(MS) Open Division Winner

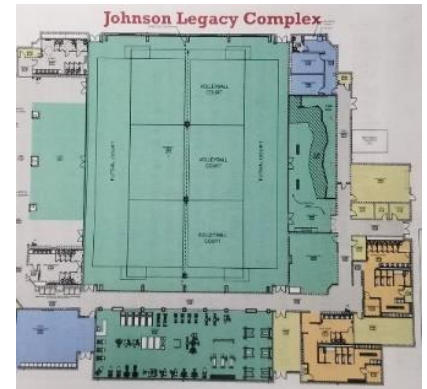


Konoha 11  
Adult 'Champions Division' Winner

All teams played their best and benefitted by getting lots of touches on the ball as well as having lots of fun.

Thanks is due to the coaches, team captains, referees, referee assignor, parents, sponsors and those who volunteered to help with daily setup and teardown that made the futsal games a success.

Next winter it is expected the league's games will be played in the newly renovated Johnson Legacy Complex, previously known as the "New" Gym at the former J.O. Johnson High School. See article on AL.com at <https://www.al.com/alabama/2019/01/multi-million-dollar-johnson-gym-renovation-to-be-completed-in-huntsville-in-2020.html>. After renovations have been completed, it will contain two futsal courts at the standard 2:1 ratio of length to width (international futsal courts are 40 by 20 meters) on new cushiony poured floors with permanently painted futsal lines! How exciting is that?!? Only volleyball courts will co-exist with the futsal courts. No basketball courts with their 3-point lines that often are confused with the boundaries of futsal penalty area lines. It's going to be great and it's going to be a showpiece for futsal in Alabama and the southeast.



## Spring/Summer Season Plans

Plans are in place for another youth futsal camp during Spring Break late March. Registration for the summer season starts in April and concludes late May. Games will begin at the end of May. Based on experience and continued player interest, expectations are for the adult teams to continue to compete in one or more divisions this summer and for youth participation to grow. Plans are to conduct high school and/or middle school age futsal academies this summer with a small amount of futsal-specific coaching and a large amount of *playing* the game of futsal. The summer season is primarily in June and July.



## Venues for this Summer Futsal Season

Adult teams will play again at Oakwood University, an NCAA size basketball gym expanded for a spacious futsal court. Adult games will start on Mondays, possibly, and continue on Wednesdays in the evenings while youth will play at Optimist Rec. Center on Thursday evenings, both playing usually once a week. This past winter the league used five venues for the youth and adult futsal games: gyms at Clements Baptist Church, at James Clemens High School, at Providence Elementary School, at Richard Showers Recreation Center and at the former Johnson High School.

## Sponsors

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

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



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

## Upcoming Events

Some important dates to plan for:

- 3/19&21/2019 – Spring Break Futsal Camp, youth, 2-4:00 PM
- 4/15/2019 – Summer Futsal Season Registration Opens
- 4/16/2019 – Youth Team Coaches/Managers & Adult Team Captains Meeting at Showers Rec. Central, 7:30 - 8:00 PM
- 4/28/2019 – Last Day for Early Bird Discounts (20% discount on team fee)

**5/19/2019 – Summer Season Team Registration Deadline**

5/29/2019 – Adult Divisions Futsal **Games Begin!**

6/6/2019 – Youth Divisions Futsal **Games Begin!**

All calendar entries can be viewed at [www.nafutsal.com/More/Calendar](http://www.nafutsal.com/More/Calendar)

## The Rules Corner

Futsal does not have Goal Kicks as is used in soccer. Futsal uses Goal Clearances a.k.a. keeper throws. In futsal sometimes goalkeepers are whistled for not performing a Goal Clearance correctly. Why? The FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game define the “correct” procedure:



1st, while restarting the game with a goal clearance, all opponents must be outside the penalty area of the team taking the goal clearance until the ball is in play.

2nd, there are requirements for taking a Goal Clearance:

- The ball is thrown from any point inside the penalty area by the goalkeeper of the defending team
- The goalkeeper of the defending team takes the goal clearance within four seconds of being ready to do so
- The ball is in play when it exits the penalty area

So what could go wrong? Here's what:

- The goalkeeper, eager to throw the ball to a teammate, throws the ball before returning to the penalty area. When this happens, goalkeepers are required to perform the goal clearance again.
- The goalkeeper takes longer than 4 seconds to throw the ball. When this happens, the opponents are awarded an indirect free kick from the point on the penalty area line straight out from where the goalkeeper was when 4 seconds expired.
- The ball either does not leave the penalty area or, more common, is touched by a player before exiting the penalty area. In either case, goalkeepers are required to perform the goal clearance again.
- If, after the ball has been properly put back into play, the goalkeeper plays the ball before being touched by any other player, the opponents are awarded an indirect free kick from the point where the goalkeeper played the ball.

The first and second mistakes above are unique to futsal. But the third mistake above is identical to what can happen in soccer during the taking of a goal kick and the ball does not exit the penalty area or is touched by a player before exiting the penalty area. So this is not something a soccer player should have to learn about futsal.



The last mistake above often happens when the goalkeeper does not realize he/she is doing a Goal Clearance. After making a *save* the goalkeeper may toss the ball forward and immediately start dribbling it. But he may not do so on a goal clearance. The alternate name "Keeper Throw" is good to use because it reminds everyone that the ball is to be thrown – not kicked – and thrown by the goalkeeper only.

Knowing the proper way to perform a Goal Clearance or Keeper Throw will make playing futsal more fun.

