

## What is futsal?

(1) ..... you're into football, there's no doubt you'll like futsal, too. You may already have heard of this exciting, fast-paced sport, (2) ..... how is it played? Recognized around the world (3) ..... official football associations, futsal is similar to football, though it is different in significant ways. (4) ..... than being played on a large outdoor pitch, futsal is usually played on hard indoor courts, (5) ..... much smaller goals than football and never more than five players. The ball is smaller and less bouncy than an ordinary football. Games last just 40 minutes. There is a half-time break and (6) ..... side can take one 'time-out' per half. This is (7) ..... the clock is stopped for one minute, similar to (8) ..... happens in a basketball match. The game is particularly good for young people, (9) ..... it encourages them to be creative and develop technique in a small space, all of which is helpful in eleven-a-side football, which many futsal players go on to play.