

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL FUTSAL CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS

1. Introduction

The rules, regulations and conditions that govern participation in the National Futsal Championships are outlined in this document (Championship Regulations).

All rules contained herein are based on the current FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game. These regulations may only be varied by Football Federation Australia (FFA).

2. Jurisdiction

Any FFA member requesting the right to host the National Futsal Championships must demonstrate to FFA that the standards in this document can and will be met by them as the host State or Territory. Only FFA can determine the host, including the timing and the venues to be utilized.

FFA shall have a FFA Representative in attendance and shall also appoint a Championship Manager who shall be the nominated representative of the Host Member. Their decision shall be considered as final on matters pertaining to the conduct of the Championships.

3. Age Categories

Age categories will only vary from those below at the sole discretion of FFA and are subject to a minimum of four teams per age group being entered by FFA members.

| Male | Female |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 11 Boys | 11 Girls |
| 12 Boys | 12 Girls |
| 13 Boys | 13 Girls |
| 14 Boys | 14 Girls |
| 15 Boys | 15 Girls |
| 16 Boys | 16 Girls |
| Youth Men 17-19 yrs | Youth Women 17-19 yrs |
| Open Men | Open Women |

4. Eligibility

Players must:

- (a) Be currently registered with their respective FFA Member and listed as a player in a team nominated by the FFA Member for the Futsal National Championships.
- (b) Have completed the FFA Registration Form NRR03 or NRR04 and play in an FFA Member's approved Futsal competition
- (c) Have available at the Championships their ID card issued by their FFA member.
- (d) Meet the age requirements for their particular age category.
- (e) Play in the gender specific category and nominate for one team only.
- (f) Agree to be bound by the FFA Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Regulations.

2.

5. Age Requirements

A participant's age is determined by their age as at 31 December. Players may not be any older than the age category in which they are participating although players are permitted to be no more than two years younger.

Where the Championships are held in January of each year, age eligibility is determined by the previous year. For example, a player turns 16 on 10 February. He is eligible for the under 15 competition or an older age category but not a younger age category.

Further examples are – for the 2007 National Championships ages will be determined as at 31 December 2006. Therefore, a player wanting to participate in a 16 years age category at the National Championships in 2007 may not be any older than 16 at 31 December 2006. The player may be younger than this.

6. Insurance Cover

The host State or Territory must have adequate Public Liability insurance and ensure that any venue used for the staging of matches has adequate Public Liability cover. FFA has \$20 million Public Liability insurance to cover its legal liabilities.

With respect to Personal Injury, participants shall rely on their Private Health Insurance for their comprehensive cover. The FFA member can provide a part or full cover for the participant in lieu of the individuals responsibility to do so. For the avoidance of doubt , FFA does not provide personal injury cover for participants or officials of the FFA member's team

7. Team Nominations

Each FFA Member is required to complete and lodge their FFA Team Nomination form(s) no later than 30 November in the year prior to the Championships. Each FFA Member may nominate up to two teams in each age group and gender.

FFA Members may apply to nominate additional regional teams, whose participation shall be determined at the sole discretion of FFA. Nomination of additional regional teams must be formally lodged 45 days prior to the commencement date of the Championships.

The nomination of players to comprise each team nominated, is to be provided to the host Federation on the FFA Player Nomination form, completed in full, no later than 4 days prior to the commencement of the Championships.

The nomination of any team can only be undertaken by an FFA Member.

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FFA Members who wish to sponsor/support a team from the Oceania region may formally apply to FFA at least 45 days prior to the commencement date of the Championship for the team(s) to be included. FFA will, within 30 days of the Championship, determine at their sole discretion their position on the application

8. Championship Draw Format

The host State or Territory must comply with the following format when generating draws for confirmed team nominations in all age categories. The draw format as specified below is designed to provide sufficient games and to ensure player enjoyment.

Elimination matches are included in the ‘ maximum ‘ number of games. Teams not qualifying for elimination matches will play only the ‘ minimum ‘ number of games. However, when the Championship structure provides for play off matches for 5th/6th etc then the number of games will understandably be greater for the non qualifiers.

