

## Why Futsal?? Hear From The Experts

Futsal is the indoor game of choice in over 100 countries. The first Futebol de Salão (Futsal) school opened in **England** in 1996 . . . now there are 43 schools with dedicated facilities and full time instructors . . . and numerous leagues playing indoors where it's warm and dry. **Michael Owen, English National Team Player** and star in the last World Cup says *"I have personally learned a lot from futebol de salão. The whole futebol de salão thing really interests me because it's a different way of teaching kids to play the game. They've been doing it in Brazil for years and they are one of the best teams in the world, so there must be something in it. For England it could well be the way forward."*

*"I have been using Futebol de Salão (Futsal) for about a month with a group of 10-11 years olds. It has totally changed their style of play. The heavy (low bounce) ball has stopped them playing the long ball and encouraged them to play short thoughtful passes. They also find it much easier to get control of the ball. I'm impressed and would recommend this game to all coaches."* - **Mark Tangy**, Futebol de Salão Discussion Board

*"I played only futebol de salão as a youngster - it's the best start for kids"* - **Juninho**, Brazilian National Team

*"I am very interested in the ongoing development of "Futsal" in the U.K. The benefits of this game are enormous. It is however a game unto itself, more than a simple training aid. My son has played "Futsal" for 5 years and has developed such skills as first touch, vision, technique and a "feel" for the ball that is quite amazing. My son is only 13 years old but is able to play "Futsal" and Football at a more mature level than players 3-4 years older. I put this down to his involvement in Futsal."* - **Paul Connor**, Futebol de Salão Discussion Board

*"In Futsal a player is confronted with a reduced area, causing them to be in shooting range the majority of the time. In the outdoor game, a player may only get a few opportunities to shoot on goal during the course of a game. Whereas in Futsal a player can get many chances. It's this continual confrontation with shooting situations that allows a player to develop the confidence and instinct to "pull the trigger.""* (This confrontation also helps Defenders improve dramatically.) - **Frank Bonardi**, Chairman National Coaching Committee, US Futsal

*"My first experience with futsal was two weeks prior to the 1996 FIFA Futsal World Championships at the U.S. National Team camp. Two weeks later I was in Spain playing in my first futsal game. After playing professional indoor for several years, I was truly amazed at the skill level of the players at the Championships and the speed of play. I wish I would have had the opportunity to learn and play futsal growing up. Futsal is a great way to develop individual skills, it continually puts players in 1v1 situations which is great for developing offensive and defensive skills."* - **Jon Parry**, US Men's National Futsal Team, KC Wizards

*"Futsal is a great off season training game because you play on a small field that helps develop the quick decision making skills a player needs at the highest level of soccer. You may see the ball 100 times in Futsal, which enhances your recognition of what is coming at you when in a competitive situation."* - **Peter Vermes**, MLS, US Men's National Team, US Men's National Futsal Team

*"This (futebol de salão) is how I really got started. This is my love, the thing that I enjoyed most."* - **Ronaldo**, 1994, Brazilian National Team

*"Everything I have as a senior player I owe to futebol de salão"* - **Emerson**, Brazilian National Team

*"When you come to play normal football it's easy if you've come from futebol de salão"* - **Rivelino**, Brazilian National Team

### FIFA's Position

Futsal significantly improves the development of the skills required for the 11 a side game while the indoor game with walls and dasher boards does not. Futsal also improves a players speed of play and their ability to make decisions.