



Futsal Rules at a Glance

Here is a quick handy guide to some of the rules which come up the most often in the Macedon Ranges Futsal (MRF) competition. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask one of our friendly referees.

Court Players

Side Ball

- A ball is considered out on the side lines when the **whole** ball crosses the line.
- A side ball is awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball.
- When a player takes a side ball they have **4 seconds** to play the ball.
- When the ball is set on the yellow line, it must be still and placed on or no more than 30cm behind the line.
- When a side ball is taken the player must not step over the line when kicking the ball.
- You can't score a goal directly off a side ball, the ball must touch another player (of either side) before it goes into the goal – if it goes straight in without touching anyone it is just goalkeeper's ball.

Fouls

- No pushing or tripping is allowed in futsal; your arms need to remain down at your sides in a natural position when you are challenging someone for the ball.
- Kicking the ball on the ground or obstructing the players going for the ball is considered a foul.
- Slide tackling is not allowed (except for goalkeepers in the yellow semi-circle – see below).
- A foul is called if a player's knee or foot is above the opponent's waist when they are trying to play the ball.
- A handball is considered a handball when the ball hits a player's arm from the elbow down. The only exception to a handball is when a player has their hands down by their side and the ball hits their arm by accident (in this situation if the play is affected considerably then a handball may still be called).

Goalkeeper

Distribution

- Once the goalkeeper steps into the yellow semi-circle or has recovered from a save, they have only 4 seconds to distribute the ball.
- If the ball is picked up or saved, the goalkeeper may throw the ball out, "footy kick" the ball or the goalkeeper may play the ball to himself by rolling it out of their box.
- If the ball goes over the yellow base line the goalkeeper may only throw the ball out.
- When the goalkeeper throws the ball out or does a "footy kick" the ball must not pass the two thirds line on the opposite end (if it does the opposition gets an indirect free kick).

Technical

- The goalkeeper may slide tackle the ball inside the yellow semi-circle if the slide tackle is safe.
- **The Pass Back Rule:** Goalkeepers are not allowed to execute a "1,2" in futsal, i.e.: the goalkeeper is only allowed to pass to a player once. If the ball touches an opponent or the ball passes halfway, then the goalkeeper's pass count resets.

Off the court

Substituting

- Substitutes can be made at any time without seeking permission from the referee, however it is important that the player coming off for a substitution is off the court before the player going on enters the court.
- Goalkeeper substitution is an exception. This must be done at a stoppage in play and the referee must be notified.

Sideline Etiquette

- Players should follow the directions of the referee whilst on the bench.
- Coaches and players should remain at least 2 metres back from the sideline. This is due to referees needing a clear view and safe passage down the line.
- Referees are always happy to answer questions, but the sideline during a game is not the place to ask them. Coaches and players should ask questions before the game, at halftime or after the game.