Variation to this draw format can be granted by FFA where the host can provide evidence that venue availability is affected by an unprecedented number of team entries. Where possible, additional play off matches may be arranged to give teams at least 5 games.

| NO TEAMS | DRAW FORMAT | MIN GAMES | MAX GAMES |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 or less | Age group not viable and to be amalgamated with the most suitable adjacent age category or scrapped. | | |
| 4 Teams | Play each other team twice. Top two advance to Final. | 6 | 7 |
| 5 Teams | Play each other team once. Top four to Semi Finals. Winners advance to Final | 4 | 6 |
| 6 Teams | Play each other team once. Top four to Semi Finals. Winners advance to Final | 5 | 7 |
| 7 Teams | Play each other team once. Top four to Semi Finals. Winners advance to Final | 6 | 8 |
| 8 Teams | Play each other team once. Top four to Semi Finals. Winners advance to Final. | 7 | 9 |
| 9 Teams | Play each other team once. Top four to Semi Finals. Winners advance to Final. | 8 | 10 |
| 10 + Teams | Teams split into two groups. Each team plays the other in their group once. Top four from each group advance to Quarter Finals. Winners advance to Semi Finals. Winners advance to Final. | 4 * 7** | 6* 10** |
| | * (10 Teams) ** (16 Teams) | | |

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9. Individual Awards

The Individual Awards that apply to the Championships are:

Golden Boot Mens and Womens Open competition only, based on goals scored in the group phase of matches, therefore excluding Quarter, Semi and the Final match(s).

Most Valuable Player All age competitions in both genders. Determined by an official from each competing team indicating on the Match Start List at the completion of the match, the best player in the opposing team. Voting only applies to the group phase of matches, therefore excluding Quarter, Semi and the Final match(s).

Player of the Final All age competitions in both genders. Determined by the Senior Referee in each Final, confirming the nominated player on the Match Start List.

10. Laws of the Game

All National Championship matches shall be played in accordance with the current FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game.

11. Match Duration

The following applies to all group or pool matches including Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Final:

Matches of 2 x 20 minute halves run off the clock will be played for all age categories 11-16 years inclusive

Matches of 2 x 20 minute halves run off the clock will be played for all age categories Youth and Open

Half time intervals will be a minimum of three (3) minutes and a maximum of five (5) minutes duration

Timeouts will only be permitted in any Quarter or Semi Final or Final match. Each team will be permitted only one time out in any one match.

Timeouts are not permitted during the playing of any extra time period

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12. Allocation of Points

The table below details the number of points allocated to teams, based on the results of pool/group matches, to determine the team's position on the points table.

| Match Result | Points Awarded |
|-----------------|---|
| Win | 3 Points |
| Score Draw | 2 Points |
| Scoreless Draw | 1 Point |
| Loss | Nil Points |
| Forfeit For | 3 Points plus the average of the goals against the team that caused the forfeit |
| Forfeit Against | Nil Point |

13. Determination of Points Table

At the completion of the pool/group matches the points table placement of teams will be determined by the number of points accrued in playing those matches. The team with the highest number of points will be placed first. The remaining teams will be placed according to their points accrual with the next highest number being placed second and so on.

In the event that two teams are equal on points then the following elimination process shall apply to determine the respective placements:

1. The result of their match in the pool/group match would place the winner as the higher of the two. If their match was drawn then ;
2. The team with the higher goal difference would be placed as the higher of the two. If there remains a tied outcome then ;
3. The team with the highest goals for would be the higher of the two. If there remains a tied outcome then ;
4. A penalty shoot out will determine the higher placement on the points table.

14. Finals Matches

Finals matches include all Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Finals.

At the completion of regulation time in a Quarter or Semi Final the team with the highest number of goals moves to the next phase in the competition, or in the case of a Final, is declared the winner of the Championship.

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In the event that the match result is a draw at the completion of regulation time, the following shall occur:

Extra time of five (5) minutes each way will be played. The team scoring the most goals in the extra time period is deemed the winner and in the case of a Quarter or Semi Final advances to the next phase in the competition, or in the case of the Final, is declared the winner of the Championship.

Where no goals are scored or each team scores the same number of goals, then penalties shall be taken in accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game. The winner in the case of a Quarter or Semi Final advances to the next phase of the competition, or in the case of the Final, is declared the winner of the Championship.

15. Identification Cards – Players and Officials

FFA Members are responsible for ensuring all players competing in the Championships hold a valid ID Card, issued by their FFA Member. It must contain the player's name, photograph and FFA Registration number.

In the event of a lost card, the FFA Member and not the host State or Territory are responsible for issuing a replacement(s), unless it is one of the host's players whose card is lost.

The FFA registration number must be recorded on the Match Start List against the player's name.

Players from visiting National Associations must have an ID Card with photograph issued by their National Association.

Players without valid ID Cards will not be permitted to participate in the Championship.

ID Cards must be available for inspection on request of the FFA Tournament Representative or the appointed FFA Championship Manager or their nominee. ID Cards must be held by the Team Management for all players taking the court or sitting on the team bench. Only players whose cards can be produced are eligible to play or sit on the bench.

