

GENERAL

To date, the FIFA Futsal World Championship has been held five times, making two stops in Europe (Netherlands 1989 & Spain 1996), two in Asia (Hong Kong 1992 & Chinese Taipei 2004) and one in Central America (Guatemala 2000).

In 2004, two associations made their debut at a FIFA Futsal World Championship – hosts Chinese Taipei and the Czech Republic – bringing the total number of associations featured in the FIFA Futsal World Championship to 35.

With three Futsal world titles to their name, Brazil dominate the statistics. They missed out on two world titles – both to Spain, in 2000 and 2004. Aside from Brazil and Spain, the other ever-presenters at the FIFA Futsal World Championship are Argentina, Australia and the Netherlands, with the latter the most surprising of absentees in the 2004 edition of the competition.

MATCHES

The FIFA Futsal World Championship is fourth in the list of oldest FIFA competitions, after the FIFA World Cup™, the FIFA World Youth Championship (U-20) and the FIFA U-17 World Championship. Ever since the first competition in 1989, sixteen teams have taken part in each event, which is made up of 40 matches in three different phases.

Since the first FIFA Futsal World Championship in Holland, a total of 200 matches have been played. The match between the USA and Malaysia in Segovia on 28 November 1996 was also the 100th match in the history of the FIFA Futsal World Championship. Spain's 2004 championship Final victory over Italy was the 200th match in FIFA Futsal history.

Brazil have played the most matches in the Futsal World Championship (40), followed by Spain (35), Argentina (29), and Holland (26). The two teams to have been world champions – Brazil (33 victories, 4 draws, 3 defeats) and Spain (28 victories, 2 draws, 5 defeats) – are also the most successful teams overall.

Five different teams have played in the five finals held to date, with Brazil featuring in four of them. The Brazilians also lead the way in terms of fair play. The FIFA Fair Play Award was awarded to the USA in 1989 and 1992, but Brazil claimed the honour in 1996, 2000 and 2004.

One-sided matches with a flurry of goals tend to the exception rather than the rule. A total of twenty matches (10%) have ended in draws. Interestingly, this ratio is as high as the long-term average in 11-a-side football. While there were only two goals in the 1-1 draw between the USA and Australia in 1989, the fans were treated to a 7-7 thriller when Russia and Spain went head-to-head in 1992.

The 31 matches that were decided by a single goal and the 39 games that ended with one team two goals clear show that almost half the matches at the FIFA Futsal World Championship – 90 in total – are keenly-contested, thrilling affairs.

GOALS

The average number of goals scored in each match at the Futsal World Championship is 6.78, i.e. almost three times higher than at the FIFA World Cup™ between 1930 and 2002. The greatest number of goals was recorded in Hong Kong 1992 and Guatemala 2000 (302; average of 7.6 per match), followed by Spain 1996 (290; 7.3) and Chinese Taipei 2004 (237; 6.78).

Manoel Tobias (BRA) is at the top of the goalscoring charts with 19 goals in 7 matches in 2000. Iran's Saeid Rajabi Shirazi is in second place with 16 goals in 8 matches (1992), followed by Russia's Konstantin Eremenko, who notched 15 goals in just three matches in 1992, and Brazil's Falcao, who scored 13 goals in 6 games in 2004. Of these three top goalscorers, only Tobias won the World Championship with his team.

Eremenko (RUS) holds the record for the greatest number of goals in a single match (7; China PR v. Russia, 1-10, Hong Kong 1992). Tobias (BRA) and Alvaro (ESP) are in joint second place with six goals apiece.

At the Futsal World Championship in Guatemala in 2000, Tobias (BRA) scored four hat tricks (v. Kazakhstan, Guatemala, Egypt and Russia). He even scored a double hat trick in Brazil's 29-2 victory over Guatemala.

Over the course of the four tournaments held to date, Brazil have scored 258 goals (average of 6.45 per match) and are thus the most lethal team. Spain (161; 4.6 average) are in second place, followed by the Netherlands (75; 2.9) in third. In other words: Brazil have played in exactly 20% of all matches in the FIFA Futsal World Championship (40) and have scored approximately 20% of all goals (258 of 1,357). That is twice the average!



Players to have got off the mark in rapid fashion include Manoel Tobias (Brazil v. Kazakhstan, 2000), Daniel (Spain v. Croatia, 2000), and Falcao (Brazil v. Argentina, 2004), with all three men firing their team into the lead in the very first minute.

The Futsal world champions have twice boasted the tournament's top scorer: Brazil, with Manoel Tobias in 1996 and 2000.

The game with the most goals took place in Guatemala City in 2000, with Brazil making light work of the hosts (29-2).

PLAYERS, COACHES, REFEREES, FANS

Two players have played in four of the five FIFA Futsal World Championships: Brazil's double world champions Fininho and Manoel Tobias (1992-2004).

Saudi Arabia's Safouk Al Temyat is the youngest player to have played in a FIFA Futsal World Championship, at just 16 years of age when he participated in the inaugural tournament in 1989.

Javier Lozano has coached the Spanish team in four separate Futsal World Championships and he led his country to the title in 2000 and 2004. His feat is unequalled. Other men to have coached their teams to three FIFA Futsal World Championship finals include Ron Groenewoud (Netherlands coach), John Kowalski (USA coach), James Roberts (Australia coach), Fernando Larranaga (Argentina coach) and Clemente Reinoso (Cuba coach). None of these has yet taken their team right to the title.

The FIFA Futsal World Championship can also be a springboard for referees, as a number have gone on to take charge of crucial matches in the FIFA World Cup™: Kim Milton Nielsen (Denmark), Pierluigi Pairetto (Italy), Emilio Soriano Aladren (Spain) and Laszlo Vagner (Hungary).

In terms of attendances, the FIFA Futsal World Championship Guatemala 2000 raised the bar to its present level with a total of 224,038 fans, at an average of 5,600 per match. The record attendance for a single match is held by the 1996 final (Spain v. Brazil), as some 15,500 fans found their way to the Palau Sant Jordi in Barcelona.