**FUTSAL PLAYING RULES FOR ‘INTRODUCTION TO FUTSAL FESTIVAL – 25th MARCH 2018**

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The Court

The game of futsal is played on a marked field, called the court, and the ball can go out of play.

The Ball

The game is played with a ball that has 30% less bounce than a standard football. We will use size 3 ball for the festival. Teams may use a size 2 ball by agreement.

Offside Rule

There is no offside rule in futsal.

Rotating Substitutions

Up to 9 players can be used in a match and there is no limit on how long a player must stay on the court, nor is a stoppage required for player substitutions which are permitted during play. Substitutions can be made at any time and do not need to be signalled to the referee. Players substituting must enter and leave the field via the marked substitution zone in front of the team benches; the player joining the game must not do so until the exiting player is off the court.

Kick-ins

In order to re-start the game after the ball has gone out of play, the ball is kicked back into play from the touchline and from corners. The ball must be placed stationary on the touchline and the feet of the player taking the kick-in must not cross the line. Kick-ins are indirect.

The 4 Second Rule

For kick-ins, free kicks, goal clearances and corner kicks, the player in possession of the ball has 4 seconds to restart play which the referee will count. If play is not restarted within four seconds an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team. The goalkeeper is not allowed to control the ball for more than 4 seconds in his/her own half. In the spirit of mini-soccer, for age group u7/8 referees will not penalise players for breaking the 4 second rule on the first occurrence but will explain the rule to the players and allow them a second chance.

The 5 metre (or 16 feet) Rule

Players are required to keep 5 metres (just over 16 feet) from the player in possession of the ball on free kicks, corners, goal clearances, kick-ins and penalties.

Goalkeepers

Goalkeepers are allowed to come out of the penalty area and players are allowed to go into the penalty area. A goal clearance (the name given in futsal to what is called a goal kick in football) must be thrown / rolled by the goal keeper (and not kicked). Once a goalkeeper has played the ball they cannot touch the ball again in their own half until a member of the opposing team has touched the ball.

Fouls

Futsal aims to emphasise skilful play and free kicks will be awarded for fouls. The game is played on a hard surface in a confined area with walls near the touch line and referees will look out for interventions that could lead to injury. For example.

Slide Tackles

Slide tackles are not allowed. Whilst not itself illegal in futsal, will be penalised as it endangers other players, for example by risking bringing them to the ground

Accumulated Fouls

The accumulated foul rule will not be implemented in the u7/8.

Game Time

Each match will last 20 minutes with no half-time or, if both managers and the referee agree, with a half time break of no more than 1 minute. A match that starts late or takes a half time break will still end at the will end at the planned time.

Time Outs

There will be no time outs in the festival.