

Match rules Olympos Futsal Competition

The team listed first (see the match schedule) kicks off at the start of the match.

At the start of the match and after every goal, the kick-off is taken from the halfway line. This happens after the whistle and within 4 seconds. The ball must be played forward.

Goalkeeper

The goalkeeper must put the ball into play within 4 seconds. In case of a throw-in, the goalkeeper must put the ball into play from inside their own penalty area and the ball must touch the ground before the halfway line. Teammates must be outside their own penalty area when receiving the ball. The goalkeeper may clear a caught ball by any means. However, kicking it away directly from their hands is not allowed. Within their own penalty area, the goalkeeper is not allowed to touch the ball with their hands if it is intentionally played to them by a team-mate. A violation of these rules results in a free kick for the opposing team on the edge of the circular dotted line.

In case of a penalty kick, the goalkeeper must stand on their goal line between the goal posts facing the penalty taker, without moving their feet until the ball is kicked. The other players must take position outside the circular dotted line. The penalty kick is taken from the black line in between the circular dotted line and the circle marking the penalty area. **If a penalty kick hits the crossbar or the post causing the ball to bounce back onto the field of play the penalty taker may not play it again. If they do, a free kick is awarded to the opposing team. However, if the ball is touched by the goalkeeper, the penalty taker may play it again.**

A free kick must always be taken within 4 seconds and from the right place, **with the opponents 5 metres away and the ball stationary**. Even if the opponent does not move to the desired distance in time, the free kick must be taken within 4 seconds. The referee will then decide whether the opponent stood in front of the ball on purpose or could not move away from there in time. If the team taking the free kick takes longer than 4 seconds to do so, the referee will award a free kick to the opposing team. If a player repeatedly fails to observe the prescribed 5 metres, they will be penalised by being sent off for 2 minutes (yellow card).

A kick-in from the touch line must be taken within 4 seconds and from the right place, **with the opponents 3 metres away and the ball stationary on the black touchline**. The player must be on or behind the touchline with both feet.

A corner kick must be taken within 4 seconds and in the right place, **with the opponents 5 metres away and the ball stationary**. If the corner kick is not taken within 4 seconds, the referee will award a free kick to the opposing team at the point where the corner kick would have been taken.

If during a match the ball hits the ceiling the match will be resumed with a kick-in from the touchline by the opposing team.

A valid goal can be scored from anywhere in the field of play. However, no goal may be scored directly from a kick-off or kick-in. If the latter happens, the referee will allow the opposing goalkeeper to resume the game by throwing the ball to their team.

A player must be substituted near the halfway line. The substitute player may start playing as soon as the player to be replaced has left the field of play. This substitute player cannot take part in the game until they have properly entered the field of play (i.e. at the halfway line).

After the first half, the teams change halves. Both captains and the referee must sign for the result at the end of the match.

Intentional physical contact is punished with either a warning or a sending off for 2 minutes (yellow card).

In the case of being sent off for 2 minutes, the player concerned or a substitute may rejoin the game after this time. When penalising physical contact, the referee will pay very close attention to which player caused it. It is also forbidden to kick the ball between the legs of the opponent.

Sliding is not allowed and is punished with a sending off for 2 minutes (yellow card).

However, a player may try to prevent a goal, corner or the ball going out by sliding provided that there is no opponent or teammate within 2 metres' distance.

Persistent comments on the referee's decisions are strictly forbidden and can be punished with a sending off for 2 minutes (yellow card) or even 5 minutes (red card) penalty.

If deliberately playing the ball with the hand or arm is deemed a form of foul play, this will be punished not only with a free kick or penalty kick but also with a sending off for 2 minutes (yellow card). Kicking the ball away is also seen as a form of foul play and will be penalised with a sending off for 2 minutes (yellow card).

Serious rough or foul play and the use of offensive language is immediately punished with being sent off for 2 or even 5 minutes (yellow or red card). Referee decisions are binding, protests are therefore not allowed.

Yellow and red cards

In futsal - as in field football - yellow and red cards can be used. When given a yellow card, the player concerned must immediately sit on the penalty bench for 2 minutes. This creates a disadvantage to their team for 2 minutes. If the opponent (the team with 5 players) scores within these 2 minutes, the team may immediately bring on a player again but not the player who was sent off. Red cards are rare, but unfortunately also occur in futsal. **If a player is given a red card, they have to leave the hall immediately and their team will then play for 5 minutes with only four players, even if a goal is scored.** The player concerned will also be suspended. After 5 minutes, the team may bring on a fifth player again. In case of a second yellow card (which equals a red card), the 2-minute rule (and not the 5 minute-rule) applies, but the player must still leave the hall immediately.