16. Team Officials

The appointment of team officials is the responsibility of each participating FFA Member. All team coaches must at least be a FFA Futsal registered Level 1 coach. Whilst there is no restriction imposed by FFA on the number of team officials appointed to any team, only three (3) officials per team are permitted to remain with players on the team bench during a match.

7.

Accordingly, the Championship Manager will issue three (3) FFA Team Official cards to all teams participating in the Championship. The cards are transferable within the FFA Member. A team official sitting on the bench must display the card at all times. The cards will be deemed valid for the duration of the Championship.

The team management are responsible for all matters pertaining to the team, including the conduct of team members and supporters. All shall agree to be subject to the FFA Code of Conduct Regulations.

17. Match Start Lists

FFA Match Start Lists will be utilised for all matches in the Championship. Distribution and collection will be the responsibility of the Championship Manager or his / her nominee. The list must provide for 1. FFA Registration No 2. Full Name of Player 3. Jersey No

Team management are required to complete the Match Start List at least 20 minutes prior to the scheduled commencement time of their match. Players not entered on the Start List, or for whom an ID Card cannot be provided, are ineligible to participate in that particular match.

The name of any suspended player is to appear on the Match Start List of the match for which he/she is suspended, with the word 'Suspended' appearing beside the player's name.

It is the responsibility of team management to ensure that players are eligible to compete in any match. It is the further responsibility of team management to ensure that players who are suspended have that designation against their name on the Match List.

A team that plays a suspended player shall be deemed to have played an ineligible player and accordingly the match shall be awarded to the opposing team with the goals recorded as 5-0 in favour of the opposing team.

18. Uniforms and Equipment

All teams are required to confirm their Team Colours on the Team Nomination form provided to the Host Member on or before 30 November in the year prior to the Championships.

Each team must have an alternate playing jersey of another colour or a set of Bibs of a different colour.

Goalkeepers must wear a jersey that distinguish him / her from the other team members and the referees. He / she must also have an alternate goalkeeper jersey of another colour to his / her nominated colour.

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All jerseys must have a number on the back. The size is 25 cm minimum to 35 cm maximum in a contrasting colour to the jersey. Numbers on shorts are optional. If placed they must be on the right leg and of a size 10 cm minimum and 15 cm maximum in a contrasting colour to the short.

Socks must be long and players must use suitable non marking footwear. Shin pads that provide a reasonable degree of protection are compulsory for all players.

Goalkeepers can wear either shorts or tracksuit pants. They may also wear knee or elbow pads and goalkeeping gloves.

It is the responsibility of team management to ensure the alternate playing Jerseys or Bibs for players and goalkeepers is available at the match venue when their team is participating.

Players and goalkeepers must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to themselves or another player, including any kind of jewelry.

19. Match Balls

Match Balls approved by FFA, will be provided for all matches by the host FFA member. The ball must comply with the current FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game.

The ball may not be changed during the game without the permission of the referee.

The ball size for the National Championships – Size 4 - 13 years and upwards
Size 3 - 11 and 12 years

20. Minimum number of Players

In accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game each team must have five (5) eligible players, one (1) of which must be the designated goalkeeper with one of the five being the designated captain.

21. Delayed Start / Forfeits

Under circumstances deemed acceptable by the FFA Representative or the Championship Manager appointed by FFA, a team not ready to take the court at the time the match was scheduled to commence, will be granted a ten (10) minute extension to take the court. In the event they do not meet that deadline a decision on playing the game or declaring a forfeit shall be determined by the FFA Representative or Championship Manager.

22. Disciplinary Matters

Law 5 of the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game confirms the decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play, are final. Only in the case of mistaken identity in cautioning or the sending off of a player or official can there be consideration of any written appeal.

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Such appeals must be in writing and be lodged by the FFA Member within one (1) hour of the specified incident. They are to be delivered to the FFA Representative or appointed Championship Manager or their nominee, who shall immediately consider what action will be taken with respect to the appeal. Resolution of the matter must be achieved at least two (2) hours prior to the next match of the player or official.

General information in relation to disciplinary matters is as follows:

Yellow cards accumulated in pool/group matches carry into a Quarter, Semi or Final match.

Red cards impose an automatic one match suspension, in addition to any other suspension imposed by the FFA Representative as a result of agreement with the recommendation of the referee that a harsher penalty be considered. Any such suspension and any additional match suspension shall apply to the next, and where applicable, to any subsequent match involving the player's team.

A substitute player may enter the court two (2) complete minutes after a team mate has been sent off, unless a goal is scored against their team before the two minutes have elapsed.

