

WHY FUTSAL?

Article #2 – John Hannan (Feb. 2015)

First we must know that futsal has been played since 1930. Brazil is the country most widely associated with futsal, particularly in major cities, which makes sense as it is with basketball in our own inner cities where space for play is at a premium.

Futsal has been closely associated with the Brazilian player's high skill level and creativity. It has been used as a developmental tool in an unstructured way, focusing on individual and small group interplay (street play) but has become branded with structured rules and regulations to where it is now a global sport with its own World Cup.

So why do we play futsal? On a practical aspect, space availability during our long winter months. More importantly, for the individual foot skills that can improve; for the small group interplay that can be achieved; for the tactical awareness that can increase; for the accountability and habits that are strengthened; and for the individual comfort level with the ball that can be enhanced.

Like any small sided games, with the decrease in the number of players on the field, there is a marked increase in the number of touches on the ball per player. This reaps many benefits as noted above. Possibly the greatest virtue of playing futsal is the 'mirror effect'. As we all know, the mirror doesn't lie. We see clearly what is reflected back to us. For players, this is extremely valuable for they must know that what they do, and don't do, matters. And if a player is spending time with the ball on their own and attending training regularly and consistently, this shows. If a player is engaged in their trainings, not just physically present, their play, understanding and habits will show. There are no places to hide in futsal, only places to shine.

Finally, we play futsal because it is fun. It alters the demands of normal outdoor soccer and provides a higher paced, higher physical demands, and higher energetic level that combines to make it fun for the players and spectators.

It is my goal that within a short time, all of our teams will be participating in an actual futsal league.

By the way, our Bu16 Premier team will be making their second trip in a row to the USYS National Futsal Championships in Kansas City, KS on February 13-16th? Good luck to them!