



SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

U7-U11 FUTSAL EVENT: WINTER 2015/16

INTRODUCTION & INFORMATION

****CALLING ALL LEAGUE CLUBS WITH ANY TEAMS COMPETING AT U7 - U11 LEVEL****

Dear Manager / Club Secretary,

Having recently taken over as volunteer Futsal Coordinator for the League, I am now in a position to offer a Futsal programme throughout the winter period of 2015/16. As in previous years, the programme is open to ALL CLUBS with any teams playing at U7-U11 level. For information, we are also hoping to develop a programme for U12-U16 at some point in 2016.

You should have seen the Futsal Survey on our League website and Twitter feed during the last few weeks - this was designed to gauge feedback from previous participants on how the programme could be improved, including any preferred venues and things which are of utmost importance to clubs. Key findings have included the need for a simple programme, not overloaded but also clear communication and forward planning. I would like to thank all those of you who have completed the survey; your feedback has been considered and taken on-board in order to put this programme together for the winter.

You will be aware that, for the majority of under 7s to Under 11, the first part of the ordinary league/cup season finishes on 29 November and the second part commences on 31 January. Futsal will slot into a programme between these dates. A seven-week programme has been arranged, taking place on the following SUNDAYS:

- 06 December 2015
- 13 December 2015
- 20 December 2015
- CHRISTMAS BREAK
- 03 January 2016
- 10 January 2016
- 17 January 2016
- 24 January 2016



VENUE:

In order to retain consistency of location, plus taking into account that a number of previously used venues are either unavailable or can only offer a single booking over the seven week period, the entire Futsal programme will for this winter be held at a central location in Rotherham.

This location successfully held a number of fixtures for our Futsal programme last winter and have been able to offer us a comprehensive package this time around.

We will be providing our own newly qualified Futsal referees to officiate all matches at the venue, and a qualified first-aider will be onsite (provided by the venue). There is ample room for parking (50+ vehicles) and there is also a reception area, classroom, and facility to purchase hot food and snacks. The changing facilities are currently being refurbished and will be ready for December. In addition to this, **bottles of water will be provided, free of extra charge, to all participating teams to ensure players are properly hydrated.**

ENTRIES / DETAILS:

Even though we are having to consolidate this year's programme at one venue, we wish to open this opportunity to as many teams as possible. There are spaces for 160 teams in total to take part of the seven week period, with 32 from each of the five age groups required for a full programme. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis, but where demand exceeds supply, a draw will take place to allocate teams.

The logistics for a fixture list have been drafted and it must be noted that teams will NOT play on consecutive weekends. As a rule of thumb, over the seven week period, teams will be expected to play on three of these seven weekends, and be on-site for a maximum period of two hours. Each team will play seven fixtures over the course of the programme.

Again, the fixture list will be provided to clubs/managers well in advance. Further details of the schedule will be released in due course, **but I am seeking expressions of interest at this stage.**

Further good news is that we are able to slightly reduce the cost for entry this year, with the price per team of £60. If, as a club, you choose to enter two teams, then this would be £120. All this equates to approximately £8.50 per team per fixture (seven in total).



PLAYING GUIDELINES:

In terms of playing conditions, as a guide, the matches will be 5v5 and of fifteen minutes duration. There will also be a discretionary period of two-three minutes prior to the start of each match for a warm up. Managers can name a squad of up to 12 players for the Futsal programme per team.

Results will be recorded but not publicised. They will only be used as a guide for future tournaments to try and ensure that teams of equal strength/ability are paired for fairer competition. Subject to funding, it is my aim to have medals produced for each player as a token of their participation.

As I have already mentioned, one of the major pieces of feedback from the Futsal survey was that communication and organisation is vital. I will do my best to ensure this is the case. Just to reiterate a few key points:

I am now seeking expressions of interest from yourselves.

AGE GROUP / CLUB NAME / TEAM NAME / MANAGER NAME

For the programme to run successfully, I require 32 teams per age group.

Deadline for this is **Friday 18th September**, and we will be seeking **entry fees to be paid no later than Friday 27th November**. This will be done by BACS as per last year, and details will follow shortly.

Once the 18th September deadline has passed, I will consolidate all entries and then issue further communications to clubs within the week afterwards. I would like to publish all fixtures by mid-October at the latest.

If you have any questions, or to enter a team, then please don't hesitate to contact me on futsal@junleague.com

I look forward to hearing from you, and very best wishes for the season ahead.

Kind Regards

Mark