



## **CASE STUDIES**

### **Oregon Youth Soccer Association**

In 2017, Oregon Youth Soccer Association (OYSA) developed a partnership with futsal facilities around the Portland metro area to provide the first OYSA-sanctioned futsal league for Oregon's youth players, called the NW Futsal League. This league offers a fall season, two consecutive winter seasons, and a spring season. OYSA, in conjunction with facility partners, also developed the Oregon Futsal Cup – a knockout competition that is open to teams from Oregon and the surrounding states. OYSA believes our league and cup prepare us well to integrate into any larger regional/national futsal competitions that may develop.

In addition to the league and cup, OYSA developed an introductory futsal coaching diploma to advance Oregon's coaching competencies in this unique game. Further, OYSA (working with our SYRA and league assignor) developed futsal referee education, which they believe has helped the level of competition in Oregon to flourish. This referee education has been supplemented by a futsal referee mentor program, which places mentors alongside developing referees in league games, who receive detailed feedback regarding their performance. This has given OYSA the ability to place our best performing futsal referees in the most competitive games, while raising the standard of officiating as a whole.

### **Alaska Youth Soccer Association**

Alaska Youth Soccer (AYSA) was the recipient of the 2017 US Soccer Innovate to Grow Grant. Alaska Youth Soccer wanted to start a statewide Futsal Program called the Alaska Futsal League (AFL). The league would provide regulation futsal games in a league format for youth teams throughout Alaska.

The first year (2017), AYSA registered 36 teams, provided a futsal coaching clinic, futsal referee certification (5 refs), provided affiliate clubs futsal equipment (futsal goals and balls), and facilitated an eight-week league of games in one location and provided a tournament.

The second year (2018) AYSA registered 70 teams, provided affiliate clubs futsal equipment, increased state participation to include two other district clubs, certified 30 futsal referees, and facilitated an eight-week league of games in three locations statewide and provided a futsal state cup tournament.

The third year (2019) AYSA registered 85 teams, increased state participation to include an additional two district clubs, certified 38 futsal referees and facilitated an eight-week league of games in three locations statewide and provided a futsal state cup tournament.

The success of the AFL Program lead to all five districts providing a futsal platform within their own program; eight clubs currently have facilitated their own futsal program along with participating in the Alaska AFL Program.

AYSA has recognized that the statewide Futsal League serves as a new venue and a pathway for youth soccer players to further develop their skills while providing opportunities to become elite players on the state level along with the continued promotion of our affiliate clubs development and growth.

The Futsal League offers recreational and competitive levels for youth and cup-based competition while encouraging good sportsmanship and fair play of all the participants. Currently AYSA offers clubs the opportunity to apply for yearly individual Equipment Grants to assist with the development of their Futsal programs. Future plans include state-wide futsal Camp and Clinic training opportunities for player development.

The seven-week League- provides futsal game opportunities with a low-pressure schedule allowing teams to commit. The schedule allows for team practices, and other team events. Competitive teams who register their team as two or three futsal teams receive a discount of the second and third team entry.

### **Essex County (Massachusetts) Youth Futsal League (ECYFL)**

Founded 2015, the Essex County Youth Futsal League (ECYFL) was able to fill a need for affordable recreational/developmental Futsal play opportunities in the area for Massachusetts Youth Soccer/USYS members. The first step was to approach the outdoor league about futsal as an additional piece of “off-season” programming. Although the League Board had concerns of additional volunteer workload, they agreed to collaborate with cross-promotion, email database sharing and the engagement of members clubs.

Next, governance documents and required compliance criteria were established and submitted for incorporation in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and affiliation with Massachusetts Youth Soccer/USYS. ECYFL showed their innovation by entering a rental agreement with a local private school, offering up to three NFHS-standard basketball courts in a stand-alone Athletic Center available weekends and weeknights. This allows up to three days of play, Sunday and two weeknight for the U9/10 through U14 age groups. There are two sessions of league play scheduled, November through Mid-January and January through March.

The success of the league play has resulted in not only the growth of twelve teams to sixty per session in 2019-2020, but also the spawning of an academy program for the U5-U8 age groups. Each of over 100 participants receives a practice T-shirt and futsal ball as part of registration.