Any team that plays an ineligible player shall be deemed to have lost the match. The opposing team shall be awarded 3 points and goals recorded as 5-0 in their favour.

Any player who receives a send off by accruing his second yellow card in the match or is shown a red card, is prohibited from (a) taking any further part in the match (b) sitting on the team bench for the remainder of the match or for the period of his/her suspension (c) remaining in the vicinity of the court area under the jurisdiction of the referee.

Specific information in relation to disciplinary matters is as follows:

When a player receives two (2) yellow cards in a single match the player is shown the red card and must vacate the court and leave the area under the jurisdiction of the referee. He receives an automatic one match suspension that must be served in the team's next match. The player's name will appear on the Match Start List of the next match with the word 'suspended' marked against it. These two yellow cards will not count in the player's accumulated yellow card tally as they are regarded as a red card for the purpose of suspension.

Where a player receives a single red card in a match the player must vacate the court and leave the area under the jurisdiction of the referee. He receives an automatic one match suspension plus any additional suspension that may have been imposed by the FFA Representative if there is a recommendation from the Referee to impose a harsher penalty because of the nature of the offence committed. The suspension must apply to the next

10.

match(s) in which his team is participating. The player's name will appear on the Match Start List of the next match(s) with the word 'suspended' marked against it.

Where a player accumulates three (3) yellow cards through the course of the Championship the player shall receive an automatic one match suspension that must be served in the team's next match. The player's name will appear on the Match Start List of the next match with the word 'suspended' marked against it. The yellow card tally is restored to Nil after the suspension has been served.

Where a player accumulates a further two (2) yellow cards after having been suspended as a result of receiving an initial three (3) yellow cards that player shall receive a further automatic one match suspension which shall be taken in the next match in which the player's team is involved. The player's name will appear on the Match Start List with the word 'suspended' marked against it. The yellow card tally is restored to Nil after the second suspension has been served.

Where a player has received two (2) suspensions resulting from the accumulation of yellow cards and then receives a further yellow card, that player shall receive a one (1) match suspension which must be served in the next match in which the player's team is involved. The player's name will appear on the Match Start List with the word 'suspended' marked against it. The yellow card tally is restored to Nil after the third suspension has been served.

23. Abandoned Matches

Matches may be abandoned when it is deemed by the Referee that the game cannot continue due to the violent conduct of players, team officials or spectators which creates a situation untenable for all concerned or where the playing surface or court area is deemed dangerous for players and or officials.

Where an abandonment occurs the Referee and other Match Officials are to provide a written report to the FFA Representative who shall determine the outcome based on the circumstances that brought about the abandonment. That report is required within one hour of the decision being taken.

In the event that the conduct of a particular team brought about the abandonment then that team shall be asked to show cause why they should not be banned from the remainder of the Championship. That advice shall be in writing and delivered to the Team Manager of the offending team.

24. FFA Representative

The FFA representative in reaching any decision, which he/she is empowered to take, may at his/her discretion convene a sub committee to assist in assessing material or hearing statements from individuals, either or both of which are required in taking that

11.

decision. Such members of any sub committee cannot be representatives from the FFA member involved in the dispute or occurrence. The appointed Championship Manager shall also be involved in the taking of any decision.

25. Duty of Care Issues

FFA members who host National Championships must accept their duty of care responsibilities which include but are not limited to:

Provision of ice

Provision of qualified sports medicine/science personnel

Provision of adequate stretchers

Provision of access for emergency vehicles and their personnel i.e ambulance / fire

Provision of an appropriate medical room

Provision of dressing rooms, including toilets, for both male and female participants

Provision of Australian Safety Standard lighting of the player area

Provision of a public address system for the facility

Provision of an Emergency Evacuation Plan for the facility

26. Match Officials

Match Officials appointed to the Championship shall be FFA National Accredited Futsal Officials. On appointment they shall agree to abide by the FFA Code of Conduct regulations

The appointment of Match Officials to matches shall be undertaken by the person(s) appointed by FFA and advised to the host FFA Member.

Two Match Officials shall be appointed to each match.

Uniforms worn by Match Officials shall be those approved by FFA and shall contain only the FFA Futsal Referee badge.

Accommodation and three meals per day shall be provided by the host FFA Member at their cost to each of the visiting Match Officials appointed to the Championship. Iced water shall also be provided by the host FFA Member at their cost to the Match Officials on any day they are officiating.

The host FFA Member is responsible for ground transport of Match Officials between the accommodation and a venue and between venues when multiple venues are utilised.

Match Officials are responsible for their own equipment. FFA shall provide their uniform.

Current 1 July 2008.